

CITY OF SAN DIMAS  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
January 18, 2011  
Senior Citizen/Community Center Meeting Room

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice Chairperson Margis at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:

John Margis, Vice Chairperson  
Jose Martinez  
Caryol Smith  
Georgia Florentine  
Shannon McKee

Theresa Bruns, Parks and Recreation Director  
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager  
Karon De Leon, Facilities Manager  
John Ebner, Council Member

Absent: Susan Davis, excused  
Frank Neal, excused

**APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2010 MEETING AS WRITTEN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLORENTINE AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**A. Program Updates from Youth Sports Organizations**

Director Bruns introduced Tim Roe, President of San Dimas Little League (SDLL). Mr. Roe thanked the Commission for the opportunity to share information about the league. In 2010 the league supported the creation of the "A" league for autistic children which is now operating on its own with other sports programs. Currently the league has 430 children registered and has awarded 50 scholarships to players who could not afford to play. The league has worked in conjunction with local churches to help identify families and children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to play baseball. This year the league is partnering with the Positive Coaching Alliance to train parents, volunteers and coaches about providing life lessons through sports. The league has invested a great deal into Marchant Park and continues to

improve the fields with City support. Future facility related needs include: enlarging the dugouts; improving the pitching mounds which get wear from the public because the park is open to the public; a larger storage building for the leagues ball field repair machine and supplies. The largest long term need is for lighted fields. Presently games must start at 5:00pm which is more and more difficult for parents and players. Lighted fields would also allow for more practices to be held. The league appreciates the work and support from City staff.

Mark Copollo the City Liaison from San Dimas La Verne American Youth Soccer Organization Region 112 was introduced. He said that this past season ASYO had over 1500 players and introduced the VIP program for children with physical and mental special needs. The league relies on volunteers and uses a lot of high school student volunteers. The league's main concern is the impact of the field construction at San Dimas High School on field availability at the SportsPlex. Mr. Copollo noted that lighted fields are a rare commodity in the area. The league currently uses Horsethief Canyon Park soccer field and the north and south soccer fields at the SportsPlex. The biggest future challenge will be the potential loss of fields due to the high school construction and the outcome of the renewal of the Joint Use Agreement between the City and the Bonita Unified School District for use of the SportsPlex. The leagues philosophy is "everyone plays". The league develops skills and fitness. The long term dream is to have a Sports Complex for all sports to play on that would include concession stands, lights, etc. In response to a question from Vice Chairperson Margis, Mr. Copollo responded that the league does use fields in La Verne but year round use by Bonita High School is limiting their access to those fields. AYSO plays and practices Mondays thru Thursdays and Saturdays. In San Dimas they also use Lone Hill Middle School for the younger divisions because they can get 4 small fields on the site. The league is considerate of traffic and noise issues at each site. In response to Councilmember Ebner asking if the league has long-term agreements with any school sites, Mr. Copollo noted that they do not and that they request the schools sites each year. AYSO does not use San Dimas High School stadium. Children who play are between 4 1/2 and 19 years old.

Director Bruns noted that the north and south soccer fields at the SportsPlex are overplay fields, meaning that they are used for baseball during baseball season and for soccer during soccer season. Mr. Roe noted that San Dimas Little League uses the field at Lone Hill Middle School that is located close to Covina Boulevard. They also use Shull and Ekstrand Elementary schools for games and practices.

Director Bruns shared that Manager Raya meets quarterly with all leagues to review scheduling and facility needs and seasonally with individual league presidents to plan for the individual seasons. She also added that San Dimas Youth Softball Association, the local girl's softball league, uses Lone Hill Park, Gladstone Elementary School and the SportsPlex on an as needed basis. There is also La Verne San Dimas Pop Warner Football that services San Dimas Youth for tackle football. They play and practice in La Verne due to an historical agreement with La Verne San Dimas Pony Colt baseball (no longer in existence). Pony Colt played at San Dimas High School and La Verne San Dimas football plays in La Verne. When La Verne San Dimas Pony Colt ceased to exist, San Dimas Little League picked up the use of the Southeast baseball field at the SportsPlex.

Mr. Roe mentioned that SDLL is available to children 4 1/2 to 15 years of age and that Little League National is experimenting with new field dimensions, which would increase the pitching distance from 46 feet to 50 feet and the base distance from 60 to 70 feet for players transitioning to the large high school distances. This also is being considered due to the competition from club baseball and Pony Baseball that play at the longer distances. Little League believes it is losing players due to this more competitive play. Mr. Roe noted that as Little League evolves our local facilities will also need to evolve. Councilmember Ebner asked at what age players usually transition to the larger field. Mr. Roe respond that at age 13 they transition and that many kids drop out because the field may be too large. Mr. Ebner asked how far the fence is for the older divisions and Mr. Roe replied that Little League National recommends 270 feet, which would not fit at Marchant Park. Mr. Roe mentioned that the Southeast baseball field at the

SportsPlex would have to be a skinned infield to have multiple base distances accommodated. Director Bruns mentioned that the field used to be skinned until SDLL requested that it be converted to a grass infield. In response to a question from Manager Raya, Mr. Copollo responded that AYSO has over 400 volunteers. Mr. Roe mentioned that SDLL has received over 240 volunteer applications. Mr. Copollo noted that one drawback to being a volunteer coach in AYSO is the amount of training hours needed to be completed for coaching certification. Commissioner Smith asked if either group paid their board members or referees. Mr. Copollo noted that the AYSO National governing body prohibits any payments to Board members or referees.

## **B. Review of Community Facilities Rental Policies and Fees**

Director Bruns shared that as the City Hall and Community Building remodels are close to completion it is an opportunity to review and update rental policies and fees. The policies and fees have not been updated since 1993. Director Bruns goal is to clarify the policies and bring all facilities under one document to create one comprehensive policy. She reviewed clarifications and significant changes as follows:

- Section III B - Item 1 was changed to allow reservations 9 months in advance for residents and 6 months in advance for non-residents for the Stanley Plummer Community Building (CB). Item 2 was changed to allow reservations 6 months in advance for residents and 3 months in advance for non-residents for the SC/CC. The change also now allows non-residents to rent the SC/CC. Residents still are allowed to reserve facilities sooner than non-residents. Allowing the SC/CC to be rented by non-residents will allow the department to take advantage of identified opportunities for that market.
- The policy statement at the conclusion of the document was added to allow activities to be terminated if there is a violation of rules and regulations.

Director Bruns reviewed the new fee structure. Fees have been simplified and streamlined. Previously charges were different for the first hour of use than subsequent hours. Now the fee for each hour is the same. Also, fees for the various configurations available with the remodeled CB have been added. The fee chart reflects the capacity of the rooms available for rental. The deposit policy has been clarified. The fees for use of the SC/CC room during operating hours were clarified to reflect appropriate charges for custodial fees for uses when staff is not regularly scheduled to work. Marchant Park is presently not reserved due to use by Recreation programs, but has been included in the fee schedule in the event of future availability.

## **C. Commission Input Regarding Recreation Programs Ideas and Capital Improvement Projects**

Director Bruns shared that this is the meeting that staff request Commission input on program ideas and capital improvement projects. Vice Chair Margis requested a review of the current project list. The list included:

1. Youth Center
2. Lighted basketball courts at the SportsPlex
3. Marchant Park rest room improvements
4. Phase III development of Horsethief Canyon Park.
5. BMX bike park
6. Splash pad play area at a neighborhood park
7. Bird and butterfly garden

Director Bruns noted that the bird and butterfly garden was recently completed as an Eagle Scout project. The list is a wish list that is addressed based on funding availability, grants, bond acts, etc. Commissioner

McKee asked for clarification about the list and Director Bruns provided it noting that the priority of the list can change based on funding, and the practicality of a project. Councilmember Ebner added that the list is not limited and projects can be added or removed. He cited the bird and butterfly garden as a project that was on the Commission list and that was able to get done due to the work provided by the Boy Scouts. He said that the list helps City Council understand what projects are needed.

Director Bruns reviewed that she will present the list at the City Council study session on February 22. She suggested that the Commission may want to give input on the youth group requests. She reviewed the youth group items. SDLL requested dugout expansion and dugout roofs at Marchant Park, a larger storage building at Marchant Park, and lighted ball fields at Marchant Park. AYSO is seeking security for field use in light of the capital projects that will be taking place at San Dimas High School.

Director Bruns reviewed that the high school is going to be expanding their football stadium and putting in artificial turf as well expanding their track with an all-weather surface. This requires the construction of a retention basin under the outfield of the southeast baseball field that will impact youth soccer use and youth baseball use while it is constructed. The high school estimates construction to take place the summer of 2011 through the summer of 2012. Vice Chair Margis proposed adding ball field lights at Marchant Park to the list. Commissioner Smith asked about resident opposition and Director Bruns replied that the issue would need to be addressed. Mr. Roe mentioned that current technology helps to prevent light from spilling over beyond the ball fields. Commissioner Martinez asked who else would benefit from lighted ball fields. Mr. Roe responded that it would be a possible revenue opportunity for the City to rent out the fields to other baseball groups. He also noted that lights would provide SDLL with flexibility in scheduling practices and games.

Commissioner Martinez asked for clarification on the Youth Center project. Director Bruns provided the background of the concept. The concept is to build the Youth Center on the south side of the Swim and Racquet Club that would have multiple uses. It originated in the 1990's but funding to build it was not pursued because there was no funding at the time for staff. The cost at the time was estimated to be \$400,000 but now would be about one million dollars. Commissioner Martinez asked if the Youth Center project was still the priority, and if funding were found would the Commission want the Youth Center built. Director Bruns suggested the list not be a priority list but a fluid list based on available and eligible funding. Commissioner Martinez asked about the cost estimate for ball field lights. Mr. Roe said an estimate would be \$250,000 for two fields with material and labor. Commissioner Martinez asked if SDLL had any plans to share in the cost. Mr. Roe responded that the league is always seeking sponsorship to help with cost but that the current budget is slim. Director Bruns noted that in the past the City has done joint projects with youth organizations to help make the projects more affordable and to stream line the process.

Commissioner Martinez noted he would be comfortable with the list being a project list not a priority list. Director Bruns added it helps to identify priority projects but the list will remain fluid. She will present the list, with the ball field lights at Marchant Park added, to City Council. Commissioner Martinez noted that if funding becomes available for different projects he would like the Commission to have the opportunity to revisit the list.

## **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Director of Parks & Recreation**

#### **1. Update on City Hall Remodel and Expansion**

Manager De Leon reported that the exterior of the remodeled City Hall is near completion and the addition should appear seamless. Glass walls are in place and work is currently being completed on tile, drywall and carpeting. Plaza pavers are expected to be completed next week. The anticipated move in date is the first week of April. Furniture has been ordered and will arrive in February. Four sycamore trees are already in place. City Council will discuss the grand opening.

Director Bruns reminded the Commission of the City Recognition Dinner to be held on January 29. Commissioner McKee noted she and her mother will be attending.

Director Bruns discussed the reported sighting of a mountain lion near Horsethief Canyon Park. A mountain lion reportedly fatally attacked a dog near the town home complex adjacent to the park. The Inland Valley Humane Society was called and they sent a report to the State Department of Fish and Game. Commissioner Smith reported that a resident who lives on the north end of Terrebonne Avenue had reported seeing a mountain lion. Director Bruns cautioned the Commission to remind residents to be aware and stay vigilant as our City does boarder a wildlife area. Commissioner Smith sent out a notice via the Friends of the Dog Park and also shared some photos of warning signs from other parks in the area.

## 2. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Manager Raya distributed the calendar of events through March noting City Recognition Dinner on January 29, Student Union Anniversary Party on February 10, Students in Government Day on February 23, Mother and Son Dinner on February 25, City Olympics on March 19 and the start of spring recreation classes on March 28.

### **B. Members of the Audience**

None

### **C. City Council Liaison**

Councilmember Ebner announced the completion of the Amelia Avenue project. The ribbon cutting was last week. The election is March 8 and there is a candidate's forum on February 15 at the Senior Citizen/Community Center. There is a scoping meeting about the Gold Line project on Thursday, January 20 at Ekstrand Elementary School. The meeting is open to the public.

### **D. Members of the Commission**

Commissioner Smith – She noted that many of the Friends of the San Dimas Dog Park appreciated the name of our Holiday Extravaganza. The dog park is closed and looking good. She discussed having a yield sign advising dog owners to yield to equestrians along the equestrian trails at Horsethief Canyon Park. She has been notifying visitors about the dog park closure. There are 2447 email addresses in the Friends database. She suggested that staff research a vaccine voucher program similar to what Rancho Cucamonga does. Local veterinarians accept resident vouchers for low cost shots. It is \$25 for cats and \$50 for dogs. Rancho Cucamonga's annual budget for the program is \$50,000. It is used to help promote responsible pet ownership. She suggested San Dimas could start small. Director Bruns will add as a program idea.

Commissioner Margis – He noted he visited Horsethief Canyon Park this afternoon and saw many dogs off leash. Commissioner Smith noted it as a problem and Director Bruns added that staff has spoken to the Sherriff's Department Community Action Team lead and asked the Sherriff to issue citations. He also

noted that the bird and butterfly garden needs to be worked on. Many of the labels have fallen off the signs, the plants look distressed and the boulder still needs to be put in place. Director Bruns noted that due to the heavy rains many of the plants were flooded out but she will have staff address his issues immediately.

Commissioner Florentine – She enjoyed the Holiday Extravaganza and thought it was a wonderful event.

Commissioner Martinez – He received his reminder notice about registration for recreation classes and thought that it is a good idea to continue. His family enjoyed the Disney on Ice trip very much and his daughter will be enrolling for more dance classes.

Commissioner McKee – She is continuing her soccer season at San Dimas High School.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:07 P.M.

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Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager