

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
May 20, 2014
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER CONFERENCE ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Diaz at 6:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Thomas Diaz, Chairperson
Kevin Kenney
John Margis
Jose Martinez

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

Absent:

Frank Neal, unexcused
Kathryn Perkins, unexcused
Baylee Smith, unexcused

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 15, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2014 MEETING AS SUBMITTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARGIS AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Review of Proposed Development at 299 E. Foothill Boulevard as it relates to Horsethief Canyon Park

Director Bruns distributed a report that included the background of the proposed housing development, the background of Horsethief Canyon Park development, some historic perspective, the current perspective, considerations and a request for a recommendation from the commission. (see attached)

Director Bruns informed the Commission that this item does not include discussion of the proposed development or its merits. The discussion is merely focused on the Commission's comments about the potential opportunity for the extension of Walnut Avenue into Horsethief Canyon Park.

Director Bruns reviewed the proposed development site and discussed the current status of the development as it would relate to an extension of Walnut Avenue to Horsethief Canyon Park. She informed the commission that the housing project has not been approved and therefore this discussion would be for a future phase of the park's development and if funding were to become available.

The history of the proposed extension of Walnut Avenue was discussed and the possible route that it would take into the park reviewed. The route of the road and the possible effected homes were identified and the proposed mitigation was discussed.

Council Ebner indicated the proposed development has not been approved and there are many processes that still need to occur prior to approval.

Commissioner Kenney inquired if community meetings had been conducted regarding this proposal; Director Bruns indicated that the developer has conducted a public meeting regarding the development, but until the proposal is further in the process the City has not.

Commissioner Margis asked what the current park hours are. Director Bruns responded the park is open dawn to dusk with scheduled use on the lighted soccer fields up until 10:00pm.

Commissioner Diaz commented that a single access for the development is a terrible idea and that the extension of Walnut Avenue into the park could create a big impact on the residents of the new development during large events with high traffic, such as the Rodeo. He suggested if the road extension were to occur that it should be controlled with a gate or maybe be used as an exit only during high traffic activities. He added that the extension of Walnut Avenue would be a great park access.

Commissioner Martinez commented if the extension of Walnut Avenue is a good possibility that this should be made clear while the project is being planned, rather than come back after the homes had been built and ask for it. This would give future residents prior knowledge of the road extension.

Councilmember Ebner left the meeting.

Commissioner Martinez questioned if the developer would be assuming the cost for the extension of Walnut Avenue into the park. Director Bruns answered that the extension would be the financial responsibility of the City. Commissioner Martinez stated currently he feels the bigger issue is the need for additional parking areas for the park.

Director Bruns informed the commission that the proposed development does include a traffic signal to be installed at Walnut Avenue and Foothill Boulevard. She added the City could install a gate at the park on the extension of Walnut Avenue to assist with the control of traffic during big events.

Commissioner Margis stated the extension of the road was a great addition for access into the park and for any future growth of the park and traffic issues from special events could be worked out.

COMMISSIONER MARGIS MOVED, THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ENDORSES THE EXTENSION OF WALNUT AVENUE INTO HORSETHIEF CANYON PARK AND TO INCLUDE THE CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL PARKING FOR THE PARK, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ, APPROVED BY A 4-0 VOTE. (Diaz, Kenney, Margis, Martinez)

ORAL COMMUNICATION

A. Director of Parks and Recreation

1. Commission Term Expirations

Director Bruns stated Commission Margis has completed his eligible terms on the commission and thanked him for his many years of service. Commissioner Margis commented he has enjoyed serving as a commissioner and attending the many different activities and events.

Director Bruns inquired if Commissioners Diaz and Kenney would like to be re-appointed for another term; both responded positively. She indicated that she will be contacting Commissioners Neal and Perkins to obtain their wishes for re-appointment.

2. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Manager Raya distributed a calendar of events for May through July; he highlighted upcoming events such as the Distinguished Service to Youth Awards Reception, the many summer activities such as Music in the Park, Family Movie Night, Family Campouts and the numerous offerings at the Swim & Racquet Club starting in June.

B. Members of the Audience

None

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Margis wished the Commission well and continued success. Commissioner Diaz thanked Commissioner Margis for his leadership on the commission.

Commissioner Diaz stated he had attended the Volunteer Recognition Reception and was pleased to see the variety of volunteers and found the event to be very nice. He indicated he wished a City Council Member could have attended the event and maybe an article in the local paper or a press release about the event would be nice.

D. City Council Liaison

None

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:30 PM.



Karon DeLeon, Facilities Manager