

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
July 15, 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 6:02 PM

ROLL CALL

Present:

Thomas Diaz, Chairperson
Frank Neal, Vice-Chairperson
Jose Martinez
Kathryn Perkins
Baylee Smith

Theresa Bruns, Parks and Recreation Director
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager
Karon De Leon, Facilities Manager
Dominique Borba, Recreation Coordinator
Jeff Freeth, Recreation Coordinator
LaToyia Ward, Recreation Coordinator
Paige Rode, Recreation Specialist

Late Arrival:

John Ebner, City Councilmember (6:14 PM)

Absent:

Kevin Kenney, excused

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 20, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2014 MEETING AS SUBMITTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DIAZ AND APPROVED BY A VOTE OF FOUR TO ZERO (DIAZ, MARTINEZ, PERKINS, SMITH) AND ONE ABSTENTION (NEAL).

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Review of Summer Recreation Programs

Director Bruns introduced Manager Raya, who thanked the recreation staff attending the meeting for the excellent service they provide the community. He indicated that the current staff works very hard to offer quality programs and events and that he is very proud of the division's performance.

Manager Raya introduced Jeff Freeth, the newest member of the recreation division and Coordinator Freeth provided a brief overview of the programs and activities that he directs. He informed the commission that he is coordinating the street banner program, working with the Adult Softball Leagues, overseeing the T-ball program, supervising the Music in the Park concerts that will conclude on August 6, he will be organizing the hikes, strolls and campouts, and will be assisting with

the coordination of the Fitness Festival which will be the combination of the 5K run, 1 mile Fun Run, the Fun Ride, Family Fitness Fair to be conducted on September 27.

Coordinator Borba provided the Commission information about the Recreation Classes being offered such as dance, fitness, academic, music and art. She reported that a total of 492 Resident and 151 Non-resident registrations have been taken for the various classes during this summer session. She announced that a new specialty class is being offered to teach bicycle skills and safety to children ages 5 years and older and is going to be taught by Commissioner Neal. Director Bruns informed the Commission that Commissioner Neal is teaching this course on a volunteer basis.

Manager Raya reported that the Department offers a scholarship program to assist individuals with class registration fees. He indicated that approximately 45 children have been assisted this year and the department has set a goal of assisting 80 children for the upcoming fiscal year. The funding for the program is coming from the CDBG program (Community Development Block Grant).

Recreation Specialist Rode discussed the various programs and services provided at the Senior Citizen/Community Center. She distributed a "Welcome Pack" to the Commissioners and informed the Commission that the Center offers both social services such as legal assistance, different medical screenings, seminars and presentations on Senior related topics and a healthy lunch program Monday through Friday. Specialist Rode advised the Commission that the Center also offers social activities such as a monthly themed dinner event, happy hour, Bunco and ballroom dancing. The staff has focused on marketing the Center's activities through press releases, flyers, email notifications and a "Round up"; this is where visitations are made to local retirement homes and facilities to inform their residents of the many opportunities at the Center.

Director Bruns reminded the commission that the Senior Citizen/Community Center is mainly focused on older adult activities during the day, but the Center is used for other activities such as children's classes and rentals during the evening and on weekends.

Coordinator Ward reported that she is supervising the family trips and excursions, the summer day camp programs and the aquatics programs. She informed the Commission that the swimming lesson format was modified in response to feedback provided last summer and lesson registration is now available online, both changes have been well received by the community. Manager Raya mentioned that the current parking lot construction project is having an impact on the Club's activities, but the participants and staff are working through the challenges. Director Bruns reported the City and Bonita Unified School District are working together on the parking lot project and the modifications will bring the area into ADA compliance and provide for the designation of specific parking spaces for Club usage. The City and the District will be entering into a joint usage agreement for the parking lot and she indicated how fortunate the City is to have a good working relationship with the District.

Manager Raya stated that a summer food lunch program is available at Pioneer and Marchant Park sites and will continue through August 15 as a part of the summer programming.

Commissioner Diaz inquired if all programs and activities are available through online registration. Manager Raya responded that most are, but there are a few exceptions, such as if the registration process requires some additional documents for age verification.

Commissioner Martinez asked if a senior must be a member of the "Senior Club" to participate in the programs at the Center. Specialist Rode indicated that it is not required, but being a member offers some benefits such as reduced registration fees.

Commissioner Diaz questioned whether the Senior Citizen/Community Center was a "Cooling Center", Specialist Rode responded yes.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

A. Director of Parks and Recreation

Director Bruns informed the Commission that the City has adopted a balanced budget that includes some of the following items for the Parks and Recreation Department:

- Ten thousand dollars for funding Recreation Class scholarships
- Swim and Racquet Club flooring replacement throughout the facility
- Walnut Creek Open Space Development Phase I
- Major renovation and rehabilitation of the Marchant Park buildings and amenities

She also mentioned that the Department will be applying for some grant funding through the Proposition Grant A program to perform some of the work at Marchant Park.

1. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Manager Raya distributed a calendar of events for July through September; he highlighted upcoming events such as the continuance of Music in the Park, Family Movie Nights, the Family Campout and City Birthday BBQ.

B. Members of the Audience

None

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Neal announced how excited he is about the upcoming bicycle skills and safety class and the combination of the Fun Ride with the 5K run event.

Commissioner Martinez encouraged everyone to conserve water as the State continues to deal with the drought conditions.

Commissioner Diaz inquired about the filling of the commission vacancy. Councilmember Ebner indicated that four applications have been submitted; he and the Mayor will be interviewing the applicants and an appointment should be made prior to the September Commission meeting.

D. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Ebner reported that the City is in the process of selecting a new City Attorney due to the recent retirement of Ken Brown after thirty plus years of service. He mentioned that the Council has had recent study sessions to discuss the installation of lighting in the trees on Bonita Avenue and the possibility of revising the outdoor dining policy in the downtown area.

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:08 PM.



Karon DeLeon, Facilities Manager