

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
September 16, 2014
City Council Conference Room – City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice Chairperson Neal at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Frank Neal, Vice Chairperson
Kevin Kenny
Kathryn Perkins
Baylee Smith

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

Absent:

Tom Diaz, excused
Jose Martinez, excused

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 15, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the July 15, 2014 meeting were corrected to include the following:

Approval of the May 20, 2014 meeting minutes was by a vote of two- zero-three, with Diaz and Martinez in favor, and Neal, Perkins and Smith abstaining due to their absence from the May 20 meeting.

COMMISSIONER PERKINS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2014 MEETING AS CORRECTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH AND APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 3-0-1, WITH PERKINS, SMITH AND NEAL IN FAVOR, AND KENNEY ABSTAINING DUE TO HIS ABSENCE.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Review of Upcoming Special Events

Manager Raya reviewed four upcoming Parks and Recreation Department special events. On September 27 the Fitness Festival will take place at the Civic Center. The event will include the Annual 5K Run, 1 Mile Family Fun Run/Walk, Family Bicycle Ride, free breakfast and vendors.

Manager Raya noted that this year the event is adding the Family Bike Ride. Commissioner Smith volunteered to assist.

On Saturday, October 11, 2014 the Department is hosting the Bowser Bash featuring, canine related vendor booths, information, games and a dog costume parade and contest at Horsethief Canyon Park.

At the Civic Center Plaza on October 31, 2014 the Department is presenting the Annual Halloween Spectacular. There will be games booths, the Haunted Hall, and a costume contest. The Department is also working collaboratively with the Bonita Avenue Corridor Committee to incorporate their downtown trick or treat activities as in past years. Commissioners Kenny and Neal volunteered to be costume contest judges.

On Saturday, December 6, 2014 the Department along with the Bonita Avenue Corridor Committee and the Chamber of Commerce, are hosting the Downtown Holiday Extravaganza. The raindate is December 14. The event includes pictures with Santa Claus, a hayride, snow, games, entertainment and vendors at the Walker House and First Street. Merchants on Bonita Avenue sponsor a treasure hunt for stickers from business with the winners getting prizes later in the evening. The Chamber sponsors the tree lighting. The evening concludes with Santa Claus riding to the tree lighting at Rhoades Park on the hayride to help light the official Christmas tree. Local non-profit groups will provide refreshments at the Tree Lighting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Director of Parks & Recreation

1. Update on Marchant Park Rehabilitation Project

Director Bruns gave an update on the process for the rehabilitation of Marchant Park. She presented a visual slide of the park with notations about the various planned park improvements. In addition to \$800,000 budgeted this fiscal year for the project, the City has applied for a Los Angeles County grant for an additional \$300,000 to increase the scope of the project. The priorities include demolishing the existing park restroom building which is aged and not ADA compliant, and replace it with a prefabricated building that is nicer and ADA compliant. Additionally the priorities include addressing ADA compliance throughout the park, replacing playground equipment, giving a general face lift to various areas of the park and rehabilitating the park building. The playground equipment needs to be replaced and the surface of the playground area needs to be addressed to maintain compliance with playground safety codes. The goal is to have the building exteriors look similar. The basketball court will be resurfaced and some the elevation issues related to its concrete slab will be addressed. A picnic gathering area will be included north of the Minor baseball field. Baseball field dugout coverings will be addressed. The pre-fabricated rest room building will include a storage room for Little League. The small, aged storage room located near the entrance to the ball fields will be demolished. Tennis courts will be resurfaced and tennis court fencing issues addressed. If the grant is awarded to the City it will address the park building remodel to include expansion of the rest rooms to make them ADA compliant, adding additional building square footage, and address the exterior building aesthetics. As the project proceeds and the park design becomes more firm regular updates and reports will be made to the Commission. Director Bruns added that a community meeting for input and feedback will be planned.

Commissioner Kenny asked about the safety of the picnic gathering area beyond left field of the Minor Field and the possibility of balls being hit beyond the fence. Director Bruns replied that there

is currently a smaller gathering spot located in the same area and there have been no reports of problems. She also noted that a ball would have to be hit very far to land in that area and that there are some trees adjacent that provide some screening from hit and thrown balls. Councilmember Ebner added that foul balls and homerun balls are to be expected at a ball field.

In response to a question from the Commission, Director Bruns noted that although ball field lighting was discussed at a Parks and Recreation Commission community meeting, lighted ball fields are not part of the project plan.

Director Bruns discussed that the City is getting ready to move forward on the CEQA study for the Walnut Creek Open Space plan. As that project proceeds the Commission will be updated.

The Department is revisiting the playground equipment replacement project at Via Verde Park. Due to the slope of the current playground location the plan may require relocation of the equipment to a more level area of the park. The Commission will also be updated as needed on this project.

The median located near Foothill Boulevard and Amelia Avenue is being address in this budget year. \$85,000 has been allocated to address irrigation and landscape needs.

Commissioner Neal inquired about the ownership of the shopping center parking lot across the street from Via Verde Park. He asked if it was posted for towing of vehicles that park at the lot to access the playground. Director Bruns noted that the lot is posted. She also noted that for our Via Verde Egg Hunt we approach the owner of the property for permission for participants to use the lot. Commissioner Kenny added that he is aware that there is an owner of most of the lot, and that the Century 21 office parking lot is owned separately. He believes the lot is posted for parking for customers only.

2. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Manager Raya distributed the calendar of events through November noting the special events discussed earlier.

B. Members of the Audience

None

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Perkins –Nothing to add.

Commissioner Smith – Nothing to add.

Commissioner Kenny-Nothing to add

Commissioner Neal – He had a great one and a half months. He taught a bicycle safety class for children. He had a booth at San Dimas Day at the Fair but unfortunately will not be at the Fitness Fair. He asked about the appointment of a new Commissioner. Director Bruns responded that the process is moving forward and that one application was submitted.

D. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Ebner asked Commissioner Neal for his feedback on the new law requiring that motorists give bicyclist three feet of room when passing. Commissioner Neal shared that the law is 47 pages long and there are many areas that may be difficult to enforce. He noted it is likely to be clarified by the courts. He discussed some of the more detailed provisions of the law. Commissioner Kenny and Councilmember Ebner both commented that as more residents are educated they would become more aware of safely passing bicyclist.

Councilmember Ebner added that the restaurant at the Walker House is closer to opening and is planning an October opening date. City Council recently decided to allow the lighting of the trees in the downtown corridor on Bonita Avenue. The goal is to have the lights operational prior to Thanksgiving weekend. Director Bruns shared that the Department is awaiting an analysis from the electrical contractor to determine appropriate and safe installation of the power needed for the lights.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager