

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
December 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 Chairperson Diaz at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tom Diaz, Chairperson
Frank Neal, Vice Chairperson
Susan Davis
Kevin Kenney
Jose Martinez
Kathryn Perkins

Theresa Bruns, Parks and Recreation Director
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager
Steven Farmer, Landscape Maintenance Manager
John Ebiner, City Councilmember

Absent: Baylee Smith, unexcused

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONER KENNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 MEETING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAVIS AND APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 6-0.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Review and Discuss San Dimas SportsPlex Joint Use Agreement and the scheduling needs of San Dimas Organizations and San Dimas High School

Director Bruns introduced the issue and the purpose of presenting it to the Commission as part of the City's public process. Recreation Manager Leon Raya presented an overview of the existing field use agreement and the background of its development, as well as the current use schedule for the varsity baseball/north soccer field. Currently San Dimas High School baseball has baseball only use, with an outfield fence in place, for the months of January through August. Soccer goals used to go up in mid-August and remained up through November, but as of fall 2013, in response to a request by San Dimas High School, AYSO has been required to use portable goals and reduce their field use 60% to accommodate joint use of the field with baseball during the fall season. San Dimas Little League currently does not utilize this field. Manager Raya then presented San Dimas High School's request to convert the varsity baseball field configuration from an open field with an over-laid soccer field to a closed fenced, baseball only field.

Representatives of San Dimas High School, San Dimas Little League, local travel ball teams, the Bonita Unified School District, San Dimas residents, and former SDHS baseball players were in attendance. The Commission received public comment from the following speakers:

- Rita Kear, Assistant Principal at San Dimas High School, presented the need for the school to enclose the field to provide a better playing environment for more competitive, year-round baseball play and to reduce the apparent damage done by both AYSO soccer and non-scheduled users. Ms. Kear mentioned the potential use of Lone Hill Middle School by AYSO for their evening and weekend field use. She presented the possibility of temporary field lighting to be available to provide for night time use. At this time, there is no formal purchase contract or installation date for lighting the Lone Hill site.
- Gary Hunter, President of San Dimas Little League stated that his organization currently does not use the varsity baseball field being discussed but does use the southeast baseball field and that field also has a soccer field overlay. Little League does not offer a fall program because of the shared field use with AYSO. Little League supports dedicated baseball only use of the field being discussed. Manager Raya clarified that Little League was offered and declined use of the varsity baseball field for a fall program.
- Alta Skinner, community advocate and BUSD bond oversight committee member expressed support for the best option available for all involved. However, she urged consideration for the historical perspective and the community use aspect of the SportsPlex Agreement, and community use being the primary purpose behind the City's development of the SportsPlex. She also suggested that the City already provided improved, lighted fields for the school and the community, and if a change of use is considered, then the City and the user groups should not be expected to pay the costs of the improvements necessary to accommodate such change. An additional concern included the potential impacts of Title 9 by providing an exclusive use field, and creating the same expectation for other sports.
- Jordan Leyland and Scott Lambert, former SDHS baseball players, commented that the high school baseball coaches and program deserve a new, enclosed field since they have seen a new gymnasium and stadium field go in. They also commented on the poor field conditions as a result of multiple user groups. Also in attendance, but did not speak, was former player Matt Thrall.
- Mark Winkleman, travel baseball advocate, spoke to the issue that there is no year round baseball field available for kids over 13 years of age in San Dimas. He expressed a need for field space for travel ball teams and hopes that this request may accomplish that.

Also in attendance, by did not speak, was Dane Curtis, BUSD Maintenance Supervisor.

Manager Raya discussed the history of the contract between the City and the School District in regards to the City funding the development of the site for community use. The agreement provides for community use of the site. The maintenance contract was discussed and Commission was presented with a brief maintenance operation overview. The issue of maintenance responsibility for the varsity baseball field, if community use is removed, was mentioned, with no resolution.

The Commission clarified current field use, maintenance oversight, the Agreement timeline which is current through 2022, and expressed the desire to make certain that AYSO needs are represented as well. Manager Raya stated that Mr. Coppolo, AYSO Liaison, was expected to be in attendance but was home with an ill child. The Commission also inquired about the potential for use of Lone Hill Middle School, and the adequacy of the fields there. Staff responded that they could not respond to those concerns as Lone Hill is a school district facility and the City has no oversight or jurisdiction

for its use or condition. Bonita Unified District representation and comment is needed to complete the evaluation process and potential for use of an alternative site.

Mike Regan and Mark Chiappelli, San Dimas High School Varsity Baseball Coaches, were also in attendance, and responded to questions from the Commission regarding why the seasonal fence was not adequate, and who would install a new fence. They stated that their request is for a closed, locked fence and the seasonal fence is not; and they have provided fence quotes to the District for the new fence that they have requested. City staff commented that the current Agreement identifies the SportsPlex as a public park and an enclosed, locked fence changes that.

Public and Commission comment determined that if AYSO is to be moved, the City and AYSO should not incur any expense for field improvements and/or lighting. The Commission recommended that AYSO input be solicited, as well as a Bonita Unified District response.

Commission Recommendation stated by Chairperson Diaz and agreed upon by consensus: The City should continue negotiations with the Bonita Unified School District for the purpose of fencing in the varsity baseball field at the SportsPlex, seeking an equitable field space for AYSO and other community use groups that does not create a financial impact to AYSO or the City. The discussion should address potential for amendments to the existing agreement and include consideration for all potential user groups that would be displaced and the impact to the community.

B. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2015.

COMMISSIONER DIAZ MOVED TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER KENNEY AS CHAIRPERSON AND COMMISSIONER PERKINS AS VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2015. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ, AND PASSED WITH A VOTE OF 6-0 IN FAVOR OF THE APPOINTMENTS.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Director of Parks & Recreation

1. Update on Marchant Park Rehabilitation Project

Director Bruns gave an update on the Marchant Park rehabilitation project. She presented a visual slide of the proposed new restroom building with all four elevations depicted and a map showing the new facilities orientation on the park. The staff recommended color scheme for Marchant Park buildings will be blue. She also presented a manufacturer rendition of the proposed playground equipment with the proposed color scheme for both the tot and elementary playgrounds. The small, aged storage room located near the entrance to the ball fields will be demolished and a new sidewalk running the length of the parking lot will be installed. The presentation also discussed ADA accessibility in the design of specific play elements incorporated into both age group play areas. The playground designs will include 100% rubber surfacing for total ADA compliance in surface accessibility. A proposed sand table was presented for Commission feedback. The Commission approved the restroom and playground equipment designs by consensus and will be kept apprised of project development as it moves forward.

The existing park buildings will be dressed up to look similar to the new restroom building. Other areas presented were the concrete and turf areas adjacent to the basketball court including the removal of the elevated slab and replacing it with either turf or landscaping, and the proposed picnic area adjacent to the batting cages between the Little League fields. This area will be covered in

stabilized decomposed granite and include new picnic tables. Director Bruns reviewed the overall site map listing all the proposed improvements to the park.

2. Other updates

Director Bruns reported that the CEQA study for the Walnut Creek Open Space project is underway and the City expects a draft version in January 2015. The Commission will be updated as that project proceeds.

The Via Verde Park playground equipment replacement project is underway with an initial engineering review expected in February 2015. 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 be updated as this project moves forward.

3. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Manager Raya thanked everyone involved in the successful Holiday Extravaganza event. Manager Raya distributed the calendar of events through January 2015 noting the special events and upcoming sports seasons.

B. Members of the Audience - None

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Davis – Nothing to add
Commissioner Kenny –Nothing to add.
Commissioner Martinez – Nothing to add.
Commissioner Perkins – Nothing to add

Commissioner Diaz mentioned that the Holiday Extravaganza was very successful and staff did a good job with the event. He commented on the fun being had at the snow slides.

Commissioner Neal discussed his involvement with the Holiday Extravaganza and stated how busy he was with his bicycle safety booth and that the event was very successful. He noted his attendance at the annual CPRS Holiday Luncheon in support of the Department. He also informed the Commission of his involvement with the assembly of 75 bicycles for underprivileged kids in the community.

D. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Ebner reported on his attendance at an MTA Gold Line station art tour in preparation for the proposed expansion through the City. He indicated the location of a proposed future stop between San Dimas Avenue and Walnut Avenue with access to the platform from existing amenities.

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:34 P.M.



Steven M. Farmer, Landscape Maintenance Manager