

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
September 15, 2015
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice Chairperson Perkins at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Kathryn Perkins, Vice-Chairperson
Susan Davis
Frank Neal
Baylee Smith
Tom Diaz
Paul McClure

John Ebner, City Councilmember
Theresa Bruns, Director of Parks and Recreation
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager
Katie Blair, Parks and Recreation Intern

Absent:

Kevin Kenny, excused

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 21, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONER DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 21, 2015 MEETING AS SUBMITTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERKINS AND APPROVED BY A VOTE OF THREE – ZERO – THREE, WITH COMMISSIONERS DIAZ, PERKINS AND MCCLURE ABSTAINING SINCE THEY DID NOT ATTEND THE JULY 21 MEETING.

Paul McClure, the newest commissioner on the committee, introduced himself. The rest of the commissioners introduced themselves in kind.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Review of Upcoming Recreation Special Events

Manager Raya handed out fliers for the following upcoming recreational events:

- The Fitness Festival on September 26, which will include a “Tot Trot”, Fun Ride , 1 mile run and 5k. He mentioned that the elementary schools were having a competition to see who could get the most registrants.
- The Halloween Spectacular will be on October 31, from 5:30-8:30 PM. The Parks and Recreation Department has collaborated with the library for crafts beforehand.
- The Bowser Bash is on November 14 from 10:00 AM -1:00 PM, and it’s a “canine carnival” at Horsethief Canyon Park.
- The Downtown Holiday Extravaganza is on Saturday, December 5, from 2:30-6:00 PM.

- The Saturday Stroll to encourage walking San Dimas will be on November 21. The walk will begin at Pioneer Park and continue to the Swim and Racquet Club. At the Club there will be a health and wellness workshop provided by San Dimas Community Hospital then the group will return to Pioneer Park.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

A. Director of Parks and Recreation

1. Update on Parks and Recreation Projects

Director Bruns informed the commission regarding several projects:

The Marchant Park rehabilitation project is moving forward, and areas throughout the park are being changed and revamped. Director Bruns previously reviewed the project with the Commission, which is now out of design phase and in construction document phase. Director Bruns hopes to have the construction documents done by mid-November.

The Via Verde Park Playground equipment is being redone to address ADA accessibility. The new design includes three bay areas in the area of the lower playground. The design phase is complete on this project, and is currently in the construction document phase. This phase can last 6-8 weeks, and it began the week before the meeting.

The Foothill Boulevard Median Island project is also in the middle of the construction document phase and will be out to bid in two to three weeks. Leaf Scorch Disease has destroyed much of the Oleanders on the Foothill median, and they need to be replaced. This project is almost ready for final review of construction documents.

The Via Verde Median Island project runs from the 57 freeway to Covina Hills Road and will feature drought-tolerant landscaping. It is expected that the project will be out to bid with the Foothill Boulevard median project.

The Loma Vista Park playground rehabilitation is on hold while the Walnut Creek Open Space project is reviewed. City staff met with representatives of the Via Verde area who are concerned about the Walnut Creek project. Staff are working with them to provide public access options that will have minimal impact to the neighborhood while addressing their concerns. The likely next step will be to walk the site with the residents.

The Swim and Racquet Club has a proposed electric marquee in the budget, though the Swim and Racquet Club facility needs to be assessed overall. The Department will assess the Swim and Racquet Club next year to see if there is a possibility for complete renovation.

Lone Hill Park is undergoing some renovations with the restroom building to be painted later this year.

The City Council Conference Room will undergo a laminate repair.

Director Bruns also updated the committee in regards to two different grant applications. The first was a State Department of Housing and Community Development grant that awards credit for low-income housing. The City is currently eligible for \$105,000, which will be used to replace the playground equipment at Pioneer Park later this year.

A Habitat Conservation Fund grant for the Northern Foothills Trails project is due on October 1. Director Bruns informed the commission that Parks and Recreation Intern, Katie Blair, was working to complete the grant application.

2. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Manager Raya distributed a calendar of events for September through December; he highlighted the upcoming events such as Western Days and the Recreation Special events covered earlier in the meeting.

B. Members of the Audience

None

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Perkins asked if Commissioners would be invited to walk through the Loma Vista Park/Walnut Creek area, and Director Bruns replied that all Commissioners were welcome. Commissioner Perkins asked how many people would go, and Director Bruns replied that past visits had always consisted of about six to seven people, since the residents were trying to keep their representative voice limited to a select group of people.

Councilman Ebner asked if the walkthrough would occur before the next commission meeting. Director Bruns replied that it would.

Several commissioners, including Commissioners Neal and McClure, volunteered to attend.

Councilmember Ebner commented that he thought it was good that the walkthrough was occurring, since the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) led to what he believed was misinformation. He hoped the walkthrough would allow for the presenting of project alternatives at a future City Council meeting. He believes that the Commission is responsible for giving a recommendation and he did not want to leave their recommendation too "open-ended".

Commissioner Diaz then commented that he had worked with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and mentioned that he knew that oftentimes, large EIR scopes tended to make residents in the area uneasy. The Council might have just discussed Stage One, but the EIR certifies all stages. Director Bruns replied that it is not possible to acquire CEQA approval in segments; it all must be done at once. Commissioner Diaz affirmed this, and Director Bruns clarified to the rest of the Commission that the CEQA document gave a conceptual master plan and approved Phase One of that plan. Commissioner Diaz stated that he thought the CEQA scope was too ambitious for the community.

Councilman Ebner replied that the CEQA scope came out of Commission meetings. Commissioner Diaz replied that he believed that there was not enough community input. Councilman Ebner stated that by the time the Commission had clarified their intent to move forward with only "Phase One", the CEQA document was already public.

Commissioner McClure asked Commissioner Diaz if he was working with the "Stop Walnut Creek" group, and Commissioner Diaz replied that he sometimes spoke to one of the men at the forefront of that effort. Commissioner McClure then asked if it would be possible for him to speak to them himself, and Commissioner Diaz affirmed that it was.

Commissioner Neal asked if he could sign up for a Western Days booth, and Manager Raya confirmed that he was already signed up.

Commissioner Diaz placed a general inquiry about the restaurant at the Walker House. Several Commissioners affirmed that the restaurant was doing well.

D. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Ebner informed the Commission that the City of San Dimas was doing well with water reduction. The target was a 28% reduction from 2013 usage and the city's conservation was already at 34%.

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:00 P.M.



Katie Blair, Parks and Recreation Intern