



MINUTES  
Recreation and Community Services Commission  
Adjourned Regular Meeting  
April 13, 2022

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MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6 p.m. by Chairperson Dave Allen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Stacy Valdez.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Chairperson Dave Allen  
Vice Chairperson Ted Spaseff  
Commissioner Veronica Lucio  
Commissioner Robert Nelson  
Commissioner Stacy Valdez

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of March 9, 2022. A motion was made by Commissioner Robert Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Veronica Lucio to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 9, 2022. The motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote with Commissioner Valdez abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Director Valarie Frost began her remarks by thanking the commission for their attendance at the annual Volunteer Day event. She shared a letter of gratitude written by a resident who had received assistance. Ms. Frost also thanked the commission for attending the recent Lakewood Celebrates where Commissioner Robert Nelson was welcomed to the community as a new commissioner. She expressed her appreciation to Chairperson Allen for representing the RCS Commission, as well as the late Kirk Real's family, by accepting a plaque of honor for Kirk's numerous years of service to the Lakewood community.

The commission was informed that at a recent City Council meeting Steve Croft was selected as mayor, and Ariel Pe was selected as Vice Mayor.

Ms. Frost updated the commission on department personnel changes. She shared that on Monday, April 18, the department's new Parks Superintendent Abel Andrade would begin his tenure with the city. Ms. Frost shared information regarding Mr. Andrade's professional background. Additionally, it was said that new Park Maintenance Worker Anthony Martinez would also begin work on Monday, April 18. She noted that Mr. Martinez had promoted from the city's Maintenance Trainee Program into a full-time position. Finally, Ms. Frost shared that Community Services Manager Alex Bauman had accepted the position of Director of Community Services with the City of La Puente. It was said that the recruitment to fill his vacancy was underway. It is staff's hope to have the vacancy filled as early as the first week in May.

Ms. Frost provided information regarding upcoming programs and events. The Older Adult Volunteer Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, April 20 at Monte Verde Park. The Pan American Fiesta will take place Mother's Day weekend—Thursday, May 5 through Sunday, May 8—at Mayfair Park. The Mother's Day Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, May 8 at The Centre. Finally, the El Comienzo Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, April 18 at The Centre.

The commission was informed that the Environmental Resources Division had received two new hybrid Ford Maverick trucks, one went to Rynerson Park and one went to ERD Supervisor Mike Cracium. It was said that the trucks were paid for with AQMD grant funds.

Ms. Frost concluded her announcements by reporting that the Rynerson Park restroom improvements were complete.

Commissioner Lucio shared that she attended the recent Park Development Committee Meeting and mentioned that she was highly impressed with the slideshow presentations, and with staff's professionalism. She also attended the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Banquet and commented that she was highly impressed by the speaker, and that the event was very well organized and beautifully decorated. Regarding the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) District 10 Awards and Installations Banquet, Commissioner Lucio shared that she thoroughly enjoyed the event and was impressed with those who received awards that evening.

Commissioner Nelson shared that he and Commissioner Lucio had volunteered to assist at a project site at the recent Volunteer Day event and mentioned that he was thankful for the opportunity and looked forward to volunteering again in the future.

Vice Chairperson Ted Spaseff shared that he attended the Earth Walk event at Monte Verde Park with his family and mentioned it was a wonderful event. He also shared his excitement that the Recreation Catalog was finally available in hard copy. He was able to attend the recent Lakewood Youth Sports Hall of Fame Banquet and commented that it was a very nice event and gave kudos to Community Services Manager Chuck Martucci for being an excellent M.C. Lastly, he shared that he attended the recent Volunteer Day event and mentioned it was nice to see all of the project sites.

Commissioner Valdez shared that she was able to attend a few recent events and thoroughly enjoyed them all.

Chairperson Allen gave kudos to staff for a job well done with the Lakewood Youth Sports Hall of Fame Banquet, Earth Walk and Volunteer Day.

#### REPORTS:

##### **1. Pan Am Fiesta Preview**

Community Services Supervisor Susan Peebles displayed slides and provided information on the 2022 Pan Am Fiesta as noted in the written report. Ms. Peebles reported that the Pan Am Fiesta would return to its original format in 2022 beginning Thursday, May 5 and concluding on Sunday, May 8, 2022. It was said that the 2022 Pan Am Fiesta would continue with special event elements, including amusement rides, food booths, a cultural mix of live entertainment, the Children's Cultural Booth, a shoppers circle, and a display of Lakewood's Pan American history. Details were provided regarding each element as noted in the written report.

Ms. Peebles reported that amusement rides and carnival attractions would once again open on Thursday, May 5 with a "Family Fun Night" of carnival games and rides from 5 to 9 p.m. It

was said that this popular element returns to the Pan Am Fiesta calendar and features \$2 amusement rides and concession items for sale. The family-friendly celebration will continue Friday, May 6 from 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday, May 7 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday, May 8 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. The commission was informed that advanced purchase of promotional wristbands and ride tickets will go on sale beginning Monday, April 25 at Lakewood City Hall.

Ms. Frost confirmed for Commissioner Nelson that commissioners will be invited on stage during the Pan Am Fiesta welcome ceremony, and asked to remain on stage, during the flag salute and to congratulate the winners of the Pan American Association Scholarship program.

The commission received and filed the report on the Pan Am Fiesta Preview.

## **2. Lakewood Youth Sports Annual Report**

Community Services Supervisor Jonathan Gorne provided information regarding the Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS) 2021/2022 season as well as the modifications required to run the LYS program during the past sports year as noted in the written report. Mr. Gorne reported that during the last sports year, 1,922 children participated as compared to the 2,430 participants from the 2019/2020 sports year, which reflects a 20% decrease. It was said that there were no LYS seasons played during the 2020/2021 sports year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Gorne pointed out that since implementing non-resident fees beginning in 2009, the program still holds strong with resident participation at 74% in the 2021/2022 sports year. A table detailing the participation numbers for the past three sports years was provided to the commission.

Mr. Gorne reported that Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) protocols for youth sports were sufficiently modified prior to the start of the 2021 baseball/softball season to allow for LYS to be offered and run. The 2021 baseball/softball season was the first LYS season to take place since the end of the 2020 basketball season. There were a number of COVID-19 prevention policies required to be in place. Due to restrictions in place at the start of the season, there was no LYS Opening Day Ceremony in 2021. However, restrictions on gatherings were relaxed before the season was over, and an all-city Closing Day and Awards Ceremony was conducted at Palms Park on August 7, 2021.

Mr. Gorne mentioned that prior to the start of the fall 2021 LYS season, Public Health protocols were updated. The revised protocols included a requirement for either proof of full vaccinated status, or weekly COVID-19 testing, for all staff and volunteer coaches, and for all participants in outdoor sports ages twelve and older, and for all participants in indoor sports regardless of age. It was said that the logistical problems associated with requiring and verifying vaccination status and weekly tests were solved by making modifications to the traditional league format. Mr. Gorne provided details regarding those modifications as noted in the written report.

Commissioner Valdez pointed out that it is a huge accomplishment to have such a large percentage of children return to the LYS program so soon after the pandemic. Vice Chairperson Spaseff thanked Mr. Gorne and staff for all of their hard work in running a successful youth sports program during a pandemic. He mentioned it was nice to get back to some normalcy without restrictions.

The commission received and filed the annual report on Lakewood Youth Sports.

**3. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 10**

A written report and discussion of the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of March and a listing of upcoming activities for May 2022.

The Commission received and filed the report.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Letter to Chris Mooney, Employee of the Month for February 2022, and Jessica Glavinich for March 2022.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Allen adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m. to Wednesday, May 11, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary  
Recreation and Community Services Commission