



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting held
April 12, 2017

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:04 p.m. by Chairperson Winnie Heiss

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Ben Delarosa

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Chairperson Winnie Heiss
 Vice Chairperson Kirk Real
 Commissioner Dave Allen
 Commissioner Ben Delarosa
 Commissioner Ted Spaseff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner Dave Allen and seconded by Vice Chairperson Kirk Real to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 8, 2017. The motion was carried by a roll call vote with Commissioner Ben Delarosa abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Director Lisa Litzinger previewed upcoming programs and events which include the Older Adult Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on April 18 at The Centre, Volunteer Day is on April 22 with lunch at the Youth Center beginning at 11:30 a.m., and a Lakewood Shreds Event will be held at the Jacoboni Library parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 29. The El Comienzo Luncheon will be on May 4 at 11:30 a.m. at The Centre, and the Pan Am Fiesta takes place May 11-14 with the Flag Ceremony beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 13. On Monday, May 29 at 11 a.m. the Memorial Day Ceremony will once again be held at Del Valle Park.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff commented on his attendance at Earth Walk, an Arbor Day presentation, and the LYS Coaches Recognition Night. He commended staff for a great job on all the events. He especially thanked staff for the LYS Coaches Recognition Night. He enjoyed the barbeque and the Angles baseball game with his grandson, and is appreciative of such a tremendous event held for volunteer coaches.

Commissioner Dave Allen stated that he attended an Arbor Day presentation at Del Valle Park, which was once again very nice. Assistant Director Valarie Frost pointed out that Community Services Supervisor, Jonathan Gorne, who was present at the meeting, does an amazing job writing the script for the Arbor Day presentations. Commissioner Allen noted that he also attended the LYS Coaches Recognition Night noting that all components of the event were well organized providing for a great time for all.

Vice Chairperson Kirk Real commended staff on another creative Arbor Day production. He expressed his appreciation for staff's efforts to present the same message in a new fresh way year after year that entertaining for children and adults alike. Vice Chairperson Real stated that he also participated in the Descanso Gardens travel trip on April 8. He thanked staff for selecting such wonderful sites for the Travel Program, and for going above and beyond every step of the way, from registration, to getting off the bus at the end of the excursion.

Commissioner Ben Delarosa commented on his attendance at the CPRS Conference in Sacramento in March noting that he always enjoys seeing staff interacting with CPRS staff and learning from conference. Commissioner Delarosa also enjoyed attending the LYS Coaches Recognition Night noting that it is a nice treat that the coaches look forward to. Director Litzinger confirmed for Commissioner Delarosa that every effort is made to schedule the LYS Coaches Recognition Night and Volunteer Day on separate day, however, some years it is not possible due to the baseball game schedule.

Chairperson Winnie Heiss stated that the April 11 Lakewood Celebrates was a very nice event and thanked the entire city team their organizational efforts.

REPORTS:

1. **Pan Am Fiesta Preview**

Community Services Manager Alex Bauman displayed slides and provided information previewing the 2017 Pan Am Fiesta as noted in the written report and in the slide presentation. Mr. Bauman noted that changes to this year include a relocation of the entertainment stage to better promote traffic flow near the food vendors, and the addition of Meals on Wheels as a community food booth vendor with a food truck.

Mr. Bauman reported that entertainment will be highlighted with a concert on Friday and Saturday nights. Stone Soul will perform on Friday, and Knyght Ryder will perform on Saturday. On Sunday, the focus will be on rides and games with no community food booths. Residents will be encouraged to attend the Mother's Day Brunch at The Centre or at another Lakewood restaurant in the morning, and then come to the Pan Am Fiesta for fun the rest of the day.

Vice Chairperson Real stated that the Pan American Association received 56 scholarship applications this year, which is the most ever received. The students were all very deserving, making the selection process difficult for the scholarship committee. After much review and discussion, scholarship recipients were selected and will be recognized at the El Comienzo Luncheon.

Chairperson Heiss encouraged everyone present to stop in at the Pan American Historical Display in the Activity Room at the Pan Am Fiesta this year. She stated that display will have a new look this year thanks to an Eagle Scout refreshing and repairing the display boards as his project.

Commission Delarosa inquired as to what marketing efforts were being made to get people from the Mother's Day Brunch at The Centre to the Pan Am Fiesta. Mr. Bauman stated that staff works very closely with the city's Public Information Office. He added that this information is being included in any of their publications, including *Lakewood Living Magazine*, the LakewoodConnect emails, and ads in the *Press Telegram* and *Lakewood Community News*, all featuring the same message to enjoy a Mother's Day Brunch at The Centre or elsewhere in Lakewood, and then to bring the family to the event.

The Commission received and filed the report.

2. Sports Programs Annual Report

Community Services Manager Kevin Bright expanded on information and statistics included in the written report recapping the 2016 Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS) program. Mr. Bright pointed out the 1.5% decline in participation from 2015 and noted that the decline is likely due to the increased interest in specialized private and club sports teams trending in the sports world now. He added that LYS is still a very strong program with over 2,000 participants for the year, despite the decline across Southern California. After reviewing highlights of how the 60th year of LYS was celebrated throughout the sports seasons and at last year's LYS Opening Day Ceremony, he announced that this year's event will again be held in tandem with the Public Safety Expo on June 17, 2017 at Mayfair Park. Mr. Bright then introduced Jonathan Gorne, Community Services Supervisor, to explain how LYS volunteer coaches are trained.

Mr. Gorne stated that every sports season is started off with a pre-season coaches meeting tailored specifically to the sport of the season. The baseball/softball/t-ball pre-season meeting is held at the individual parks as it is the highest attended meeting. A combined all-city meeting for flag football/volleytennis, and basketball seasons is held for each of those seasons in the Council Chambers. The goal is to provide a clear and consistent message across the city. He explained that a PowerPoint presentation is made at each of the pre-season meetings to review and explain the nuts and bolts of the season. Other aspects of the training include; rules and fundamentals, expectations and coaches' role, Goals and Objectives/Ethics Oath, and a Coaches Guide.

Mr. Gorne stressed that the most important part of the presentation is always the coaches' role in the program. The goal and philosophy of the LYS program overall is explained. In this part of the training, detailed expectations of the coaches are made clear, including how to uphold those expectations. At the end of the meeting, each coach is expected to sign a Coaches Goals and Objectives form, which details what is expected of them throughout the season. By signing the form, the coach is essentially giving us their word that they will strive to uphold the philosophy of the program. A Coaches Guide is also distributed for each sport season and reinforces information presented at the meeting. It also includes additional information and resources to help coaches organize and run a successful team throughout the season.

To augment the pre-season meeting and all the information provided to coaches, Mr. Gorne added that one-on-one meetings can be scheduled with the city's Sports Specialist, rather than holding a coaches clinic. The one-on-one meetings have proven to be much more flexible and impactful because the content of the meeting can be tailored to the needs of the individual coach. Using this format has been beneficial in bringing new coaches up to speed quickly.

Commissioner Spaseff commented that he finds the LYS program great for the kids due to the non-pressure atmosphere allowing them to enjoy the sport. He appreciates that the program remains as consistent today as at its inception. The value of the program is that kids can play multiple sports and experience each one. Staff should be very proud of the program. Commissioner Allen requested an explanation of how participants are placed on teams. Mr. Gorne stated that, beginning in baseball/softball season, registration forms for each age group are organized from oldest to youngest, and then it is a blind draw, ensuring an even spread of

ages among all teams. Teams are kept intact, whenever possible, moving forward to each new sport season. Mr. Bright added this system has essentially eliminated accusations of stacking teams by parents and coaches alike.

Vice Chairperson Real asked whether or not it is known why resident participation has increased. Mr. Bright stated that there is no trend over the previous five years. Participation among non-residents has also remained relatively static over the same past five-year period. Director Litzinger reported, in response to Vice Chairperson Real's inquiry, that there is approximately a 70/30 split, resident to non-resident, overall across all recreation programs.

Commissioner Delarosa commented that specialization in sports has definitely hindered our program, however it does not take away from the value of LYS. The no or low-cost of the program allows more kids to try out a new sport. He asked if there were any statistics available regarding difference of the rate of decline participation between boys and girls. Mr. Bright stated that the decline appears to be about equal. He added that volleytennis however, is declining at a much faster rate than the other girls sports. It is just not as popular and that girls today want a higher challenge with higher demand on skill sets than volleytennis provides. Mr. Bright added that although volleytennis is offered to 12-13 and 14-17 girls' age groups, there has not been a division due to lack of registration for 12-13 girls for about the past four years, and a decade for the 14-17 girls volleytennis division.

Vice Chairperson Real asked if there is an alternate sport activity that is appealing to teenage girls. Mr. Bright reported that soccer is popular for girls that age, however, there are already other very successful soccer programs available in our community. He added that girls are moving on to volleyball from volleytennis upon approaching their teens.

Commissioner Allen commented on the creative team names he has seen over the years. He asked if team names go through any approval process. Mr. Gorne replied that there is no formal process. Staff does pay close attention to the team names submitted and screen for appropriateness.

Commissioner Spaseff asked staff if offering volleyball for teenage girls has been considered. Mr. Bright replied that it has been discussed, and Assistant Director Valarie Frost added that it is a struggle because our volleyball courts are outside. Volleyball is definitely an indoor game.

Commissioner Delarosa asked if the track and field meet falls under LYS. Mr. Bright confirmed that it is considered part of LYS however, there are no coaches nor teams, and is organized like a special event. Flyers are distributed to schools to recruit for the track meet which will be held on April 20 at Lakewood High School. Participation in track and field has consistently dropped over the past few years across the Southern California spectrum. The LYS track meet is expected to draw approximately 100 participants this year, and is an individual event and is not associated with any other track meet. The city's event open to all children within the age range.

The Commission received and filed the report.

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 2017 and a listing of upcoming activities for May 2017.

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Tiffany Bullock, Part-Time Employee of the Month for February 2017.

The Commission received and filed the letter.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Stacey L. Carter, Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Lakewood, addressed the commission regarding all the wonderful activities she learned about by attending the meeting. Ms. Carter stated that she plans to support the city by referring clients to its programs.

Josh Finley, California State University, Long Beach, addressed the commission and stated that he attended the meeting as a requirement for class. He added that he learned a lot from the meeting and appreciates all that the commission and city does.

Director Litzinger clarified for Vice Chairperson Real that staff recognized at the April 11, 2017 Lakewood Celebrates event are members of the Public Works Department. They were specifically recognized for attaining a Tree City USA award from the Arbor Day Foundation for the 33rd consecutive year.

Commissioner Spaseff asked if the city has been given authorization to use potable water on the center medians now that the drought is over. Director Litzinger replied that the state restrictions on watering have not been lifted and the city is not making any changes to the watering of medians at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Winnie Heiss adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m. to May 10, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Barbara Di Iorio, Secretary to the
Recreation and Community Services Commission