



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting held
May 10, 2017

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Winnie Heiss

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Dave Allen

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 Commissioner Ted Spaseff to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 12, 2017. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Director Lisa Litzinger previewed upcoming programs and events which include the Lakewood Teen Action Committee (LTAC) Banquet on May 20 at the Youth Center at 5 p.m. The Pan Am Fiesta takes place May 11-14 with the Flag Ceremony beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 13. Lakewood Celebrates will be held on May 23 at 6 p.m. at The Centre and the Recreation and Community Services Department will be re-presented the Parks Make Life Better award received from California Park and Recreation Society District 10. Both pools open for weekends beginning on May 27, and then open for daily operation on June 17. On Monday, May 29 at 11 a.m. the Memorial Day Ceremony will once again be held at Del Valle Park.

This year, the Ronald McDonald House Fundraiser returns to Outback Steakhouse and will take place on June 1. The cost to attend the event is \$20 and advance registration with the Department Secretary is encouraged. Summer Orientation for all part-time staff is scheduled for June 8 at 6 p.m. at the Youth Center. Commissioners may wear red or white Parks Make Life Better t-shirts to the event if desired and will be able to observe staff as they learn more about the city through an interactive activity. The Special Olympics Summer Games will be held at California State University, Long Beach on June 10 and 11. On June 16, the Senior Health Fair is scheduled to begin at noon on June 16 at the Weingart Senior Center, and Lakewood Youth Sports Opening Day & Public Safety Expo is on June 17 at Mayfair Park. The Summer Concerts in the Park series begins on June 22 at Del Valle Park, and the Block Party will be held on June 24. The Commission was asked to RSVP their attendance with the secretary for all events.

Ms. Litzinger noted that the July 12 RCS Commission meeting will include staff presentations covering all Recreation programs, and the August 9 meeting will include a tour of parks and/or programs. Commissioners were asked to submit suggestions of what they would like to see on the tour.

Commissioner Dave Allen commented on the Senior Volunteer Luncheon, noting that it was the best one to date. He also commended staff on marvelous efforts and organization of Volunteer Day, and thanked the Pan American Association and city staff for a great job on the El Comienzo Luncheon.

Vice Chairperson Kirk Real echoed Commissioner Allen's comments regarding the events and added that Commissioner Allen's involvement in the Senior Volunteer, and the El Comienzo Luncheons further enhanced the events. Vice Chairperson Real noted that he attended the LYS Track and Field meet last month and noted that although attendance seemed to be a bit lower, the event was very well organized by staff and that it is a benefit to those in attendance. Ms. Litzinger added that some new ideas are being explored to gain greater participation next year.

REPORTS:

1. Meals on Wheels – Agency Report

Community Services Manager Nancy Hitt introduced Debra Larsen, Executive Director of Lakewood Meals on Wheels. Ms. Larsen thanked the Commission for the honor to present information regarding the Lakewood Meals on Wheels program. She expressed her appreciation for the Recreation and Community Services Department for starting the program 42 years ago. Ms. Larsen explained that Meals on Wheels is a non-profit organization, partially funded by the federal government, and is operated by many wonderful volunteers. The program provides low cost, and in some cases, completely subsidized, meals to homebound people in the community. Monday through Friday, volunteers pack and deliver a lunch and hot dinner to clients between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Ms. Larsen invited Commissioner Allen to talk about city staff's volunteer involvement. Commissioner Allen explained that many years ago, the city's management team organized staff members to volunteer to deliver meals during their lunch period. Today, there are still members of the city's management staff teaming up together to make deliveries, and retirees have even continued their participation in the program. Both Ms. Larsen and Commissioner Allen noted that appreciation for the program from clients and volunteers alike is immeasurable.

Ms. Larsen then showed a video, produced by Lakewood's City TV. The video further explained the Meals on Wheels program, and featured comments from clients and volunteers.

Chairperson Heiss applauded Ms. Larsen for providing such a wonderful service to the community.

Commissioner Spaseff asked if potential cuts proposed by the President will affect Meals on Wheels. Ms. Larsen responded that the CDGB Block Grant funds have been secured for 2018, however the future, beyond next year, is uncertain. She added that fortunately, the program is not completely federally funded, however cuts will definitely impact the program. The Meals on Wheels Board is addressing the issue now, to be prepared to be able to continue the subsidy program if federal budget cuts are made.

The Commission received and filed the report.

2. Summer Program/Catalog

Community Services Manager Kevin Bright displayed slides and reviewed the many programs, classes, and events offered for summer by the Recreation and Community Services Department as included in the written report. He explained that the summer catalog invites residents to splash into fun this summer at Concerts in the Park, Finally It's Friday events, aquatics programs, the Lakewood Youth Sports league, and classes such as a new Core Fitness Boot Camp class utilizing the new fitness equipment and play area at Rynerson Park. Staff will be prepared through various types of trainings to ensure a fun and safe summer for the community.

Commissioner Spaseff stated that, in his opinion, the Recreation Catalog is of award worthy every season. He congratulated and thanked staff for all their efforts to produce such a high quantity and quality of programming, especially during the summer.

Chairperson Heiss stated that the Recreation Department's activities are what makes people want to live the City of Lakewood. The department's efforts make all the difference and she thanked staff for a wonderful job is done by all.

The Commission received and filed the report.

3. Civic Center Block Party Preview

Community Services Manager Alex Bauman provided a preview of components planned for this year's Civic Center Block Party on June 24. Slides were displayed to enhance the information provided in the written and verbal reports. Recorded and live entertainment will be provided on the stage, and attractions and games are sure to once again attract children to the Fun Zone. Local restaurants will participate in the Taste of Lakewood to provide food at the event, while raising funds for Friends of the Lakewood Libraries. Fireworks America will again provide a spectacular display of fireworks synchronized to patriotic music that can be heard by those in close proximity to the main stage as well as in the Costco parking lot near the launch site. Mr. Bauman explained that the event is a joint effort involving different partnerships including the Lakewood Center Mall, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, CARE Ambulance, and staff from nearly every department of the City of Lakewood. For the fourteenth year, residents and non-residents alike will once again enjoy the entire event.

Vice Chairperson Real expressed his appreciation for Alex mentioning that the Block Party is an interdepartmental activity that is coordinated with and by departments other than Recreation. He added that the Shred Event is another example of the cooperative efforts of city departments to provide valuable service to the community.

Chairperson Heiss expressed her appreciation especially for the Sheriff's Deputies working at the Block Party. In addition to maintaining general safety at the event, they also accompany Taste of Lakewood volunteers when making money drops from the ticket booths, which is very comforting.

The Commission received and filed the report.

4. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 11

A written report and discussion of the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of April 2017 and a listing of upcoming activities for June 2017.

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Desmond Carter, Part-Time Employee of the Month for March 2017.

Chairperson Heiss thanked staff for the quality of leadership provided and for the consistent quality of part-time staff hired.

The Commission received and filed the letter.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Winnie Heiss adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m. to June 14, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

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