



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting held
June 14, 2017

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:02 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 Commissioner Ted Spaseff to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 10, 2017. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Director Lisa Litzinger previewed upcoming programs and events which include the Senior Health Fair on June 16 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Weingart Senior Center, and Lakewood Youth Sports Opening Day & Public Safety Expo is on June 17 at Mayfair Park beginning at 10 a.m. The Summer Concerts in the Park series begins on June 22 at Del Valle Park at 6:30 p.m., then on June 23, Movie Night Under the Stars starts at 7 p.m. at Monte Verde Park, and the Block Party will be held on June 24.

Shakespeare by the Sea will return to Monte Verde Park on July 14, and mark your calendar for Howard Chambers' retirement dinner scheduled for the evening of July 31. Lakewood Center will hold a Community Summer Fest at the mall on August 19, at which, community appreciation events are scheduled all day beginning with the Farmer's Market in the morning. Then, on August 27, Lakewood Chamber of Commerce will host their annual Car Show at Mayfair Park.

Vice Chairperson Kirk Real commented on Summer Orientation and Training event held at the Youth Center on June 8 commending staff for their efforts to create such a great event. He pointed out the cohesiveness of the department divisions displayed and expressed his appreciation for all that goes in to making that happen within the department. He especially wanted to thank all the Environmental Resources Division staff who attended after a full day's work.

Commissioner Dave Allen also attended the Summer Orientation and relayed how impressed a new staff member was with the scope of the event. Commissioner Allen added that Del Valle Park look perfect for the Memorial Day Ceremony and all aspects of that event were very nice.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff also commented on the Summer Orientation stating how impressed he was with the creativity of staff to coordinate fun games that blend teambuilding with

education about our parks and programs. Commission Spaseff commended staff on an outstanding summer catalog.

Chairperson Winnie Heiss thanked staff for a wonderful Pan Am Fiesta. She added that this year's was the best one ever and staff could not have been more helpful. Chairperson Heiss also expressed her appreciation for ERD staff who worked with the Eagle Scout on his project to repair the Pan Am Association's display boards.

REPORTS:

1. FY 2017-2018 Recreation Commission Work Calendar Adoption

Assistant Director Valarie Frost brought the Commission's attention to the Recreation and Community Services Commission FY 2017-2018 Work Calendar that is included in the agenda packet. Ms. Frost pointed out that it is very similar to last year's Work Calendar with just a few title changes, and asked that the Commission review the document as a group and make recommendations for desired adjustments. The Commission may request to add or remove items from the Work Calendar, or change the order of items. Lisa Litzinger recommended that the Commission move the Commission Reorganization from the July meeting to the August meeting.

There being no further discussion or comments, Commissioner Dave Allen made a motion and Vice Chairperson Kirk Real seconded the motion to adopt the Recreation Commission FY 2017-2018 Work Calendar with the recommended change to move the Commission Reorganization from the July 12, 2017 meeting to the August 9, 2017 meeting. The motion was carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. DASH Transit Annual Report

Community Services Manager Chuck Martucci introduced Community Transportation Supervisor Janet Mondragón. Ms. Mondragón displayed slides while presenting information regarding the DASH (Dependable Accessible Senior Handicapped) paratransit service as included in the written report. She expanded on the statistics noted in the report, explaining that the decline in miles from fiscal year 2015-16 to 2016-17 may be attributed to there being six fewer operation days in FY16-17. Additionally, fewer stops are required as multiple clients are being picked up at group assisted living facilities.

Ms. Mondragón pointed out that two old buses were replaced with newer models during the past year. The new buses are very similar in style, inside and outside, however updated features and technology are included on the new models. One new of the new features streamlines the pre-trip vehicle inspection process by allowing all the lights to be turned on at once for quick, easy inspection by only one person.

Ms. Mondragón confirmed for Chairperson Heiss that the older buses do have a door in the back, as do the new models, which is used for the wheel chair ramp.

Commissioner Allen asked for clarification regarding the policy on boundaries. Ms. Mondragón stated that clients are taken to medical appointments that are slightly outside of the program's boundaries.

Vice Chairperson Real expressed his appreciation for the travel program, stating that the value for what the program provides is simply amazing. He added that the program has nice buses, good drive, and good leadership.

Commissioner Spaseff commended staff for bringing the city's drivers up to high standards through the in-house driver training program. Ms. Mondragón confirmed for Commissioner Spaseff that the training program has resulted in maintaining the needed number of Class B drivers, rather than the need to recruit drivers with this certification.

Commissioner Delarosa requested clarification for the type of fuel used in the two new vehicles. Ms. Litzinger stated that the vehicles run on gasoline, which was found to be the most cost effective. Ms. Litzinger further clarified that the six-passenger vans are used to ensure efficiency as a full sized bus is not always needed. The DASH program will continue to operate with a combination of 16-passenger buses, and six-passenger vans. Commissioner Delarosa thanked staff for including the full description of the DASH acronym in the written report.

The Commission received and filed the report.

3. Landscape and Turf Maintenance Annual Report

Environmental Resources Division (ERD) Supervisor Mike McDade displayed slides to enhance information provided in the written and verbal reports regarding the maintenance of turf and landscaping at city facilities and on street medians.

Mr. McDade described projects completed over the past year that are not listed in the written report. The Nature Trail, off Carson Street, was redesigned for low water usage with new plants and rocks in the creek. At the Arbor Yard, the area where vehicles are fueled had become overgrown. A new idea was incorporated and includes low water usage plants and subsurface drip irrigation system. New fencing was installed by ERD staff with the help of Public Works staff at the Lakewood Equestrian Center.

New equipment was purchased over the past year to improve efficiency. A riding mower was purchased that captures the grass in a catcher and includes a hydraulic lift that allows the clippings to be emptied directly into a dumpster. A new E-Z Trench allows a trench to be dug in existing turf, and will be used when laying subsurface irrigation. The new chain saw that was purchased cuts through dirt, roots, and rocks. The use of this piece of equipment eliminates the need for hand digging around roots or employing a tractor when repairing irrigation systems, and allows for one person to easily reroute a sprinkler line around a tree.

Vice Chairperson Real commented that the redesigned landscaping on the east side of Lakewood Boulevard looks great, but the west side still has the old ivy. He asked if there is a plan to update the west side of the street. Mr. McDade reported that work to update the landscape on the west side of Lakewood Boulevard is scheduled to begin in the middle of July to blend with the east side of the street.

Commissioner Allen asked if the new landscape design at the Weingart Senior Center has reduced the number of vagrants in the area. Mr. McDade reported that he has noticed a decrease, which may be attributed to the new landscape design being much more open with

fewer areas concealed by plants. He also added that this was just the first phase of the landscape refresh at the Senior Center. Ms. Litzinger noted that a fence with a gate was installed at the southeast corner of the building off the alley, and a fence was added between the Weingart Senior Center and the commercial businesses. Ms. Frost added that the closure of the Vons market, and recycling center, combined with fencing and landscaping, have contributed to significantly reduce the number of vagrants in the area.

Vice Chairperson Real inquired about the effect on the building of the removal of the ivy from the Weingart Senior Center. Mr. McDade reported that at first, remnant trails were visible, but that with time, the sun has bleached those away. Ms. Litzinger added that the removal of the ivy combined with new drip irrigation has prevented moisture from absorbing into the building as well.

The Commission received and filed the report.

4. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 12

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

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Mariah Preciado, Part-Time Employee of the Month for April 2017.

Chairperson Heiss thanked Ms. Frost for providing such beautiful letters to deserving staff.

Commissioner Allen appreciated that Employees of the Month over the past year were recognized at the Summer Orientation event.

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 6:51 p.m. to July 12, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

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