



**MINUTES**  
Recreation and Community Services Commission  
Adjourned Regular Meeting  
March 21, 2018

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MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Kirk Real

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Winnie Heiss

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner Winnie Heiss and seconded by Commissioner Ted Spaseff to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 14, 2018. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote with Commissioner Delarosa abstaining.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Director Lisa Litzinger provided information regarding upcoming programs and events. She announced that on March 27, Lakewood Celebrates will start off with refreshments at 5:45 p.m. with the formal program beginning at 6:15 p.m., at which, the outgoing Mayor will be celebrated. Then, immediately following the City Council meeting, a reception honoring the newly appointed Mayor will be held in the lobby at The Centre. Volunteer Day will be held on April 14 with a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Youth Center. The Older Adult Volunteer Recognition Luncheon is on April 18 at 3 p.m. at The Centre, where Phyllis Clark will be honored as the Older Adult Volunteer of the Year. Then, on April 19, the CPRS District X Awards & Installation Banquet will begin at 5 p.m. at Rio Hondo Country Club in Downey. Dick Brown, the owner of Glory Days, will be presented with the Volunteer Merit Award at this event. The LYS Coaches Recognition Night is on April 21 with a barbeque at the Youth Center at 4 p.m. and an Angeles vs. Giants baseball game at 6:07 p.m. A Lakewood Shreds event is scheduled for April 28 from 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of the Iacoboni Library. The El Comienzo Luncheon is scheduled for May 3 at The Centre, and the Pan Am Fiesta will take place May 10-13 at Mayfair Park.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff commended staff on a great job with Earth Walk and improvising due to the rain. He added that turn out for the event was good despite the weather.

Chairperson Kirk Real commented on staff's creative script of the Arbor Day presentations last month, and the informative workshops he attended during the CPRS Conference. He stated that travel trip to Paramount Studios on March 10 was exceptional, and he is looking forward to the trip to the Getty Villa in April.

**REPORTS:**

**1. Volunteer Program Update**

Community Services Manager Nancy Hitt introduced Community Services Supervisor Caitlin Carias to present the report. Ms. Carias provided information regarding the many ways that Lakewood's volunteers are celebrated during National Volunteer Month. She noted that many

of the Recreation and Community Services Department's programs could not be done without the assistance of hundreds of volunteers who give their time, energy and effort to help others.

The report was supported by a slide presentation, and highlighted statistical information on the number of volunteers and number of volunteer hours for each program. Programs include: Lakewood Meals on Wheels; specialty classes, and the nutrition program at the Weingart Senior Center; Tech Talk, and the Book Club at the Burns Community Center; Teens in Lakewood Care; the Junior Life Guard program, and Project Shepherd.

Volunteers will be celebrated at a few events in April. The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Lakewood Volunteer Day is scheduled for April 14. Volunteers will be treated to lunch at the Youth Center after spending the morning working at project sites throughout the city. The Older Adult Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held on April 18. This event recognizes volunteers from various organizations and will honor Phyllis Clark as the 2017 Older Adult Volunteer of the Year. Lakewood Youth Sports volunteer coaches will be thanked at a recognition night, that includes a barbeque at the Youth Center and a trip to an Angels baseball game on April 21. Statistical information from 2017 was also provided for each of these programs.

Ms. Cariaso concluded her report stating that volunteers have put in countless hours to enhance many of the city's programs, and have provided a positive impact to the health and well-being of the community.

Chairperson Real commented that Lakewood is blessed to have so many volunteers.

The Commission received and filed the report.

## **2. Centre Operations Annual Report**

Community Services Supervisor Gay Given provided information regarding the operation of The Centre over the past year, as noted in the written report. She pointed out that in 2017, approximately 1,900 events and classes were held at The Centre. Recreation classes generated over \$58,000 in gross revenue, and Thank Goodness It's Sofia (TGIS), the concessionaire at The Centre, paid over \$314,000 in rent to the city. TGIS continues to receive high ratings on overall customer satisfaction by clients.

Ms. Givens described improvements made to the facility over the past year. Improvements included replacement of the carpeting, recovering of room dividers, and replacement of the first floor hallway wall covering. Additionally, a new ceiling mounted projector has been installed in the ballroom, providing much improved image quality in varying levels of light. She added that recently, a new logo for The Centre was designed. It will be used on promotional materials and on the TGIS website beginning in April.

To conclude the report, Ms. Givens stated that city staff and the TGIS team work together to deliver the highest quality food and service, and to remain competitive in the marketplace.

Vice Chairperson Allen stated that he likes the new carpet and asked who selected it. Ms. Litzinger explained that the carpet selection was a collective effort between city staff and TGIS.

Chairperson Real noted that carpet matches nicely with the existing furniture. Ms. Litzinger explained that, although it would be nice to purchase carpet and new furniture at the same time, those two items have different lifespans, and are budgeted separately. The challenge is to make selections to complement what may be chosen in the future.

The Commission received and filed the report.

### **3. Vandalism Annual Report**

Community Services Manager Kevin Bright provided a summary of vandalism statistics on city facilities in 2017. A three-year comparison of statistics related to vandalism of Recreation and Community Services facilities was included with the written report. Mr. Bright explained the process for reporting and recording of incidents, which includes estimates of loss to the city. Review of these records helps to identify potential trends, allowing city staff to take appropriate preventative measures.

Mr. Bright reviewed the various types of vandalism, number of incidents at each facility, and cost associated with the losses in 2017. He added that it is important to note, that every graffiti incident is documented at a minimum cost of \$458. This is a mobilization fee, which accounts for filing of reports by city staff, and the Sheriff's Department, providing photos of the graffiti to the Sheriff's Department, and various other city resources used. This \$458 is in addition to any direct labor and resources used to remove the graffiti. An added benefit to the mobilization fee, is that it classifies every graffiti incident as a felony.

The estimate of loss in 2017 demonstrates an increase of just under 10% from the prior year, however, it is important to note that the department and the city is still doing very well at maintaining a low level of vandalism. The Recreation and Community Services Department relies on the Public Works Department to respond to incidents and paint over graffiti, or repair damaged infrastructure expediently. The efforts of these two departments working together swiftly to remove or repair the vandalism, makes it much less attractive, especially to taggers, to return to Lakewood.

Mr. Bright reported that Bloomfield Park continues to remain high in graffiti incidents. Increased gang activity, with tagging on a large scale, has been experienced in recent months. He pointed out that the recent incidents at Bloomfield and Palms Parks were very costly, and may have contributed to the 9.2% increase in incidents in 2017. The number of incidents at Rynerson and San Martin Parks were both high last year. The Little League facility on Rynerson Park was targeted for the snack bar and equipment room, as vandals have realized that the park is very dark, secluded, and that it is not staffed with city personnel. Staff is working to determine a contributing factor for the high number of incidents at San Martin Park and will continue to monitor the situation.

The cost and number of graffiti incidents increased significantly from 2016 to 2017. It is expected that the increase will continue with fewer resources being available to manage vandals, and the legislation passed in California over the last year contributing to the unfortunate trend. The Recreation Department will work together with all departments across the city to mitigate and eliminate opportunities for vandalism.

Commissioner Spaseff noted that 33 incidents, is actually fantastic when compared to other cities. He asked what contributed to the overall cost of damage at Del Valle Park to be so high. Mr. Bright stated that he did not recall a specific costly incident, and will research and provide an answer prior to the next commission meeting.

Commissioner Delarosa asked if the surveillance systems installed at the facilities have had any effect on the statistics. Mr. Bright responded that there has minimal, if any effect, as a result of the addition of security cameras. Ms. Litzinger added that no one has been caught with the camera footage. She then noted that it is not known however, if the cameras have deterred a vandal from committing a crime. The cameras will remain in place.

Chairperson Real asked what the recovery rate is for the \$27,000 in damage loss. Staff responded that there was no restitution or recovery for damages in 2017.

The Commission received and filed the report.

**4. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 9**

A written report and discussion of the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of February and a listing of upcoming activities for April 2018.

Commissioner Spaseff expressed his appreciation for the report. He reads it every month and enjoys the summary of events.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Letter to Part-Time Employee of the Month, Jeremiah Skipps for the month of January 2018.

There were no comments and the letter will be filed.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Kirk Real adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m. to April 11, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

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