



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
July 11, 2018

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Vice Chairperson Dave Allen

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Chairperson Kirk Real
Vice Chairperson Dave Allen
Commissioner Ted Spaseff

ABSENT: Commissioner Ben Delarosa
Commissioner Winnie Heiss

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of June 13, 2018. A motion was made by Commissioner Ted Spaseff and seconded by Vice Chairperson Dave Allen to approve the revised minutes from the meeting of June 13, 2018. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Director Valarie Frost began her remarks by thanking Chairperson Kirk Real and members of the Commission for their attendance. Ms. Frost then introduced Michelle Williams as the Commission's new secretary. She explained that although Michelle's tenure with the city is short, she has certainly proven herself to be an extremely capable and trustworthy team member. Ms. Frost continued by stating that Michelle was recently promoted to Administrative Secretary and will officially begin her new responsibilities in that role in the coming weeks.

Ms. Frost pointed out the full audience of city staff who would be introduced later in the evening. She then went on to report that prior to last night's City Council Meeting, there was a public study session regarding the proposal for a Goals Soccer Center at Bloomfield Park. The council recommended continuing the discussion regarding the proposal; however, there was no decision to move forward with the project. She informed the Commission that city staff was directed to implement a parking management program to address existing parking issues in the neighborhoods surrounding Bloomfield Park.

Ms. Frost advised that next month's Recreation and Community Services Commission Meeting would include a facility tour. She stated that a visit to the Burns Community Center would be part of the tour and that she is eager to learn of other facilities the Commission would be interested in visiting. Commissioners were asked to confirm their attendance for the August 22 meeting and tour with their secretary.

Ms. Frost concluded her announcements with a reminder that the next Park Development Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 20, at 8:30 a.m. in the Executive Board Room.

Assistant Director Kevin Bright began his announcements by stating that, since it is summer, there is quite a bit going on. He began with a recap of the Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS) Opening Day Ceremony, which took place on Saturday, June 16. Mr. Bright stated that the LYS season kicked off in grand fashion with over 1,500 in attendance and paired once again with the Public Safety Expo in a seamless partnership. He went on to state that in spite of the Storm Water Capture Project, the carnival attractions found a new, temporary home near Fidler Avenue. Mr. Bright stated that it was a successfully executed event.

On Saturday, June 30, the Civic Center Block Party was a huge success with over 25,000 in attendance. Mr. Bright reported that The Answer rocked the night on the stage, the Taste of Lakewood and the Family Fun Zone sold an abundance of tickets, and fireworks lit up the sky. He mentioned that staff was second to none, the event went off without a hitch, and that there were no altercations or significant issues to report. Mr. Bright noted that while RCS takes the lead on this event, it is truly a city-wide event, incorporating all departments, and that RCS is grateful to all departments for the contributions and willingness to pitch in. He gave a special thanks to Community Services Manager, Alex Bauman, for his leadership on the event. Mr. Bright mentioned that Mr. Bauman's organization, decision-making, and knowledge, continued to serve the community well in executing a very significant event.

Mr. Bright went on to share exciting news about the Lakewood Dirtbags Special Olympics Softball team. The Dirtbags competed in the Special Olympics U.S.A. Games in Seattle, Washington. They were coached by Chuck Martucci, Joseph Vasquez, and Erica Pueblos. The Dirtbags represented Lakewood well, bringing home a silver medal. Mr. Bright gave special thanks to Bill Grady and the Public Information Office staff, stating that they were instrumental in posting Facebook blasts throughout the week and stirred up awareness of what was going on in Seattle. He expressed extreme gratitude for the entire city team for the stellar efforts.

Mr. Bright continued by stating that last Friday, July 6, the Lakewood Summer Fair was held at San Martin Park. Despite record-breaking heat, over 400 youngsters attended the event. There were carnival attractions, pizza, and of course, a big favorite for such a hot day, were the snow cones. Mr. Bright then went on to report that a Survive for 7 class was held at the Lakewood Youth Center on Tuesday, July 10. This class prepares residents for a major disaster, helping them to identify and obtain necessary items to help their family survive for seven days following a major disaster. There were 20 people in attendance.

Highlights of a few important dates were provided by Mr. Bright. This week marks the halfway point of the Summer Concerts in the Park series, with Stone Soul performing music from the Motown era. Chronic Taco and Greasy Weiner food trucks, Yogurtland, and Mr. B's Kettle Corn will be on-site. Friday, July 13, Shakespeare by the Sea will be held at Monte Verde Park. The event will feature Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* and will begin at 7 p.m. Families are invited to bring low-back chairs and picnic blankets. Admission is free but the company always welcomes donations. On Saturday, July 14, the Save-a-Life Event will be held at Mayfair Pool. This is the third year for the event; it begins at 9 a.m. and will conclude at 11 a.m. The event is free and includes a free swim lesson. First aid and CPR demonstrations will be provided by The American Red Cross. Mr. Bright stated that there has been a continued effort to publicize the Water Watcher campaign, designating an adult as a Water Watcher when kids are in residential pools.

Mr. Bright concluded his announcements with reminders about other events coming up prior to the next Commission Meeting. Movie Night at Monte Verde Park will take place on Friday, July 20, at 7 p.m., featuring *Ferdinand*. Family Game Night will be at the Lakewood Youth Center on Friday, July 27, from 6 to 10 p.m., and the Annual LYS Awards Ceremony and Family Play Day will happen on Saturday, August 4, at Bolivar, Del Valle, Mayfair and Palms Parks.

Parks Superintendent Phillip Lopez began his announcements with an update on the Mayfair Park Storm Water Capture Project. He stated that the hole is getting bigger and that trucks are still moving dirt out of the facility and will continue to do so for a while longer. At a recent project meeting, irrigation issues at Mayfair Park were discussed. Mr. Lopez informed the Commission that the contractor was able to re-route from the old irrigation system to continue running irrigation on Field 3. Mr. Lopez continued by stating that with baseball in full effect, he wanted to point out the new homerun fence that was set up as an incentive for our young athletes and inquired if anyone had yet to hit a ball over the fence. He stated that the fence is close to 300 feet from home plate, so it is a good distance out.

Mr. Lopez moved on to discuss the Burns Community Center. He informed the Commission that the front of the facility is now fenced off and that the contractor has moved to the front of the facility, opening the lobby and the entryway to the back area where the new elevator is located. He stated that this week the communication phone would be removed from the old elevator and set up in the new elevator. Once it is installed, the new elevator will be fully operational. Mr. Lopez concluded his remarks by stating that the contractor will be moving their trailers out of the back parking area, which will open up the back parking lot and provide much-needed parking spaces for the facility.

Before opening up for Commissioners' comments, Director Valarie Frost asked the Commission to inform their secretary of their availability to help pass out awards on Saturday, August 4, at the LYS Family Play Day and Awards Ceremony.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff began his comments by offering his reflection of the summer thus far. He started with the Senior Health Fair, stating that Community Services Supervisor, Sabrina Junkin, and her staff at the Weingart Senior Center, did an outstanding job putting on a great event. He mentioned there was a great turn out and that he was delighted to see how excited the seniors were to receive such fun goodies. Commissioner Spaseff also expressed comments about the LYS Opening Day Ceremony, saying it was a great day and not too hot outside. He commended Assistant Director, Kevin Bright, on a job well done and noted that turn out for the event was very good. He went on to express his thoughts on the Civic Center Block Party, stating that the event was outstanding. He thoroughly enjoyed the performance by The Answer and thought the video screen displayed on the stage was a real treat.

Commissioner Spaseff went on to discuss the Special Olympics U.S.A. Games in Seattle, Washington. He enjoyed watching and found it to be very interesting. He noted that Lakewood received a ton of airtime and commented on how the send-off dinner at Glory Days restaurant on Wednesday, June 27, was a ton of fun. Moving forward, Commissioner Spaseff reported that he was able to attend the third summer concert on Thursday, July 5, and was amazed at how early people had arrived to set up their lawn chairs and blankets. He concluded his reflection by stating

that he loves how much the Concerts in the Park series has grown and really appreciates the new location of the stage.

Next, Vice Chairperson Dave Allen expressed his comments on the Special Olympics U.S.A. Games in Seattle, Washington, teasing that Community Services Manager, Chuck Martucci, was supposed to bring home the gold. He mentioned that he too found the tournament to be very interesting, stating that Lakewood did very well by winning the first three games. He was glad to see the athletes had a great time. Vice Chairperson Allen asked Mr. Martucci how Lakewood did at the Special Olympics tournament at Cal State Long Beach. Mr. Martucci replied, stating that Community Services Supervisor, Joseph Vasquez, had taken a Bocce team there to compete. He stated that they did not win a medal, but they had a very good time. Vice Chairperson Allen concluded his comments stating that Mr. Martucci started the Special Olympics program in Lakewood many years ago and he thinks it is awesome how it has come to fruition.

Chairperson Kirk Real commented on the LYS kick-off, stating that it was an outstanding event. He said he is always intrigued by the kaleidoscope of color as the children walk out onto the field, and by the fact that half of the boys' teams are called the Dodgers. He also appreciates the girls' creativity when choosing their team names. He thought the whole event was great and expressed his gratitude for the effort. He felt that coordinating this event with the Public Safety Expo brought out a different crowd and helped to enhance the event.

Chairperson Real then reported that he attended his first Concert in the Park the week prior and echoed Commissioner Spaseff's comments about the large number of people setting up their chairs to save their spots early in the day. He went on to state that one of the best purchases the city has made was the purchase of the stage, adding that the stage is very versatile and makes the whole event come together beautifully.

Chairperson Real had a question about the Burns Community Center, asking how soon we expect occupancy for groups like Meals on Wheels. Parks Superintendent, Phillip Lopez, responded by stating that it should be sometime during the end of October.

REPORTS:

1. RCS Department Annual Budget Report

Assistant Director, Kevin Bright, began his presentation of the Recreation and Community Services Department Annual Budget Report for fiscal year 2018-2019, noting that this report is an accumulation of information regarding all of the divisions within RCS, including the purpose of each division and some of the activities planned within each division. The budget breakdown, by division and appropriations, is shown on the first page of the report. Mr. Bright stated that the total operating Recreation budget is approximately \$13,236,727 with a revenue account projected at \$1,599,911.

Next, Mr. Bright moved on to the All-Hands Commission Report, where he explained that staff, who were all in the audience, would have the opportunity to share with the Commission a few things about themselves and their work for the City of Lakewood's Recreation and Community Services Department. He stated that the goal for Recreation and Community Services staff for the summer of 2018 is to make this a summer to remember for residents.

That directive, in conjunction with the theme for the summer recreation catalog, a theme centered on music, inspired Mr. Bright to have staff pick a song that evoked a memory for them during their career. Staff, including lead workers, facility supervisors and the department's program coordinator, then each made a brief introduction of him or herself and informed the Commission of their song choice. The song choices were played in the background while slides were displayed showing their favorite memories at work.

Following the presentation, Mr. Bright commended staff for putting together a great presentation and stated that he was excited to hear their song choices and to learn a little more about each staff member through the music they selected and the photos they chose. He finished by stating that this concludes the report and he hopes the Commission enjoyed the presentation.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff commented to the staff in the audience saying that it was difficult to withhold applause after each of their presentations. He then asked for a round of applause for all of the presenters.

Vice Chairperson Dave Allen thanked everyone for attending and for showing the Commission their individual personalities, adding that the foundation of this department is personalities working together as a team and family. He remarked that tonight's innovation is what the Recreation and Community Services Department is all about, stating that this is what makes this department top notch.

Chairperson Kirk Real began his remarks by stating that he has been on the Recreation and Community Services Commission for over 30 years. He expressed what a pleasure it has been to serve on the Commission. He also expressed his delight in Director Valarie Frost's decision to incorporate both the Assistant Director and the Parks Superintendent as part of the regular presentation style at the Commission Meeting. He concluded his remarks by thanking the staff who presented that evening, stating that they are the reason people express such amazing sentiments about Lakewood.

The Commission received and filed the report.

2. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 1

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

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Part-Time Employee of the Month, Sandra De La Trinidad for the month of May 2018.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

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ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Kirk Real adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m. to Wednesday, August 22, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission