



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
August 22, 2018

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Kirk Real

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Ted Spaseff

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

OTHER – REORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS:

Nominations were opened for Commission Chairperson for a term of one year. Commissioner Winnie Heiss moved and Commissioner Ted Spaseff seconded the motion to nominate Dave Allen to serve as Chairperson. Upon unanimous roll call vote, the motion was carried.

Chairperson Dave Allen extended his thanks and appreciation to Commissioner Kirk Real for his leadership as Chairperson of the Recreation and Community Services Commission over the past year.

Nominations were opened for Commission Vice Chairperson for a term of one year. Commissioner Kirk Real moved and Commissioner Winnie Heiss seconded the motion to nominate Ted Spaseff to serve as Vice Chairperson. Upon unanimous roll call vote, the motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Ted Spaseff and seconded by Commissioner Kirk Real to approve the minutes from the meeting of July 11, 2018. The motion was approved, with both Commissioner Winnie Heiss and Commissioner Ben Delarosa abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Director Valarie Frost began her remarks by reporting that the summer season was slowly winding down as the LYS sports season concluded with the Family Play Day and Awards Ceremony taking place on Saturday, August 4, and the summer concert series ended with the sounds of classic rock, performed by The Answer, on Thursday, August 9. The Lakewood Summer Fest took place on Saturday, August 18 at Lakewood Center and featured food trucks, 80s music, and recognition of Lakewood's silver medal-winning Special Olympics softball team. Lastly, it was reported that summer camps, park activities for kids, and regular operations at both pools would conclude at the end of the week.

Ms. Frost then expressed her appreciation to the Commission for their attendance and participation in the many programs and activities offered at parks and community centers, stating that their support is immeasurable and valued by department staff.

Updates regarding the Park Development Committee Meeting held on Friday, July 20, were provided by Ms. Frost. She informed the Commission that two reports had been presented, one regarding catered events at Monte Verde Park and the other regarding Lakewood Equestrian Center facility improvements and future development opportunities. It was reported that the members of the Park Development Committee, Jeff Wood and Diane DuBois, directed staff to enter into discussions with TGIS on a mutually beneficial contract agreement for limited and advanced reservation use of Monte Verde Park for privately catered events. TGIS will have the exclusive right and privilege to provide catered events with alcohol at Monte Verde Park on Fridays, and alternating Saturdays and Sundays. A thoughtful schedule was devised which maintains access for residents to reserve the facility for private events. Staff was also directed by the Park Development Committee to investigate viable uses for the city-owned property within the Lakewood Equestrian Center. A proposal to develop the city's portion of the land for RV and boat storage was thoughtfully discussed and placed on hold for future discussions as other alternative uses were considered. The Commission was informed that staff is currently working on both directives from the Committee.

Ms. Frost continued by providing information regarding upcoming programs and events. She announced that Speaker Anthony Rendon of the California State Assembly would host two events in Lakewood this September. Scheduled on Wednesday, September 19, is an Alzheimer educational session at the Weingart Senior Center, and scheduled on September 22, is a car seat event that will take place in the parking lot of The Centre. Lastly, it was announced that staff remains hopeful that a ribbon-cutting event, to commemorate the newly remodeled Burns Community Center, will take place on Saturday, October 27.

Assistant Director Kevin Bright began his announcements by stating that the summer season was winding down. He announced that Bellflower Unified School District had begun the 2018-2019 school year this week, and stated that next week, both Long Beach and ABC unified school districts will return to class sessions as well. With school back in session, park supervision hours will now be Monday through Friday, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. It was reported that recreation swim at both Mayfair and McCormick Pools was scheduled to end on Sunday, August 26, with the exception of Labor Day Weekend—Saturday, September 1 to Monday, September 3. Mr. Bright noted that Mayfair Pool would remain open through Sunday, September 30, for private swimming lessons only. This is a first for the city, and will serve as a new source of revenue to help offset the cost of the summer's intense pool season. Reservations for private swimming lessons were said to begin August 25 for Lakewood residents.

Next, it was reported that the RCS catalog was in the final stages of printing and would be available to residents on Labor Day Weekend. Online registration for residents is set to begin on Saturday, September 1 and registration for non-residents will begin the following weekend, on Saturday, September 8.

Moving forward, Mr. Bright informed the Commission that the city would no longer host the annual Patriot Day Concert at Del Valle Park, and would instead host a Patriot Day Flag Lowering Ceremony, scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, in the west parking lot of the Civic Center. It was announced that the 30-minute ceremony would commence at 6:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance and the playing of the national anthem, followed by introductions by Vice Mayor Todd Rogers and remarks by Mayor Steve Croft. Pastor Tim Buzbee will then lead prayer recognizing those lost on 9/11 in terrorist attacks and those lost since fighting the war on terrorism at home and abroad. He will follow with a moment of silence. Finally, it was reported that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department trumpets would finish the evening playing taps while the flag is lowered. The flag will then be presented to the Mayor and displayed during the Council Meeting following the ceremony.

Mr. Bright concluded his announcements, stating that on Friday, September 14, Lakewood employees would host their annual fundraiser in support of the Lakewood Special Olympics Program. The event is scheduled to take place at the Lakewood Youth Center from 5:30-9 p.m. and will feature a hearty Hawaiian dinner provided by The Loft Hawaiian Restaurant, a raffle with great prizes, a bake sale, basketball and softball games with Special Olympians, and an opportunity drawing for all employees in attendance. It was mentioned that the committee was considering a possible bocce tournament as well.

Director Valarie Frost confirmed for Vice Chairperson Ted Spaseff that Thank Goodness It's Sofia (TGIS) would promote the new event space at Monte Verde Park as an option to their clients for future events. Vice Chairperson Spaseff expressed his support for the idea and stated that he felt it was a great source of revenue for the city. He then went on to share an observation he had witnessed take place at Del Valle Park, involving RCS staff member, Jose Hernandez, and a resident. He commended Mr. Hernandez for being extremely polite and professional in handling the situation, stating that Mr. Hernandez provided excellent customer service, satisfying the resident's needs. He went on to report that he was able to attend the Community Summer Fest held on Saturday, August 18, stating that staff did a wonderful job with the event. Lastly, he shared his belief that this year's Summer Concerts in the Park series had the biggest turn out thus far; mentioning that every concert was jam-packed and pointing out that residents were coming out as early as 7 a.m. to secure their spots. He commended staff for doing such a wonderful job with the event.

Commissioner Kirk Real echoed Vice Chairperson Spaseff's sentiments about the Concerts in the Park series, stating that he too was a witness to the massive amounts of chairs set up very early in the morning by residents anxious to reserve their spots for the concert. Commissioner Real went on to share that he attended the Park Development Committee Meeting that was held on Friday, July 20. He gave high praise to Director Valarie Frost, Assistant Director Kevin Bright, and Parks Superintendent Philip Lopez, for presenting themselves magnificently. He commented on the report regarding the Lakewood Equestrian Center facility improvements and future development opportunities, stating that the situation at the equestrian center was a tough one to deal with; expressing it would be interesting to see what outcomes develop.

Chairperson Dave Allen began his remarks for the evening, requesting that Michelle Williams, Secretary to the Commission, coordinate the ordering of tickets for members of the Commission

to attend the upcoming Special Olympics Fundraiser Event. He then went on to thank Ms. Williams for providing the Commission with a full itinerary listing all of the facility and program tour locations for the evening. Chairperson Allen continued, discussing the Activities and Maintenance Report that had been provided to the Commission, thanking staff for their efforts in providing such a well-documented report.

Vice Chairperson Spaseff shared his delight in learning that one of the city's Special Olympians by the name of Matt Lawrence, had donated his medal to be displayed at Bloomfield Park.

Chairperson Allen went on to discuss the written communications for the evening, commending Assistant Director Kevin Bright for his superb writing skills, in particular the wide-ranging vocabulary he utilizes when writing the employee of the month recognition letters.

Commissioner Winnie Heiss expressed her admiration for the DASH transportation services offered by the city, sharing that she recently had the opportunity to utilize the DASH bus and was amazed at how fantastic it is and how wonderful the drivers are. She expressed what a gift it was that the city offered these types of services.

REPORTS:

1. **Facility and Programs Tour**

The Commission toured the following facilities:

Bolivar Park - The group boarded a DASH bus and proceeded to Bolivar Park where the progress of the Bolivar Park Storm Water Project was viewed and discussed. Director Valarie Frost pointed out overgrown grass and tall weeds on the northwest section of the park. She informed the Commission that the City did not currently have ownership of the entire northwest section of the park, including one picnic shelter, explaining that the contractor owned the worksite until the work has been accepted by the City and the area is released. Ms. Frost explained that after the completion of the project, a problem with the design of the filter system was revealed. She informed the Commission that if the City were to perform any landscaping or maintenance on that portion of the park, the contractor would be released from all liability. She described the issue with the filter system, stating that when the system pulls water from the channel into the holding tank, it also pulls trash and debris, which causes the water trap to remain closed—preventing the reclaimed water from emerging. She explained because of this issue, the park was currently working off potable water, in lieu of captured and recycled. Due to this, the hydro-seeding was not able to properly germinate and take root, as the irrigation system was designed for captured and recycled water, not potable. It was stated that ERD staff were prepared to ask for funding to fix the issue and then work out the details of the contract later. Ms. Frost then displayed to the Commission the three new picnic shelters, sharing that the design concept for the shelters was the same as those at Del Valle and San Martin Park. She mentioned that three new additional tables had been ordered for each of the three shelters.

Burns Community Center – Community Services Manager, Nancy Hitt, and Community Services Supervisor, Caitlin Carias, led the Commission on a tour of the Burns Community Center, which was undergoing renovations and said to be completed in late October 2018.

Ms. Cariaso highlighted the new exterior landscaping as well as the new sliding doors at the rear entrance of the facility. Inside the building, Ms. Hitt showed the group the new lobby area complete with ceiling to floor windows, a seating area, a new reception desk, and a new ADA accessible elevator and restroom. The Commission also toured the new Meals on Wheels work space, complete with a pantry double the size of the previous, and the new activity room, which would soon be available to reserve for private events.

Ocana Well Site Landscape – The tour continued with a drive-by viewing of the Ocana Well Site Project. The project was said to be a joint effort by both the Water Resources Department and the Recreation and Community Services, Environmental Resources Division. Environmental Resources Supervisor, Mike Cracium, described the newly developed landscape. Highlights included the installation of drought tolerant plants and grass, and a new fence to enclose the area. Mr. Cracium reported that there was less potable water being used due to the new drip watering system, and a new irrigation smart clock, that detects irrigation breaks and overwatering issues. A landscape maintenance crew was said to come weekly to maintain the site.

Palo Verde Tank Farm Landscape Project – The next stop was the Palo Verde Tank Farm Landscape Project. From the bus, the Commission was able to view the beautiful palo verde tree, newly installed drought tolerant plants, and a beautiful assortment of rocks. Mr. Cracium explained that a sub-surface drip system had been installed to help prevent overspray.

Rynerson Park – As the bus drove slowly along the length of Rynerson Park, the group observed several children and adults enjoying the fitness and play equipment, and many happy people and their dogs, at Home Run Dog Park. Ms. Frost informed the Commission that a new restroom facility was on order and would be installed south of the little league field. It was also mentioned that the septic tanks were failing and a new sewer line would be installed. Ms. Frost pointed out that the roofs of two picnic shelters had deteriorated and had to be removed. She mentioned that the Public Works Department and the Recreation and Community Services Department have been working together to develop a concept for the replacement of the two shelters. One idea mentioned was the installation of shade sails, which can cost up to \$50,000 and may need to be replaced every 5-6 years, a much bigger cost overtime in comparison to the \$100,000, more permanent, picnic shelters previously used.

Lakewood Equestrian Center – The tour concluded with a drive through viewing of the Lakewood Equestrian Center. Ms. Frost stated that the City of Lakewood had been in agreement with Sandie Mercer Ranch, Inc. for 31 years to provide a safe and healthy environment for horses, horseback riders, and outdoor enthusiasts. She mentioned that the 19-acre facility was zoned for open space use and is comprised of three property owners. The City owns 7 acres, Southern California Edison owns 10 acres, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District owns a 2-acre easement. As the bus drove slowly through the equestrian center, Ms. Frost pointed out the facility improvements provided by the City, a new white fence along the Carson Street entrance and the new office trailer and restroom trailer with ADA accessible ramps and adjacent parking. It was stated that pending projects were to include a new roof and exterior paint for the house, installation of a gate at the main driveway entrance, and demolition of the old management office and restroom.

2. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 2

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

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Ashlynn Preciado and Jeffrey Casillas, Part-Time Co-Employees of the Month for June 2018.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to be brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Dave Allen adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m. to September 12, 2018 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission