



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
February 13, 2019

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Dave Allen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Winnie Heiss.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Ben Delarosa

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of Jan. 9, 2019. A motion was made by Commissioner Winnie Heiss and seconded by Commissioner Kirk Real. Minutes were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Assistant Director Kevin Bright provided information regarding programming and upcoming events. First, he reported that the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Banquet would be taking place on Monday, Feb. 25; the commission was asked to RSVP with their secretary. Next, he informed the commission of two upcoming Park Development Committee Meetings, the first on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m. regarding the Lakewood Equestrian Center Timeline for Selecting a Concessionaire, and the other on Thursday, March 14, at 6 p.m. regarding Second Floor Occupancy at the Burns Community Center. Both meetings were said to be taking place in the Executive Board Room at The Centre. On Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 6 p.m. at the Burns Community Center, staff will host the next Survive for 7 course, and during the week of March 11 to March 15, the RCS community services supervisors will conduct this year's Arbor Week performances. This year's performances were said to be based on the feature film Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse. Finally, Mr. Bright reported that on Saturday, March 16, staff would host the annual Earthwalk event at Monte Verde Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The trail through Monte Verde will be lined with booths hosted by vendors supporting earth-friendly topics such as water conservation, pest control, recycling opportunities, and more. Kids completing their Passport to Planet Earth will receive this year's stuffed toy, Fernando the Fox.

Next, Parks Superintendent Philip Lopez informed the commission that Irrigation Technician Todd Sechser, from the Recreation and Community Services Department's Environmental Resources Division, was awarded the 2018 Employee of the Year award. He went on to announce that the Park Maintenance Worker position was vacant and mentioned that out of the 23 applicants that applied for the position, 19 passed the test and will move on to the interview process. He noted that this was being done in-house and that most of the applicants were current Maintenance Trainees. Interviews were said to be taking place on Tuesday, Feb. 26, and Thursday Feb. 28.

Moving forward, Mr. Lopez reported that the Lakewood Equestrian User's Roundtable had taken place on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at Mae Boyar Park. He noted that there were approximately 120 people in attendance to review the user satisfaction survey results and express their comments and opinions about the equestrian center. He mentioned that the survey consisted of 55 questions and that 239 surveys had been completed. He noted that both the meeting and the survey results were overall positive and mentioned that they helped staff to get a good understanding of how users feel about the equestrian center. He reminded the commission that the current contract with Sandie Mercer Stables was set to end on September 30, 2019 and that it was staff's goal to have a new contract for concession in early October.

Vice Chairperson Ted Spaseff shared that he attended the Lakewood Equestrian Center User's Roundtable Meeting. He commended staff on a job well done and stated that the attendees seemed to be very grateful for the opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions.

Commissioner Kirk Real expressed his delight in the landscaping progress at the Burns Community Center. He mentioned that he was very pleased with the appearance and that he loved the ambiance near the rear entrance. He expressed compliments to Mr. Lopez and his ERD staff.

REPORTS:

1. Emergency Management Annual Report

Community Services Manager Chuck Martucci stated that the City of Lakewood continues to recognize the importance of preparing for, preventing, responding to and recovering from all threats, hazards, and emergencies. Mr. Martucci provided information regarding the many aspects of the city's emergency management program during 2018, as noted in the written report. Information highlighted upon included the inaugural Emergency Preparedness Fair, which took place on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Burns Community Center, and consisted of seven presentations, 16 informational vendor booths, two interactive emergency response vehicles and free emergency giveaways. Participating agencies included the American Red Cross, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and various departments of the County of Los Angeles, Bloomfield Animal Hospital and Disaster Communications Services. The City of Lakewood's Water Resource Department also had a booth and gave a well-received presentation on water purification and an overview of the Lakewood well system. The fair saw 160 attendees participate in the event.

Next, Mr. Martucci reported that he, along with the AREA E Disaster Management Area Coordinator (DMAC) David Ashman, co-facilitated an emergency exercise for the City of Lakewood on Tuesday, Dec. 4. Fifty-five Lakewood staff who hold roles and responsibilities in the Emergency Operations Center participated in this exercise. Mr. Martucci explained that the earthquake scenario exercise was designed to help prepare staff in dealing with a real emergency event. He mentioned that it also served as a gap analysis to help the facilitators gauge the current staff understanding of emergency response policies and procedures and help the facilitators design the next related exercise that will take place in 2019.

It was then reported that the city, in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, continues to offer the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. The free 21-hour program was said to educate residents about disaster preparedness and basic

disaster response skills for dealing with a serious crisis situation. Mr. Martucci explained that the goal of CERT is to help residents be better prepared to respond and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Additionally, it develops a pool of trained civilians who can be recruited as auxiliary responders. The 2019 CERT class was held Friday, Jan. 25 to Sunday, Jan. 27. Twenty students graduated from the course.

Survive for 7 was said to be going strong with the next class scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 19. Mr. Martucci reported that for the first time ever, the class was completely sold out, with 40 participants having registered. He reminded the commission that the purpose of the program was to educate residents about emergency preparedness and offers the skills they might need to survive in the first week following a catastrophe. He reported that this year 80 residents were trained in the Survive for 7 program.

In regards to disaster response education programs, Mr. Martucci reported that the city continues to conduct an annual training where all full time employees are trained to be first responders. The training is provided each spring to provide staff members with the basic knowledge and equipment to mobilize using a comprehensive checklist system. A new CADRE training program was said to have been developed by the County of Los Angeles and is open to all cities. Employees are able to register for classes pertaining to their roles in the EOC.

Lastly, Mr. Martucci mentioned that Lakewood stays aware of all possible emergency situations and issues that could have an effect on the city and its residents. He reminded the commission that for the past year and a half, he has been participating in the Whittier Narrows Dam Evacuation Planning meetings. He reported that due to the large population at risk, and the dense urban development, effective emergency planning requires extensive coordination among neighboring communities and county agencies. He added that the consortium of agencies had successfully applied and received a partial statewide emergency response grant to hire a consultant to work on an evacuation plan for all parties potentially affected.

Vice Chairperson Ted Spaseff inquired as to whether or not the emergency manager was involved with sending out the recent Lakewood Connect article regarding safety during heavy storms. Mr. Martucci informed him that while he was not directly involved, he is in fact the one to forward along pertinent weather information and warnings from the county to the Public Works Department for preparation and to the Public Information Department to be published in Lakewood Connect.

The Commission received and filed the report.

2. Pest Management Program Annual Report

Environmental Resources Supervisor Mike McDade displayed slides and provided information regarding efforts made to control weeds, insects, and other pests throughout the city. Mr. McDade reported that the city is required to maintain an annual Pesticide Use Permit through the Los Angeles County Agriculture Commissioner's Office. A Los Angeles County Agriculture Inspector must verify that the city complies with state and federal laws in order to maintain its permit. He mentioned that the licensed spray applicator is required to submit

detailed records to the county including a log of the pesticides applied and all applicable training courses attended. He reported that the licensed spray applicator is observed in the field by the inspector annually.

Mr. McDade noted that Environmental Resources obtains pesticide products and pesticide use recommendations from Target Specialty Products. He mentioned that a state licensed pest control advisor monitors the recommendations and stated that the process of requesting recommendations for all chemical products is continuous.

Next, the commission was informed that the licensed spray applicator and the environmental resources supervisor each hold a state qualified applicator certificate (QAC) issued and monitored by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). The certification enables the application and the supervision of the application of restricted use chemicals. Ten hours of continuing education credits were said to be required per year in order to maintain the certification. Additionally, park maintenance staff are trained to use pesticides on parks.

In regards to gopher abatement, Mr. McDade reported that the gopher population at city parks was still on the rise in 2018 following climbing numbers in past years. He noted that affected areas continue to include street turf panels, medians and parks, especially Rynerson and Bloomfield Parks. The licensed spray applicator was said to have worked to minimize the gopher population throughout the city by setting traps, placing bait blocks, and by using a small machine called a Gopher-X, which targets the rodents' living environment.

Next, Mr. McDade mentioned that in 2017, Southern California trees came under attack of Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer Beetle infestation. He reported that since responding with pesticide injections in eighteen trees in 2017, the amount of infected trees in 2018 was significantly lower, at five trees.

Lastly, it was reported that turf fields at city parks are treated with a pre-emergent product in an effort to minimize weed growth throughout the year. Mr. McDade informed the commission that the product used is a dry chemical that is applied by the light equipment operator. The process was said to have been presented to staff three years ago at the suggestion of Target Specialty Products, and to date, the results have varied and evaluation with respect to cost and value to the city are ongoing.

The Commission received and filed the report.

3. Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Preview

Community Services Manager Alex Bauman displayed slides and provided a preview of the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame 2018 inductees. Mr. Bauman informed the commission that on Wednesday, Jan. 17, the Board of Electors met and selected the 2018 honorees in various categories. This year's selection of the athlete of the year proved to be very tough, and the committee was said to have selected Co-Athletes of the Year, Christopher Adimora from Mayfair High School and Heder Gladden from Artesia High School. Both were said to be seniors who are multisport athletes, playing both football and basketball. Mr. Bauman provided highlights on both standout athletes. Christopher was selected as the suburban

league MVP for football and held impressive rankings of the #2 safety in California, #17 safety in the country and #197 player in the country for all positions. While football was his primary sport, Christopher averaged 4.8 points and 4.2 rebounds per game on the court. Heder was just as impressive on the field, earning the 605 League MVP, team MVP and All-CIF honors. This past season, Heder had 2,454 rushing yards, 1,210 passing yards and a total of 48 touchdowns. For basketball, he was selected as 1st Team All-CIF, 1st Team All-Suburban League and Team MVP last year where he averaged 20 points, 6 rebounds and 3 assists per game.

In addition to the co-athletes of the year, Mr. Bauman noted that 23 athletes were selected for the performer of the year award, nine as special achievement honorees and 12 as distinguished nominees. The 2018 Larry Van Nostran Future Star Award was said to be going to freshman softball player, Sidney Soto from Mayfair High School.

The 38th Annual Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on Monday, Feb. 25, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at The Centre. It was reported that over 400 people were expected to attend this year's award banquet. The program is sponsored primarily by the City of Lakewood and Piazza Family McDonald's Restaurants. Several other local businesses and service organizations, such as the Rotary Club of Lakewood, and Soroptimist International of Lakewood/Long Beach, also sponsor the event. Mr. Bauman announced that this year's award winners will be permanently displayed at McDonald's the week of March 4.

Commissioner Kirk Real, who is a member of the Board of Electors, confirmed that choosing the athlete of the year was in fact a very difficult decision this time around. He said both athletes were very deserving of the award.

Vice Chairperson Ted Spaseff thanked staff for having the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame and noted that he does not know of any other community that has anything similar. He added that recognizing the youth in a very formal format brings a sense of pride to the community.

The Commission received and filed the report.

4. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 8

A written report and discussion of the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of January and a listing of upcoming activities for March 2019.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Employee of the Month – Michelle Cervantes, December 2018

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

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ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to be brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Dave Allen adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m. to March 13, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission