



Recreation and Community Services Commission  
Adjourned Regular Meeting  
May 8, 2019

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Ben Delarosa.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Kirk Real

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of April 10, 2019. A motion was made by Commissioner Winnie Heiss and seconded by Commissioner Ben Delarosa. Minutes were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Parks Superintendent Philip Lopez began by informing the commission that staff would soon be replacing an unserviceable city-owned 72-inch riding mowers with a newer model, a hefty Tier-3 diesel mower. Next, Mr. Lopez provided an update on the ongoing turf renovation project at Rynerson Park. He reported that staff was currently completing repairs to the irrigation system, after which the light equipment operator will fine grade the turf, in preparation of laying the seed and topsoil. It was said that it would take approximately three weeks for the grass to sprout, and about one month before it is long enough to mow.

Assistant Director Kevin Bright provided information regarding programming and upcoming events. Mr. Bright reported that the 74<sup>th</sup> annual Pan Am Fiesta was set to begin with dollar ride night on Thursday, May 9, from 5 to 9 p.m. Then on Friday, May 10, a full slate of food and entertainment will take place with Stone Soul headlining the evening. On Saturday, May 11, the Flag Ceremony will begin at 12:30 pm. and the event will be in full swing with community entertainment on the stage, craft booths selling their wares, the Pan Am Historical Display and the Children's Cultural Booth. The Saturday night finale will showcase a Lakewood favorite, Knyght Ryder. Mr. Bright asked the commission to inform their secretary if they plan on attending. Finally, on Sunday, May 12, residents are encouraged to attend the Mother's Day Champagne Brunch at The Centre and head to a fun day of carnival rides at the fiesta.

Next, Mr. Bright reported that on Saturday, May 11, sign-ups for the summer LYS baseball, softball and t-ball season would conclude. He noted that staff would be offering a four and five year old division for the first time in the program's history, adding that the change was intended to capture a younger audience and bring them into the positive aspects of Lakewood Youth Sports, before losing them to other programs. Lastly, Mr. Bright informed the commission that a copy of the LYS registration flyer, which was newly created for this season, had been provided in their agenda packet. It was said that the attractive, glossy presentation was eye-catching, and the photos capture the true essence of the program. It was reported that at the outset of 2019, staff had

committed to additional marketing strategies to attract participants to LYS, and the flyer was one of the ways they have done so, along with targeted emailing and social media posts. Staff expects to review results following the conclusion of registration.

Next, Mr. Bright invited the commission to the annual Summer Orientation at Monte Verde Park, where program division staff come together to prepare for the busy season. The orientation will take place on Thursday, June 6, beginning at 6 p.m. with an icebreaker, followed by dinner and presentations. The fun and educational portion of the evening will be a Family Feud-styled trivia contest where part-time staff will compete to see who knows most about Lakewood. It was said that staff was currently hard at work putting together the final touches for the event.

Director Valarie Frost began her remarks by informing the commission that proposals to invest in, operate and maintain the Lakewood Equestrian Center beginning October 1, 2019, were received by five proposers: Hacienda Sosegado, LLC, KHS, Incorporated, Michelle Bloomquist Training Stables, S & S Company, and Sandie Mercer Ranch, Inc. Ms. Frost reported that after a thorough review of the five proposals, the selection committee rated each proposal against a prescribed criterion. Of the five proposers, Hacienda Sosegado, LLC. and Michelle Bloomquist Training Stables were selected to advance in the selection process. The skills, knowledge and abilities, as it relates to equestrian center management, equine care, facility maintenance, and business management for each of the finalist, are currently being measured. Ms. Frost reported that interviews were conducted on Monday, May 6, site visits of one of the proposers managed facilities have been scheduled, and reference checks are currently in progress. It was said that the selection committee aimed to make a recommendation to the City Council in early June.

Next, Ms. Frost reported that the department has finalized its mid-term budget review and provided recommendations for the second year of the two-year budget. She noted that there were no significant changes in the department's expenses. In regards to revenues, she mentioned the loss of rent from Nifty after Fifty's occupancy at the Burns Community Center, along with projected revenue losses from the transition to a new concessionaire at the Lakewood Equestrian Center, were two significant changes from what was originally proposed and adopted in June 2018. It was said that the department was currently awaiting city manager review and was prepared to answer questions regarding the recommended budget adjustments.

Highlights of a few important dates were provided by Ms. Frost. The Lakewood Teen Action Committee Dinner was said to be scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, at the Lakewood Youth Center, the annual Memorial Day observance will take place at Del Valle Park at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 27, and the Special Olympics Summer Games will be held at California State University Long Beach on Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9. Lastly, the Lakewood Youth Sports Opening Day and Public Safety Expo was said to be taking place on Saturday, June 15, at Mayfair Park. Ms. Frost informed the commission that pertinent details regarding these events would be sent via an electronic memo.

Chairperson Allen commended staff for their professionalism at the Lakewood Equestrian Center interviews.

Commissioner Spaseff expressed his excitement for the new four and five year old t-ball division. He also shared that he attended the El Comienzo Luncheon and stated he was very pleased with the turnout. He commended both staff and Chairperson Allen for a job well done. Lastly, he mentioned staff did a fantastic job with this year's Volunteer Day.

#### REPORTS:

##### **1. Human Services Agency Report**

Community Services Manager Nancy Hitt introduced the Executive Director of Pathways Volunteer Hospice, Cindy Skovgard, and provided information regarding her professional background. Ms. Skovgard then displayed slides and provided information regarding services provided by Pathways Volunteer Hospice. She explained that Pathways was founded in 1985 and has been providing compassionate care to families living with illness and loss. Services include hospice, volunteer caregiving, grief support, on-campus grief support and counseling, and crisis response. She noted that currently Pathways has over 120 volunteers who serve more than 1,200 individual clients each year and over 7,000 in community outreach. They currently serve the cities of Lakewood, Long Beach, Paramount, Bellflower, and Cerritos.

Ms. Skovgard explained the goals for the future of the program include: continue reassuring people that they can learn to be happy again when someone they loved has died, that no one has to be alone or suffer when struggling with a chronic or terminal illness, and that family should not have to feel overwhelmed or lost when trying to care for a family member or someone they love. She noted that the budget for pathways has grown from \$98,000 to \$455,500 since 1985, and shared that the goal was to grow their endowment to \$3 million in three years through pledges and then repeat the process over again.

Commissioner Heiss expressed her appreciation and respect for the valuable service, sharing that a Pathways volunteer had provided hospice services for her mother and became a close family friend.

Commissioner Spaseff thanked Ms. Skovgard for all of the hard work she puts into the program.

Chairperson Allen echoed Commissioner Spaseff's sentiments and thanked Ms. Skovard for the work she does in the community.

The Commission received and filed the report.

##### **2. Summer Programs and Catalog Preview**

Community Services Manager Nancy Hitt displayed slides and reviewed the many programs, classes, and events offered for summer by the Recreation and Community Services Department as included in the written report. She noted that the new summer recreation catalog was scheduled to be delivered to Lakewood homes on Saturday, May 25. She explained that the summer catalog invites residents to splash into fun this summer at Finally It's Friday events, Summer Concerts in the Park, aquatics programs, the Lakewood Youth

Sports league, and various recreation classes. She shared that several new classes for adults were added this year including Artistic Cooking with Pizzazz & Pizza Too!, Crocheted Christmas Garland with Tree/Star Motifs, and Gingerbread Man Ornaments. It was said that this summer, youth could participate in Beginning Ballet, Teen Cake Decorating, as well as new summer camps including Prince and Princess Party Dance Camp, Superhero Spectacular Camp, Arcade Electronics Galore and Brick Building with Lights and Sound. Next, Ms. Hitt provided a schedule for the 2019 Summer Concert Series and noted that due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, there will be seven concerts this season, as there will be no concert on the holiday. She also highlighted important dates and times for the Finally It's Friday series and for the Lakewood Youth Sports summer season as noted in the written report.

Finally, Ms. Hitt reviewed details regarding aquatics programming and staff training. She reported that the season would start with recreation swim sessions at Mayfair Pool Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-27, and a session of pre-summer swim lessons Tuesday, May 28 to Friday, June 7. Daily operations will commence at both Mayfair and McCormick Pools June 15 and will run through Sunday, August 25. She noted that Mayfair would remain open weekends through September and shared that post-summer, private swim lessons would be offered to patrons looking to get additional swim instruction in the pool. She mentioned staff would participate in a slate of organized trainings to prepare for the summer season.

Commissioner Heiss expressed that residents are very fortunate to live in Lakewood.

Community Services Manager Alex Bauman clarified for Chairperson Allen that 21 individuals would be hired to staff parks and eight to ten individuals would be hired for aquatics.

The Commission received and filed the report.

### **3. Playground Inventory Review**

Community Services Manager, Alex Bauman displayed slides and provided information regarding playground inventory as noted in the written report. He reported that the Recreation and Community Services Department takes pride in well-maintained parks, facilities and play equipment, and stated that keeping playgrounds safe and an attractive destination for children will always be a goal in Lakewood. It was said that playground equipment presents kids with physical challenges, and free play encourages them to take risks. Mr. Bauman noted that playgrounds and play equipment allow children to freely be around one another, adding that research has shown that both group interaction and social development take place on the playground. He mentioned platforms and decks provide children with places to congregate; bridges and ramps provide kids with opportunities to play games; swings and slides encourage kids to learn to take turns; and tunnels and roof-covered areas encourage group games and pretend play. It was noted that decorative barriers and activity panels improve children's perception of form and shape, spatial orientation, depth and size and their visual and tactile perception; and overhead hanging equipment helps kids learn scientific concepts such as force of gravity and spatial awareness.

Mr. Bauman stated that playground maintenance safety is a top priority and is done as a collaborative effort between the Recreation and Community Services and Public Works departments. He noted that trash and debris are removed promptly and playground equipment is inspected daily for damage. It was said that Public Works staff provides assistance in repairs and installing replacement equipment and parts when needed. He mentioned that sand levels were monitored for high and low areas and adjusted as needed, noting that during this fiscal year, over 150 tons of sand were added to Bolivar, Del Valle, San Martin, Palms, and Bloomfield Parks collectively.

Mr. Bauman informed the commission that an inventory of the city's playgrounds, along with a copy of staff's playground safety report, were included in their agenda packet.

Commissioner Spaseff shared that he was amazed at all of the new equipment at the parks, stating that he would be interested in knowing the monetary value of all the new playground equipment.

Ms. Frost clarified for Chairperson Allen that the Playground Inventory Sheet was in fact developed in-house and is kept on record for a set number of years as per the records retention and destruction policy.

The Commission received and filed the report.

**4. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 10**

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

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Letter to Employee of the Month – Thomas Mota, March 2019

**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 6:51 p.m. to June 12, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary  
Recreation and Community Services Commission