



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
September 8, 2021

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6 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 Veronica Lucio
 Commissioner Ted Spaseff
 Commissioner Stacy Valdez

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of August 11, 2021. A motion was made by Commissioner Dave Allen and seconded by Commissioner Ted Spaseff to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 11, 2021. The motion was carried with a roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Parks Superintendent Philip Lopez introduced Maintenance Trainee Scott Moe who was in the audience. Mr. Lopez then announced to the commission that he planned to retire in December.

Chairperson Real extended the commissions' appreciation to Mr. Lopez for his 11 years of service.

Director Valarie Frost began her announcements by informing the commission that sod was laid in the outfields of all diamonds at Mayfair Park, with diamonds two, four and five having been recently completed. It was said that turf establishment could take up to six weeks. Ms. Frost shared that the tennis courts at Mayfair Park would soon be dedicated in honor of former City Manager Howard Chambers with a permanent sign and a marker at the entrance to the tennis courts.

Next, Ms. Frost announced that the Patriot Day Ceremony and Lakewood Day of Service would take place on Saturday, September 11.

The commission was informed that the Burns Community Center would serve as a vote center for the Gubernatorial Elections from September 11-14.

Ms. Frost reported that on Friday, September 24 the Special Olympics Fundraiser lunch and raffle would take place. She asked the commission to see their secretary if interested in purchasing raffle tickets and/or lunch in support of the fundraising efforts.

It was said that on Saturday, September 25 the Public Safety Expo and Emergency Preparedness Fair would take place at the Civic Center Complex outside of the east entrance to City Hall. The event will contain community display booths as well as emergency preparedness and public safety

vehicles on display. Additionally, there will be educational classes on emergency preparedness held inside of the City Council Chambers.

Ms. Frost shared that on Sunday, September 26 the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Car Show would take place at Mayfair Park. It was said that approximately 200 cars were expected.

The commission was asked to mark their calendars for Tuesday, September 28 for Lakewood Celebrates. Ms. Frost shared that former RCS Commissioners Ben Delarosa and Winnie Heiss would be recognized for their dedicated service, and Ana Maria Masoe would be recognized as a new full-time employee with the city. She asked that the commission inform their secretary if they plan to attend.

Ms. Frost informed the commission that due to revised Los Angeles County Public Health (Public Health) protocols, the Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS) program was allowed to proceed with hosting the upcoming season. It was said that the Public Health published a new protocol for organized youth sports in response to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases related to the Delta Variant. The latest protocol, published on Tuesday, August 31, provides that participants 11 years and younger may participate in youth sports competition regardless of vaccination status, while participants 12 years and older and all volunteers, staff and sports officials not fully vaccinated, must test weekly and a minimum of 72 hours prior to games against an opposing team. Ms. Frost noted that the game schedule would be revised for the season and contain eight games instead of 12; all games will be scheduled for Saturdays to allow parents time to have their children tested early in the week have the results uploaded in time for the game. Ms. Frost expressed her thanks to the City of Long Beach for providing COVID-19 testing at no cost for residents of Lakewood.

Ms. Frost completed her announcements by informing the commission about events taking place during the month of October. The Lakewood Education Foundation Golf Tournament and Fundraiser was said to be taking place on Monday, October 11 at the Lakewood Country Club. Next, it was said that a multicultural event titled Lakewood's Fest-of-All would take place on Saturday, October 9 at the Lakewood Center Mall. On Saturday, October 16, it was said that the Lollipop Lane Craft Boutique would take place at Mayfair Park. Lastly, it was said that on Sunday, October 31 Halloween carnivals would take place at all Lakewood parks.

Chairperson Real shared his delight at staff's decision to provide a LYS season.

REPORTS:

1. Fall and Winter Recreation Programs

Community Services Manager Nancy Hitt displayed slides and reviewed the in-person classes, workshops and virtual programs offered for fall and winter by the Recreation and Community Services Department as noted in the written report. Ms. Hitt reported that the Fall/Winter Catalog was posted online Labor Day weekend. Postcards directing residents to the website were said to have been mailed on September 2. The cover features the Burns Community Center with colorful words of inspiration relating to the center's fall activities.

Ms. Hitt provided the commission with details regarding the Activity Zone after-school program as noted in the written report. It was said that the free drop-in program began on August 16 and offers a positive place for children to create, learn, and play. Ms. Hitt shared that Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) guidelines were being followed, including the requirement of masks while indoors for staff and participants.

Next, Ms. Hitt reported that the Lakewood Youth Center and Teen Resource center would resume full programming in the fall, which includes a slate of educational and social programs as well as volunteer opportunities for teens in Lakewood. It was said that both centers would be open daily and will offer a variety of amenities including gaming systems, computers, air hockey, ping-pong, movies, music and more. Additionally, Ms. Hitt shared that specialized programming opportunities include the return of Fusion Fridays at the Youth Center and Super Saturdays at the Teen Resource Center.

Ms. Hitt provided details on the Lakewood Teen Action Committee Youth in Government program as noted in the written report. The new program was said to begin its inaugural year in the fall. It was said that the program encourages the youth in Lakewood to immerse themselves in civic engagement and develop an understanding of civic values. The program is open to Lakewood residents entering grades 10 through 12.

Next, Ms. Hitt provided information on the Annual College Fair—which was said to be taking place on October 12 at The Centre—as noted in the written report. She shared that over 50 colleges from across the country were expected to participate.

Ms. Hitt. shared information regarding programs, activities and services offered at both the Burns Community Center and the Weingart Senior Center. She provided details on the variety of classes and activities offered at both facilities as noted in the written report. The commission was informed that the Human Services Association Nutrition Program was currently providing a weekly walk up frozen meal service at the Weingart Senior Center until Public Health guidelines allow congregate dining to resume.

Ms. Hitt then provided details on fall special events including the Play at Palms series, Lakewood's Fest-of-All, the Lollipop Lane Craft Boutique, and Lakewood's Halloween Carnivals, as noted in the written report.

Lastly, Ms. Hitt informed the commission that the Project Shepherd Holiday Program would arrive in November for families in need to register to receive canned food, grocery gift cards and gifts for children. It was said that registration for the Project Shepherd Program opens on Wednesday, November 3 at the Burns Community Center and Palms Park. Details regarding the many services provided by the program were shared with the commission as noted in the written report.

The commission received and filed the report on fall and winter recreation programs.

2. Human and Senior Services Programs Annual Report

Community Services Supervisor Sabrina Junkin reminded the commission that the city offers a variety of programs and activities for older adults and seniors along with programs and partnerships aimed at providing services to residents who need assistance. Ms. Junkin shared that a vast array of human and senior service programs were offered at the Burns Community Center and Weingart Senior Center. It was said that many of the programs are offered directly by city staff, while other services are provided by partner agencies in and around the city. Ms. Junkin provided information regarding the programs, activities and services offered at the Weingart Senior Center and the Burns Community Center as noted in the written report.

Ms. Junkin reported that at the Burns Community Center, the Project Shepherd Extension Program assisted 865 families and 273 individuals in Fiscal Year 2020. She shared that the generous employees of Tenet Healthcare and Lakewood Regional Medical Center coordinated a Healthy Over Hungry Cereal and Monetary Donation Drive during the month of June and raised a total of \$7,432 in monetary donations as well as three large boxes of food. It was said that the annual Backpack Program secured donations of school supplies and backpacks for 329 children.

Details were provided by Ms. Junkin regarding the many outdoor Active+ classes and the indoor classes that were allowed to return to the Burns Community Center in 2020 and 2021. Ms. Junkin provided information regarding the various programs, including the classes offered during the fall season, as noted in the written report.

Ms. Junkin informed the commission about the free and low-cost programs and services offered at the Weingart Senior Center. Details on those various programs and services were provided to the commission as noted in the written report.

Commissioner Spaseff thanked Ms. Junkin for her report. He shared his excitement to see so many in-person classes return that help to get the senior population in Lakewood active again.

Chairperson Real thanked Ms. Junkin for all of her efforts at the Weingart Senior Center. He mentioned that it was vital to provide these services for the seniors and thanked Ms. Junkin for her enthusiasm.

The commission received and filed the report on human and senior services programs.

3. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 3

A written report and discussion of the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of August and a listing of upcoming activities for October 2021.

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Vanessa Preciado and Genesis Quezada Part-Time Co-Employees of the Month for July 2021.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Kirk Real adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m. to Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission