



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting held
January 13, 2016

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Ben Delarosa.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Barbara Di Iorio.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of December 9, 2015. A motion was made by Commissioner Dave Allen, and seconded by Vice Chairperson Winnie Heiss to approve minutes. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Director Lisa Litzinger provided information regarding upcoming activities. She announced that the Hall of Fame Board of Electors will meet the evening of January 14 to select the 2015 award recipients to be honored at the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame banquet on February 29. Ms. Litzinger provided dates for other upcoming events, such as the State of the City Luncheon on January 25, the Burns Community Center Open House to be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on January 30, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on March 1 at 7:30 a.m. at The Centre, Arbor Week performances will be held March 14-18, and the LYS Coaches Recognition Night will take place on April 23.

Director Litzinger reminded the group that the CPRS Conference will be held in Long Beach this year from March 8-11, with the opening session on March 9. Lunch will be planned for March 10 near the conference. She noted that Commissioners should consider whether or not the March 9 Commission meeting can be held based on sessions they may want to attend at the conference. A decision can be made at the February 10 Commission meeting.

Ms. Litzinger announced some changes to be made to the Pan American Fiesta, starting with the name. The event will now be simply referred to as The Fiesta. Ms. Litzinger explained that the name change, along with other changes, were established partially as a result of survey responses from the public. Significant changes include the addition of a band and food trucks on Friday night, the Pan Am History display will be organized outside near the children's cultural booth on Saturday, and on Saturday evening, a headliner band, much like at the Block Party, will provide entertainment. On Thursday evening and all day Sunday, carnival rides and games will be open for all to enjoy. The Fiesta will be held May 5-8.

REPORTS:

1. Spring Programs/Catalog

Community Services Manager Kevin Bright displayed a slide presentation and highlighted some

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of the programs and classes being offered this spring as noted in the written report. Mr. Bright announced that the spring catalog, themed Plan Your Route to Fun, was delivered to Lakewood homes before the first of the new year. He elaborated on the theme by explaining that the cover design simulates a hand-held GPS device navigating routes through the City of Lakewood with varying opportunities along the route for recreation in the city. He pointed out that there are some new opportunities offered this season, such as Kettlebell Conditioning for Beginners, and that registration for all classes is open now for residents and non-residents alike.

Mr. Bright mentioned a few of the programs and events scheduled this spring. Popular family programs will again provide fun for all ages including Fun-Tastic Family Nights, as well as Mother/Son and Daddy/Daughter Date Nights, featuring a Sequins and Bow Tie theme. The Earth Walk event will introduce Home Run, the dog, as a new mascot this year, along with the return of Woody the Tree. Mr. Bright stated that spring vacation activities will take place the week of March 28 at city parks with barbecue lunches, a variety of spring activities, and an egg hunt for pre-school and elementary school children during a visit from the Easter Bunny on March 26. He concluded by reiterating the rebranding of the Pan Am Fiesta to The Fiesta, and other exciting changes to the event including the addition of a headliner band on Saturday evening.

Commissioner Kirk Real inquired about the traditional Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday at The Fiesta, and asked if it would still be included in the event. Staff confirmed that the Mother's Day Breakfast will not be part of the event. Ms. Litzinger added that the Pan American Association is deciding whether they would like to continue the pancake breakfast on Saturday.

Mr. Bright responded that doors open at 5:45 p.m. for the Icky Yucky Gross Bug Show Fun-Tastic Family Night on February 5, in response to Commissioner Dave Allen's inquiry.

Chairperson Ben Delarosa asked if the department will be participating in the Pitch Hit Run event this year. Mr. Bright stated that applications for the event from Major League Baseball have not yet been made available. He continued, noting that when the application to host the event becomes available, staff will evaluate whether or not it is reasonable to participate based on the requirements and the amount of participation last year.

2. Teen Programs Annual Report

Community Services Supervisor Mark Freeman provided information regarding 2015 teen programs and events based on the written report, along with a slide presentation. Mr. Freeman pointed out that nearly 4,000 teens participated in programs and events at the Teen Resource Center (TRC) at Bloomfield Park in 2015. He added that, the Super Saturday events proved to be one of the more popular programs at the TRC with 165 teens attending various special events scheduled on specified Saturday evenings. The teen drop-in program averaged approximately 10 teens per day, where help with homework and access to computers was provided, as well as the opportunity to play video games, ping pong, and shuffleboard with friends, or catch up on reading assignments in the reading alcove. Mr. Freeman made special note that sports tournaments were also a hit at the TRC with 29 teens participating on eight teams in the 3-on-3

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basketball tournament in the spring, and the 5-on-5 flag football tournament in the fall that drew 32 participants.

Mr. Freeman stated that the game room at the Lakewood Youth Center received a much needed makeover. A new logo and slogan were developed, with input from the teens. The game room was then painted in the new color scheme, with the new logo and slogan, "Teens are the Life of Lakewood." New carpet, televisions, couches and a pool table added the finishing touches to the room. Mr. Freeman reported that the teens are very happy with the fresh new look of the space.

Teens were well represented in the community with over 370 teens donating time in 2015 at various volunteer opportunities. Teens volunteered at two Teens in Lakewood Care sites and at the Project Shepherd Warehouse. Mr. Freeman stated that the Teen Board provided members the opportunity to volunteer at the Block Party, Safety Expo, Volunteer Day, Movie Nights at the Park, and at some teen events held at the Lakewood Youth Center.

Mr. Freeman reported that some of the special events at the Youth Center included Totally Friday Night dances, and Fusion Fridays events. The Teen Career Building Series was new in 2015 and included four separate workshops aimed to prepare teens for getting that first job. The College Fair returned to Mayfair Park and drew over 350 high school students and just under 60 college representatives, as well as brochures and information from over 100 additional colleges. Mr. Freeman described the new teen hiking series as being well received by the teens. There were four hikes scheduled over the summer ranging from Lakewood's own Nature Trail to a nine-mile hike in the Los Angeles National Forest.

Commissioner Real commented on how much the College Fair has grown since it first began, and that the representation from the colleges was excellent this year.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff noted that the Youth Center looks great. He commented that moving the Special Olympics program to Bloomfield Park seems to be a real benefit for the participants providing them with a space to call their own. He asked if that move affected the teens the same way at the Youth Center. Mr. Freeman acknowledged that the teens have taken ownership and pride in the newly refreshed and dedicated space. Commissioner Spaseff asked if members of the Teen Board can be present for the Commission meeting next year when this annual report is presented. Commissioner Spaseff asked of his fellow commissioners, if it could be agreed upon to send a thank you note from the Commission to the Teen Board for their participation on the board. Chairperson Ben Delarosa asked when the Teen Board meets. The Teen Board meets typically on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. according to Mr. Freeman. Chairman Delarosa suggested that Commissioners stop in at one of the board meetings. Ms. Litzinger welcomed a visit from any or all of the Commissioners at a Teen Board meeting. She also confirmed that arrangements can be made to have Teen Board members attend a Commission meeting and possibly make a presentation, as it would be a good experience for them. Ms. Litzinger added that some of the teens have participated on the board for over four years, participating in community events and learning along the way. Commissioner Allen asked for clarification of the complexion of the representation on the board. Mr. Freeman responded that the board currently has 14 members, 10 from high schools and four from middle schools. He

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added that work is being done to recruit two members from each middle and high school. Commissioner Real asked if there is data showing that former Teen Board members have gone on to join the city staff as employees. Staff stated that a current Community Services Specialist at Mayfair Park was a Teen Board member.

3. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 7

A written report was provided describing the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of December 2015, and a listing of upcoming activities for February 2016.

There being no comments, the Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Part-Time Employee of the Month, Jessica Glavinich – November 2015.

Having no questions or comments, the Commission received and filed the report.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to be brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Ben Delarosa adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m. to February 10, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Barbara Di Iorio, Secretary to the
Recreation and Community Services Commission