



MINUTES  
Recreation and Community Services Commission  
Adjourned Regular Meeting held  
February 10, 2016

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Vice Chairperson Winnie Heiss.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of January 13, 2016. A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Real, 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 announced that Commissioner Kirk Real has been selected as the 2016 Outstanding Commissioner by the California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM). He will be presented with the award at a banquet on March 10 at the Hotel Maya in Long Beach. The reception begins at 7:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. Reservations are required by February 25. Ms. Litzinger asked commissioners to RSVP to the secretary.

Ms. Litzinger continued by providing information regarding upcoming activities. She announced that the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame banquet will be held on February 29, and the next morning, March 1, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will take place at 7:30 a.m. at The Centre. She noted that Dustin Plunkett will be the keynote speaker at the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast and will be introduced by Chuck Martucci. Other events scheduled include the Long Beach State Softball Tournament from March 10-13 at Mayfair Park, Earth Walk at Monte Verde Park on March 12, Arbor Week performances will be held March 14-18, and the LYS Coaches Recognition Night will take place on April 23.

In other news, Ms. Litzinger announced that Community Services Supervisor, Nicole Duran, was again selected to be the CPRS District 10 Aquatics Section Representative. She then reminded the group that the CPRS Conference will be held March 8-11 and a list of some of the conference activities was distributed. She noted that Lakewood staff is in charge of registration at the event. She reminded the group that since the March 9 Commission meeting is scheduled to take place at the same time as the CPRS Welcome Reception, a decision regarding the meeting should be made today. A discussion was held and the Commissioners unanimously agreed to hold the March meeting of the Recreation and Community Services Commission on March 16, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

Vice Chairperson Heiss commented on the bug-themed FUN-Tastic Family Night held on Friday, February 5 noting that the kids loved it. Commissioner Dave Allen reported that his granddaughters attended and gave it two thumbs up.

Commissioner Real stated that he attended the Open House at the Burns Community Center on January 30. He met with staff and volunteers of the various organizations present and found it very informative.

**REPORTS:**

**1. Emergency Management Annual Report**

Community Services Manager Nancy Hitt displayed a slide presentation and expanded on information provided in the written report. Ms. Hitt described the details of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Survive for 7, two community awareness programs provided by the city. She also explained staff's involvement in various exercises and programs such as the Great ShakeOut, setting up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and Area E meetings and trainings to keep current on practices and procedures when responding to an emergency.

Commissioner Real asked if advertisement for CERT was targeted to a particular audience. Ms. Hitt responded that any adult, or mature teen with parent, may participate. Ms. Litzinger added that since the program is 21 hours, and spread over three days, participants may make up a day at another CERT training held anywhere within Area E if necessary.

Vice Chairperson Heiss expressed her pleasure regarding the large number of people who have completed the CERT program through Lakewood.

Commissioner Allen asked if Area E has established a new Director. Ms. Hitt responded that a new Disaster Management Area Coordinator (DMAC) was selected in June 2015.

Chairperson Delarosa asked if any attempt has been made to focus participation from areas of high concentration, such as apartments, office buildings, or the mall, so that one of the community awareness programs can be provided onsite. Ms. Hitt responded that the CERT program is taught by the Los Angeles Fire Department, requires quite a bit of equipment, and is divided over multiple days, making it difficult to organize off site. She added that the Survive for 7 program can be presented almost anywhere and has been provided off site in the past. Chairperson Delarosa asked if staff has approached the mall to offer CERT for employees. Ms. Litzinger confirmed that the mall has not been contacted regarding this and added that the mall has organized their own emergency preparedness training, and has participated in drills with the Sheriff's Department.

**2. Pest Management Program Annual Report**

Environmental Resources Supervisor Mike McDade provided information regarding the various types of pests affecting the city's landscape and how staff combats those pests. A slide presentation was displayed during the report. Mr. McDade explained, in detail, the damage inflicted on trees by the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB), a beetle new to Lakewood. He explained that staff has been trained to identify the first signs of the presence of the beetle so the trees can be treated early. Mr. McDade also described the use of traps to catch gophers. The traps have replaced the bate blocking method of combating these pests and has proven to be very successful. Weeds on Phase III of the Nature Trail are being addressed with manual

weeding or with chemicals.

Commissioner Allen asked if the Department of Agriculture is involved and if staff knew the beetle might be coming to Lakewood. Mr. McDade responded that ERD had heard that many cities are contending with the problem. Commissioner Allen asked if there is a natural predator for this pest. Mr. McDade said that there is not a known natural predator at this time. Commissioner Allen asked if trees can be saved if treated early. Mr. McDade stated that the plan is to detect and treat early.

Commissioner Real asked if there is any value in trying to educate residents, possibly on City TV, on what to look for to identify trees showing evidence of the beetle. Ms. Litzinger said that there may be publicity coming out from the city as we learn more about the problem and budget for it. She added that the Tree Department in Public Works is also very involved in treating the pest.

Chairperson Delarosa asked if the city has a plan to replace trees that have to be removed. Ms. Litzinger explained that the Public Works department has a tree replanting program. Chairperson Delarosa asked if the new trees planted might be less susceptible to this pest. Mr. McDade noted that the list of tree species affected by this pest continually grows. He added that the Public Works Tree Department handles the replacement of trees. Ms. Litzinger assured Chairperson Delrosa that RCS and Public Works are in constant communication.

### **3. Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame**

Community Services Manager Kevin Bright displayed slides and expanded on information regarding the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame provided in the written report. Mr. Bright noted that it is the 35<sup>th</sup> annual banquet to induct and honor Lakewood's athletes for accomplishments made in 2015. The event will be held in the Weingart Ball Room at The Centre on Monday, February 29. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and the event will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations for the event are being accepted now, and the displays at McDonald's will be installed the week of March 7.

Mr. Bright stated that the Board of Electors met on January 14 and selected a full class of honorees with Savannah DeMelo as Athlete of the Year. He noted that Savannah is a soccer player from Saint Joseph High School whose performance has been amazing not only in and around Lakewood, but on the international stage as well. In 2015, in her second year as a member of the U20 Women's National Soccer Team, Savannah captained the team. This team won an international championship in Honduras, at which, Savannah was named one of the top eleven players in the tournament. By winning this tournament, among North and South American countries, the team qualified for the U20 World Cup. Savannah was limited in the number of games she was able to play at Saint Joseph High school due to other commitments, but contributed four goals and five assists in just five games. The City of Lakewood and Saint Joseph High School are proud to have her as the 2015 Athlete of the Year.

This year, Mr. Bright stated, 17 Performers of the Year will be inducted in various sports, including the first Performer of the Year in the sport of Lacrosse. There will be 11 Special

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES

February 10, 2016

Page 4

Achievement honorees and 24 Distinguished Nominees honored at the event. Mr. Bright continued by noting that the City of Lakewood is once again the primary sponsor of the event, with Piazza Family Restaurants as the title sponsor, and the Soroptimist and Rotary Clubs sponsoring specific awards for the event.

Vice Chairperson Heiss stated that this event is one of the highlights of the entire year for her.

**4. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 8**

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

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Part-Time Employee of the Month, Francesca Sciamanna – December 2015.

Chairperson Delarosa commended Valarie Frost on writing a very nice letter to Francesca. 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 6:56 p.m. to March 16, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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