



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting held
May 11, 2016

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Kirk Real

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of April 13, 2016. A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Winnie Heiss, and seconded by Commissioner Dave Allen to approve the minutes. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote with Commissioner Kirk Real abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Director Lisa Litzinger provided details on upcoming events in May and June. The events included the Grand Opening of the Del Valle Park Playground on May 21, Lakewood Celebrates on May 24 and the City Council meeting immediately following where Commissioner Kirk Real will be represented with the Outstanding Commissioner Award. Then on May 26, the Rotary Club of Lakewood is hosting a Ronald McDonald House Fundraiser at StoneFire Grill. Mayfair and McCormick Pools will both be open for recreational swim over the Memorial Day holiday weekend on May 28-30, and on Monday, May 30, the Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at Del Valle Park beginning at 11 a.m. To start off the summer, all new and returning Recreation staff will participate in the Summer Orientation training event on June 2 at 6 p.m. at Monte Verde Park. The Special Olympics Summer Games will be held at Cal State Long Beach on June 11 and 12, the city's Senior Health Fair will take place on June 17 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Weingart Senior Center, and Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS) Opening Day and Safety Expo will be held at Mayfair Park on June 18. Summer Concerts in the Park begin on June 23 at 6:30 p.m. and will continue each Thursday evening through August 11 at Del Valle Park. The Civic Center Block Party will be on Saturday, June 25.

Ms. Litzinger reminded the Commission that the July 13 Commission Meeting will include presentations and updates from Recreation staff, and at the September 14 meeting, the group will tour select parks and facilities. She also announced that Community Services Supervisor Chuck Martucci was presented with the Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award from the Foundation Board of Governors at Long Beach City College. Lisa, along with a few other RCS staff members, attended the awards ceremony on April 28 and the department is very proud of Chuck.

Commissioner Kirk Real stated that he attended the LYS Track and Field Meet on March 31. He commented on how well organized the event always is, noting that this year all aspects were extremely well orchestrated, even more so than in recent years. Community Services Manager Kevin Bright added that this year's event drew approximately 15-20 percent more participants than last year and was under the direction of Community Services Supervisor Jonathan Gorne. This was

Jonathan's first time supervising the event.

Commissioner Real also thanked staff for being at The Fiesta during the downpour of rain on Friday evening. He noted that everyone did a great job of dealing with all the water and continued providing great support throughout the weekend.

Chairperson Ben Delarosa stated that he attended the Welcome and Flag Ceremony at The Fiesta on Saturday commenting that it was very nice. He was happy to see that more people started to attend the event as the weather cleared and warmed up. He said that he liked the new set up and found it to be more cohesive than the previous layout. Mr. Delarosa commented that the weather likely heavily affected attendance this year and that it is not a good year to use as a benchmark for comparison with previous years.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Association – Agency Report

Community Services Supervisor Sabrina Junkin presented a report on the services provided by Human Services Association (HSA). She explained that HSA, founded in 1940, the main office is in Bell Gardens and the organization provides a variety of senior social services. The City of Lakewood benefits mainly from the congregate meal service and home delivery of meals to residents within the city. At the Weingart Senior Center, active seniors, ages 60 and over, can congregate and enjoy friendship, activities and a nutritious lunch for a suggested donation of \$2.25 each weekday. Spouses and family members (under 60 years old) are also welcome however, the suggested donation for lunch is \$4.50. HSA provides congregate meals at 15 sites in ten nearby cities and unincorporated areas. Special events, such as Lakewood's Senior Holiday Luncheon with 300 guests, is also catered by HSA.

In Lakewood, HSA packs and delivers 45-50 meals per day out of the Weingart Senior Center to residents. The home delivered meal is similar to the meal that is served at the congregate meal service, and HSA delivers to a total of 500 clients each day in the cities they serve. The suggested donation for home delivered meals is \$2.50. Another service offered is the Telephone Reassurance Program. This program is in connection with the Home Delivered Meal Program. Participants of the program receive telephone reassurance calls to make sure they are ok, since they are homebound. The Telephone Reassurance staff reports any unusual situations to the proper authorities or services.

Annually, HSA participates in the March for Meals Campaign. This national campaign aims to bring public awareness to the problem of senior hunger and educates the public of the programs that address this issue by delivering meals to homes. This year, on March 28, staff and Mayor Ron Piazza participated with HSA by packing and delivering meals to Lakewood residents.

2. Summer Programs/Catalog

An overview of summer programs and the Recreation Catalog was provided by Community Services Manager Kevin Bright. Mr. Bright explained that Profession Fun is once again featured on the cover of the summer Recreation Catalog and is promoting the "Declaration of Fun" as this year's theme for the summer. Catalogs will be delivered to Lakewood homes on Saturday, May 28. Registration also begins on May 28 for the over 680 contract classes that

will be offered this summer. Most classes begin the week of June 20. Some new classes for adults include: Kundalini Kriyas & Meditation, Ceramic Slipcasting with Molds, and Passport to Asia; and for youth, Jedi Lego Camp, Young Artists Workshop Mini-Camp, and Art Masterpieces.

Summer Concerts in the Park begin on Thursday, June 23 with a tribute to the classic rock era. This year, the concerts will be a series of tributes. Some bands will pay tribute to genres or eras such as the 80's or classic rock, while other bands' tributes will be specific to artists or musical groups such as the Beatles and Bon Jovi.

Finally It's Friday events will again offer family oriented activities at various facilities each Friday throughout the summer. Events include Movie Nights Under the Stars, Lakewood's Summer Fair, Shakespeare by the Sea, FUN-Tastic Family Nights, Family Game Night, and Parents Night Out. New this year, Family Swim Nights will be offered every Friday at both pools. Lakewood resident families will be able to enjoy a fun new theme each week while cooling off together at the pools.

Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS) registration for baseball, softball and t-ball will be held from May 14 through May 21. Practices begin the first week of June and the first games will commence on June 20. Family Play Day will follow the LYS Sports Awards Ceremonies at all of the parks on August 6. LYS families will be invited to enjoy Family Play Day picnic games, obstacle courses and good wholesome family fun.

LYS Opening Day and Safety Expo takes place at Mayfair Park on June 18. This event will kick off the 60th year of Lakewood Youth Sports. Backpacks will be given to LYS participants at Opening Day, decorations will be augmented to call attention to the 60th year of the program, and some larger attractions will be added to the activities for the day.

Both pools will be open on Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30. Mayfair Pool will then be open for one pre-summer swim lesson session from May 31-June 10. Full summer programming at both pools begins on June 18. Wading pools will also open on June 18 and continue through August 28. Wading pools will also be open on Labor Day weekend. Wading Pool Wednesday Nights are also returning this summer.

Mr. Bright reported that a vast number of Recreation Leaders are hired to support the extra summer programs. Training, in all aspects, is required and all new and returning Recreation Leaders will be prepared before the start of the season. Trainings include CPR and First Aid, bloodborne pathogens, field prep, and LYS supervision, just to name a few. On June 2, all will attend the Summer Orientation at Monte Verde Park. The event this year will have a strong focus on team building.

Commissioner Allen commented that he is amazed every year how comprehensive the city's programs are, noting that he knows it is appreciated by the community. There is always something for people of all ages to do.

3. Landscape and Turf Maintenance Annual Report

Environmental Resources Division (ERD) Supervisor Mike McDade displayed slides and provided information regarding the maintenance of turf and landscaping at city facilities and on street medians. Mr. McDade noted that many changes have taken place over the past year that involved water restrictions, changing landscapes, and changes in pesticides used to maintain healthy turf. He pointed out that there are many things that ERD crews take care of behind the scenes that are essential to maintaining a beautiful city and providing successful special events.

Crews provide support for the city's special events by preparing turf and delivering and setting up equipment. As an example, Mr. McDade pointed out that in preparation for the Halloween Carnivals at all the parks, crews remove from storage, nearly 250 game booth panels. These panels are then cleaned before being delivered to the parks where the crews set them up. After Halloween, these same crews remove the panels from the parks, and safely store them for use again the next year. Additionally, turf throughout the city is meticulously maintained year round, but special attention is given prior to the annual Long Beach State Softball Tournament at Mayfair Park, and then weekly for Summer Concerts in the Park at Del Valle Park.

Mr. McDade reported that crews pick up vegetation twice a week at the Community Gardens. Each time, nearly an entire truck load of expired vegetation is hauled away. Maintenance of the flood control channel near the 605 Freeway and Centralia Street is also the responsibility of ERD. Mr. McDade explained how crews clear the channel of overgrowth and trash to ensure water can flow freely in the event of heavy rain. Weeding and trimming the ivy and hedges along Civic Center Way is another of the many tasks ERD crews complete regularly to keep the city looking beautiful.

Ivy along the medians of Lakewood Boulevard was addressed this year according to Mr. McDade. Crews removed all of the old ivy on the east side of Lakewood Boulevard between Candlewood Street and South Street. Subsurface irrigation and decomposed granite, along with drought tolerant plants and new trees were installed in the median. He added that each plant and tree has its own individual drip water line. He also described the synthetic turf project that took place on Del Amo Boulevard's center median between the 605 Freeway and Pioneer Boulevard. This project proved to be very labor intensive. The natural turf and irrigation system were removed and the area was prepared for the new product. Staff carefully measured the median and cut the synthetic turf at the maintenance yard before taking it to the site for installation. A contractor continues to maintain the plants in this median.

Mr. McDade provided some statistical information regarding the use of reclaimed water in water wagons to provide irrigation to street medians. He calculated that potable water irrigation systems for 1 million square feet of turf were turned off in order to comply with State mandated water restrictions. All of this turf is now irrigated with reclaimed water and applied with a water wagon. A video of a water wagon at work was displayed. Mr. McDade reported that together, the two water wagons provide approximately 14 thousand gallons of reclaimed water per day, or 70 thousand gallons per week, to these areas. Lastly, he noted that crews have done extensive aerating of the turf on the panels to help prevent runoff and encourage absorption.

Commissioner Allen expressed his congratulations on a job well done with the Oleanders on Canehill Avenue. He added that every year, this project turns out great and looks marvelous.

Vice Chairperson Heiss visited the Del Valle Park Playground Project today and spoke with an ERD staff member on site. She was amazed at how much work still needs to be done before the grand opening. She added that she knows how fast and efficiently staff works together and she has no doubt it will be completed with beautiful results and on time.

Commissioner Real asked if any watering systems were retained in planters within the artificial turf area on Del Amo. Mr. McDade stated that the watering system for the turf was removed, but a separate system for the planters is still operational and used. Commissioner Real asked how leaves and trash are collected from median panels with artificial turf since these areas are not mowed. Mr. McDade explained that the area is maintained under contract. The contractor now blows off and rakes the area and takes the trash away rather than mowing. Mr. McDade also clarified for Commissioner Real that the effects of only using reclaimed water, paired with receiving very little rain, has contributed to a decline in the health of some trees.

Commissioner Allen asked how long synthetic turf is expected to last. Parks Superintendent Philip Lopez responded that the synthetic turf is guaranteed when used on a sports field for 8 to 10 years. Staff expects that it should last much longer since the product is on median panels and will have very little wear and tear, unlike a sports field. Commissioner Allen asked if thought has been given to using artificial turf in other places in the city in the future. Ms. Litzinger reported that the Public Works Department has hired a company to prepare a master plan for all city medians. She added that completion of this type of project will take many years and could be affected by the status of the drought and future water regulations.

In response to Commissioner Real's question regarding replacement of trees that have been removed from medians, Ms. Litzinger noted that Public Works is not rushing to replace the diseased trees that had to be removed. She added that trees would be included in the master plan for street medians. Replacing trees now would not be prudent, especially with current drought conditions and the new pest threatening city trees.

Commissioner Spaseff commented on how important it is to him that the department staffs resident maintenance workers at each park. He finds this to be outstanding as it brings a sense of pride by the worker assigned to the park, it cuts down on vandalism because staff is there from early in the morning until Recreation staff arrives in the afternoon, and it provides a consistent working relationship between ERD and Recreation. He commended staff on this practice and encouraged striving to maintain it. Commissioner Spaseff stated that it is a very important aspect to the overall maintenance of the park, ball fields and playgrounds.

Chairperson Delarosa asked how the weather and foot traffic, over The Fiesta weekend, will affect ERD's clean up and turf rehabilitation of Mayfair Park. Mr. McDade said having the field soaked from the rain actually speeds up the rehabilitation of the turf, noting that it is much harder to bring the turf back when the weather is hot. He admitted that some ruts were created damaging areas of the turf when carnival rides were driven off the park, but are easy to repair.

4. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 10

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

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Part-Time Employee of the Month, Kaitlin Osborn - March 2016.
The Commission received and filed the report.
2. Letter from Roberta Mills regarding Volunteer Day.
The Commission received and filed the report.

Vice Chairperson Heiss shared a thank you note she received from a Volunteer Day clean up team.

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 6:58 p.m. to June 8, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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