



MINUTES  
Recreation and Community Services Commission  
Adjourned Regular Meeting  
November 10, 2021

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Stacy Valdez.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Dave Allen  
Commissioner Veronica Lucio  
Commissioner Stacy Valdez

ABSENT: Commissioner Ted Spaseff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of October 13, 2021. A motion was made by Commissioner Stacy Valdez and seconded by Commissioner Veronica Lucio to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 13, 2021. The motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Vice Chairperson Allen expressed his sentiments regarding the passing of former Commissioner Kirk Real. A moment of silence was held in Kirk's memory.

Director Valarie Frost began her announcements by announcing that on Tuesday, November 9, there was a second public hearing held to establish district boundaries and election sequence for city council seats. Members of the public were able to provide feedback on the draft maps and potential election sequencing presented by National Demographics Corporation and other interested community groups. It was said that a third public hearing on this matter was scheduled for Tuesday, November 16.

Ms. Frost reminded the commission that several city hall closures were scheduled for the month, as well as in the month of December. It was said that City Hall would be closed November 11 in honor of Veteran's Day, and November 25 through 26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Additionally, in honor of the winter holiday period, City Hall will be closed from December 27 through December 31.

Next, Ms. Frost shared that department staff was finalizing their coordination of event elements for the annual Tree Lighting event, scheduled for Friday, December 3 at the Civic Centre complex. Santa Claus, carnival games and food trucks will be on site starting at 4:30 p.m. The official tree lighting program begins at 6:30 p.m. and festivities are scheduled to wrap up by 8 p.m.

The commission was asked to save the date for the holiday Lakewood Celebrates, scheduled for Tuesday, December 14 in the ballroom at The Centre. It was said that an invitation to join the community and welcome the holiday season would be mailed soon.

Ms. Frost announced that Parks Superintendent Philip Lopez's Dodgers-themed retirement luncheon was scheduled for December 14 at Monte Verde Park beginning at 11:30 a.m. It was

said that invitations for this event were sent by electronic mail. She asked that the commission confirm their attendance by December 8.

Ms. Frost concluded her announcements by sharing that registration for the Project Shepherd program continued through November 17 at the Burns Community Center and Palms Park. It was said that warehouse operation at the Lakewood Youth Center would commence on Wednesday, December 8 and distribution of food, toys and grocery store gift cards was slated for December 17 and 18. Ms. Frost asked the commission to advise their secretary if interested in volunteering or supporting the program, and staff will schedule their participation.

Ms. Frost expressed her sentiments regarding the passing of Kirk Real.

Vice Chairperson Allen shared that he attended the Halloween event at the Weingart Senior Center. He commended staff for a job well done.

#### REPORTS:

##### **1. Aquatics Program Annual Report**

Community Services Manager Nicole Duran displayed slides and highlighted the various aquatics programs and events that took place in the past year as noted in the written report. Ms. Duran reported that the annual spring recruitment was conducted in April, resulting in the hiring of six lifeguards. Once it became evident that COVID-19 restrictions would be lifted, staff identified areas where programming could be expanded. It was determined that more staff would be needed, and an additional recruitment was opened in June, resulting in the hiring of four additional lifeguards. In total, the 2021 aquatics staff consisted of one pool manager, five senior lifeguards, 30 swim instructor/lifeguards and one cashier.

The commission was informed that pool staff are asked to provide their intent to return each January at which point they are provided with a list of the required certification courses. Ms. Duran applauded Pool Manager Michael Schicora for an outstanding job administering required trainings.

Next, Ms. Duran provided the commission with information regarding pre-summer programming as noted in the written report. It was said that programs took place under strict COVID-19 safety protocols which extended through the early part of the regular season. She noted that 2021 proved slightly complicated as the California statewide reopening date of June 15 loomed, but was not fully confirmed until after program dates were advertised. Information was provided regarding the staggered schedule of classes, lessons and programs offered as noted in the written report. It was said that restrictions were gradually removed, with full programming having returned by summer's end.

Ms. Duran shared that recreation swim was offered for the first time since 2019. She noted that in a typical year, recreation swim would have been offered from the onset of the regular season. It was said that the program was well attended, but attendance was lower by comparison to previous years.

Ms. Duran reported that a new Lap Swim and Water Aerobics program, specifically for ages 50 and over, was created in 2021 as a result of a collaboration with the Weingart Senior Center and the Burns Community Center staff. The program was designed and advertised beginning in early May. Ms. Duran shared that overall, the programs were well received, although capacity only filled to roughly 50%. It was said that staff received inquiries as to whether the program could be extended into post summer, and as a result lap swim sessions were created for the month of September.

It was said that the Save a Life event was offered again in 2021 to help promote the importance of water safety. This event features free swim lessons for kids, life jacket fitting, arts and crafts, games, story time, CPR demonstrations, and a visit from the Los Angeles County Fire Department Station 45.

Ms. Duran concluded her report by sharing that for the second consecutive season, the aquatics program operated solely out of Mayfair Pool with the Lakewood Family YMCA's continued use of McCormick Pool. As it specifically pertains to Mayfair, participation and revenue numbers climbed back near typical levels during the 2021 season. The overall amount of individuals served in 2021 was said to be 12,092 with total revenue at \$117,292.

Commissioner Lucio shared that her daughter attended swimming lessons at Mayfair Pool and loved every lesson. She mentioned that she was impressed with the programs offered and noted it was very well organized.

Commissioner Valdez commended staff for a job well done.

The commission received and filed the annual report on the aquatics program.

## **2. Incident and Injury Annual Report**

Community Services Manager Alex Bauman expanded on information on the department's incident and injury reporting process as noted in the written report. He reminded the commission that recreation staff completes a department incident and injury report form to record all incidents and injuries occurring on a city recreation facility. Management personnel, including the department director, review the reports for completeness and to identify potential trends. Statistical information, including type of incident and an estimate of loss to the city, is transferred into a spreadsheet allowing staff to recognize specific types of incidents and injuries occurring on a facility. Mr. Bauman reported that through October 2021, there were 234 incidents reported across all facilities for the year which reflects a 12.5% increase compared to the previous year. It was said that with COVID-19 restrictions starting in March 2020, there was a significant decrease in facility and program attendance as closures were in effect. This contributed to the significant decrease in the number of incidents across all facilities in 2020.

Mr. Bauman reported that of all the facilities, Palms Park, Bloomfield Park and Mayfair Park have reported the highest volume of incidents in the past year. In regard to the types of incidents, it was said that vandalism, patron injuries, and gatekeeper calls by city staff were the department's most frequent classification of incident. The category "other" logged

65 incidents, which reflects a variety of types including animal control issues and child behavioral concerns during staff led programming.

The commission was informed that a summary of the 2021 incident and injury reports and a three-year comparison of statistics, by facility and by type, was provided in their agenda packets.

Mr. Bauman confirmed for Commissioner Lucio that the reason Bloomfield, Mayfair and Palms Parks had a higher volume of incidents and injuries was due to higher attendance at the larger facilities. He added that Bloomfield and Palms Parks had higher numbers in 2020-2021 due to homelessness.

Mr. Bauman confirmed for Vice Chairperson Allen that graffiti made up the majority of vandalism reports.

The commission received and filed the annual report on incident and injury.

**3. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 5**

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

The Commission received and filed the report.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Letter to Fabian Sanchez, Employee of the Month for September 2021.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ms. Frost introduced Joe Stranges, Edward Salas, Kevin Arias, and Scott Moe-Environmental Resources staff-who were in the audience to the commission.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Ms. Frost announced that a new commissioner would be appointed in January. There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Vice Chairperson Allen adjourned the meeting in former Commissioner Kirk Real's name at 6:32 p.m. to Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary  
Recreation and Community Services Commission