



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
February 9, 2022

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Robert Nelson.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Dave Allen
Commissioner Robert Nelson
Commissioner Ted Spaseff
Commissioner Stacy Valdez

ABSENT: Commissioner Veronica Lucio

OTHER – REORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS:

With the passing of Chairperson Kirk Real in October of 2021, Vice Chairperson Dave Allen assumed the role of Chairperson through June of 2022.

Nominations were then opened for commission vice chairperson for a term of four months. Commissioner Stacy Valdez motioned to nominate Commissioner Ted Spaseff to serve as vice chairperson. Upon unanimous roll call vote, the motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of January 12, 2022. A motion was made by Commissioner Stacy Valdez and seconded by Commissioner Nelson to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 12, 2022. The motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote with Commissioner Ted Spaseff abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Director Valarie Frost began her announcements by thanking Chairperson Allen, who by title was inducted into the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Board of Electors. She explained that the Board of Electors had met on Thursday, February 3 to select athletes who will receive award recognitions at the Hall of Fame banquet scheduled for Friday April 1, at Mayfair Park on the Lisa Fernandez Field.

Ms. Frost provided the commission with information regarding programming and upcoming events. On Friday, February 25, a vaccine clinic will be held at the Burns Community Center. On Saturday, March 5, the Soroptimists Club of Lakewood/Long Beach will host its annual Lakewood Run which begins at Lakewood Center Mall with runners, walkers, and strollers traversing through the community. On Tuesday, March 8, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast organized by the Lakewood YMCA will be held at The Centre. A copy of the invitation was provided for review. Commissioners were asked to notify their secretary if interested in attending. On Friday, March 11, the Play at Palms event will feature an outdoor movie "Godzilla vs. Kong." Finally, on Saturday, March 12, Earth Walk returns to Monte Verde Park and will feature displays which promote education in environmental stewardship.

Ms. Frost provided information regarding facility improvements. She shared that the restroom buildings at Rynerson Park were undergoing renovation, with labor from the Public Works Department and the Long Beach Conservation Corps; one of the two restrooms at the facility was completely renovated and the second would soon be completed. In addition, bids had been received for the installation of two new picnic shelters at Rynerson Park. It was said that a notice to proceed would be on the next council meeting agenda. The tot lot playground installation at San Martin Park was said to be underway, along with new picnic shelters. Ms. Frost mentioned that the improvements at the park were expected to be completed in early May and ready for picnic-goers and playground pals before the Memorial Day holiday. The commission was reminded that the Mayfair Park Stormwater Capture Project was complete and that the park had fully reopened to the public. Since opening the park in January, staff noted there was good attendance at the tennis courts and youth sports groups were taking advantage of the playing fields. Lastly, Ms. Frost urged the commission to drive by the intersection of Lakewood Boulevard and Del Amo Blvd. She shared that both the traffic improvements at the intersection, as well as the landscape improvements surrounding the intersection, had been completed for some time.

Ms. Frost concluded her remarks by announcing that she, along with Community Services Supervisor Joseph Vasquez, would be attending the 2022 California Park and Recreation Society conference in Sacramento from March 9 through 11. As a result, she mentioned that she would be absent at the March Commission Meeting. The commission was informed that Assistant Director Kevin Bright would lead the meeting in her absence.

Chairperson Allen shared that the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Board of Electors Meeting was well scripted and staff was well prepared. He stated he was happy to be on board.

Commissioner Spaseff shared that he attended the recent City Council Meeting and commended Sonya Jahn for her presentation. He commented that there was a huge difference at the Lakewood Equestrian Center and mentioned it looked very nice. Chairperson Allen echoed Commissioner Spaseff's comments, stating that it looked pristine and very well organized.

Ms. Frost shared that staff had applied for three grants for the equestrian center; a Measure W grant which was said to be a stormwater capture project; a Measure A grant from Los Angeles county; and a Caltrans grant to complete improvements along Carson Street, which were said to include a picnic area and a walking trail.

Commissioner Nelson shared that he and his mother spent time exploring the new interactive online recreation catalog and mentioned that they both found it to be extremely easy to navigate. He commended staff for a job well done.

REPORTS:

1. Emergency Management Annual Report

Community Services Manager Chuck Martucci displayed slides and provided information regarding emergency management activities in 2021 as noted in the written report. Mr. Martucci's report covered programs such as Survive for 7, The Great ShakeOut, the Public Safety Expo and Emergency Preparedness Fair, and the CERT program. He shared that the

annual in-person Employee Emergency Response Trainings had been transformed into a virtual format so that employees would not miss another year of the important disaster worker training.

Mr. Martucci shared that through Area E Emergency Management Program Grant funds, each Area E agency was given new equipment which included one mobile solar panel, one portable charging station generator, and two satellite phones with paid service through 2023.

With department awareness of the Stop the Bleed initiative of saving lives—after a puncture or deep cut wound—the emergency manager purchased new emergency injury items including tourniquets, chest seals, and compression bandages. Red, zippered medical pouches were purchased to store one tourniquet, one chest seal, and one compression bandage. Pouches were distributed to every department and every Lakewood facility, including City Hall, both maintenance yards, all parks, and all community centers. Every Lakewood vehicle was also given a pouch.

Chairperson Allen remarked that moving the emergency operation center to the Maple Room was a great idea as it has much more space than the Pan Am Room where it was originally.

Mr. Martucci confirmed for Commissioner Nelson that all Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) graduates are eligible to respond to an emergency as a CERT volunteer even without the annual training.

The commission received and filed the annual report on emergency management.

2. Pest Management Program Annual Report

Environmental Resources Division Supervisor Mike McDade displayed slides and provided information regarding efforts made to control weeds, insects, and other pests throughout the city as noted in the written report. Slides were displayed to provide a visual explanation of some of the challenges the department faced in 2021. Mr. McDade informed the commission that in 2021 the integrated pest management program contracted with Agri-Turf Distributing per the city's recommendation requirements. Many of the pesticide products used in the city were purchased through Agri-Turf. It was said that the annual pesticide training was presented to staff by Agri-Turf and is always informative to all relevant workers handling pesticide. The training further denotes changes relating to laws and application procedures to ensure up to date standards are met.

Mr. McDade reported that in 2021, Tulip Scale pest was very prolific in Lakewood and required swift measures to quickly address the new pest invading trees throughout the city. The licensed spray applicator worked hard to eradicate the Tulip Scale through pesticide injections applied to the base of each tree. Mr. McDade displayed slides and explained the injection process. He also shared with the commission a tree injection arbor jet and

explained how it operates.

It was said that abating gophers continues to be a routine assignment throughout the city's park system. The licensed spray applicator works to minimize the presence of gophers throughout the city. Mr. McDade displayed slides and explained the gopher eradication process. He presented a Gopher-X extermination machine to the commission and explained how the device is used to eradicate gophers.

Mr. McDade shared that Pesticide Applicators Professional Association (PAPA) was coming to Lakewood in 2022. On Wednesday, August 3, and Thursday, August 4, PAPA will hold a pop-up event at The Centre. The two-day event provides continued education for licensed applicators and replaces two other Southern California events that were hosted at The Phoenix Club in Anaheim and at The Grand in Long Beach. It was said that several city employees would attend the event at no cost.

Commissioner Spaseff commended Mr. McDade for a great presentation.

Mr. McDade informed Chairperson Allen that both Agri-Turf and PAPA provide the city with updates and information pertaining to pest management.

The commission received and filed the annual report on pest management.

3. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 8

A written report and discussion of the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of January and a listing of upcoming activities for March 2022.

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Scott Lane, Employee of the Month for December 2021.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Allen adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m. to Wednesday, March 9, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission