



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
May 10, 2023

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6 p.m. by Chairperson Ted Spaseff.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Dave Allen.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Chairperson Ted Spaseff
Vice Chairperson Stacy Valdez
Commissioner Dave Allen
Commissioner Anita Valles

ABSENT: Commissioner Veronica Lucio

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of April 12, 2023. A motion was made by Commissioner Dave Allen and seconded by Commissioner Anita Valles to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 8, 2023. The motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote with Vice Chairperson Stacy Valdez abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Assistant Director Kevin Bright provided information regarding programming and upcoming events. Mr. Bright shared that Lakewood's Special Olympians had competed in recent tournaments. It was said that in Chino Hills, the bocce Muddogs took home the gold medal in their B-division tournament. Meanwhile, in Downey at the basketball tournament, three teams were said to have shown great effort. In the B-division, the 49ers took fourth place, and the Aliens and the Trailblazers in the C- and D-divisions, respectively, each took second place. Mr. Bright said that this was a great warm up for the Muddogs and 49ers, the two teams who will be heading to Southern California Special Olympics Summer Games in Long Beach during the weekend of June 10 and 11.

Mr. Bright provided the commission with an update on the state of pickleball in Lakewood. He noted that pickleball was, by most accounts, the fastest growing recreational sport in the nation, and mentioned that staff have been on the receiving end of much interest from the community to provide pickleball. He noted that the city did not have any permanent courts at any facility, and mentioned that there was no space on which to develop them. However, he shared that the RCS and Public Works departments have worked together to schedule courts to be painted with pickleball lines at both Mayfair Park and Bolivar Park on the basketball courts.

The commission was informed that a department Administrative Clerk had successfully completed a recruitment with the City of Los Alamitos and had accepted the position of department secretary, working for the Development Services Department. It was said that this staff member had been the front counter customer service clerk and had primarily assisted with facility reservations. Mr. Bright noted that the department had recently filled another vacant administrative clerk position, and from that, recruitment staff had maintained an eligibility list of candidates who had successfully completed the process.

Mr. Bright announced that the Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS) registration for summer baseball, softball and t-ball would conclude on Saturday, May 6. It was said that to date there were 962 registrations. The season is set to kick off on Saturday, June 17 for the annual opening day ceremony, complete with the parade of teams onto Lisa Fernandez Field, a welcome from the Mayor, the LYS Oath and then an afternoon of fun for the players.

Mr. Bright provided information regarding the upcoming Memorial Day weekend taking place on May 27-29. He reported that staff would step up supervision for the busy weekend of picnickers and outdoor activities. Parks would open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 27 and at noon on Sunday and Monday, May 28 and 29. Mayfair Pool is scheduled to open Memorial weekend for recreation swim each day. Swim sessions are from 1-2:30 p.m. and 2:45-4:15 p.m. Pre-summer swim lesson sessions will begin Tuesday, May 30 after the holiday.

The commission was reminded that, while it is an Administration Department event, RCS staff have a significant role in the Memorial Day Commemoration at the Veteran's Memorial Plaza at Del Valle Park. The annual tribute to the men and women who have sacrificed their lives while serving in the United States armed forces as well as honoring the members of local veterans organizations whom have died during the past year will take place beginning at 11 a.m. Event elements were said to include musical tributes, a keynote speaker, the reading of Dennis Lander's poem, "The Boys of Del Valle Park," a stirring performance of taps and a bagpiper playing Amazing Grace as the ceremony concludes. The event will once again provide a solemn way to remember Lakewood's fallen heroes.

Parks Superintendent Abel Andrade reported that Environmental Resources Division (ERD) staff had recently completed the landscape project on Centralia Street and Studebaker Road. It was said that the beautification project consisted of the planting of four Palo Verde trees, the installation of decomposed granite, and the placement of large boulders, decorative rock, drought-tolerant plant material, and steel mesh to deter gophers. It was said that staff had already received several positive comments from residents.

The commission was informed that at Home Run Dog Park, ERD staff was preparing for a turf renovation project. Mr. Andrade informed the commission that the dog park would be closed for renovations from Tuesday, May 30 through Tuesday, June 27. It was said that the four-week closure would allow turf to be installed and established in the small dog park, and portions of the big dog park. Additionally, irrigation systems that cover the renovated turf areas will be assessed and repaired as needed in the days leading up to the sod installation. Mr. Andrade stated that the renovations would provide a safe and aesthetically pleasing dog park for Lakewood residents to enjoy during the summer.

Lastly, Mr. Andrade congratulated Park Maintenance Lead Worker Joe Sheldon, who was said to be retiring in June after almost 36 years of dedicated service to the city. It was said that Joe has held several positions within the ERD division and would be sorely missed. Mr. Andrade noted that the soon to be vacated position would be filled internally.

Director Valarie Frost began her announcements by thanking the commission for their attendance at the recent Pan American Fiesta Welcome Ceremony. She then thanked Commissioner Allen for attending the California Park and Recreation Society, District 10 Awards and Installation Banquet. Next, she informed the commission that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Master Plan presentations and interviews were scheduled for Monday, May 15. Ms. Frost thanked Chairperson Ted Spaseff for his work in serving as a rater for the proposals. The commission was reminded that the Lakewood Shreds event would take place on Saturday, May 20 from 9 a.m. to noon. Lastly, Ms. Frost asked the commission to RSVP with their secretary if interested in attending the RCS Summer Kickoff event scheduled for Thursday, June 1.

Commissioner Anitza Valles shared that she was happy to see that genders were removed from the Lakewood Youth Sports team divisions for baseball and softball. She mentioned that she very much appreciated the beautification project on Centralia Street and Studebaker Road, noting that it looked amazing. She thanked ERD staff for their hard work. Commissioner Valles shared that a resident had made it a point to thank her and the city for providing a place to play pickleball in Lakewood.

Chairperson Spaseff congratulated staff for their recent appointments at CPRS D10. He thanked staff for a successful Volunteer Day event. He shared that he attended the LYS Coaches Barbeque and commended staff for a job well done. He mentioned that he attended the most recent Car Show at Palms Park and said that it was a fun event with a great turn out. Chairperson Spaseff thanked Commissioner Allen for acting as the emcee at both the recent El Comienzo Luncheon and the Older Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Mr. Bright confirmed for Chairperson Spaseff that pickleball was a drop-in program and was self-facilitating on shared courts. Mr. Bright mentioned that a pickleball contract class was set to begin in the fall.

REPORTS:

1. CDBG Funding Recipient Agency Report

Meals on Wheels of Long Beach (MOWL) representative Rhonda Fox provided the commission with information regarding the Meals on Wheels of Long Beach program. Ms. Fox reported that MOWL provides a service of home delivered nutritionally balanced meals for individuals who are unable to shop and cook for themselves and who live alone. It was said that MOWL was sustained by generous volunteers and donors. Ms. Fox provided the commission with statistics regarding the many clients served, as well as information regarding the many services provided.

Vice Chairperson Stacy Valdez thanked Ms. Fox and the MOWL volunteers for taking care of the community. She stated that the services provided were much needed and appreciated.

Chairperson Spaseff shared his appreciation for the MOWL program and all that they do for the community.

The commission received and filed the report on the CDBG Funding Recipient Agency.

2. Summer Programs and Catalogs Annual Report

Community Services Manager Nancy Hitt displayed slides and provided the commission with information regarding summer programs and the summer catalog. Ms. Hitt reported that the Recreation and Community Services catalog would be available online beginning Thursday, May 25. Residents will receive postcards directing them to the city's website to view the interactive online catalog. Additionally, a limited number of hard copies of the catalog will be available for pick up at city parks and community centers, Lakewood City Hall and Lakewood's libraries. It was said that over 500 classes would be advertised in the summer recreation catalog including several new additions. Information regarding the newly added classes were provided by Ms. Hitt.

Ms. Hitt provided details regarding Summer Concerts in the Park, Finally It's Friday Family programs, Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS), the Civic Center Block Party, park programs, older adult programs, and aquatics programs as noted in the written report. Lastly, information regarding staff trainings during the summer were provided to the commission.

Vice Chairperson Valdez commended Ms. Hitt and staff for doing a great job with the many summer programs.

The commission received and filed the annual report on Summer Programs and Catalogs.

3. Capital Improvement and Environmental Resources Projects at Recreation Facilities

Community Services Manager Joe Vasquez provided information on capital improvement and Environmental Resources Division projects at recreation facilities as noted in the written report.

Mr. Vasquez reminded the commission that capital improvements are projects of large size, fixed nature, or long life, which renovate existing or provide new or additional public facilities or services. It was said that capital improvement projects are funded through a variety of federal, state, and local grants in conjunction with city general funds.

Mr. Vasquez stated that Lakewood's Measure L sales tax, passed in 2021 by Lakewood voters and of which a portion was designed to be used for capital improvements. The appropriation of funding was said to be programmed to address critical infrastructure needs including electrical systems, roofs and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems; address outstanding critical maintenance needs at city parks and community centers; address accessibility per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and begin the planning and design for future projects.

Updates and information regarding each capital improvement and Environmental Resources Division projects at recreation facilities were provided by Mr. Vasquez as noted in the written report.

Mr. Vasquez confirmed for Commissioner Allen that a combination of RCS/ERD staff

were representing the department on the Capital Improvement Program committee.

The commission received and filed the report on Capital Improvement and Environmental Resources Projects at Recreation Facilities.

4. Commission Newsletter No. 11

A written report of the Recreation and Community Services Department programs, events, services and maintenance activities for the month of April and a listing of upcoming activities for June 2023.

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Alfonso Villaneda, Employee of the Month for March 2023.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Spaseff adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m. to Wednesday, June 14, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission