



**MINUTES**  
Recreation and Community Services Commission  
Adjourned Regular Meeting held  
March 8, 2017

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MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Winnie Heiss

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Dave Allen

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

ABSENT:           Commissioner Ben Delarosa

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Kirk Real and seconded by Commissioner Dave Allen to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 8, 2017. The motion was carried with no objections.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Director Lisa Litzinger previewed upcoming programs and events which include Earth Walk on March 11 at Monte Verde Park, Arbor Day performances March 13-17, and the LYS Coaches Barbeque and Angels baseball game on April 8. Then, on April 11 Lakewood Celebrates will be held with receptions for the outgoing and incoming mayors at The Centre. The Older Adult Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will take place on April 18 at The Centre, and Lakewood Regional Medical Center will be recognized as the city's Volunteer Merit Award winner at the CPRS District X Awards and Installation Banquet on April 20. Volunteer Day is on April 22 with lunch at the Youth Center beginning at 11:30 a.m., a Lakewood Shreds Event will be held at the Iacoboni Library parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 29, and the Pan Am Fiesta takes place May 11-14 with the Flag Ceremony beginning at noon on Saturday, May 13.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff commented on his attendance at the CPRS Conference last week in Sacramento, noting that he particularly enjoyed the session regarding homelessness.

Vice Chairperson Kirk Real praised staff for once again outdoing themselves with the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Banquet. He spoke with some people who were attending the event for the first time and expressed their surprise and appreciation for such a wonderful evening. Vice Chairperson Real thanked and congratulated the entire RCS staff for making this special event even better each year.

Chairperson Winnie Heiss mentioned that she had been involved in the Tot Lot program over the past couple of years. She expressed her appreciation for having the program in the community, as it is such a wonderful experience for young children.

REPORTS:

**1. Volunteer Program Update**

Community Services Supervisor Caitlin Cariaso displayed slides and provided information regarding volunteer opportunities and statistics in 2016 as noted in the written report. Some of the programs in which community members volunteered are Lakewood Youth Sports, Meals on Wheels, Volunteer Day, Teens in Lakewood Care, Junior Life Guards, Project Shepherd, and individual older adults volunteered in various capacities and programs.

Ms. Cariaso announced that Victor Thompson was selected as the 2016 Older Adult Volunteer of the Year. She noted that Mr. Thompson will be recognized on April 18 at the Older Adult Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at The Centre for donating his time and talents to Project Shepherd, Volunteer Day, the Lakewood Education Foundation, the LDS Church, the Boy Scouts of America Long Beach Area Council and the non-profit organization he created, the National Pacific Islander Educator Network.

Ms. Cariaso introduced Mr. Thompson to the Commission and gave him an opportunity to talk about his love for volunteering. Mr. Thompson said that he was honored to be at the meeting and thanked Ms. Cariaso for inviting him. He explained that his parents came from Samoa, where the culture of helping others is a way of life, and that recognition is not a reason to provide help to those in need. Mr. Thompson stated that he finds joy in helping people and is grateful for the opportunities Lakewood provides where he is able to share his time and talents with the community. He added that he has most enjoyed participating in the Project Shepherd program because it allowed him to see the faces of people being assisted.

The Commission received and filed the report.

**2. The Centre Operations Annual Report**

Community Services Manager Alex Bauman provided information and statistics included in the written report regarding classes, events, and the concessionaire at The Centre in 2016. He pointed out that attendance at city sponsored events held at The Centre increased once again, as did the revenue generated by the concessionaire. Mr. Bauman stated that the facility is in the process of having new carpet installed, having the fabric replaced on the operable dividing walls, and replacing the drapes around the stage in the Ballroom, all of which will help attract new clients to host events at The Centre.

Vice Chairperson Real commented that he learned at the City Council meeting, at which the carpet replacement project was approved, that the carpet is being installed in tiles to allow for easy replacement of soiled areas. He gave credit to the city staff for having the foresight and cooperation among departments to make sound decisions.

The Commission received and filed the report.

**3. Vandalism Annual Report**

Community Services Manager Kevin Bright reviewed information included in the written report regarding vandalism at city facilities over the past year. Mr. Bright noted that although 2016 incidents of graffiti are slightly higher than 2015, the total is still lower than statistics reported over the past few years. This decline is due to the Sheriff's Department

follow-up on reports of graffiti, the Public Works Department's expedient removal of graffiti, and staff's diligence in monitoring facilities throughout business hours.

Mr. Bright reported that Bloomfield, Mayfair and Palms Parks have the highest number of incidents. He explained that the statistic may be due the fact that all three parks are in close proximity to other cities, and law enforcement issues may force vandals from one city into another. All three parks are also large in acreage providing more area for vandals to hide.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff stated that the number of graffiti incidents is very small when compared to some cities. He noted that the work by the Sheriff's Department and Public Works Department is great, and added that staffing our parks from morning to night is definitely a deterrent. Commissioner Spaseff thanked staff for a great job noting that the low numbers are a testament to staff's efforts.

The Commission received and filed the report.

#### **4. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 9**

A written report and discussion of the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of February 2017 and a listing of upcoming activities for April 2017.

Vice Chairperson Real commented that the Recreation and Community Services Department is proactive, making the department one of the best in the state.

Chairperson Heiss stated that many of the sessions she attended at the CPRS Conference addressed topics and solutions to issues that Lakewood has already perfected.

The Commission received and filed the report.

#### **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Letter to Lorraine Delarosa, Part-Time Employee of the Month for January 2017.

The Commission received and filed the letter.

#### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Winnie Heiss adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m. to April 12, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

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