



**MINUTES**  
Recreation and Community Services Commission  
Adjourned Regular Meeting  
January 10, 2018

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MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Kirk Real

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Ted Spaseff

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner Ted Spaseff and seconded by Vice Chairperson Dave Allen to approve the minutes from the meetings of November 8, 2017, and December 13, 2017. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Director Lisa Litzinger provided information regarding upcoming programs and events. She announced that the Board of Electors will meet on January 18 at 5:30 p.m. to select the 2017 Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame inductees. The Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on February 26, 2018. The State of the City Luncheon will be held at The Centre at noon on February 7. Commissioners were requested to RSVP for the event to their secretary. The CPRS Conference will be held in Long Beach this year on March 13-16. All Commissioners were invited to attend the Development and Operations Social, organized by Philip Lopez, as well as the CPRS Conference Social the evening of March 14. Commissioners were also invited to attend the Recreation and Community Services lunch, regardless of their attendance at the conference, on March 15 at noon. The location for the lunch will be determined soon.

Ms. Litzinger continued by noting dates of other special events scheduled for the spring, including Arbor Day presentations at elementary schools the week of March 5, Earth Walk on March 10 at Monte Verde Park, and the LYS Coaches Recognition Night on April 7 with barbeque at 4 p.m. and Angeles vs. Giants baseball game at 6:07 p.m. Volunteer Day will be held on April 14, and the Pan Am Fiesta is scheduled for May 10-13 at Mayfair Park.

Other important information provided by Ms. Litzinger were Assistant City Manager, Carol Flynn-Jacoby's March 2 retirement date announcement, and that Administrative Services Director, Diane Perkin's retirement celebration is on January 11. The Administrative Services Director position has been filled by Jose Gomez from Santa Fe Springs, and his first day in Lakewood will be January 29. Lastly, retired RCS Assistant Director Tom Lederer was promoted to grandfather. His daughter Kelsey and her husband Tom welcomed twin boys, Wesley and Reed, on January 9.

**REPORTS:**

**1. Spring Programs and Catalog Preview**

Community Services Manager Kevin Bright reported on aspects of the Spring 2018 Recreation Catalog, and provided information regarding programs and events scheduled for the spring. He

pointed out that, new in this catalog, an entire page has been dedicated to classes and programs for individuals with developmental disabilities. The city's Adaptive Recreation and Special Olympics Programs are included on this page, along with new dance, enrichment, therapeutic, and sports classes offered for the special needs community.

Mr. Bright provided the dates and details of some of the special events scheduled for spring. Parks will provide activities for kids during spring break from March 31 through April 5. The Easter Bunny will hop from park to park for a visit on March 31. The Lakewood Youth Sports Track and Field Meet will once again take place during the spring break period. This year events will begin at 5 p.m., on April 5, at Lakewood High School. On April 14, the community will come together to help one another by participating in Volunteer Day. Planning for this event is under way. Then, on May 13, TGIS will offer their popular Mother's Day Brunch at The Centre. Four FUN-Tastic Family Night events have been scheduled for spring. Mr. Bright added that staff has done a great job securing entertainment that includes rhythm, magic, animals, and, as always, audience participation.

In addition to classes, programs, and events scheduled for spring, the community has been reserving fields and activity rooms at city parks to hold team practices and games, and private celebrations. Mr. Bright commented that the spring is shaping up to be packed with fun activities, and that staff is prepared and looking forward to serving the community through it all.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff commended staff on the vibrant look of the new catalog as well as the excellent programs offered.

Chairperson Kirk Real mentioned that he has already registered for two travel trips offered in the new catalog, and that RCS staff at City Hall was very helpful through the process.

The Commission received and filed the report.

## **2. Teen Programs and Annual Report**

Community Services Manager Kevin Bright reviewed statistics from activities and programs offered at the Lakewood Youth Center, and the Teen Resource Center, as noted in the written report. He pointed out that in 2017, over 11,000 teens visited both centers combined, teens volunteered over 1,500 hours of their time to the community, fifteen youth participated in the inaugural hear of the Lakewood Teen Action Committee (LTAC), and the annual College Fair was moved to The Centre, which allowed for increased participation from institutions providing information, as well as an increase in the number of students and parent attending.

Mr. Bright introduced Community Services Supervisor Joe Vasquez. Mr. Vasquez informed the commission about activities and programs held at the Teen Resource Center (TRC) at Bloomfield Park, while displaying a slides. Mr. Vasquez explained that the teens enjoy the new ping pong table and air hockey table acquired in June, as well as the new video games on the big screen TV. Daily programming at the TRC from 5 to 6 p.m. includes homework help Monday through Wednesday, and Tech Talk on Tuesday, where staff and teens work together to teach each other about new apps and features of smart phones and other electronics. Then on Thursday, teens can obtain assistance on how to find and secure a job, and on Friday they enjoy the gaming systems at the TRC.

Mr. Vasquez explained that Super Saturday Nights, held once a month, provide a specific activity from 5 to 8 p.m., at the TRC, for teens to enjoy together. These activities range from a PS4 Gaming Tournament, to a Summer Kick-Off Party, and are free. The trip to the see a movie at Lakewood Pacific Theatre, planned for February, does require registration and a reasonable fee. He added, that the popular 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will return this year on March 17 and a St. Patrick's Day theme will be incorporated into the event. This tournament coincides with the conclusion of the Lakewood Youth Sports basketball season, and all parks are represented. Staff at the TRC are putting forth their best effort to provide programming and activities for teens to enjoy.

Chairperson Real thanked both gentlemen, and Commission Heiss expressed her appreciation for all the activities provided for all age groups.

Commissioner Ben Delarosa stated how happy he was when the TRC opened in 2008 to add to the teen activities offered at the Youth Center. He thanked staff for their dedication to providing quality programs and for securing funds to improve upon the centers and activities.

Commissioner Spaseff expressed his appreciation for staff's enthusiasm in getting kids involved in the community.

The Commission received and filed the report.

### **3. Project Shepherd Program Update**

Kelly Garnetti introduced herself as the Administrative Assistant in the Recreation Department. She explained that she has been acting as the interim Community Services Supervisor for the Burns Community Center since November, and will continue for the next few months while Caitlin Cariaso is on maternity leave. Ms. Garnetti displayed slides and provided an updated on the Project Shepherd Program as noted in the written report.

Ms. Garnetti provided statistics regarding the number of family that registered for the Holiday Assistance Program. She noted that registration in 2017 increased only 3% from 2016's ten-year low. Schools participated in the holiday dinner food drive and were entered into a raffle for each complete holiday meal provided, including a \$10 grocery store gift card. This year, Mayfair High School won the \$500 gift card in the raffle. Nearly 500 of the over 1,000 boxes of food, donated by 19 local schools, came from Mayfair High School.

The community continued to support the program this year through various different avenues. Ms. Garnetti reported that the Boy Scouts collected hundreds of boxes of food during their Scouting for Food project. Lakewood Regional Medical Center collected over 1,000 boxes of cereal, and Smart & Final held a Grab 'n Go event at a couple of their local stores and collected 270 bags of food donated by customers. Residents also generously donated through the Teddy Bear Tree program and 713 children received gifts this year. Many residents, business, and organizations made monetary donations to the program as well. In all, \$15,562.15 was raised through donations and sponsorships, for Project Shepherd. Hundreds of hour were contributed by adults and teens to further support the success of the program.

Ms. Garnetti provided a brief overview of the year round extension program, noting that an overall decrease in assistance provided through the program has been seen. She explained that help primarily consists of emergency food and utility bill assistance, and is typically provided only one time, with a maximum of \$100. Statistics were displayed in slides and provided in the written report. Ms. Garnetti reported that the Backpack Program was successful, distributing nearly 300 backpacks filled with school supplies to school age children and teens. Most of which were donated by Lakewood organizations and residents.

Ms. Garnetti closed, stating that thanks to the collaborative efforts of the City of Lakewood, Rotary Club of Lakewood, schools, churches, community groups, volunteers, businesses and individuals, many families in Lakewood were assisted during the holidays and will be helped throughout the coming year.

Vice Chairperson Allen stated that Project Shepherd has come a long way over the past 45 years with so many more ways that the community can become involved. To answer his question, Ms. Garnetti stated that storage of food and personal care items is still maintained at the Burns Community Center and at Palms Park. She added that storage will be improved upon completion of the construction at Burns. Vice Chairperson Allen applauded staff's efforts on a marvelous job with Project Shepherd.

Commissioner Spaseff thanked Ms. Garnetti for an excellent report and stated his pleasure to see the continued monetary support of the program even without the Kris Kringle golf tournament.

Commissioner Delarosa noted that the graphs provided were eye opening and thanked staff for everything. Ms. Garnetti responded to Commissioner Delarosa's inquiry, that the amount of food collected this year is about the same when compared to last year.

Commissioner Heiss acknowledged all the effort put forth by so many volunteers, and thanked Ms. Garnetti for the report.

To answer Chairperson Real's questions, Ms. Garnetti stated that the Burns Community Center and Palms Park are sites that residents in need are referred to when requiring assistance through the year round program. In addition to certificates of appreciation, major sponsors of the Project Shepherd Program are recognized at the Holiday Lakewood Celebrates event.

#### **4. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 7**

A written report and discussion of the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of December 2017 and a listing of upcoming activities for February 2018.

There were no comments and the report will be filed.

#### **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Letter to Part-Time Employee of the Month, Tiana Whitaker, for the month of November 2017.

There were no comments and the letter will be filed.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Kirk Real adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m. to February 14, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

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