



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
February 14, 2018

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:04 p.m. by Chairperson Kirk Real

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Vice Chairperson Dave Allen

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Ben Delarosa

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner Winnie Heiss and seconded by Vice Chairperson Dave Allen to approve the revised minutes from the meeting of January 10, 2018. 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 Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on February 26, at 6:30 p.m. at The Centre. Arbor Day presentations at elementary schools will take place the week of March 5 featuring a Justice League theme, and Earth Walk is on March 10 at Monte Verde Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. She confirmed that there is no need to RSVP for those two events. The CPRS Conference will be held in Long Beach this year on March 13-16. All Commissioners were invited to attend the Recreation and Community Services lunch, on March 15 at King's Fish House at 1 p.m.

Ms. Litzinger continued by noting dates of other special events scheduled for the spring, including, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast hosted by Lakewood Family YMCA on March 16 at 7:30 a.m. at The Centre, and Lakewood Celebrates will begin at 6 p.m. on March 27. Volunteer Day will be held on April 14, the LYS Coaches Recognition Night on April 21 with barbeque at the Youth Center at 4 p.m. and an Angeles vs. Giants baseball game at 6:07 p.m. The El Comienzo Luncheon is scheduled for May 3 at The Centre, and the Pan Am Fiesta will take place May 10-13 at Mayfair Park.

Ms. Litzinger proudly announced that Community Services Manager Jonathan Gorne was selected as the 2017 Manager of the Year, and that Community Services Manager Mark Freeman will receive a CPRS Scholarship in March. Ms. Litzinger also announced that Mark Freeman and his wife welcomed their second daughter, Riley on December 29, and that Environmental Resources Supervisor Mike McDade welcomed grandson Bryson on January 25. Ms. Litzinger reported that Assistant City Manager, Carol Flynn-Jacoby's retires on March 2, and that Linda Lauffer, long-time switchboard operator and "Voice of Lakewood" retired today, February 14 after nearly 40 years of service.

Chairperson Kirk Real suggested that the Commission send congratulatory letters to Jonathan and Mark on their recent awards. All Commissioners present agreed.

REPORTS:

1. Emergency Management Annual Report

Community Services Manager Chuck Martucci stated that the City of Lakewood continues to recognize the importance of preparing for, preventing, responding to and recovering from all threats, hazards, and emergencies. Mr. Martucci provided information regarding the many aspects of the city's emergency management program during 2017, as noted in the written report. Information highlighted upon included the completion of the update to the city's Emergency Operation Plan; descriptions and participation statistics regarding various community education programs including CERT and Survive for 7; and the continuation of disaster response training of city employees. Also of note in 2017 was the appointment of David Ashman as the new Disaster Management Area Coordinator.

Mr. Martucci reported that the city stays aware of all possible emergency situations and issues that could affect its residents. Staff has been participating in the Whittier Narrows Dam Evacuation Planning meetings over the past six months to keep informed of the planning for this potential threat. He pointed out that the Whittier Narrows Dam in Los Angeles County, is now recognized as the #1 potential dam failure threat in the United States. Due to the large population at risk should the dam fail, extensive coordination among neighboring communities and county agencies is needed. A consortium of agencies is applying for a statewide emergency response grant to hire a consultant to work on an evacuation plan.

Looking forward in to 2018, Mr. Martucci announced that Lakewood's first Emergency Preparedness Fair has been calendared for November 3 at the Burns Community Center. Staff is currently working to secure partners to provide presentations and informational booths at the event.

Mr. Martucci clarified for Vice Chairperson Dave Allen that all cities, independently, must have an up-to-date Emergency Operations Plan. Lakewood opted to accomplish the update by hiring a consultant. Vice Chairperson Allen added that Mr. Martucci is doing a great job.

Chairperson Kirk Real questioned how high the risk is of the Whittier Narrows Dam failing. Mr. Martucci responded that there is a 1 in 10,000 chance, and clarified that the work of planning committee is to bring awareness about the issue.

The Commission received and filed the report.

2. Pest Management Program Annual Report

Environmental Resources Supervisor Mike McDade provided information regarding efforts made to control weeds, insects, and other pests throughout the city. He noted that post- and pre-emergent dry chemical treatments, were applied at parks to manage broadleaf weeds, and that the city has increased the number of staff members trained to spray chemicals to control weeds. Mr. McDade reported that the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer Beetle (PSHB) has continued to infest many city trees. West Coast Arborists has been contracted to inject infected trees on residential street panels, and the city's Licensed Spray Applicator injected trees on city property. These efforts help to minimize the spread of the disease to the trees, but does not cure it. A slide presentation was displayed by Mr. McDade that showed significant and rapid loss of trees in other cities. He reported that Lakewood is on the right track to prevent that type of devastation from the PSHB.

Mr. McDade introduced Albert Polanco, the city's Licensed Spray Applicator. Mr. Polanco reported on the boom sprayer, purchased in 2017, explaining how it works and its efficiency. With regard to injecting trees to stop the spread of the disease from the PSHB, Mr. Polanco explained the tedious and physical process used to inject the trees. The process involved drilling 10 to 15 holes, per tree, and then hammering in a plug treated with chemicals. He explained that using this process only approximately 20 trees per day could be treated with the assistance of another staff member. Mr. Polanco reported that the city purchased new tree injection equipment to treat the trees. He demonstrated the ease of use of the new equipment and reported that he is able to treat approximately 40 trees per day, without an assistant.

Commissioner Winnie Heiss thanked the gentlemen for the report and all that they do. Commissioner Ted Spaseff made note of benefits of having the right tools to do the job and commended staff for their great work. Staff responded to Commissioner Spaseff that the pine trees at Del Valle Park were inspected and no mites were found.

Mr. McDade responded to Vice Chairperson Allen's inquiry, that there is still no known natural predator to the PSHB. Vice Chairperson Allen asked if staff provides feedback to the Department of Agriculture regarding the city's experience with the pest. Parks Superintendent Philip Lopez responded that staff works closely and shares information with University of California, Riverside's Horticulture Department, which is extremely well-versed and educated on this issue. Mr. Lopez added that staff looks for results when new equipment is purchased and new preventative measures are employed. He noted that results can be seen in Lakewood in that fact that there is no change, indicating that trees are being saved.

Chairperson Real suggested that staff provide the information in this report to City TV so the public can be shown the good things being done in the city to save our trees. He added that appreciates the work that has been done on the street panel on the west side of Lakewood Boulevard. Chairperson Real asked if the trees that were removed from the street panel on Woodruff Avenue were infected with the PSHB. Staff responded that those trees were not infected, but were simply very old and were infected with bees.

The Commission received and filed the report.

3. Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Preview

Community Services Manager Kevin Bright displayed slides and provided a preview of the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame 2017 inductees. Mr. Bright noted that the decision by Board of Electors was difficult this year and required multiple rounds of votes to select the Athlete of the Year. Mr. Bright explained the different types of community members who make up the Board of Electors, including a sports editor from the Long Beach Press Telegram. He reported that after this year's Board of Electors meeting, the Long Beach Press Telegram decided to stop their coverage of sports. Mr. Bright expressed his concern with losing this valuable member of the Board of Electors, and has been in contact with him. Mr. Bright is hopeful that a new youth sports website being created by this sports writer is successful and allows for him to continue to participate on the Board of Electors.

Mr. Bright announced that Linyu "Anna" Dong, a golfer from Saint Joseph High School was selected as the 2017 Athlete of the Year. He highlighted points of Anna's story, noting that

she came to the United States, from China, just three years ago as part of Saint Joseph High School's International Student Program. He also provided information regarding quantities and types of awards to be presented, including for the first time, a Performer of the Year in the sport of rugby.

The Hall of Fame banquet will be held at The Centre on Monday, February 26. The program is sponsored primarily by the City of Lakewood and Piazza Family McDonald's Restaurants. Several other local businesses and service organizations, such as the Rotary Club of Lakewood, and Soroptimist International of Lakewood/Long Beach, also sponsor the event. Mr. Bright announced that this year's award winners will be permanently displayed at McDonald's the week of March 5.

Commissioner Spaseff asked if Anna is the first international Athlete of the Year. Mr. Bright stated that he will research that fact and report his findings to the Commission.

Chairperson Real, who is a member of the Board of Electors, pointed out the collegiality among the members of the Board of Electors, especially of the athletic directors. He found it refreshing to see how much they all put in to the decisions, weighing all the information.

4. 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 2018.

Commissioner Heiss expressed her pleasure with the One World Rhythm performance at the recent FUN-Tastic Family Night. She commended staff for doing such a great job researching and selecting performers for these events. Commissioner Heiss also mentioned that she had the pleasure of speaking with Park Maintenance Worker Ed Salas, while at Bolivar Park. She stated that he was a delight and that she is so proud of all of the staff and the wonderful work they do for the city.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Part-Time Employee of the Month, Steven Batovsky for the month of December 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 7:12 p.m. to March 21, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.