



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
April 11, 2018

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:02 p.m. by Chairperson Kirk Real

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Ben Delarosa

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 Winnie Heiss and seconded by Vice Chairperson Dave Allen to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 21, 2018. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Chairperson Kirk Real announced that tonight's meeting is bitter sweet as the Commission formally says goodbye to Lisa Litzinger. He expressed the Commission's appreciation thanks for the 34 years of service that Ms. Litzinger has given the Recreation and Community Services Department, and particularly for the past years as the Director. Chairperson Real continued by concurrently offering congratulations to Valarie Frost for her promotion to the Director position. He express the Commission's pride in her and the department. He noted that Ms. Frost has the support and admiration of the Commission, adding that they will be encouraging her along the way. Chairperson Real wished both ladies well and Commissioner Ted Spaseff started a standing ovation for them.

Director Lisa Litzinger provided information regarding upcoming programs and events. She announced that Volunteer Day will be held on Saturday, April 14 with a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Youth Center, and Older Adult Volunteer Recognition Luncheon is on Wednesday, April 18 at 3 p.m. at The Centre, where Phyllis Clark will be honored as the Older Adult Volunteer of the Year. Then, on Thursday, April 19, the CPRS District 10 Awards & Installation Banquet will begin at 5 p.m. at Rio Hondo Country Club in Downey, and the LYS Coaches Recognition Night takes place on Saturday, April 21 with a barbeque at the Youth Center at 4 p.m. and an Angeles vs. Giants baseball game at 6:07 p.m. A Lakewood Shreds event is scheduled for Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of the Iacoboni Library; and on the same day, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a Drug Take Back Day will be held in front of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station. At this event, people can drop off expired or unused prescription drugs so they can be disposed of properly. The El Comienzo Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, May 3 at The Centre, and the Pan Am Fiesta will talk place May 10-13 at Mayfair Park, with the Welcome Ceremony on Saturday, May 12, beginning at 12:30 p.m. And, on Monday, May 28 at 11 a.m. the Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at Del Valle Park.

Ms. Litzinger introduced Valarie Frost as the new Director of Recreation and Community Services. Ms. Frost thanked the commission for their kind word and stated that she looks forward to having their support for many years ahead. She asked that Commissioners be sure to RSVP with their secretary for Ms. Litzinger's retirement celebration on April 30.

Chairperson Real thanked Ms. Litzinger for the leadership she has provided over the years, and thanked Ms. Frost for the anticipated leadership she will provide. He expressed appreciation for the continuity of leadership within the Recreation Department over the 28 years he has been on this commission.

Commissioner Winnie Hiess thanked Ms. Litzinger and express her admiration of her.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff congratulated Ms. Litzinger and assured her that retirement is very exciting. He then conveyed his excitement for Ms. Frost and the entire department, noting that a great succession plan has been created within the department.

Chairperson Real mentioned that he attended the LYS Track and Field Meet last week. He stated that the event epitomizes the good things that come from the department. Staff worked together to on all components of the event. He noted the enthusiasm he experienced while speaking with staff, which exemplifies the entire operation of the RCS Department. He extended his appreciation to staff, as a whole. Chairperson Real suggested evaluating the starting pistol used for the event, due to its apparent malfunction. Community Services Manager Kevin Bright reported that it is suspected that the blanks used in the pistol may have exceeded their shelf life. New blanks will be purchased prior to next year's track meet.

REPORTS:

1. Pan Am Fiesta Preview

Community Services Manager Alex Bauman provided a preview of activities planned during the Pan American Fiesta on May 10-13, 2018. The report was supplemented with a slide presentation. Mr. Bauman described the site plan and set-up for the various components of the event. He continued, stating that the traditional opening ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 12 at 12:30 p.m., and will include the presentation of flags, and recognition of the Pan American Scholarship winners. Dates and times of other activities were highlighted as noted in the written report, including the Children's Cultural Booth, the Pan American Association Historical Display, craft vendor booths, food booths, and amusement rides. On Saturday, May 12, a shuttle service will be provided between City Hall and the Pan American Fiesta, every 15 minutes, from 10 a.m. through 9:30 p.m.

Mr. Bauman pointed out that live entertainment will be provided on the stage on Friday, May 11 from 5 to 9 p.m., with the Motown group Stone Soul headlining at 7 p.m. Entertainment on the afternoon of Saturday, May 12 is scheduled similar to past years, with community vocal and dance groups performing between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Two concerts are lined up for the evening: Louie Cruz Beltran will perform Latin Jazz from 4:30 to 6 p.m.; and the 80s band Knyght Ryder takes the stage from 7 to 9 p.m.

Additionally, Mr. Bauman reported that El Comienzo Luncheon will be held on May 3 to kick off all the Pan American festivities. This luncheon is a joint meeting of the Rotary Club of Lakewood and the Pan American Association. The Pan American Association Ambassador Scholarship winners will be announced at this event.

Vice Chairperson Allen asked if reducing the craft booth component to only one day last year worked work. Mr. Bauman reported that staff was met with a little resistance from some craft vendors at first, but added that it all worked out well. Craft sales on other days typically were much lower than on Saturdays. Having the craft vendors open only on Saturday has streamlined shoppers, and Mr. Bauman added that vendors he spoke with last year were pleased.

Chairperson Real apologized in advance that he will not be able to attend the event this year. He expressed his delight in the city's contracting with the same ride vendor for so many years, noting that it is a very professionally run business.

The Commission received and filed the report.

2. Lakewood Youth Sports Annual Report

Community Services Supervisor Jonathan Gorne provided information regarding the Lakewood Youth Sports Program (LYS), supported with a slide presentation. Mr. Gorne noted that there were three major changes to the program over the past year. Registration for the program was offered online; state mandated head injury and concussion protocol was implemented; and volleyball was offered for the first time to girls in 12 to 17 year age groups.

Mr. Gorne proceeded to describe the new online registration process. He explained that LYS registration for all sports seasons, has been extended from one week to two weeks, with the first week all online, and the second week is online and in person registration for Lakewood residents. All non-residents must register online. Non-residents who do not have access to a computer may come to the Recreation Department at City Hall to register. Mr. Gorne displayed slides showing the online registration process, step-by-step. He noted that the usual paperwork that participants receive during LYS registration, such as the Ethics Oath, waiver, and the new head injury information, is all provided online. Participants are still required to provide proof of age, by bringing a copy of their birth certificate to their home park. He noted that an added benefit to the online registration process is capturing email addresses, allowing for much more efficient and effective communication with program participants.

Mr. Gorne continued the report with information regarding the implementation of the new head injury protocol and information program. He explained that, California Assembly Bill 2007 requires entities that offer youth sports, to communicate signs and symptoms of suspected concussions, to all involved. The bill also requires the use of specific protocols regarding the removal of a player from participation, and the player's return to play. Mr. Gorne explained the various components that were researched, developed, and implemented as noted in the written report. Mr. Gorne noted that Lakewood was in full compliance with the new bill at the start of the fall flag football/volleytennis/volleyball season. He reported that systems put in place have worked well, and that coaches are cooperating and upholding the new requirements.

Volleyball was offered to girls ages 12 to 17 for the first time in the fall. A pre-season clinic, practices and games were all held in Hoover Middle School's gymnasium. Other details regarding the program were reviewed according to the written report. Mr. Gorne reported that the inaugural season was met with much enthusiasm, and growth of the program is anticipated.

Commissioner Spaseff congratulated staff on the implementation of the head injury protocol. He asked that staff consider the use of mouth guards by participants. Community Services Manager, Kevin Bright, reported that the use of mouth guards has been considered, and that research has been found to indicate that their use may also help concussions. He stated that staff will track head injury statistics, including those involving the use of mouth guards. Commissioner Spaseff also commended staff on the selection and training of referees, noting that they are very professional and do a very good job.

Commissioner Ben Delarosa asked what level of liability the city is taking by having staff make medical decisions regarding head injuries. Mr. Bright replied that not implementing the state-mandated protocol could cause more harm than staff's adherence to it. He added that participants must sign a liability release waiver upon registration for all programs offered by the Recreation and Community Services Department. Commissioner Delarosa requested to be provided with a copy of the forms provided to LYS participants upon their registration.

Commissioner Delarosa asked if injuries sustained as a result of participation in the LYS program are tracked. Mr. Bright stated that LYS injuries are tracked through Incident and Injury reports that are used for all types of injuries and/or incidents that occur at city facilities. Commissioner Delarosa requested the inclusion of statistics on head injuries in next year's commission report regarding LYS.

Chairperson Real stated that staff has and continues to do a good job communicating important information to program participants. He suggested that the city's efforts in this area should be widely conveyed to the public, perhaps in the eMag or the Lakewood Living magazine. He stated that it is important to let the community know that the city is being responsive and responsible.

The Commission received and filed the report.

3. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 10

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

Chairperson Real expressed his appreciation for the efforts but forth each month to prepare this very informative report.

The report will be filed.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Part-Time Employee of the Month, Vandine Ouk for the month of February 2018.

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 6:55 p.m. to May 9, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

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