



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
August 14, 2019

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Ted Spaseff.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Winnie Heiss.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of June 12, 2019. A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Real and seconded by Chairperson Dave Allen to approve the minutes from the meeting of July 10, 2019. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote with Commissioner Winnie Heiss abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Assistant Director Kevin Bright provided information regarding programming and upcoming events. On Friday, August 16, the Finally It's Friday events will conclude with Funtastic Family Night. The event will take place at The Centre and will feature Pacific Animal Productions' "Survivor Animal Show". Participants will learn about each animal's way of surviving, while trying to survive challenges themselves. Volunteers will be chosen to "compete" in challenges that highlight each animal's natural abilities. The program includes dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. and entertainment beginning at 7 p.m. The cost is \$9 per person, and \$6 for children one to three-years-old. Mr. Bright then reported that on Friday, August 23, the second Movie Night at the Lakewood Mall would take place in the Del Amo Parking lot south of J.C. Penny. The movie will feature How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World and will be accompanied by a selection of food trucks. A crowd of over 400 is expected.

Mr. Bright reported that with the start of school, parks would see a change to schedules. It was said that weekdays would return to a 3 p.m. opening and a 6 p.m. closing, while remaining open when permits and activities warrant. Additionally, it was reported that daily swim sessions would conclude on Sunday, August 25, with both pools remaining open for the Labor Day Weekend. Mr. Bright noted that Mayfair Pool would provide extended sessions during the week for recreation swim, as well as opportunities for private lessons in the evenings, through the end of September.

Next, it was reported that the annual LAMP/LCEA Special Olympics Fundraiser would be held on Friday, September 13, at the Lakewood Youth Center, beginning at 5:30 p.m. A tasty meal from the Loft and raffle prizes are available for all. The fun reaches a crescendo when employees participate in fun competition on the basketball court and softball field. He stated that RSVPs would be due to the commissions' secretary by Thursday, September 5.

Lastly, Mr. Bright noted that LYS sign-ups for flag football, volleytennis and volleyball will take place from Saturday, August 31 to Saturday, September 14. Changes for the year were said to include a new four and five-year-old coed flag football division and a new 10 and 11-year-old volleyball division.

Director Valarie Frost began her remarks by informing the commission that the second annual Community Connect event, which pairs Project Shepherd backpack recipients with local utility companies and other service agencies, will take place on Saturday, August 17, at the Burns Community Center from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It was said that backpacks and school supplies would be handed out to Project Shepherd recipients and other community members who signed up for the program. Ms. Frost reported that 263 people had registered for the program and noted that 263 backpacks had been donated. She mentioned the goal of this event was to bring together service providers and Lakewood families in need, and provide information to low-income residents regarding options for assistance. Agencies providing information booths at the event were said to include the city's Recreation and Community Services Department, Water Resources Department, and Community Development Department, as well as SoCal Gas, Southern California Edison, 211 Los Angeles County, WIC, and Lakewood Meals on Wheels. It was said that attendees would have the opportunity to visit the participating agency booths to obtain information regarding low cost programs and other services.

Ms. Frost then reported that the Patriot Day Flag Lowering Ceremony was scheduled for Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. in The Centre plaza. She mentioned the commission would need to reschedule their meeting or adjourn to a different time so that commissioners and staff are able to attend the ceremony. The commission agreed to adjourn to Wednesday, September 11 at 5 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Next, Ms. Frost stated that the department had finalized the 2019 summer concert series, stating that staff had offered seven concerts for the summer, all of which were well attended with approximately 3000-4000 people in attendance at each. It was said that on Friday, August 9, the department held Lakewood's inaugural National Night Out. She explained that the event was a joint venture with the Public Safety Department and the Recreation and Community Services Department. It was said that the event was hosted at Palms Park and around 400 people attended. Ms. Frost added that Sheriff and Fire Department personnel were present and participated in a tug-of-war and potato sack races with children in attendance.

Lastly, Ms. Frost reported that on Tuesday, July 23, the Lakewood Equestrian Center Proposal Selection Committee exercised its right to rescind the conditional offer made to Hacienda Sosegado, LLC to take over concession operations at the Lakewood Equestrian Center beginning October 1, 2019. In a subsequent motion, the committee members agreed to tender a conditional offer to the second candidate in the RFP process, Michelle Bloomquist, to assume concession operations at the Lakewood Equestrian Center on October 1. It was said that Ms. Bloomquist had accepted the conditional offer and staff have initiated the process of drafting a lease agreement.

Commissioner Dave Allen shared that he and his wife had recently attended the travel trip to Norton Simon. He mentioned that it was very enjoyable and expressed that the DASH trip chief Kirsten was very delightful. He asked that staff please pass on his kudos.

Commissioner Kirk Real shared that he was able to attend four out of the seven summer concerts. He stated that he was amazed with the attendance and added that one of the smartest purchases made by the city was the purchase of the stage.

Chairperson Ted Spaseff stated that he loves how much the Concerts in the Park series has grown. He gave kudos to staff for putting together such a great series and for choosing such great bands to perform. He then commented on the summer day camp stating that his grandson had the chance to attend during the summer and had nice comments to say about it. He expressed his thanks to the entire department for a wonderful summer full of fun and successful events.

REPORTS:

1. **Facility and Programs Tour**

The Commission toured of the following facilities:

Tour of City Hall, Bolivar Park, Monte Verde Park/Nixon Yard, and Rynerson Park.

City Hall: The commission toured The Centre Plaza where the Pillars of Community and the Urban Stream were demolished. They observed the new hardscape flatwork with exposed aggregate design and the opportunities the plaza now holds for TGIS, Tree Lighting and Patriot Day.

Emergency Bin: Community Services Manager Chuck Martucci described the emergency bin, located on the north end of city hall, to the commission. He showed the generators, the file attached with systematic instructions for the first person on site following a disaster, the meals ready to eat, and the electrical supplies and tools.

Bolivar Park: The commission viewed the turf renovation project one year after their last visit to the site. A year prior, the turf was bare in spots, weed-ridden and overgrown in others and showing signs of settling dirt, creating tripping hazards. After one year's worth of time the turf was green, lush and consistent, not to mention safe.

Monte Verde Park: The commission viewed a Yoga class in session outdoors along the nature path with four participants and the instructor.

Nixon Yard: The commission toured the ERD building, starting with the office spaces where the Superintendent, Supervisors, Lead Workers and Administrative Clerk work daily, followed by the staff break room and locker area, and eventually the ERD work areas including fleet storage, irrigation workshop and received descriptions of the various mowers and tools used daily by ERD work crews. Next, DASH driver Jonathan Siordia provided a description of the daily safety and functionality check of the DASH vehicles.

He provided a brief look under the hood, noted what drivers look for and demonstrated the wheelchair lift on the bus.

Rynerson Park: The newly refurbished and ADA accessible pedestrian bridge was shown to the commission, and a description of the new pre-fabricated restroom building was provided from afar, along with a showing of the two demolished picnic shelters and the one new picnic pad built in replacement.

2. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 2

A written report and discussion of the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of July and a listing of upcoming activities for September 2019.

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to AnaMaria Masoe and Amber Rios, Part-Time Co-Employees of the Month for June 2019.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Ted Spaseff adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. to Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission