



**MINUTES**  
Recreation and Community Services Commission  
Adjourned Regular Meeting held  
March 16, 2016

---

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:01 p.m. by Chairperson Ben Delarosa.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Vice Chairperson Winnie Heiss.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of February 10, 2016. A motion was made by Commissioner Dave Allen, and seconded by Vice Chairperson Winnie Heiss to approve minutes. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Director Lisa Litzinger provided details on upcoming events including the continuation of Arbor Day performances this week. The Lakewood Celebrates & Mayor's Reception will be held at The Centre on March 22, and a Lakewood shred event will take place at the Iacoboni Library on April 2. Ms. Litzinger extended an invitation to the Commission to attend the CPRS District X Awards and Installation Banquet on April 14. Commissioners should contact the secretary to RSVP. Other activities mentioned include a City Council group photo at the new Rynerson Playground on April 16, and Volunteer Day with luncheon at the Youth Center also on April 16, the Older Adult Volunteer Recognition event at The Centre on April 20, LYS Volunteer Coaches Barbeque at the Youth Center and trip to an Angels baseball game on April 23, and on May 24, Commissioner Kirk Real will be re-presented his Commissioner of the Year award at Lakewood Celebrates.

Commissioner Kirk Real stated that he attended one of the Arbor Day performances and found it to be very clever and the kids loved every minute of it. He added that he marvels that the cast and crew have once again come up with a creative new idea. Mr. Real mentioned that, upon noticing all the activity there, he had a chance to stop by to see the progress of the Del Valle Park playground. Ms. Litzinger mentioned that the playground is anticipated to be opened sometime in May. Mr. Real then thanked staff and members of the commission who were able to attend the CAPRCBM banquet on Thursday, March 10, adding that although it is gratifying to be recognized, it is a team effort of everyone pulling together to make it all work.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff noted that he was able to attend about four sessions at the CPRS Conference in Long Beach last week and enjoyed it. He also noted that Earth Walk was a great family event with a fantastic turnout. He thanked staff for all of their hard work.

Chairperson Ben Delarosa noted that he also had a great experience at the CPRS Conference once again. He appreciated so much participation from the City of Lakewood at the conference and enjoyed hearing from others, how well they view Lakewood. He stated that he particularly appreciated the importance of the session presented by Erin Runnion that focused on teaching

recreation staff to know what to look for to keep children safe from predators.

REPORTS:

**1. Volunteer Program Update**

Community Services Manager Karen Plantz displayed a slide presentation and expanded on information provided in the written report. Ms. Plantz explained that April is National Volunteer Month and noted the Recreation and Community Services Department is celebrating with several appreciation events to recognize the hard work of Lakewood's volunteers. Many of the department's programs could not be done without the assistance of the hundreds of volunteers who give time, energy and effort to help others.

Ms. Plantz highlighted volunteer statistics from 2015 programs such as Lakewood Youth Sports, Meals on Wheels, Human Services Association, Tax Assistance Program, Project Shepherd, and Volunteer Day. She noted that Gwen Travis will be recognized as the Older Adult Volunteer of the Year at a recognition event on April 20. She added that teens continue to be enthusiastic volunteers in the Teens in Lakewood Care program.

In conclusion, Ms. Plantz stated that volunteers have an enormous impact on the health and well being of communities. Volunteers have put in countless hours to enhance many of the city's programs, helping to make Lakewood a better community.

**2. The Centre Operations Annual Report**

Community Services Manager Karen Plantz provided statistics and details regarding the varying types of events and programs held at The Centre in 2015. Many of the city's most popular recreation programs, such as the Civic Center Block Party, FUN-Tastic Family Nights, dance recitals, and a wide range of classes are held at The Centre.

Ms. Plantz noted that since October 2010, TGIS has been providing the food and beverage services at The Centre. TGIS has received consistently high scores from patrons on independently mailed and tallied comment cards, and continues to bring in new clients every week. She explained the continued increase in rent paid to the city by TGIS based on a percentage of the food and beverage sales. She noted that in 2015, The Centre underwent a few facility improvements including upgrading the bar, new window treatments in the meeting and banquet rooms, repainting of all ceiling tiles in the facility. New carpet will be installed in the next fiscal year. The Centre continues to achieve an invaluable reputation for high quality food, meeting services and recreation experiences.

Commissioner Real commented that not only does The Centre provide service to rental groups, but it also is very accommodating to community groups. The concessionaire often makes contributions to community groups during events held at The Centre. He added that city staff, along with TGIS staff do a super job of representing the city.

Commissioner Spaseff noted that it is important to take into consideration that the economy was in a downturn at the time TGIS became the concessionaire at The Centre. During that time, TGIS did a great job with a difficult situation.

### **3. Vandalism Annual Report**

Community Services Manager Kevin Bright expanded on information provided in the written report. He explained that annually the Recreation Department completes a comprehensive report based on individual incident reports. The reports outline varying vandalism and other types of damage done to city facilities by people misusing the facilities generally after hours. Staff work diligently to document, photograph, report to the Sheriff's Department and very quickly remove or repair any vandalism damage at the facilities. Photos of graffiti are shared with the Sheriff's Department to trace and link graffiti to repeat vandals.

Mr. Bright reported that the estimates of loss to the city were re-evaluated in 2015, and a \$438 mobilization assessment of loss has been assigned to vandalism claims to facilities. This \$438 assessment will account for the mobilization of Sheriff's to take the report, staff to document and file paperwork, as well as to maintain the facility by cleaning, removing or repairing vandalism damage. It also elevates the level of a vandalism offense to a felony.

The number of vandalism incidents decreased significantly in 2015. The numbers were re-checked to ensure accuracy. Vitrocem anti-graffiti coating on some of the walls of facilities, the very quick removal of graffiti by the Public Works Department, staff reporting and some of the penalties may all have contributed to the decline in vandalism incidents. The statistics are at a seven-year low. Staff will continue to be diligent in quickly reporting and repairing damage, and be prepared for an increase in incidents. Window vandalism and turf vandalism specifically also experienced a notable drop in the number of incidents in 2015. All windows and mirrors have an anti-graffiti film applied making removal graffiti quick and easy.

Mr. Bright confirmed for Commissioner Spaseff that the 2015 numbers provided in the written report do include the new mobilization assessment fee. He continued by pointing out that this accounts for the cost for repair of incidents not declining at the same rate as the number of incidents.

Commissioner Real pointed out that vandalism is not limited to Lakewood, it even happens in very affluent communities. Commissioner Real stated that he believes people really value Lakewood's programs and do not want to damage any part of it.

Chairperson Delarosa asked if staff knows whether or not there has been an increase in arrests for vandalism. Ms. Litzinger noted that a significant increase in the total number of arrests city wide was reported at the State of the City, but it is not clear if graffiti or vandalism arrests specifically increased. Ms. Litzinger added that when a suspect is arrested for graffiti, the appropriate paperwork is completed to ensure that prosecution can be taken to the fullest extent. She added that there are cameras at facilities, but they have not led to any arrests for graffiti. Commissioner Real added that the cameras may likely be a deterrent.

Commissioner Allen asked Mr. Bright if he discusses this issue with other professionals in CPRS District X. Mr. Bright said that at present there is not a formal dialog on the topic, adding that it is a good idea to share experiences and ideas.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES

March 16, 2016

Page 4

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

A written report was provided describing the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of February 2016, and a listing of upcoming activities for April 2016.

There being no comments, the Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Part-Time Employee of the Month, Jennifer Schmid – January 2016.

Commission received and filed the report.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to be brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Ben Delarosa adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m. to April 13, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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