



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
February 14, 2024

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6 p.m. by Chairperson Stacy Valdez.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Ted Spaseff.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Chairperson Stacy Valdez
Vice Chairperson Veronica Lucio
Commissioner Ted Spaseff
Commissioner Anitza Valles

ABSENT: Commissioner Dave Allen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of January 10, 2024. A motion was made by Commissioner Ted Spaseff and seconded by Vice Chairperson Veronica Lucio to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 8, 2023. The motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Director Valarie Frost began her announcements by thanking the commission for their attendance at the Park Development Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 30. She mentioned that their participation in the selection of a playground design for Cherry Cove Park was very helpful.

Ms. Frost shared that at a recent City Council meeting, the City Council approved staff's recommendation to require independent contract class instructors to submit to Live Scan fingerprint background checks, obtain general liability insurance for incidents occurring within the scope of their class offerings, and obtain business licenses to operate their contract classes within the city. It was said that the city council had also introduced a proposed ordinance amending Lakewood Municipal Code regarding tax-free certificate provisions. Approval of staff's recommendations will ensure the city's compliance with California State Assembly Bill 506 and California Senate Bill 946 and further transfer the city's risk to contractors. Ms. Frost noted that staff would begin drafting revised contracts for the contract class instructor program ahead of the summer season.

Additionally, Ms. Frost shared that at the same Council Meeting, staff also gave a summary report of year one for Meals on Wheels of Long Beach's operation in the city. It was said that there are 38 Lakewood clients currently being served by the organization and over 61 volunteers deliver to four Lakewood service areas.

The commission was asked to let their secretary know if they plan to attend the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame banquet on Monday, February 26 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at The Centre. Ms. Frost

shared that in addition to the Athlete of the Year award, staff will also recognize a Lakewood High School volleyball player as the Larry Van Nostran Future Star and a Mayfair High School coach as the Joe Esquivel Coach of the Year.

Ms. Frost reported that department staff had been working diligently to complete water efficiency projects at San Martin, Boyar and Del Valle Parks. It was said that the grant-funded project must be completed by March 15. She shared that she was very proud of the efforts put forth by Environmental Resources Division (ERD) staff members who were working together to complete the project by the due date.

Assistant Director Kevin Bright provided information on programming and upcoming events. He informed the commission that a new event series titled the LeadHer Lakewood Leadership Series was created to empower, educate and celebrate women in Lakewood, and is to be held each Wednesday of the month in March in recognition of Women's History Month. A flyer with details regarding the weekly events was provided to the commission.

Next, Mr. Bright provided the commission with details regarding Arbor Week. He announced that the Arbor Day Show was returning to Lakewood elementary schools Monday-Thursday, March 4-7. He shared that the presentation would feature Woody the Tree and the cast from Super Mario Bros. It was said that Mario, Luigi, Peach, Bowser, and friends would present an educational lesson about the importance of trees to nine Lakewood elementary schools. Each classroom will receive a tree seedling and observe its growth throughout the school year, and each student will receive a Woody themed coloring sheet. The Arbor Day show schedule was provided to the commission. It was said that schools were requesting names of guests who will be on campus to view a show. The commission was asked to inform their secretary by Wednesday, February 28 which day, time and school location they will be visiting.

Parks Superintendent Abel Andrade informed the commission that ERD staff was busy clearing debris and placing sandbags during the recent rainy weather. After the rain, staff worked to perform weed abatement as needed. Mr. Andrade informed the commission of recent ERD personnel changes and promotions.

Commissioner Spaseff shared that he recently attended both the Lunar New Year Party and the Valentine's Day party at the Weingart Senior Center. He shared his adoration for the annual Arbor Day performances, and highly recommended that the commission attend a performance if possible. Lastly, he shared that the Meals on Wheels of Long Beach presentation at a recent City Council meeting was great and thanked Ms. Frost for her efforts in that regard.

REPORTS:

1. Pest Management Program Annual Report

Environmental Resources Division (ERD) Supervisor Mike McDade displayed slides and provided information regarding the city's pest management program. Mr. McDade informed the commission that the City of Lakewood is required to maintain and annually renew a pesticide use permit each year through the Los Angeles County Agriculture

Commissioner's Office. He shared that in order to qualify for approval, a Los Angeles County agriculture inspector must verify that the city complies with state and federal laws. Details were provided regarding the requirements necessary to obtain the annual permit.

Next, Mr. McDade provided information regarding insect management, weed management and gopher abatement as noted in the written report.

Details regarding the annual training hosted by the Pesticide Applicators Professional Association (PAPA) were provided by Mr. McDade. It was said that this Lakewood-hosted event proved to be successful again in 2023; however, changes were made regarding scheduling, with a one-day event in July and a second one-day event being held in October.

Mr. McDade shared with the commission a gopher trap and demonstrated how the device works.

Commissioner Spaseff thanked Mr. McDade for the annual "show-and-tell." He commended Mr. McDade and his staff for all of their hard work and efforts. He said that the recent city survey results were a testimony to the hard work of the ERD crews.

Chairperson Stacy Valdez mentioned that the fields at both Mae Boyar and Rynerson parks looked great, and thanked staff for a nice job maintaining them. She shared that she recently took her staff on a tour around Lakewood, and noted that they had many positive comments about the landscape and greenery in the city.

The commission received and filed the annual report on pest management.

2. Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Program

Community Services Manager Joseph Vasquez displayed slides and provided a preview of the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame 2023 inductees. Mr. Vasquez reported that on Monday, February 26, 2024, the 42nd Annual Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Banquet would be held at The Centre. He informed the commission that the Hall of Fame Board of Electors had convened on Thursday, January 11, 2024 to select the 2023 Athlete of the Year and honors for other athletes and coaches. It was said that awards would be presented for Performer of the Year in each sport, various Special Achievement awards, including Scholar Athlete of the Year, and the highlight of the event, the crowning of the Athlete of the Year. Details regarding the 2024 Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame event were provided by Mr. Vasquez, as noted in the written report.

The commission was informed that 2023 sponsors included the City of Lakewood, Piazza Family McDonald's Restaurants, Soroptimist International of Lakewood-Long Beach, and the Rotary Club of Lakewood.

Vice Chairperson Lucio mentioned that she was highly impressed with all of the athletes who were nominated. She said it was amazing to see so many recognized and it was tough to choose just one person for Athlete of the Year, as there was so much talent. She described her experience on the Board of Electors as a great one, and noted that she was thankful to have been asked to attend.

The commission received and filed the report on Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Program.

3. 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 2024.

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Keila Lopez, Employee of the Month for December 2023.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Valdez adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m. to Wednesday, March 13 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission