

MINUTES  
PLACENTIA RECREATION AND  
PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 9, 2016

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Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Emrick, Granger, Hunt, Jackson, Newman  
Absent: Bartelt, Dougherty  
Staff Present: Sandra González, Director of Community Services  
Veronica Ortiz, Community Services Supervisor  
Veronica Rodarte, Community Services Coordinator  
Maria Elena Maurer, Community Services Coordinator

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Commissioner Hunt

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – Resident Blake Montero in attendance. Mr. Montero asked if any of the Commissioners lived by Champions Park and expressed concerns that the Commissioners were not educated about the 92.1 ruling that relates to the special Landscape District assessment. Commissioners Hunt and Newman informed Mr. Montero that this item would be placed on a future agenda in order to be discussed. Commissioners are not able to offer comments or a response due to the Brown Act rules.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS -**

Commissioner Emrick commented that he was too fast in taking the Ethics training online and he will have to retake it; the minimum time required is two hours.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –

**April 11, 2016**

Due to lack of quorum, the Minutes of April 11, 2016 will be postponed for approval until the next Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on June 13, 2016.

2. **MONTHLY REPORT -**

Staff González distributed the Community Services calendar of activities and announced that the Summer opening of registration will be on Saturday, May 21. The Police Department will be offering a station tour and the Placentia Library will participate by having an information booth about their Summer reading programs. In addition, the first community walk will take place at 8:00 a.m., followed by one scheduled on June 9 at Kraemer Park at 6:30 p.m. Other community walks will be planned for July and August to include “Walk with the Doc” and “Pack Walk” – a dog walk, parade and dog costume.

On the City Council meeting of May 17, 2016, a Certificate of Recognition will be presented to the two top sponsors of the Love Placentia event, Bimbo Bakeries and Premier Chrysler Jeep. Each donated \$5,000.

Staff Rodarte coordinates the programs that are offered at the Whitten Center in conjunction with the partnership with the Friendly Center. Staff Rodarte presented an overview of the services to the community that are provided; food distribution, counseling for those individuals that do not have insurance, domestic violence, tutoring and upcoming events such as “Airplane Day”, “Make a Garden”, “Father/Daughter” event, etc. Commissioner Granger asked for contact information that can be given out to individuals in need of some of these services. A suggestion was made to have a business card with the back side in Spanish.

Commissioners Hunt and Newman reported that a meeting had been held with the Sports Advisory Committee last week. Concerns about the parking at Tuffree Park were discussed. The sports users were advised that if the neighborhood is negatively impacted by people parking on the streets close to the park, this may trigger a request for “Permit Parking”. Another concern was the closure of Tri-City Park at 9:00 p.m. and the earlier closure once daylight savings time kicks in. The good news is that the County has not brought up the parking fee implementation. Commissioner Newman added that the sports groups have been getting along very well and no problems have been encountered.

Staff González commented that it was fantastic that the sports users have not had any controversy. They were reminded that they have to provide their 501C-3 proof and rosters to confirm that at least 60% of their participants are Placentia residents. Additionally, all coaches must be fingerprinted and their Board of Directors must provide confirmation in writing to the city. A revision to the policy to include “Fingerprint Policy” will be added to next month’s agenda for discussion.

3. **PARKS AND FACILITY PROJECT UPDATES -**

Staff González reported that Zoot Velasco, from the Muckenthaler Center In Fullerton, had sent an e-mail announcing his departure from the Muckenthaler as he had accepted a CEO position for Kern County Museum effective the end of June. In the meantime, Community Services has applied for a grant from the Orange County Arts Council to help continue Teen Center Arts programming.

Staff González added that she is currently preparing the long grant application for a three year cycle of the USDA grant that supports the Farmer’s Market. The application is due on Thursday, May 12, 2016.

St. Jude Hospital continues to be a great partner and has approved another grant for fiscal year 2016-2017 in the amount of \$65,000; \$50,000 toward outdoor exercise equipment and \$15,000 for other healthy living grant writing opportunities. The outdoor exercise equipment will be installed at Santa Fe Park. With the St. Jude Hospital initial grant, the City began the first steps to be considered an “Eager City” toward healthy living. The goal is to move up to a “HEAL” City (healthy eating, active living). The hospital is interested in attending a ribbon cutting after the installation of the outdoor exercise equipment at Parque De Los Niños and once the pool renovations are completed.

Staff González indicated that the design phase for the Backs Building restroom renovation is almost complete. An ADA ramp from the parking lot to the building entrance was added. This project includes renovations to the lobby and both

restrooms to be accessible. CDBG grant funding will be used. The laser leveling of the fields at Placentia Champions will be completed in July.

4. **LOVE PLACENTIA EVENT PROJECT REVIEW -**

Staff Ortiz reported that the Love Placentia event had over 1,200 volunteers and was a great success. Many of the projects included painting of the picnic shelters and fences around the pools, window cleaning and landscaping. Staff learned that preparation of the ground and slopes should be done before the event to make the planting easier. One of the top sponsors was Bimbo Bakeries; they had about 20 of their employees volunteer at Parque De Los Ninos and after the event noted that they would be willing to participate in other Community events. Commissioner Granger commented that it would be nice to see a positive article in the newspaper on this event.

5. **TEEN CENTER PROGRAMS UPDATE –**

Staff González indicated that plans were underway for the City to continue the teen programs at the Teen Arts Center. A meeting will be scheduled with the Placentia Library to discuss their participation. At the meeting with the Boys & Girls Club teens, they expressed a variety of interests: water color, social work, sports, etc. Staff González met with an Art teacher that has many ideas for art classes. Another possibility is to offer a video game design workshop as well as sports activities and games. The summer Teen program would run from July 5 through the end of August.

6. **ADOPT A BENCH PROGRAM REVIEW –**

Staff Gonzalez reported that the Adopt a Bench program was an active program when the City still operated Tri-City Park. A recent request from a resident came in to dedicate a bench at Tri-City Park. Staff González updated the old application process that now includes updated prices and the opportunity to dedicate a bench at any of the City parks. The resident was given a choice of three areas at Tuffree Park and the family made their selection. The total cost of the bench is \$1,650 and includes three lines and no more than 28 characters for a plaque that will be affixed to the back of the bench. A new account will be created to track the money as it comes in and the costs of the bench and plaque are paid. Commissioners Granger and Newman suggested to add a disclaimer to the application form that states: “City reserves the right to limit the number of dedicated benches at each of the City parks”.

7. **BUDGET UPDATE –**

Staff González reported that the budget process had been delayed due to the recent employee embezzlement. City Manager has reassured that it will not be affecting city operations and that no cuts or layoffs are anticipated. Each department has turned in their budget requests and a meeting will be scheduled soon with the Department heads to finalize the budget. The interim Finance CFO has come on board. More updates on the budget will be provided at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hunt inquired about the City’s use of the High School pools. Staff Ortiz commented that the School District had informed the City that there would be an hourly fee of \$30/hr. of actual pool use and an additional \$10/hr. for

custodial service. In the past, these fees have been waived. An invoice was received from the School District charging for the time that staff is there to set up and take down which was not part of the original discussion. These unexpected fees have triggered an increase of swim lessons fees to try to offset this added expense. Morning lessons at Valencia High School increased from \$60 last year to \$70 and evening lessons at El Dorado High School went from \$45 to \$60 per session.

Commissioner Hunt stated that the School District has not honored the agreement signed for the sale of Melrose and the new Valadez Middle School. As per the agreement, the School District had to build restrooms and a snack stand by the fields. Staff González will be meeting again with the School District and Commissioner Hunt will be notified of this meeting for his attendance.

**Park Inspection Reports -**

Commissioner Granger commented that Parque De Los Niños looked great and at Kraemer Park, the area downstairs of the Backs Building used by the Boys and Girls Club, still has a lot of trash; they should be using the leaf blower away from the building. The bucket left on top of the Powell Building reported last month has been removed.

**STAFF COMMENTS –**

Staff Maurer reported that the Summer Placentia Quarterly is expected to be delivered to all residences in the upcoming weekend. Staff Gonzalez added that through a recycle grant, new trash receptacles will be ordered (34 total). They will be replacing the old containers at Kraemer Park, Placentia Champions Sports Complex and some of the other parks.

**AGENDA BUILDING AND MEETING SCHEDULE –** Agenda items for next meeting to include Overview of Landscape Maintenance District 92.1, Budget Update, Teen Art Center Programs Update, School District Meeting Update, Fingerprinting Policy Report, and Adopt a Bench Program Final Review.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Emrick to adjourn to Monday, June 13, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. regular meeting; **SECOND** by Commissioner Granger and **CARRIED** by a **5-0-2-0** (Bartelt, Dougherty, Absent) **VOICE VOTE**. Meeting adjourned on May 9, 2016 at 7:44 p.m.

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Maria Elena Maurer, Recording Secretary  
Recreation and Parks Commission