

MINUTES
PLACENTIA RECREATION AND
PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
September 9, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bartelt, Dougherty, Emrick, Granger, Hunt, Jackson, Newman

Staff Present: Steve Pischel, Director of Administrative & Community Services
Jon Nicks, Deputy Director of Community Services
Maria Elena Maurer, Community Services Coordinator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Newman

ELECTION OF OFFICERS –

Commissioner Newman opened the nominations for the Chair position. Commissioner Bartelt nominated Commissioner Dougherty for the Chair position; **SECOND** by Commissioner Emrick. Commissioner Newman closed the nominations for Chair.

MOTION by Commissioner Granger to appoint Commissioner Dougherty for the Chair position; **SECOND** by Commissioner Emrick and **CARRIED** by a **6-0-0-1 VOICE VOTE** (Dougherty, Abstained).

Commissioner Dougherty opened the nominations for the Vice Chair position.

Commissioner Bartelt nominated Commissioner Jackson for Vice Chair; **SECOND** by Commissioner Newman. Commissioner Dougherty closed the nominations for the Vice Chair position.

MOTION by Commissioner Bartelt to appoint Commissioner Jackson for the Vice Chair position; **SECOND** by Commissioner Emrick and **CARRIED** by a **6-0-0-1 VOICE VOTE** (Jackson, Abstained).

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None in attendance

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS -

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – August 12, 2013

Commissioner Granger noted that a correction was needed on page 4, Park Inspection Reports, fourth paragraph the women's bathroom was running to "the women's toilet was running".

MOTION by Commissioner Granger to approve the minutes of August 12, 2013 as corrected; **SECOND** by Commissioner Hunt and **CARRIED** by a **6-0-0-1 VOICE VOTE** (Newman, Abstained).

2. MONTHLY REPORT

Staff Nicks reported that the Concerts in the Park had concluded. Changes in the parking did not seem to affect the attendance and overall, a lot of positive comments were received. Thanks to the prize donations for the raffles, the C.A.P.E.S. program earned monies as well. Commissioner Bartelt asked if the Concert scheduled on July 4th had high attendance. Staff Nicks responded that attendance was lower than normal due to people wanting to see fireworks. The newspaper did a good article on this concert.

The Fall Quarterly was mailed out over the weekend. Commissioner Granger suggested that information on ordinances, bike safety, trash cans, etc. be included in the Quarterly.

Staff Nicks added that there were two remaining Movies at the Park and the P.A.R.K.'s program at all the Centers for the summer was ending on August 22, 2013. Staff tried something different by combining all the centers participants at one location and scheduling games, activities and a barbecue with great success. The third edition of the "Placentia Has Talent" took place at the Backs Building. Summer excursions to Pageant of the Masters and the Hollywood Bowl were sold out.

OCFA came out to the swimming lessons to reinforce safety in the pool. In light of recent child drownings in Orange County, this partnership with OCFA was critical in reinforcing safety procedures in and around the pool. Staff Pischel praised Community Services staff for running another successful summer program.

3. PARKS AND FACILITY PROJECT UPDATES -

Staff Nicks indicated that a few months ago, Bimbo Bakeries, the largest baker in the world, started the "Good Neighbor" program. This is a grant program that provides resources to make improvements to community facilities to promote physical fitness. Bimbo Bakeries chose to make repairs to the filtration and pump systems at both Gomez and Whitten Pools as the operating systems were in desperate need of repair. With their donation of \$7,000 both pools were repaired and the Recreation Swim program was able to open this summer.

AT&T has come back with a proposal to put a cell tower at Koch Park. Staff is negotiating for new picnic shelters to be constructed as part of this project. As part of the Commission's recommendation, Staff Pischel and City Administrator Troy Butzlaff met with the Superintendent of the School District, Doug Domene, to discuss the Kraemer Middle School field lights replacement. Mr. Domene agreed that the School District should make a 1/3 contribution towards this effort (and a 1/3 from the Sports Users, and 1/3 from the City). This project will go through a formal bid process hoping to award on September 17, 2013. As part of the specifications and deterrent, the lights will have a locking mechanism for the boxes. Staff Pischel added that at this meeting, the School District reached out to

find out if the City would have an interest in taking over the field maintenance of the Valadez Middle School fields. Staff is analyzing this possibility.

4. SKATE PARK PROPOSAL – FORMER BOYS & GIRLS CLUB FACILITY

Staff Nicks reviewed the proposal by Daddy O's to convert the former Boys & Girls Club facility on Crowther into an indoor Skate Park. City Council advised Staff to get a second opinion regarding revenue projections on comparable facilities. Beacon Economics was hired to provide an analysis on other Skate Park facilities; however, some Skate Parks are privately owned and financial information was not easy to acquire. In addition, facilities have different amenities and different attractions. Staff located a skate park facility in Simi Valley called Skate Lab with very similar characteristics as far as the income levels, amount of use, its location, etc., as Placentia. Their fee structure is higher than what Daddy O's proposed for Placentia and they have been open for sixteen years.

Two Community Services staff was sent to Skate Lab to evaluate its operations. When they arrived, there were about 70 kids skating and taking classes with approximately 100 people in attendance during the day. Based on their report, Beacon Economics concluded that the City could make more money than what it will spend although Skate Lab has been established and Daddy O's projections were a bit high. They also did a seasonal adjustment to the projections due to higher attendance during the summer when kids are out of school and attendance tapering off once school starts. Also, Daddy O's contends that the analysis did not include that the Skate Park in Placentia will be Street League certified. This means that the park will be designed to qualify for the X Games competitions. After further research, there is only one Street League Certified Skate Park in the United States located in Colorado, and it is an outdoor park only. The City has an investor willing to front the \$550,000 investment that would be paid back in 3-5 years.

Commissioner Hunt stated that this business plan information was missing during the original discussion presented a couple of months ago, and it is very helpful. He also suggested that the City in Washington, where the Daddy O's Skate Park is located, be contacted for their input on how the Skate Park is doing. Commissioner Dougherty also recommended contacting the City of Simi Valley to find out what the sales tax revenue is generated from the Skate Lab. Commissioner Granger added that it sounds like a good opportunity for the City and a great amenity to the community. Her one concern would be the additional staffing to run the Skate Park once it is turned over to the City.

The next step is for City Council to discuss all the information and analysis from Beacon in closed session and provide direction to staff. Commissioner Jackson asked if this project had been discussed with the School District; this would be a plus with parents knowing that their kids would be skating in a secure and safe place. Staff Pischel responded that the School District in Washington has incorporated skateboarding as a physical education class and it would have the same potential here, but it has not been discussed with our School District to date.

5. BUDGET REVIEW -

Staff Pischel indicated that as part of the budget approval for 2013-2014, the City ended up with a deficit of \$1.5 million. Rather than making some initial cuts, suggestions were given to City Council to consider with trigger dates if some of the solutions do not come to fruition. Some of the items include the electronic signs that have the potential to bring \$725,000 in revenue; employee concessions of \$370,000; and a working capital bond that can be refinanced with savings of \$400,000. All departments are working on additional cuts, looking at solutions, while at the same time trying to keep morale up.

The next step is to bring back Management Partners and work on a plan to get out of this financial situation, short term and long term.

Staff Pischel announced that Billboard information meetings are taking place on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at the Whitten Center in Spanish, Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall, and Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at the Whitten Center. The meetings are intended to interact with the community and to address their concerns regarding the proposed electronic signs.

6. REVIEW OF PARKS AND FACILITIES FEES

Staff Nicks indicated that last year in March, in an effort to offset some of the City's operating costs, fees were slightly increased for City operated sports programs and contract class percentage splits had increased 5% if City owned facilities were used to hold the classes. The proposed increase of fees at this time include: Administration fee for classes to increase from \$3 to \$5 per registration; increasing the processing fee for facility rentals from \$10 to \$12; an increase of \$5/hr for the Whitten and Backs Buildings main rooms; an increase of daily picnic shelter rental rate from \$30 to \$35; and adding a two hour pool rental for the Whitten and Gomez pools of \$250/two hour rental. These increases will again help offset the department's operating and maintenance costs as well as the new registration software that will have the capability of online registration.

MOTION by Commissioner Hunt to approve the proposed increase in fees as outlined; **SECOND** by Commissioner Dougherty and **CARRIED** by a **6-0-1-0 VOICE VOTE** (Newman Absent).

Staff Nicks noted that this recommendation will be taken to City Council for their approval at the next City Council meeting on August 20, 2013.

7. SPORTS ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE -

Commissioner Hunt indicated the Subcommittee has not met. The changes to the Field Allocation Policy were finalized and discussed with all the sports groups. It is now required that each year the group's representative signs and acknowledges the rules in this policy. Staff Pischel added that in general, the groups are paying the light bills on time. Commissioner Hunt suggested that a late fee can be implemented if any of the groups becomes delinquent.

PARK INSPECTION REPORTS -

Commissioner Granger reported that she went online to make a report on Parque De Los Ninos and it was not on the list. It appears the smaller parks that include Placita Parkette, Parque De Los Vaqueros, Samp Park, and Santa Fe Park are not listed.

Parque De Los Ninos was in the best condition and very clean. Parque De Los Vaqueros had large dry grass areas and the women's toilet was running.

STAFF COMMENTS – Staff Pischel shared a newspaper article on Commissioner Granger's daughter and her career accomplishments in softball and what she is currently doing as a coach.

AGENDA BUILDING AND MEETING SCHEDULE – Election of Officers, Heritage Festival participation and continue with updates.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Dougherty to adjourn to Monday, September 9, 2013 regular meeting; **SECOND** by Commissioner Bartelt and **CARRIED** by a **6-0-1-0 VOICE VOTE** (Newman Absent). Meeting adjourned on August 12, 2013 at 8:42 p.m.

Maria Elena Maurer, Recording Secretary
Recreation and Parks Commission