

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

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None in attendance

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS -

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – October 14, 2013

MOTION by Commissioner Granger to approve the minutes of October 14, 2013 as submitted; **SECOND** by Commissioner Emrick and **CARRIED** by a **4-0-1-2 VOICE VOTE** (Bartelt, Hunt, Absent; Jackson, Abstained).

2. **MONTHLY REPORT**

Staff Nicks reported that the excursion to the Los Angeles Farmers Market was well received. Participants enjoyed the Fall Festival activities that were offered. Over 300 Elementary School children were invited to the Halloween event held at City Hall. Each department made a great effort to decorate in the Halloween spirit and the children trick or treated, viewed a movie, and had popcorn. Police and Fire departments gave out hand outs as well.

Secretary's Note: Commissioner Hunt arrived at 7:06 p.m.

The Veterans Day event held on November 11 honored Placentia residents that have served in the Armed Forces and nine new names were added to the Veterans Monument. The Tamale Festival took place on Wednesday, December 4 in Old Town Placentia. A total of 9 restaurants participated and sold tamales and 3 bands performed at the event. Appointments for Santa Visits can be reserved until December 22. The Orange County Register reporter will follow Santa on one of his visits and will do a write up in the newspaper. The Placentia Youth Basketball program had 72 children enrolled and practices started last week.

Commissioner Hunt congratulated Staff Nicks and his staff for the great job at the Heritage Festival. Staff took over the Business Expo, previously handled by the

Chamber of Commerce, with great success and for the first time, the Heritage Committee broke even. Staff Nicks added that Staff Veronica Ortiz, liaison to the Heritage Committee, was instrumental in successfully coordinating all aspects of the festival.

3. PARKS AND FACILITY PROJECT UPDATES -

Staff Nicks reported that the Kraemer Middle School lights project is almost complete. Contractor will be coming back to make sure some breaks in the conduit that were a problem are sealed. This additional work could be beyond the scope of the project. The Koch Park cell site proposal is on hold due to AT&T wanting to add a second equipment enclosure they want to place by the picnic shelters. A meeting will be held with the Planning Department to discuss the next step in this process.

A meeting with Verizon was held to discuss the cell site proposed at Goldenrod Park. Staff Nicks provided a map showing the two options proposed by Verizon, but due to the logistics and the small size of this park, Staff has concerns. After Commission discussion on this proposal, it was agreed that the monopine would not be able to blend in the low height of the trees, it would be too close to the playground and the residential homes, the proposed large structure would be freestanding, and none of the options are suitable for this small park.

MOTION by Commissioner Granger to reject the options as currently proposed by Verizon as Goldenrod Park does not lend itself to what is being proposed given the physical characteristics and layout of the park with amenities presented and it would not be conducive to the surrounding neighborhood; **SECOND** by Commissioner Emrick and **APPROVED** by a **5-0-1-1** (Bartelt, Absent; Hunt Abstained) **VOICE VOTE.**

4. SKATE PARK PROPOSAL -

Staff Nicks provided an overview of the old Boys & Girls Club Building. The City Redevelopment Agency (RDA) initially acquired the building through a financing agreement that provided a lease with the option to purchase the building. The RDA initially paid \$400,000 towards the purchase of the building and an additional \$750,000 is needed to complete the purchase. The City is the current successor agency to the RDA and assumed responsibility for the lease. Until the building is purchased, the building is leased at \$150,000 per year. In order to fully move forward with the Skate Park project, the City would need to provide the \$750,000 to purchase the building and an additional \$550,000 for improvements for the proposed Skate Park.

The City applied for a loan through a State Agency that provides loans for economic development. Unfortunately, the loan was not approved. Staff Pischel added that the City's goal is to continue to seek funding to acquire the building as it is a prime piece of real estate and the property has equity. Staff will continue to update the Commission on any further developments.

5. REVIEW OF PARKS & FACILITIES STUDY -

Staff Nicks reported that he and Staff Pischel had met with Commissioner Bartelt at Kraemer Park and an overview of the park, Backs Building and the E.T. Powell

Building had taken place. Staff had also met Commissioner Granger as she was doing an inspection of the Gomez Center. The goal is to continue this process with the rest of the Commissioners and walk other facilities, look at what is there and make recommendations. Commissioner Hunt took pictures at Placentia Champions Sports Complex to identify those areas that need immediate attention if they are hazardous. Rather than go over the previous Facility Study, it was agreed that everyone should start new. Some items have been accomplished and others have been deferred. Everyone needs to identify those that are new and should go on the list. Possibility of involving Public Works staff to go along on these visits. Staff Maurer will re-send the Facility Study to all Commissioners and Commissioners will e-mail their availability to conduct facility visits.

6. SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Staff Nicks reported on the meeting held on November 12, 2013 with the Sports Advisory Committee. Commissioners Dougherty and Hunt were in attendance. All groups signed that they have received a copy of the recently revised policy and for the most part, the sports groups had no real concerns.

Prior to the Sports Advisory meeting, the School District's Facilities Supervisor, Gary Farrell, informally talked about proposing fees for the use of their facilities noting that the School District was sensitive that the sports groups were non-profit and the District is committed to provide a forum to get feedback from them. A meeting with the School District will be scheduled in January.

PARK INSPECTION REPORTS –

Commissioner Granger commented about the pool cover not being used for the Gomez pool. Staff Nicks indicated that both covers for Gomez and Whitten pools have tears and would need replacement. Commissioner Hunt noticed that at Placentia Champions, two dogs were on the field and apparently, this is an ongoing problem. Staff Pischel commented that the Police Department can be notified when this is taking place.

STAFF COMMENTS –

Staff Pischel thanked Commissioners for their years of service and wished them a happy holiday.

AGENDA BUILDING AND MEETING SCHEDULE –

Skate Park Update, Review of Parks & Facilities Study and Parks and Monthly Report.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Granger to adjourn to Monday, January 13, 2014 regular meeting; **SECOND** by Commissioner Emrick and **CARRIED** by a **6-0-1-0 VOICE VOTE** (Bartelt, Absent). Meeting adjourned on December 9, 2013 at 8:35 p.m.

Maria Elena Maurer, Recording Secretary
Recreation and Parks Commission