

MINUTES  
PLACENTIA RECREATION AND  
PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
May 12, 2014

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Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.  
Meeting held at the Whitten Center

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Bartelt, Dougherty, Emrick, Granger, Hunt  
Absent: Jackson, Newman  
Staff Present: Jon Nicks, Deputy Director of Community Services  
Maria Elena Maurer, Community Services Coordinator

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

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – College students Desiree Vest, Kevin Vest and Jacqueline Castalan were in attendance.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS** - Commissioner Bartelt reported that she had attended the City of Tustin's California Association of Parks and Recreation for Commissioners meeting. She attended for the opportunity to meet and share with other Commissioners and to be updated; however, she was disappointed that the emphasis was about a non-profit group where many of the members are from the City of Tustin. On the positive side, Brown Act changes were discussed.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – March 10, 2014

**MOTION** by Commissioner Hunt to approve the minutes of March 10, 2014 as submitted; **SECOND** by Commissioner Granger and **CARRIED** by a **4-0-2-1 VOICE VOTE** (Jackson, Newman, Absent; Emrick, Abstained).

2. **DISCUSSION OF PROGRAM PROPOSAL FROM BOYS & GIRLS CLUB AND MUCKENTHALER CENTER** -

Representatives from the Boys & Girls Club, Dan Rodriguez, Alicia De La Luz, and Elvin Campbell, provided an overview of the programs and activities that are being proposed using the Kraemer Clubhouse (Teen Center) at Kraemer Park. This would be a place dedicated for teen programs. The initial proposed program will start on June 23 through August 15, Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and would provide a positive social environment and sports programs for teens. A job shadowing program and reviving RBI would be offered. The goal of the joint use would be to enable all young people to reach their full potential and to show them a different way to be a better person. The Fall program would be available Monday-Friday from 2:00-7:00 p.m. The programs would be free of charge; however, a nominal fee may be charged for excursions and field trips.

Zoot Velasco, representative from the Muckenthaler Center, indicated that the goal of the center is to expose kids to the arts since the schools are losing the

creative edge. This program is geared to start in the Fall and could include: Hip Hop Dance classes, theatre improvisation, puppetry, a DJ class, photography, creative writing classes, hosting a Ballet Folkloric with free studio space, etc. Adult classes would be offered as well. Muckenthaler staff would run the art related programs and manage the space and the Boys & Girls Club would provide youth programs and sports after school. The City's commitment would include doing some capital improvements needed at the Teen Center such as updating electrical and plumbing, replacing carpet to linoleum flooring, making exterior repairs to walls, windows and roof as needed, providing tables and chairs, providing two computers, etc, and provide ongoing general maintenance of the property. Staff Nicks indicated that these renovations would be possible and the resources would be available.

Mr. Velasco added that the Muckenthaler Center would facilitate a meeting with other non-profit groups to create partnerships to bring more funding into Placentia. A meeting has been scheduled with the Orange County Community Foundation to explore a matching contribution with the Placentia Community Foundation.

Commissioner Hunt stated that teens need to have a place to go to and the fact that the Boys & Girls Club programs would be free is a plus. Commissioner Dougherty expressed his concern that in the past the Commission had done due diligence recommending a prior proposal by the Boys & Girls Club to offer services to Placentia kids in conjunction with the Torii Hunter Field completion and the Boys & Girls Club did not follow through. Mr. Rodriguez added that the Boys & Girls Club intend to restore trust and must service Placentia children (the Club does offer after school programs at various Placentia school sites). Staff Nicks indicated that the Commission's recommendation would be going to City Council for their consideration of this proposal.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Granger to support of the partnerships and concept to use the Kraemer Clubhouse (Teen Center) by the Boys & Girls Club and the Muckenthaler Center for summer and after school programs; **SECONDED** by Commissioner Bartelt and **CARRIED** by a **4-1-2-0 VOICE VOTE** (Dougherty, No Vote; Jackson, Newman Absent).

3. **MONTHLY REPORT**

Staff Nicks reported that the new ActiveNet online registration software program has shown success; out of a total of 339 Spring transactions, 155 were online totaling over \$13,000. The Teen Hoops program was cancelled due to insufficient registrations even though Staff tried to adjust the schedule. It seems there are other programs for Basketball competing with it. Commissioner Hunt stated that the CIF rules were changed and players are now allowed to play year round at the high schools.

Staff Nicks added that the excursion to a Clippers Basketball game had taken place. Senior Center volunteers were honored at a recent breakfast. Easter activities, in partnership with the Placentia Library, Rotary and Women's Round Table, were successful and well attended. Summer recruitment and part time staff trainings will be taking place next week. The opening of Summer Registration is on Saturday, May 17, 2014 starting at 9:00 a.m. Swim class

registration can only be done in person in order to verify date of birth and residency.

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

Staff Nicks reported that the air conditioner units at the Backs Building were vandalized to steal copper and metal from the units. City Council approved the replacement of a new air conditioner. The replacement cost of \$39,000 is coming from an emergency fund and Honeywell agreed to split the payment in two installments, one due on current fiscal year and the balance after July 1, 2014. Fortunately, a member of our Economic Development Committee donated a security camera system that was already installed.

The Verizon co-location of the cell tower at Tuffree Park is on hold; Verizon has not completed the paperwork. The Koch Park cell tower project started construction a few weeks ago and as per the agreement, once construction starts the lease payment of \$2,400 is due. This project is to be completed in mid June. After contacting Verizon to inform them that Goldenrod was not suitable for a cell tower, they are interested in Samp Park and should be coming back with a proposal. Verizon also has expressed interest in a cell tower at Wagner Park and Commission reviewed the preliminary plan. A new location will be brought up for consideration as well as including playground improvements as part of the project.

The School District submitted a set of plans for the fence installation between Tuffree Middle School and Tuffree Park. The sports groups will have to relocate the storage units to another location. Commissioner Hunt commented that the sports groups would have to go through the Facility Improvement Form Process.

5. **GENERAL PLAN UPDATE -**

The General Plan Advisory Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. Commissioner Granger will be attending and will provide a report at the next Commission meeting in June.

6. **BUDGET UPDATE**

Staff Nicks reported that the City is still facing a deficit. At this time, no major reductions have been proposed or cuts to programs. Concerts in the Park have been reduced to 6 instead of 8. A budget study session is scheduled on Tuesday, May 27 when a major budget discussion will take place. A Landscape Maintenance District fee increase has been proposed for the area by Champions Sports Complex and the homes near Chapman Avenue/Orangethorpe. This fee has remained the same since 1992 with no cost of living increases. Homeowners could see an impact of \$80-100 a year if it passes. This will relieve the general fund from subsidizing over \$170,000 a year for this district. Ballots are expected back from those property owners. The options are: raising the fee, reduce the level of service, and/or continue to subsidize it.

Staff Nicks indicated that City Council is also testing voters' sensitivity to an increase from 3.5 to 5% to the Utilities Tax (in the 90's it was reduced from 5 to 3.5%). At the City Council meeting on May 20, 2014, information will be presented

from the survey. In regards to the option to outsource the Police Department, City Council decided not to explore this option.

The Public Works Parks/Landscape & Facilities Division has been combined with Community Services since the Director's recent retirement. The new Assistant City Administrator will be overseeing Development Services, Engineering, Street and Sewer Maintenance Divisions.

7. **SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE –**

Staff Nicks reported that the School District had provided the fee schedules to the sports groups. There is an application fee of \$50 per site and currently, there is no cost to use the elementary or middle school fields. Staff Nicks added that the City may bring up to the School District the concept that the school fields need to be checked by their staff when weather conditions require it. City Staff is not able to check all the fields within an hour to properly update the Field Condition Hotline.

8. **GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE –**

Staff Nicks reported that the \$350,000 Community Grant to meet ADA compliance was awarded to the City and Staff will be working on this project in the upcoming months. Unfortunately, the grant to renovate the Backs Building did not meet the ranking standards. Bimbo Bakeries is willing to make a donation for improvements to Tynes Gym. Commissioner Hunt noted that the restrooms at this location are in bad shape.

**PARK INSPECTION REPORTS –**

Commissioner Granger reported that the fence at Parque de los Niños was cut and some kids were trying to go through the opening and could potentially get hurt.

**STAFF COMMENTS –**

**AGENDA BUILDING AND MEETING SCHEDULE –**

Items to consider: Monthly Report, Budget Update, General Plan Update, Boys & Girls Club/Muckenthaler Proposal Update.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Hunt to adjourn to Monday, June 9, 2014 regular meeting; **SECOND** by Commissioner Emrick and **CARRIED** by a **5-0-2-0 VOICE VOTE** (Jackson, Newman, Absent). Meeting adjourned on May 12, 2014 at 9:17 p.m.

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Maria Elena Maurer, Recording Secretary  
Recreation and Parks Commission