

MINUTES  
PLACENTIA RECREATION AND  
PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
April 13, 2015

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Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Commissioner Jackson.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS –**  
**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS -**

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –

**February 9, 2015 Minutes**

Due to lack of quorum, the minutes of February 9, 2015 will be approved at the May 11, 2015 scheduled meeting.

**March 9, 2015 Minutes**

Commissioner Dougherty noted a correction under Staff Comments, second paragraph, to reflect million dollar sign .... there is a backlog of \$4.4M in deferred maintenance; \$3.0M just in street maintenance.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Dougherty to approve the minutes of March 9, 2015 as corrected; **SECOND** by Commissioner Hunt and **CARRIED** by a 5-0-1-1 **VOICE VOTE** (Granger Absent; Emrick, Abstained).

2. **OC LOOP PRESENTATION -**

To discuss the OC Loop Project, OCTA, Active Transportation Coordinator, Paul Martin; OC Parks, Project Manager, Tuan Richardson and Planner IV, Trail/Bikeway Coordinator, Jeffrey Dickman and County Board of Supervisors – Shawn Nelson’s Office, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mark Lopez were in attendance.

Mark Lopez indicated that one of the highest priorities for Supervisor Shawn Nelson is to fill the gap of the 66 mile OC Loop and get funding from the State. Paul Martin, from OCTA, related that at the urging of Supervisor Shawn Nelson, they are promoting and getting the word out to link the cities in Orange County to the OC Loop. Of the 66 miles of road path, 70% is already in place. This loop will provide more travel choices and access to three Metrolink Stations for the users. It provides another option for residents to visit local parks, beaches, schools and shopping areas. Mr. Martin explained that the County of Orange is currently

working with various stakeholders i.e., County of Orange and local cities, OCTA, California Department of Transportation, bicycle advocates, community groups, OC Transportation Authority and Union Pacific Railroad to determine how to close the gap.

Tuan Richardson, from OC Parks, commented that closing this gap will need funding. The County is actively going after a transportation program. Approximately, \$300,000 was already awarded to do the environmental study and documentation. The County has applied for funding to do the next phase which is the design and specifications. Mr. Richardson added that their goal is to engage the public and get their feedback and provided a link, [octa.net/ocloop](http://octa.net/ocloop) that will provide up to date information on this project. Commissioner Bartelt asked who will maintain the bike path and will there be a connection to the new Metrolink Station in Placentia. Mr. Richardson stated that because it is considered a regional bikeway, OC Parks currently assumes the maintenance. Mr. Martin stated that the Placentia Metrolink connection to the loop would have to come from a different State funding source.

**3. MONTHLY REPORT -**

Staff Nicks reported that the Spring Fun Day, sponsored by the Friendly Center on April 2, 2015 had over 60 children and they provided Easter baskets that included hygiene products. The Easter Egg-citement on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at Kraemer Park was well attended. The partnership with the Placentia Women's Round Table and the Rotary Club of Placentia continues to be a success.

The Tynes Gym renovations that included interior painting, ceiling tiles and burned out light replacement, and floor refurbishing have been completed with the Bimbo contribution of \$6,000. Staff is determining if after expenses are tallied, how much money is left to replace the front doors and exterior lighting of the gym.

The P.A.R.K.'s program had an excursion to the Aquarium of the Pacific on Friday, April 10 thanks to a donation from the Placentia Community Foundation. Approximately 60 children participated. The City also had an excursion to the Ronald Reagan Library on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

In regards to the Learn to Swim Program, staff is recommending that the fee is raised \$5 per session (the fees for this program have not been raised in five years). The morning classes, have nine sessions that are a half an hour each, and will go from \$55 to \$60. The evening classes consisting of six half and hour sessions, would go from \$40 to \$45 per session. The increase will help offset the minimum wage increase for the part-time staff. Staff conducted a survey with neighboring cities, and Placentia's fee is still lower, even with the increase.

The current Joint Use Agreement with the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) expired in 2000, and in previous discussions, it was agreed that the relationship with the PYLUSD would remain the same until the agreement is updated. Staff Nicks commented that the new facilities supervisor informed him that the City needed to pay \$60/hr. of pool use. The City has never paid for this use in the past as it has always been treated as part of the joint use. This issue will be discussed with the School District's Superintendent Doug Domene. In the

meantime, the City is moving forward with the publishing of the Placentia Quarterly. The City's aquatic program is a valued service to the community and the majority of the participants (about 900) attend the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District. The City may not be able to offer this program, if fees are required to be paid for use of the high school pools. Commissioner Emrick noted that the School District charges their Middle Schools and Elementary Schools to use the District's facilities, i.e., the Performing Arts Center at El Dorado High School.

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

Staff Nicks provided an update on the following cell tower projects: the Samp and Wagner Parks cell tower project agreements have not been returned with signatures. Koch Park – AT&T took care of some of the punch listed items regarding the picnic shelters. The picnic tables have been replaced. Since the City has 100% control over the aesthetics of the project as part of the special conditions in the lease agreement, if AT&T does not comply with the special conditions, they can lose their use permit for this location. It would be in their best interest to take care of noted problem areas.

5. **MUCKENTHALER PROGRAMS UPDATE -**

Staff Nicks reported that the Placentia Teen Arts Center's grand opening had great attendance. The Center offered dance presentations, quilting and sewing, arts and crafts and a reveal of a sound studio. Muckenthaler Center has secured a grant that pays for artists to provide art classes for free. The Boys & Girls Club also had a grand opening the same day and their programs continue to do very well.

6. **SPORTS ADVISORY MEETING UPDATE –**

Commissioner Newman indicated that he had received some comments regarding the proposed changes to City owned athletic fields and facilities as it relates to the "inclement weather policy." A meeting with the Sports Advisory Committee will be scheduled for the end of April to discuss these changes and to receive their input. Public Works staff will be asked to attend the meeting.

7. **BUDGET & FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE UPDATE -**

Commissioner Hunt reported on the last Task Force meetings. Discussion on possible cuts included adjusting City staffing levels, putting on a ballot to increase sales tax 1% (even though he personally does not want to increase sales tax, it appears this would generate substantial revenue for the City). Staff mentioned at one of the meetings that in the past, creative funding was allocated to the wrong account, and Linda Magnuson, Chief Financial Officer, has corrected it. Data regarding other cities' per 1,000 residents full time employee ratio was provided. Currently, City of Placentia is at 2.0 and Brea is at 6.2. The City already contracts out many of the services they provide, but does not have the manpower to monitor the contracts effectively. The Task Force requested a 5-year financial forecast of what the City will need. This should include a percentage of raises for the employees that has not been part of the discussion and the City continues to lose employees. Police Department budget numbers compared to neighboring cities, and the costs/savings involved in out sourcing. Commissioner Hunt added that the Task Force is going over a lot of

information that has already been provided to the City Council. The Task Force is faced with a challenge to come up with recommendations in such a short time. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome.

8. **PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS UPDATE** –

Staff Nicks shared that the City has had a long term relationship with Mariposa (about 15 years) for the landscape maintenance of parks/facilities. The contract has been renewed every 3-5 years mostly because they have been the lowest bidder and is due to go out to bid again in the fall. Currently, the contract includes mowing the grass, picking up trash, taking care of the hardscape, stocking and cleaning the park restrooms, testing the irrigation system and fertilizing. They have different schedules for the type of work they are providing. Because of shortage of staff, it has been a challenge to monitor their work as per contract.

In order to cut costs, the City has made some reductions and scaled down the maintenance that was provided; such as going to biweekly mowing instead of weekly. Additional cuts to the Placentia Champions Sports Complex due the residents voting down the special LMD assessment, has resulted in additional maintenance reductions to this landscape district. Most parks show a heavier use during the weekend and Public Works staff is trying to pick up the slack and provide additional support on Mondays to clean the parks. Commissioner Hunt stated that if the City is to contract out for services, it is vital that there is City staff to oversee the work and performance of these contracts.

**PARK INSPECTION REPORTS** –

Commissioner Bartelt commented that the picnic shelters at Kraemer Park were very messy over the weekend and she was embarrassed to see the condition of the park on Monday. She had a meeting with Joel Cardenas, Public Works Superintendent, to address this issue. She also noticed that by the back of the Muckenthaler Teen Arts Center, near the fountain, there was a lot of small paper debris blown all over the area that had not been cleaned. Also, there is a light on the outside of the building that is always on (she had reported it before and nothing has been done to correct it). When she asked a Muckenthaler staff, the response was that the electrician cannot find the fuse. Commissioner Bartelt expressed her frustration and having to pick up trash herself that should be the responsibility of the contractor. Staff Nicks added that the City is trying very hard to manage its resources and appreciates when Commissioners take the time to bring up problem areas.

**STAFF COMMENTS** –

Staff Nicks extended an invitation to the Commissioners to attend a Volunteers Appreciation Recognition taking place on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Placentia Champions Sports Complex. This will be an opportunity to thank all the volunteers that provide their support to the city. The Placentia Community Foundation will sponsor the baseball themed event.

**AGENDA BUILDING AND MEETING SCHEDULE** – Agenda items for next meeting to include Sports Advisory Update, Task Force Developments Update, and Budget Update.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Dougherty to adjourn to Monday, May 11, 2015 regular meeting; **SECOND** by Commissioner Emrick and **CARRIED** by a **6-0-1-0 VOICE VOTE** (Granger, Absent). Meeting adjourned on April 13, 2015 at 8:46 p.m.

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Maria Elena Maurer, Recording Secretary  
Recreation and Parks Commission