

MINUTES
PLACENTIA RECREATION AND
PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Hunt.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None in attendance.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS -

Commissioner Hunt expressed his concern that City Council does not appear to be moving forward with the Task Force recommendations to sustainability. If they do not move quickly, the window of opportunity to increase revenue in the form of tax increases will be missed. He does not want it to affect Community Services and its programs that are very important to the community.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

June 8, 2015 Minutes

Commissioner Dougherty noted a correction on page 1, under Approval of April 13, 2015 Minutes, first paragraph, “to approve the Minutes of April 13, 2015 instead of February 9, 2015”....

MOTION by Commissioner Granger to approve the Minutes of June 8, 2015 as corrected; **SECOND** by Commissioner Newman and **CARRIED** by a 4-0-1-1 **VOICE VOTE** (Emrick, Absent; Dougherty, Abstained).

2. MONTHLY REPORT -

Staff Nicks reported that through the Placentia Community Foundation grants, the kids from the P.A.R.K.'s programs have enjoyed excursions to an Angel game, Aquarium of the Pacific, and Concourse for Bowling. The Muckenthaler Teen Arts Center has recently received a grant for \$45,000 to go directly into their programs held at the Placentia location. They are working with the Kiwanis Club to hold the Day of the Death event at Kraemer Park in November. Staff did a Volunteer Recognition a couple of months ago for all the volunteers that help at the Senior Center. The last two movies at the Movies in the Park will be Big Hero 6 on Friday, August 14 and the last of the series, Cinderella on August 21.

The last of the Concerts in the Park will be held on Thursday, August 13 starting at 4:00 p.m. in conjunction with Placentia's Taste of the Town. BJ Smith, a local from Placentia, will be performing. This concert is also a fundraising opportunity for the Chamber of Commerce and the Placentia Community Foundation. The Placentia Police Department's National Night Out event took place on Tuesday, August 4 at the Placentia Town Center; this was a well attended event at approximately 1,000 people.

On Wednesday, August 5, a P.A.R.K.'s program Sports Day event took place at Tynes Gym. This was also an opportunity to have Bimbo Bakeries come out to view the improvements made to the gym with their donation. Bimbo representatives informed staff that they had approved another grant to use for other renovations. The city exceeded the goal to reduce water by a 30% reduction as of the end of July (Golden State Water required 24% and Yorba Linda Water District 20%); Commissioner Newman noted that rates are now projected to go up because of this reduction in revenue for the water companies.

Commissioner Granger added that there is a disease killing Sycamore trees and it may be a good idea to develop a plan for replacement of these trees that will be dying. Staff Nicks indicated that he has looked at getting a grant to replace all the trees that have been removed in the city for many reasons (approximately 8,000). The grant will allow making a plan to replant some of these trees in addition to the ones that may be lost through this disease. It is a known fact that trees provide not only an astatically pleasing look in streets and neighborhoods, but also provide health benefits.

3. PARKS AND FACILITY PROJECT UPDATES -

Staff Nicks provided an update on the following projects: The Wagner Park cell tower is still under construction as well as Samp Park. Both of these have started to make lease payments as per contract. Staff will be taking to City Council the award of contract to Greenfields on September 1, 2015 (for the fitness outdoor equipment to be installed at Kraemer and McFadden Parks with the St. Jude grant). St. Jude Hospital has confirmed that they have another grant available for \$50,000 to purchase outdoor fitness equipment for use in low income areas, potentially for Parque De Los Niños or Santa Fe Park. Since this grant is restrictive and has to be used in low income areas, the City could use a match of \$30,000-40,000 from the capital improvement fund to do Koch Park. Public Works staff is already working to remove the bridge and concrete path at this park.

Commissioner Hunt asked if the Muckenthaler Center had provided more details on the stage area proposed for Kraemer Park at the June Commission meeting. Staff Nicks responded that they have not approached the City with definite plans as they may be trying to secure donations for this project.

4. BUDGET UPDATE -

Staff Nicks reported that the budget was approved by a 3-0 City Council Vote, based on not filling all the vacant positions, deferring some capital improvement projects, using one time funds and the grants received. As far as the Community Services Department's budget of \$1.2M, about \$450,000 is recuperated through

the recreational programs offered and facility reservations, \$300,000 in grants and about \$200,000 in cell tower leases. If the Community Services Department was to be eliminated, there would only be a \$250,000-\$300,000 in savings to the general fund. The lack of facility management, community events and recreational services to the community would be lost; in addition the loss of revenue from all the grants/partnerships with other organizations.

Staff Nicks commented that Commissioner Hunt is correct. The City does need to start to make adjustments now so that next year new revenue can offset the projected deficit. Time is needed to implement procedures and initiate something next July.

Commissioner Hunt added that many cities are looking to implement a transaction tax, especially those under 100,000 population. The Task Force made the recommendation for Placentia to implement this tax as a means to generate substantial revenue to the city. It is still unclear why they are not taking any action to put it on the ballot.

Staff Nicks indicated that many of the outside contracts will be reviewed. For instance, Mariposa Landscape maintenance contract has been reduced due to the water drought. Medians cannot be watered; therefore, mowing has been discontinued for all the medians in the city, thus creating a savings. Drought tolerant plants will be a consideration to further reduce maintenance costs.

PARK INSPECTION REPORTS –

Commissioner Granger reported there are exposed wires in the NW corner of the basketball courts at the Gomez Center and a cover is needed. Commissioner Hunt commented that his wife had fallen while stepping down onto the playground area at Tuffree Park (the sand level is low and needs to be filled).

STAFF COMMENTS –

Staff Maurer commented that Commissioner Bartelt's term had ended as of June 30, 2015 and she had not reapplied.

AGENDA BUILDING AND MEETING SCHEDULE – Agenda items for next meeting to include Park Assignments Review and Heritage Festival Participation Consideration.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Dougherty to adjourn to Monday, September 14, 2015 regular meeting; **SECOND** by Commissioner Newman and **CARRIED** by a **5-0-1-0 VOICE VOTE** (Emrick, Absent). Meeting adjourned on August 10, 2015 at 7:44 p.m.

Maria Elena Maurer, Recording Secretary
Recreation and Parks Commission