

MINUTES
PLACENTIA RECREATION AND
PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 11, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bartelt, Dougherty, Granger, Hunt, Jackson
Absent: Emrick, Newman
Staff Present: Sandra González, Director of Community Services
Steve Pischel, Director of Administrative Services
Veronica Ortiz, Community Services Supervisor
Matt Brand, Community Services Coordinator
Maria Elena Maurer, Community Services Coordinator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Granger

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None in attendance.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS -

Commissioner Granger asked for Staff González' business card.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –

March 14, 2015 Minutes

Commissioner Granger noted a correction under Staff Comments, second paragraph, last sentence "tile mosaic around the wall behind the fountain" instead of "around the base of the fountain".

MOTION by Commissioner Granger to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2016 as corrected; **SECOND** by Commissioner Dougherty and **CARRIED** by a **4-0-2-1 VOICE VOTE** (Emrick, Newman, Absent; Hunt Abstained).

2. **MONTHLY REPORT** -

Staff Ortiz reported that the deadline for Photo Contest entries was extended to April 28 to allow for more participation. A flyer with information about the "I Heart OC" was distributed. This is an opportunity for the community to come together on April 27-28 and donate to local nonprofits. The Placentia Community Foundation hopes to receive support on these days for their scholarship program. In the past, the City of Placentia, Heritage Festival and Boys & Girls Club have in turn received donations from the Placentia Community Foundation. Another event coming up is Shred Day scheduled on Saturday, April 23 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Placentia Police compound. This is a great way to get rid of old records.

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

Staff González reported that the agenda report on the concrete for the outdoor exercise equipment at Parque De Los Niños was going to City Council on April

19, 2016. St. Jude Hospital provided \$50,000 to purchase the outdoor exercise equipment and the City's match of \$21,300 for the preparation and concrete work is coming from the Park Development Fund. Once the equipment is installed, St. Jude Hospital and the Commissioners will be invited to the Ribbon Cutting sometime in May.

Staff González added that St. Jude Hospital had also provided a grant of \$69,000 to replaster both community pools as well as replacing the filtration system. This item is also going to City Council for approval at the April 19, 2016 meeting. Staff Pischel commented that Staff González' experience with grants is very impressive and the Community Services Department is very fortunate to have her.

4. LOVE PLACENTIA EVENT PROJECT REVIEW -

Staff Ortiz indicated that the "Love Placentia" Citywide serve day event is scheduled on Saturday, April 30. Marilyn Anderson, from the Police Department is the lead. So far, 400 volunteers have signed up online. A list of the projects scheduled to be done on this day was distributed. Commissioner Hunt commented that he was happy to see that many of the projects listed have been flagged before by the Commission. Staff González added that Bimbo Bakeries had agreed to sponsor \$5,000 towards the supplies needed for this event, and Sherwin Williams was donating paint.

5. TRI-CITY PARK CLOSURE UPDATE -

Staff Pischel provided an overview of the Tri-City Park transfer to the County that took effect in January 2013. In the last three and a half years, the County has addressed the maintenance and operations of the park and continues to work on the capital improvement projects identified prior to the transfer i.e., lighting, irrigation system, lake renovation, tree trimming, etc. The County's high maintenance standards show and the park looks great. There are activities that will continue to be held at the park as per the agreement such as the Heritage Festival, Concerts in the Park, etc. at no cost to the City.

Staff Pischel indicated that the Tri-City Park Authority has not been an active group since the transfer took place and was not officially dissolved. The members of the Authority (representatives from the cities of Brea, Fullerton and Placentia) will take this action to their respective City Councils soon. Staff Pischel added that if the Commissioners had any concerns about Tri-City Park, to share them with Staff. The City of Placentia maintains a good relationship with the County and any issues would be addressed.

Staff Brand reported that on February 17, 2016, he had received a phone call from the president of Pony Baseball, Tim Wetzal to discuss the sign that was posted by the County about the early closure of Tri-City Park at 6:00 p.m. Consequently, an e-mail was received from the County confirming this information. As a result, staff contacted all the other sports groups and related this information. In addition, the City started receiving phone calls from the residents around Tuffree Park complaining about the parking problem in the neighborhood. It was discovered that the parking available at Tuffree Middle School and by Tri-City Park was underutilized.

Staff Brand added that steps were then taken to address this complaint. All the sports groups using the fields at Tuffree; AYSO, JUSA, Pony Baseball, Placentia Little League and YMCA, were notified and given a flyer to distribute to the parents that notes the availability of parking and requesting that the adjacent neighborhood not be impacted. The time for the park closure since then has moved to 9:00 p.m. for the duration of daylight savings time.

6. **MUCKENTHALER ARTS CENTER UPDATE -**

Staff González distributed a copy of the letter sent by the Muckenthaler Center notifying the City of the termination of the Art Teen Center activities at the Teen Center. She met with Zoot Velasco and it was unclear what the terms of the agreement were and their expectation in regards to the City's money contribution. They felt they could not continue the programming with the seed money of \$5,000 that the City had provided. In order to continue the relationship with the City, a City contribution of \$15,000-\$20,000 would be expected.

In the meantime, Community Services staff met with a group of 15-20 teens from the Boys and Girls Club to discuss their interests in the arts and suggestions. The interests ranged from culinary art to American Idol, science, math, technology, etc. The Placentia Library is also interested in partnering with Community Services to expand on their current teen programs and incorporate the arts. Staff González was enthusiastic about the City continuing and expanding on the Teen Center activities.

Commissioner Dougherty expressed disappointment about the fact that groups like the Muckenthaler approach the City with promises that eventually do not deliver. Staff works hard to make an agreement work, but the City does not get what was offered. When a group is allowed to run the program, the City loses control. Commissioner Bartelt indicated she was upset about the negative way Placentia was represented in the newspaper and statements Muckenthaler made about what they City could not provide and they could. During her visits to the Teen Center, there was very little activity/participation.

Park Inspection Reports -

Commissioner Hunt reported that there is a 5 gallon bucket on the flat roof portion of the Powell Building on the patio area that should be removed. Commissioner Granger commented that an additional trash receptacle should be added to Kraemer Park near the playground/sidewalk area.

STAFF COMMENTS -

Staff González indicated that the laser leveling of the fields at Placentia Champions Sports Complex will be taken to City Council for approval. The ADA restroom renovation to the Backs Building is moving forward. Community Services has a Facebook page and building its "Likes". Everything that is posted on Facebook, is also in the City's website. The Cathy Torrez Learning Center, through the Friendly Center, hosted a "Golden Retriever" to teach kids how to care for animals.

Staff González added that a resident request had come in for a Memorial Bench in honor of a deceased spouse. In the past, memorial bench and tree planting requests have been handled for Tri-City Park. Staff is doing research and putting together

recommendations and an application process for these types of requests at other park locations.

AGENDA BUILDING AND MEETING SCHEDULE – Agenda items for next meeting to include Love Placentia Event Review, Budget Update, Teen Art Center Programs Update, Outdoor Exercise Equipment/Pool Renovation Update, and Adopt a Bench Program Update.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Dougherty to adjourn to Monday, May 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. regular meeting; **SECOND** by Commissioner Granger and **CARRIED** by a **5-0-1-0** (Emrick, Newman, Absent) **VOICE VOTE**. Meeting adjourned on April 11, 2016 at 7:43 p.m.

Maria Elena Maurer, Recording Secretary
Recreation and Parks Commission