

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

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** –

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS** - Commissioner Hunt noted that the City of Placentia did not have any signs to indicate “No Fireworks allowed” during the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, and some people do not know they are illegal in Placentia. Police Department was not responding to calls and his neighbor was afraid at the multitude of fireworks in her neighborhood.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –

**April 11, 2016 Minutes**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Granger to approve the Minutes of April 11, 2016 as Submitted; **SECOND** by Commissioner Bartelt and **CARRIED** by a 4-0-2-1 **VOICE VOTE** (Dougherty, Emrick, Absent; Newman, Abstained).

**May 9, 2016 Minutes**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Newman to approve the Minutes of May 9, 2016 as Submitted; **SECOND** by Commissioner Jackson and **CARRIED** by a 4-0-2-1 **VOICE VOTE** (Dougherty, Emrick, Absent; Bartelt, Abstained).

**June 13, 2016 Minutes**

Due to lack of quorum, the Minutes of June 13, 2016 will be postponed for approval until the next scheduled Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on September 12, 2016.

2. **MONTHLY REPORT** -

Staff Ortiz reported that the official opening day for the Placentia Teen Center was the week of July 5th. As a partner, the Boys and Girls Club is providing a snack and dinner for all the teens in attendance. An art instructor, currently working part time as a Clerical Aide for the City, is providing art classes one week in July and one in August. When staff met with the teens, they gave direction of what they wanted to do. The Staff is planning a Wii tournament and a Karaoke night and the

Placentia Library will be adding their own teen programming and providing a staff person. Overall, this is a great collaboration. It is anticipated that about 40 teens will be attending the Placentia Teen Center. Commissioner Jackson indicated she had a Wii game she would be able to donate. Commissioner Granger suggested that the Teen Center main access face the park to provide more visibility. Staff González commented that this is part of a capital plan.

Staff González added City Council did not meet on July 5, but will have a meeting on July 12 and the 19, back to back Tuesdays, and will be going dark in the month of August. The month of July is National Recreation and Parks month. A proclamation and video showcasing summer activities will be presented at the July 12, 2016 City Council meeting. At the meeting on July 19, 2016, the St. Jude Hospital presentation will take place to accept the new grant for \$65,000; \$50,000 will be used to purchase outdoor exercise equipment for Santa Fe Park and the \$15,000 remaining will be used for other grant writing opportunities. Commissioners were encouraged to attend.

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

Staff Ortiz reported that the Outdoor Exercise Equipment installation at Parque De Los Niños and the pool renovation at the Gomez Center had been completed. Staff hopes that this added amenity will help revitalize the park and get more attendance at the Gomez Center. The grand opening is scheduled on Monday, July 18, 2016. A flyer will be distributed door to door to invite residents that live around the neighborhood. Commissioner Bartelt commented that new houses off of Van Buren do not have a community pool and they would benefit knowing about the center and its amenities. Commissioner Hunt mentioned the new craze of Pokeman; a new game that gets people out to find Pokeman at designated locations. A “Pokeman” could be one on the outdoor exercise equipment locations. Commissioner Granger spoke to a couple of residents at Parque De Los Niños and they had offered a suggestion to have more outdoor activities at the Gomez Center. They would like to see the children playing more outside.

Staff González added that the News Times has also been given information on the Teen Center activities expansion, the outdoor exercise equipment and re-opening of the renovated pools. The current reporter, Denise Salazar, has written very positive articles in the last few weeks in this regard.

4. **SPORTS USER ALLOCATION UPDATE** -

Staff Brand reported that as per Commissioners’ request, seven of our surrounding cities had been contacted to find out if background checks of volunteers were a prerequisite for field allocation. None of the cities contacted do, with the exception of Fullerton. They do require background checks of only the partner groups that have priority for field allocation. After these partner groups get their allocation, there is not a lot left. For example, a travel softball group needing field use for tournaments and a few practices, would not be required to show proof of background checks. As a rule, the user groups are required to show proof of background checks when pulling out insurance coverage for the organization.

5. **SPORTS USERS FINGERPRINTING POLICY DISCUSSION-**

Staff González commented that this was brought up to the Sports Advisory Committee as a means to protect the City and all the sports groups have given the City a letter certifying that their Board and coach volunteers have had background checks and have been fingerprinted. The City's policy should note that it is highly recommended that all coaches, volunteers and board members go through a background/fingerprint check, although it cannot be mandated or required as part of their field allocation. Staff Brand added that the recommendation for NAYS (National Association of Youth Sports) is that everyone that has access to kids, has to go through a background check. Commissioner Hunt suggested that the user groups be asked for a copy of their organization's policy that should state they do background checks. This should be another layer of protection for each of the sports organizations and the City.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Hunt to have staff put together an appendix to add to the Allocation Policy listing the items discussed and bring it back to the Commission for approval; **SECOND** by Commissioner Granger and **CARRIED** by **5-0 VOICE VOTE**. (Dougherty, Emrick; Absent).

6. **PARK INSPECTION REPORTS –**

Commissioner Bartelt commented she had driven by Placentia Champions Sports Complex while they were doing the field laser leveling and Staff Ortiz added that the fields look great after the completion of this work. Commissioner Newman noted that the first movie, Minions, had great attendance as well. Staff Ortiz mentioned that the first Concert in the Park also had high attendance. The collaboration of City and County, and the County's sponsorship of the Neil Diamond band made the concert a big success.

Commissioner Newman inquired if at Placentia Champions the City allows organized groups to use the fields for coaching; his wife has noticed that a group is definitely using the fields for this purpose. Staff Brand responded that groups for profit are not allowed to use City property for personal gain. City staff can follow up on this issue and Commissioner Newman was asked to give staff a call when this activity is taking place.

7. **STAFF COMMENTS**

Staff González suggested that since City Council is going dark in August, the Commission follow suit and have the next meeting on September 12, 2016 as scheduled. The first "Pack Walk" was a big success with 28 participants. Library Executive Director, Jeannette Contreras, Vivian Perez from the Placentia Foundation and Melodie Coward from the Cultural Arts Commission were the judges. Most of the dogs came in custom and some did tricks. Vinjon's Kennel in Yorba Linda and a Pet Store had a booth and distributed free goodie bags to those in attendance and spray painted the dogs with "tatoos". The Placentia Buzz had 73 likes on FaceBook.

The grand reopening of the Gomez pool and the opening of outdoor exercise equipment at Parque De Los Niños are scheduled on Monday, July 18, 2016. State Assembly and Congressman Royce's representatives will be presenting certificates to the City and to St. Jude Hospital. Councilmembers and City Staff

will also be in attendance. This is the perfect way for the City to get noticed and the good things happening in Placentia. Staff González asked for the Commissioners' opinion regarding the new look for the Placentia Quarterly. A graphic designer firm was asked to create a new format with the Fall 2016 issue. After some discussion, it was agreed that Placentia Palm was a suitable "branding name" for the Quarterly Newsletter and that the new format would be an improvement.

8. **AGENDA BUILDING AND MEETING SCHEDULE –**

As per staff's recommendation, Commission will be dark in the month of August.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Hunt for the Commission to go dark in August and resume the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on September 12, 2016 regular scheduled meeting; **SECOND** by Commissioner Newman and **CARRIED** by **5-0 VOICE VOTE**. (Dougherty, Emrick; Absent).

Agenda items for next meeting to include Election of Officers, Sports Advisory Subcommittee meeting to review final policy, Heritage Festival participation discussion, and Subcommittee Assignments.

9. **ADJOURNMENT –**

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Granger to adjourn to Monday, September 12, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. regular meeting; **SECOND** by Commissioner Bartelt and **CARRIED** by a **5-0-2-0 VOICE VOTE** (Dougherty, Emrick, Absent). Meeting adjourned on July 11, 2016 at 7:44 p.m.

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Maria Elena Maurer  
Community Services Coordinator