

MINUTES
PLACENTIA RECREATION AND
PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
January 9, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bartelt, Emrick, Granger, Hunt, Jackson, Newman
Absent: Dougherty

Staff Present: Sandra Gonzalez, Community Services Director
Veronica Ortiz, Community Services Supervisor
Maria Elena Maurer, Community Services Coordinator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Emrick.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – YMCA representative, Claire McKenna, indicated that she has worked with the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) and the City of Placentia to receive field allocations for many years. Sports groups were recently notified that the PYLUSD would be allocating Sierra Vista and Tuffree Middle School. However, they have been unclear and have not communicated fully how this process will now work. The YMCA is also unclear about the use of fields during inclement weather conditions and the penalties that will be in place when a user group makes the call to use the field. Ms. McKenna wanted to make the Commission aware of these concerns.

Staff Gonzalez informed the Commission that she was going to provide a brief report tonight under Staff Comments regarding this issue. The City was notified four weeks ago that beginning January 2017, the City would no longer be allocating the fields at Sierra Vista and Tuffree Middle School and no additional information was provided. The typical users of these fields include JUSA, Pony Baseball and the YMCA. The City's field policy gives youth non-profit resident groups priority whereas the PYLUSD's policy does not. They have apparently allocated fields to a new soccer league called Legends that is run by a High School coach. Commissioner Hunt commented that this would be a conflict of interest and ethically wrong and the City should take a stand.

During the last Sports Advisory Committee meeting, the new Superintendent mentioned that on July 1, 2017, the School District would have new changes to the use of their fields. This item will be placed on the Recreation and Parks Commission agenda in February to discuss further.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS - Commissioner Bartelt commented on the inspirational article in the Placentia News Times regarding Community Services Director, Sandra Gonzalez. Also, there was a very nice article on the Tree Lighting event.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – November 14, 2016

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

2. **MONTHLY REPORT -**

Staff Gonzalez distributed a planning calendar for 2017 that is in the preliminary stage. The Winter Festival/Tree Lighting event held on December 14 was community driven and the fastest put together event of the year. The idea to bring the Tree Lighting back to City Hall was initiated by the Placentia Buzz. Thanks to sponsorships and collaborations with the Library and other entertainment groups, the event was a great success.

Staff Gonzalez indicated that an agenda report will be presented to the City Council meeting on February 7, 2017, regarding the Heritage Festival & Parade offering three options for this year. The CAPES art awards to local schools will be presented at the City Council meeting of January 17, 2017. A total of \$3,083 will be awarded for 7 art projects. This money is raised by the Cultural Arts Commission at the opportunity drawings during Concerts in the Park.

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

Staff Gonzalez reported a walk-through of the Powell Building was conducted and bids are expected by the end of this week. There is \$150,000 in capital improvement projects allocated for this building. Roof replacement, bathrooms renovation, windows replacement and new lighting are some of the items that have been identified in the past.

On Tuesday, January 31, at 6:00 p.m., a meeting will be held at the Aguirre Bldg. to view preliminary design concepts for the new playground area and equipment at Placentia Champions Sports Complex. Community input and comments are welcome and Commissioners were invited to attend.

4. **FACILITIES USE REPORT -**

Commissioner Emrick requested that this item be brought back for discussion. Staff Ortiz reported that currently the Boys & Girls Club is one of the groups using the Backs Community downstairs rooms to offer programming for teens free of charge. Occasionally, they have used the main room for teen dances. Another group that has used City facilities at no charge is the Placentia Unified School District for parent meetings/musical presentations, in addition to the 10 days of free Oberle Gym use that is noted in the current expired MOU. Staff is planning to meet with the District's Superintendent to update the current MOU and make changes to charge fees for use of City facilities (the District implemented pool use fees that the City had to pay for the Learn to Swim program this last summer).

Another group currently using the Gomez Center for rehearsals is the Placentia Community Choir at no charge. The Choir had been using Kraemer Middle

School for their rehearsals, but when the school district notified them the room would not be available, they came to the City requesting the use of a room. The Placentia Community Choir represents the City at various venues and receives donations to offset their equipment and supplies. Staff Ortiz indicated these three groups are the only ones that are currently using City facilities at no charge. Commissioner Hunt expressed concern that if some non-profit groups use facilities at no charge, other groups would also be entitled.

5. **GRANTS UPDATE** -

A meeting with the Greenfields Outdoor Exercise Equipment manufacturer is scheduled on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, to install outdoor exercise equipment at Santa Fe Park. St. Jude Hospital provided a \$60,000 grant towards this equipment.

6. **FUTURE PARK RENOVATIONS** -

The Backs Community Building lobby, and restrooms renovation is expected to be completed by the end of February. As part of the Love Placentia event, Staff Gonzalez distributed the application that Commissioners can use to submit facility/park projects that are feasible to be completed during this “serve day” event scheduled the end of April. City staff will be attending the kick-off planning meeting on January 12, 2017. Once applications are received, they will be reviewed by the Maintenance and Community Services Staff for consideration.

7. **PARK INSPECTION REPORTS** –

Staff Ortiz reported that all fields are closed due to the rain.

8. **STAFF COMMENTS**

Staff Gonzalez announced that Community Services Coordinator, Veronica Rodarte, had submitted her resignation. Human Resources will be opening this full time position soon.

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

Monthly Report and Parks and Facility Project Updates, Field Allocation Update, Love Placentia Projects Update, Fee Study Update, Mid-year Budget Update.

ADJOURNMENT –

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Newman to adjourn to Monday, February 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. regular meeting; **SECOND** by Commissioner Hunt and **CARRIED** by a **6-0-1-0 VOICE VOTE** (Dougherty, Absent). Meeting adjourned on January 9, 2017 at 7:44 p.m.

Maria Elena Maurer
Community Services Coordinator