

MINUTES
PLACENTIA RECREATION AND
PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
May 8, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Jackson

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Councilmember Ward Smith; Sgt. Busse, Police Department, were in attendance. As per Director Gonzalez' request, Commissioners and Staff introduced themselves to new Commissioner Narahara and welcomed him to the Commission.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS -

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 10, 2017**

Staff Maurer noted that there was a typo on the title of Item 7 of the minutes. It should be Comments instead of Commments.

MOTION by Commissioner Granger to approve the Minutes of April 10, 2017, as corrected; **SECOND** by Commissioner Hunt and **CARRIED** by a **7-0-2-0 VOICE VOTE** (Binnings, Emrick, Absent).

Director Gonzalez requested that Item 4 be discussed first. There were no objections to this request.

4. **DOG ISSUES DISCUSSION AT PARQUE DEL ARROYO VERDE -**

Director Gonzalez stated that at the City Council meeting of April 18, 2017, Councilmembers Shader and Wanke had made a formal request for the Recreation & Parks Commission to look into possibilities of bringing a Dog Park to the city. They would like to see 2-3 options within an existing park, magnitude of costs and maintenance, and what the layout would look like.

Sgt. Busse was asked to come to the Commission meeting to answer questions regarding the enforcement of dogs off leash. Sgt. Busse explained that the City contracts with OC Animal Control for these services. Under the City's Municipal Code, this code violation is considered a misdemeanor crime. Based on City Council's request, he would recommend that two dog parks be considered, one

for small and one for large dogs as the two do not mix well. Sgt. Busse has seen “dog rage” amongst the owners when a large dog attacks the small animal in the wrong park. Having a designated park would be less problematic to enforce.

Commissioners noted issues that have been identified in the past regarding dog parks:

- Residents do not want a Dog Park in their backyard
- A Dog Park cannot be near residential
- There is no funding to build one
- City is not prepared to pay for maintenance costs
- There is no additional parking for Dog Park visitors in existing parks – new parking would be needed

Director Gonzalez added that the City of Yorba Linda started looking at building a Dog Park in 2008. City Council directed the Recreation & Parks Commission to come up with possibilities and in 2016, it was finally approved. The Dog Park is a small half acre within a park at the base of a hill. The cost was \$300,000 and parking is on the street. It is fenced, has a couple of benches and the surface is Astro Turf, low maintenance.

Commissioner Granger asked if Code Enforcement officers would be able to make rounds at the parks and remind people that it is a violation of the Municipal Code to take dogs off leash and fines can be implemented; try the education approach first. Sgt. Busse stated this could be done. He will also bring back information from other cities’ Dog Parks.

Commissioner Dougherty suggested that a Subcommittee for a Dog Park be formed. Commissioners Granger, Jackson, Narahara and Newman volunteered to be in the Subcommittee. It was also suggested that as a first step, an article in the local newspapers be placed to ask for community’s input regarding a Dog Park in the City.

2. **MONTHLY REPORT -**

Staff Ortiz reported that the Park Assessment meeting held at the Gomez Center on April 19 had approximately 15 people in attendance. Things like the grass was all dead in the park, safety concerns, not aware that other parks had outdoor exercise equipment or another pool, were brought up. The safety concerns were related to not having sidewalks in some areas, lighting, and an increase in crime activity.

Councilmember Smith stated that in general, cities are experiencing an increase in crime. Burglaries, vehicle thefts, home invasions from individuals coming from the Los Angeles area are on the rise. He warned not to leave valuables in plain sight in vehicles as this creates a temptation and an opportunity for criminals to steal lap tops, computers, purses, etc.

Staff Ortiz indicated that the next Park Assessment meeting will be held at Tynes Gym on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. After this meeting, a report will be provided with all the information gathered at these Community meetings.

Director Gonzalez added that the Community Walks will begin on Saturday, May 20 during the opening of Summer registration, with “Walk with the Mayor”. On Thursday, June 29, UC Irvine will sponsor the “Walk with a Doc” walk with a sponsorship of \$250 to purchase giveaways. The “Dog Walk & Costume Parade Walk” received a lot of attention last year and is expected to be a hit this year scheduled on Saturday, July 22 at Kraemer Park. Commissioners were encouraged to attend and participate in these Community Walks.

Director Gonzalez indicated that the Love Placentia event was a great success. A total of 1,500 volunteers completed 45 city projects, including school projects. Commissioners Granger and Jackson came out to help plant the vegetable garden that the Boys & Girls Club and the Teen Center will take care of.

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

Staff Ortiz reported that City Council approved the purchase and installation of the outdoor exercise equipment for Santa Fe Park using St. Jude Hospital grant money at their May 1, 2017 meeting. Once installation is completed, Commissioners will be notified when the ribbon cutting is scheduled.

Director Gonzalez added that the City has not received any news from the State of California regarding the grant to build a soccer field at McFadden Park. It is hoped that this information will be received prior to the next Commission meeting. The re-roofing of the Powell Building will be on the City Council agenda on May 16, 2017 to be approved.

5. **PERMIT FEES UPDATE -**

Staff Ortiz indicated that the Finance Department is in the process of completing the budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 and has not had a chance to provide details on what fee increases will be proposed to City Council.

It has been discussed that all fees across the board will see an increase. Community Services staff has made recommendations to make small increases to facility reservations. As per Commission’s direction, fees for the use of athletic fields will not see an increase at this time. Commission’s input will be part of the process. This item will remain on the Agenda until the proposed fee schedule is received.

6. **PARK INSPECTION REPORTS –**

Director Gonzalez reported that about three weeks ago, the holes in the playground at Tuffree Park were filled with sand. Recent rain may have compacted the sand and may need to be rototilled. Commissioner Hunt stated that all the sand in the playgrounds should be rototilled on a regular basis to prevent anybody getting hurt and to comply with state laws. He also added that the broken walkway that was damaged during the construction of the cell tower equipment area at Tuffree Park is also a safety issue; people have tripped and it needs to be fixed. Director Gonzalez stated she will make a recommendation to have this fixed using Edison’s recent \$2,000 contribution for adding fiber optic cable to this site.

Commissioner Bartelt noted that the Whitten pool was full of playground rubberized pieces, an ongoing problem. Staff will check on the status of the pool covers. Commissioner Newman noticed a group playing baseball and utilizing the field at Parque De Los Niños. The balls were reaching the outdoor exercise equipment and the playground. Councilmember Smith indicated that a group from OCFA had requested the use of a practice field, and he had referred them to Coordinator Matt Brand.

Commissioner Granger reported that the water fountain at Santa Fe Park was plugged or broken. Commissioner Newman noticed beer bottles that were behind the restrooms at Kraemer Park. Commissioner Hunt asked if the Kraemer Park restrooms were painted as part of the Love Placentia. The previous paint job was done poorly and they needed to be repainted. Staff Ortiz indicated the restrooms in the park had not been painted. Commissioner Dougherty reported that the light poles at Arroyo Verde have a lot of corrosion and the paint is chipping; maintenance needs to take a look at what can be done.

Commissioner Granger had reported that a homeless man named Santiago has been living in La Placita Parkette. There are personal items tucked in one of the play structures and now someone has given him a couch. This will be reported to Code Enforcement. Councilmember Smith stated that there is a process to follow to remove these items from the park. Director Gonzalez indicated that the new homeless shelter in Anaheim has opened. It accommodates 100 beds and five beds have been assigned to Placentia. Registration is handled through HIS House and this can be offered as an option for Santiago to consider.

Commissioner Narahara noted that on his phone the City's website does not have photos of all the facilities. Staff will ask the IT Department to add those photos that are missing.

7. **STAFF COMMENTS**

Staff Maurer distributed a net revenue report for City buildings that were rented from F.Y. 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 to current. Revenues decreased due to the recent closure of the Backs Building during the 8 month renovation. Commissioner Hunt commented that since the Backs Building is the highest revenue generating facility, it would be in the best interest of the City to complete the main room renovation, and increase fees to offset this expenditure. Director Gonzalez stated that a request will also be made to take 10-30% of facility revenues to set aside a dedicated maintenance fund.

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

Agenda items to include Monthly Report and Parks and Facility Project Updates, Dog Park Subcommittee Update, Permit Fees Update, School District Field Allocation Update, and Summer Programs Revenue Report.

ADJOURNMENT –

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Bartelt to adjourn to Monday, June 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. regular meeting to be held at City Hall; **SECOND** by

Commissioner Hunt and **CARRIED** by a **7-0-2-0 VOICE VOTE** (Bennings, Emrick Absent). **Meeting adjourned on May 8, 2017 at 8:20 p.m.**

Maria Elena Maurer
Community Services Coordinator