

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

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Staff Present: Sandra Gonzalez, Community Services Director
Veronica Ortiz, Community Services Supervisor
Maria Elena Maurer, Community Services Coordinator
Felipe Zambrano, Community Services Coordinator
Matt Brand, Community Services Coordinator
Maddie Cuevas, Community Services Coordinator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Newman

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Councilmember Ward Smith in attendance

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS -

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – September 11, 2017

MOTION by Commissioner Granger to approve the Minutes of September 11, 2017, as submitted; **SECOND** by Commissioner Emrick and **CARRIED** by a **5-0-2-2 VOICE VOTE** (Bartelt, Binnings, Absent; Jackson, Hunt, Abstained).

2. **SUMMER 2017 REVIEW** -

Director Gonzalez reported that Summer 2017 was a great success. A video highlighting some of the activities and events was shown. Community Services Coordinators Felipe Zambrano, Matt Brand, Maddie Cuevas and Maria Elena Maurer, and Community Services Supervisor Veronica Ortiz, reported on the areas that each of them oversee. Some of the highlights discussed were as follows:

- 450 children from the P.A.R.K.'s programs participated in the excursions
- Cathy Torrez Learning Center children were inspired on their visit to the USC campus
- Free hot lunches were offered at the Whitten Center, Monday – Friday
- Concerts in the Park had 20% higher attendance than last year. The Swing Cats concert was the most attended. Soto Band was the most popular; a lot of people got up to dance
- Cultural Arts Commission raised \$3,375 towards the C.A.P.E.'s program that provides scholarships to teachers

- Second Harvest served 700 meals during the eight week summer program
- Adult excursions were offered to Harrah's Casino for \$10/pp – total of 40 participated in this excursion. Santa Monica Pier and the Hollywood Bowl Fireworks Spectacular
- The Adult Basketball league had 7 teams with 71 participants. The Futsal league had a total of 80 players
- A total of nine Movies in the Park were held, including the Dive-in Movie Finding Dory held at the Whitten Center pool. The purchase of a 14' wide screen improved the viewing. The movie Tangled had over 500 in attendance, and the People's Choice most votes was for the Moana movie
- St. Jude provided a total of \$5,000 towards the Placentia Youth Basketball City program to offer scholarships for low income qualified families. This program had a 36% growth last year
- Senior Center provides a grocery day that includes fresh produce distribution the first and third Thursday of the month (35-45 seniors normally attend this program). In addition, commodities and food boxes continue to be provided
- Seniors have participated in workshops to prevent abusing prescription drugs and also learn how to properly dispose of them
- Seniors were bused to three of the Concerts in the Park
- Twenty seniors enjoyed taking the train to Olvera Street – trip was very successful and seniors enjoyed this excursion
- Through the Friendly Center partnership, the community continues to participate in the Mobile Pantry, and the backpack distribution
- Summer Camps offered included Top Junior Chef and Dessert Chef, the most popular with over 30 participants, Art Camp, Robots 101, Hunger Games, and Into the Garden resulted in an increase of 15.5% over last year's camp numbers
- Total summer registration totaled 988, including the 484 Learn to Swim participants (a slight decrease of 8% mainly due to a reduction in classes offered)
- The revenue for recreation classes was \$37,537 and Learn to Swim was \$33,911 for a total of \$71,448.
- Facility reservation during the summer exceeded revenue by 14%. Backs Community Bldg. after being partially closed for renovation last year, resulted in a 64% increase in 2017
- A total of \$8,400 in fees was paid to the School District for the use of El Dorado H.S. for the evening swim classes, and for Valencia H.S. for the daytime classes
- Recreation swim hours at the Whitten and Gomez pools were increased from last year. Attendance at Whitten pool increased 10% and 15.8% at the Gomez pool. St. Jude Medical will provide a grant to help pay for half the cost to put in solar heating at the Whitten pool thus allowing for additional programming year round
- Councilmember Smith stated that all these programs offered help make an impact, are terrific for the community and are deeply appreciated. The Community Services Department goes above and beyond and has a very dedicated staff.

3. **MONTHLY REPORT -**

Director Gonzalez reported that the old roof tiles at the E.T. Powell Bldg. were removed. In the meantime, the Senior Center activities were moved to the Backs Building during this construction as well as the Cathy Torrez Learning Center after school programs. In fact, parents and children like this location because of the outdoor activities that are available in Kraemer Park and would like to remain there.

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

Director Gonzalez reported that the Placentia Champions Sports Complex playground will have three bays of swings. Some of the equipment was powder coated and looks brand new. The Grand opening is scheduled on Wednesday, October 18 at 4:00 p.m. Children from the centers will be brought in to be the first to use the playground.

Supervisor Ortiz added that the Heritage Festival is scheduled on October 14. A total of 85 entries are participating in the parade in addition to all the activities that will be held at Tri-City Park; petting zoo, penny arcade, a family fun zone, car show, craft/food vendors and a concert by the Darden Sisters. Commissioners were invited to attend these events.

5. **DOG PARK SURVEY UPDATE -**

Director Gonzalez indicated the County will be conducting their own County survey to receive input on the recommended Dog Park to be added to Tri-City Park. The City's survey conducted during the summer showed that the community was very supportive of this location. Director Gonzalez will bring back information back to the Commission when it is received.

6. **PYLUSD JOINT USE AGREEMENT UPDATE -**

Director Gonzalez reported that a meeting between the City Administrator and the School District Superintendent was held with very specific issues discussed. The current Joint Use Agreement and the items the School District has failed to implement; building the concession stand, restrooms and storage. However, the City was notified, prior to this meeting, that the Tuffree Middle School fields were no longer available to use for parking for the Heritage Festival so this became the number one priority for discussion. City Administrator Arrula was able to receive approval for this year's use of these fields for parking (due to the short notice). City Staff will be working with the Heritage Committee to make arrangements for other parking possibilities for next year's event.

Commissioner Hunt commented that the City and some of the sports groups, have installed many of the amenities at school locations over the last 30 years i.e., some of the back stops, grass and field lights at Tuffree Middle School were put in by the City, field lights at Valencia's baseball fields were also done by the City. Unfortunately, back then some of the use agreements were verbal and the new staff at the School District does not know of this history.

Director Gonzalez added that the third primary agenda item at this meeting was the high schools' pool use fees that were recently implemented by the District

(\$6,000 the last year and \$8,400 this year) and that the City had to pay whereas in the past fees were waived. There were some instances this summer where the chlorine levels were off and classes had to be cancelled. School District claimed that when they tested the water at the pump, chlorine levels were fine whereas the City tested at the pool and the levels were low and the water looked cloudy. The City now has purchased two digital water testers and will proceed to check with the Health Department how they recommend the water should be tested.

Director Gonzalez will remind the City Administrator to contact the School Superintendent in four weeks for an update on what they plan to do regarding the Joint Use Agreement. Commissioner Granger recommended that a list of the amenities the City and other groups have installed be provided so that the new District personnel are made aware of all the improvements.

A subcommittee comprised of Commissioners Hunt, Granger, and Newman and Staff Brand was formed to work on recreating the paper trails discussed. This group will be called the "Historical Task Force – School District."

7. **PARK INSPECTION REPORTS** –

Commissioner Dougherty asked what the status was regarding the sycamore trees at Koch Park. Councilmember Smith commented that resident Mr. Buchanan (an arborist by trade) had come before City Council indicating that he had taken on the responsibility to deep water and treat these trees and commented on the lack of lighting and general condition of this park. Council directed Public Works for a follow up on this issue.

Director Gonzalez added that sycamore trees are California native and mature trees can live on very little water, but they are susceptible to fungus and it is a spreading disease and have to be cut down. Public Works will be coming back to replant new trees, usually of a different species. Commissioner Hunt added that there is a lighting problem at this park, but until a general plan is completed and monies become available, the problem will remain. Director Gonzalez mentioned that the City received a grant of \$150,000 to do a Parks Maintenance Plan. Consultants will be hired to do a needs priority assessment that will include lighting.

Councilmember Smith commented that while at a meeting at the Backs Building, he happened to notice that the original mono-pine cell site appearance has deteriorated to the point that all mono-pines that were installed in the last 10 years will require that the City contact the cell site provider and request maintenance of these "trees."

Commissioners Hunt and Emrick mentioned the continuing problem by the playground swings at Tuffree Park requiring sand fill-ins. Commissioner Newman reported that in the playground parking lot at Placentia Champions, typically between 10:30 p.m. and midnight, there are cars in the parking lot and a lot of teen activity. Parking lot should also have posting of No Overnight Parking. Supervisor Ortiz will make the Police Department aware of this situation and request regular patrolling.

8. **STAFF COMMENTS**

Director Gonzalez mentioned that the Cultural Arts Commission went from a nine member group to a current four active members. This Commission handles the Photo Contest, Concerts in the Park and the CAPES program. Consequently, staff is suggesting that this Commission merge with the Recreation & Parks Commission. Item will be placed on the agenda to look at pros-cons and for further discussion.

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

Agenda items to include: Dog Park Update, PYLUSD Joint Use Update, Cultural Arts/Recreation & Parks Commissions Merge Discussion, Monthly Report, Parks and Facilities Project Updates, and Historical Task Force- School District Update

ADJOURNMENT –

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Hunt to adjourn to Monday, November 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. regular meeting to be held at City Hall; **SECOND** by Commissioner Emrick and **CARRIED** by a **7-0-2-0 VOICE VOTE** (Bartelt, Binnings, Absent). Meeting adjourned on October 9, 2017 at 8:16 p.m.

Maria Elena Maurer
Community Services Coordinator