

MINUTES  
PLACENTIA RECREATION AND  
PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
November 13, 2017

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Commissioner Bartelt.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None in attendance.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS** -

Commissioner Bartelt commented that she had received the Winter 2018 Placentia Palm Quarterly and it looks very nice. She also commented that there are a lot of bicycle riders that use the sidewalk and asked what the rules were. Commissioner Hunt responded that they are allowed on the sidewalk as long as they ride in the same direction of traffic. He also suggested that the Commission have a celebration for Staff Maria Elena on her upcoming retirement. Since the Commission will be dark in December, she agreed to attend the January 8, 2018 Commission meeting for this celebration.

Commissioner Hunt added that the County changed the rules during the Heritage Festival event. The Park Ranger told staff that the area used by the Car Show for vendor parking in past years should not be used and cars had to move. When Tri-City Park was transferred to the County, the City was assured that Heritage Festival and Concerts in the Park would continue to be held at Tri-City with no restrictions. Director Gonzalez will look into the dissolution minutes and report back on this item.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – **October 9, 2017**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Granger to approve the Minutes of October 9, 2017, as submitted; **SECOND** by Commissioner Newman and **CARRIED** by a **5-0-3-1 VOICE VOTE** (Binnings, Emrick, Narahara Absent; Bartelt, Abstained).

2. **MONTHLY REPORT** -

Director Gonzalez distributed the Community Services calendar of activities. The Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution will be taking place at the Whitten Center on November 21 starting at 2:00 p.m. The Placentia Library will be heading the Tree Lighting event at City Hall on Thursday, November 30 with the City's

contribution. There will be performances by the VHS Choir, dances by the Freckled Frog and Stagelight Productions, Teen Center Advisory will be selling hot chocolate and Santa and Mrs. Santa will be available to take pictures inside the Library.

The Tamale Festival will be held on Wednesday, December 6 in Old Town starting at 4:00 p.m. The Christmas Basket Distribution (CCB) is scheduled on Wednesday, December 13. This event will include serving a hot dinner, projects for the kids, pictures with Santa starting at 3:00 p.m. Commissioners were encouraged to participate as volunteers for any of these events. Director Gonzalez added that City Holiday closure dates were from December 21 – January 8, 2018.

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

Director Gonzalez reported that the Placentia Champions Sports Complex playground’s grand opening was a great success. Over 50 children were bused to the site to be the first ones to use the playground. Some of the equipment was powder coated and looks brand new. Commissioners Bartelt and Granger were in attendance as well as a representative from Congressman Ed Royce office, City Manager, Councilmembers, community residents and City staff. New picnic benches will be added to this playground since parents expressed that there was no sitting available. Commissioner Bartelt commented that it was great that the community’s input was considered when redoing the playground.

Director Gonzalez confirmed that the two new slides have been installed at Wagner Park. There is also an opportunity to apply for a Kaboom grant (this is a National non-profit organization that helps small communities build playgrounds). They find big funders to match them with small cities. Companies do it as a “team building” opportunity for their employees. The kids design what they want in the playground and Kaboom then design the whole concept. Commissioners agreed that Goldenrod Park would be a good candidate for this type of grant as the existing playground does not meet safety standards. Kaboom applications are due in three weeks.

4. **DOG PARK COUNTY SURVEY UPDATE -**

Director Gonzalez indicated the County has not completed the survey to receive input on the recommended Dog Park to be added to Tri-City Park. Commissioner Hunt mentioned that he had received the survey sent by Supervisor Nelson and some of his neighbors do not like the idea of spending money to add a Dog Park in Tri-City Park. Director Gonzalez will bring information back to the Commission when it is received.

5. **PYLUSD JOINT USE AGREEMENT UPDATE –**

Director Gonzalez reported that City Administrator Arrula had met with Dr. Gregory Plutko, School District Superintendent, and was able to receive approval for this year’s use of Tuffree Middle School fields for Heritage Festival parking. However, the City also received after the festival a janitorial bill for \$348 for this use. Superintendent Plutko indicated that the School District was still waiting to receive from the state the balance of the Prop 51 monies. Once the budget is released, the School District will have to have a line item to build the balance of

the joint use agreement items – concession stand, storage and restroom building at Valadez Middle School. This item to be continued.

6. **HISTORICAL TASK FORCE – SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE**

Director Gonzalez reported that Staff Brand attempted to go over the records related to fields' history over the last 40 years. Some of these records are in Laserfisch and the search needs to be narrowed. It was recommended that the subcommittee meet to discuss the best approach to this historical information.

7. **CULTURAL ARTS/RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSIONS' MERGE DISCUSSION –**

Director Gonzalez discussed the potential merge of the two commissions with the Cultural Arts Commission. They feared that as a group they would lose their voice and end their mission. Under City Council's direction, it made sense to try and combine the two commissions since it has been difficult for Cultural Arts to get the membership needed to be a full commission.

Commissioners agreed that the Cultural Arts Commission main involvement is Concerts in the Park (which involves a lot of work), C.A.P.E.S program (which require solicitation and fundraising), and the Photo Contest – and these are not related to parks. It was suggested that an Ad Hoc type Committee be the solution or to seek out people from the Art Association or the Placentia Women's Round Table as candidates for the Cultural Arts Commission

8. **PARK INSPECTION REPORTS –**

Commissioner Granger reported that once again the drinking fountain at Santa Fe Park is leaking and suggested that it should be taken out if it cannot be replaced. This is an ongoing problem she has been reporting on since November last year. At La Placita Parkette she also noticed people throwing aluminum cans in the park. When she asked why they were doing this, she was told that the homeless take the cans to be recycled and make money. Director Gonzalez added that there was a recent complaint at this park – someone in the neighborhood had a big party and was roasting a goat in the park.

Commissioner Granger mentioned that at Kraemer Park she noticed an 8' tall chain link around the garden. Director Gonzalez indicated that Bimbo Bakeries gave the Boys & Girls Club a \$5,000 grant to fence the garden and to add health and nutrition programming. However, the City was never approached to approve this type of fence. A meeting will be held with Boys & Girls Club, Bimbo Bakeries, and Public Works to discuss this issue. Commissioner Granger suggested that the garden and fence be moved to the other side of the building between the parking lot and the softball field where it would not be an eyesore.

Commissioner Hunt reported that once again the swings area at Tuffree Park needs sand added. This is also an ongoing problem.

9. **STAFF COMMENTS**

Director Gonzalez stated that due to lack of business, the Commission will be dark in December.

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

Agenda items to include: Dog Park Update, PYLUSD Joint Use Update, Kraemer Park Garden Fence Update, Monthly Report, Parks and Facilities Project Updates, and Historical Task Forces/School District Subcommittee Update.

**ADJOURNMENT –**

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Bartelt to adjourn to Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. regular meeting to be held at City Hall; **SECOND** by Commissioner Granger and **CARRIED** by a **6-0-3-0 VOICE VOTE** (Binnings, Emrick, Narahara Absent). Meeting adjourned on November 13, 2017 at 7:42 p.m.

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Maria Elena Maurer  
Community Services Coordinator