



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
June 14, 2023

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6 p.m. by Chairperson Ted Spaseff.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Veronica Lucio.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Chairperson Ted Spaseff
Vice Chairperson Stacy Valdez
Commissioner Dave Allen
Commissioner Veronica Lucio

ABSENT: Commissioner Anitza Valles

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of May 10, 2023. A motion was made by Commissioner Dave Allen and seconded by Vice Chairperson Stacy Valdez to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 10, 2023. The motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote with Commissioner Veronica Lucio abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Steve Croft recognized Commissioner Veronica Lucio for her service and presented her with a certificate.

Director Valarie Frost began her announcements by informing the commission that at a recent City Council meeting the revisions for fiscal year budget 2024 were approved with a 5-0 vote. Ms. Frost shared that the notable recreation budget items included the \$300,000 for the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Master Plan development; a balance of part-time pay rates for Schedule A and B employees, who were said to be mostly recreation personnel; and the approval for additional maintenance service aides at Rynerson Park during the busy summer months. The commission was informed that a Capital Improvement Program meeting was scheduled for 9 a.m. on Monday, June 19. It was said that recreation staff would present a report on a potential grant opportunity through a soccer foundation to install a mini-pitch system at Palms Park. The commission was asked to RSVP with their secretary if interested in attending. Ms. Frost concluded her announcements by expressing her appreciation to the commissioners who attended the Summer Kick-off Orientation for part-time recreation staff.

Parks Superintendent Abel Andrade reported that the turf installation at the small dog park was well underway and was coming along beautifully. He shared that Jesus Barrios, who was assisting with the turf renovation, was in the audience. Next, Mr. Andrade thanked Chairperson Spaseff for attending Joe Sheldon's retirement party. He announced that Lead Worker Kevin Arias would transfer over to Park Maintenance from Landscape and Turf. The role of Landscape and Turf Lead Worker will be filled internally.

Assistant Director Kevin Bright provided information regarding programming and upcoming events. Mr. Bright shared that the initial concert of the Concerts in the Park series will take place

on Thursday, June 15 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Del Valle Park and feature the band *The Trip* playing Top 40s hits; the Senior Health and Information Fair will take place on Friday, June 16 at the Weingart Senior Center from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and the Finally it's Friday series will begin on Friday, June 16 with Fun-Tastic Family Night featuring Jedi Intergalactic Adventures at The Centre. Mr. Bright announced that the popular recreation swim would begin on Saturday, June 17 at Mayfair and McCormick Pools as well as the LYS Opening Day Ceremony scheduled to take place also on June 17 at Mayfair Park's Lisa Fernandez field. The second of the Concerts in the Park series was said to be scheduled for Thursday, June 22 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. featuring *Hard Days Night*, a Beatles tribute cover band. Lastly, Mr. Bright shared that the Civic Center Block Party would yet again take place on Clark Avenue outside of City Hall on Saturday, June 24 from 4 to 9 p.m. featuring a live band, food vendors, a family fun zone, and a professional firework show. Lastly, Mr. Bright reminded the commission that the annual commission reorganization would take place at the July meeting, along with the annual RCS Budget Report and all-hands staff presentations.

Commissioner Lucio shared that the Summer Kick-Off Orientation is always such a wonderful event and very well coordinated by staff. She mentioned that the trivia game is always fun. She thanked staff for their hard work.

Mr. Bright confirmed for Commissioner Allen that RCS had upwards of 35 part-time recreation staff, and were still actively hiring.

Chairperson Spaseff commented that the Summer Kick-Off Orientation was a great event and a lot of fun. He shared that he attended the Community Car Show and said it was a neat event for the community and had a nice turn out. Lastly, he mentioned that Joe Sheldon's retirement party was a nice time and a full house.

REPORTS:

1. Commission FY 23-24 Work Calendar Adoptions

Mr. Bright presented the FY 23-24 Work Calendar for the RCS Commission. He reminded the commission that these reports would be presented to the commission throughout the course of the fiscal year. Mr. Bright informed the commission that at any time they may request from staff an opportunity to report on something new. Minor changes pointed out by Mr. Bright included the addition of a report on Day Camp and Holiday Vacation Camp to the September 2023 meeting; the removal of the report on Activity ZONE Review from the October 2023 meeting; and the merging of the report on Civic Centre Block Party to the Summer Recreation Programs report. It was said that the Summer Recreation Programs report was also moved from the June 2023 meeting to the May 2023 meeting.

Mr. Bright recommended that the commission adopt the FY 23-24 Recreation Commission Work Calendar.

A motion was made by Chairperson Allen and seconded by Vice Chairperson Stacy Valdez.

The secretary took roll and with a unanimous vote, the work calendar was adopted by the commission.

2. DASH Transit Annual Report

Community Transportation Supervisor Jessica Johnson displayed slides and provided the commission with information regarding the DASH Transit program in 2022. Ms. Johnson informed the commission that the implementation of the DASH Transit application helped to purge inactive registrations and resulted in a more accurate count of DASH users. Ms. Johnson noted that while the number may appear lower, the program has in fact been seeing a steady increase in ridership post pandemic. The commission was informed that the DASH program had recently received six new vans to replace the older models. It was said that the new vans were similar to the older models as they hold five passengers and are wheelchair accessible, however, Ms. Johnson shared that they also came equipped with many new features. New features were said to include a back-up camera system, a keyless push-to-start ignition, an electronic touchscreen radio, electronic parking brakes, as well as heated seats and a heated steering wheel.

Next, Ms. Johnson announced that she and another DASH Transit employee had recently received professional certifications from the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA). Ms. Johnson shared that she received the Certified Community Transportation Supervisor training certification, and DASH Dispatcher Ana Maria Masoe had received the Professional Dispatcher and Scheduling Certification.

Ms. Johnson reminded the commission that the DASH Transit program also oversees the Adult Travel Trip program. She shared that DASH recently hosted several exciting travel trips including the Boyz II Men and TLC concert, Hamilton the Musical, the Getty Museum, The Lion King musical, and a Clippers basketball game.

The commission received and filed the annual report on DASH Transit.

3. Landscape and Turf Maintenance Annual Report

Park Maintenance Lead Worker Kevin Arias displayed slides and provided the commission with information regarding landscape and turf maintenance activities in 2022. Mr. Arias reported that in the last year ERD staff has been busy completing numerous projects throughout the city including work along the West San Gabriel Nature Trail I where staff worked closely with the Water Resources Department to renovate the entrance and add a new Gabion wall and wildflower meadow. At Home Run Dog Park, Mr. Arias reported that staff used a template to install decomposed granite pads for newly purchased benches. In addition, staff also installed 9,000 square feet of Saint Augustine turf at the small dog park. Mr. Arias shared that staff had also over-seeded at the big dog park. It was said that at the Arbor Yard, staff completed a small landscape project at the entrance on both sides of the facility that consisted of installing a dry creek, DG, boulders and plant material. Mr. Arias informed the commission that staff completed the installation of rock, planter beds with drought-tolerant landscape, and a gopher barrier, at the Centralia Landscape Project

alongside Centralia and Gridley Road. Additionally, staff successfully completed a four-acre turf renovation at Mae Boyar Park sports field.

Regarding irrigation, Mr. Arias reported that staff continue to upgrade the irrigation system throughout the city. It was said that the old atmospheric back flows were removed, and new backflows were installed with cages to prevent theft. He shared that staff was slated to renovate around 22 additional back flows in the near future. Mr. Arias informed the commission that new equipment was purchased with the assistance of the fleet department including three new John Deer mowers that will be utilized on the street panels, and three new fully equipped trucks; two landscape trucks and two utility vehicles.

Mr. Arias shared that the area where the Farmer’s Market is held on Clark Avenue and Del Amo Blvd. was renovated and revamped with sod, planter beds and an irrigation system upgrade. Lastly, he shared that well site 15 at the Arbor Yard was also renovated. He shared that staff performed irrigation upgrades and revamped the planter with drought-tolerant material.

Mr. Arias informed Commissioner Allen that the Saint Augustine turf installed at the small dog park should last much longer than the materials used in previous years.

The commission received and filed the annual report on Landscape and Turf Maintenance.

4. Commission Newsletter No. 12

A written report of the Recreation and Community Services Department programs, events, services and maintenance activities for the month of May and a listing of upcoming activities for July 2023.

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Haily Cooley, Employee of the Month for April 2023.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Spaseff adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m. to Wednesday, July 12, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission