



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
August 9, 2023

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 5 p.m. by Chairperson Stacy Valdez.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Vice Chairperson Veronica Lucio.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Anitza Valles

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of July 12, 2023. A motion was made by Commissioner Ted Spaseff and seconded by Vice Chairperson Veronica Lucio to approve the minutes from the meeting of July 12, 2023. The motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Director Valarie Frost began her announcements by thanking the commission for their attendance at the Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS) Awards Ceremony and Team Day. Ms. Frost reported that Environmental Resources Division (ERD) and Public Works staff had recently completed an improvement project at the Lakewood Equestrian Center (LEC), which included the installation of a new six-foot tall riding ring. It was said that city staff would be hosting a tour of the LEC, specifically along the Edison right-of-way, for Southern California Edison (SCE) representatives on Thursday, August 10. Mayor Ariel Pe would be present at the tour. Ms. Frost informed the commission that the tour was being held in advance of city-led proposed work. It was said that the city had received notice from SCE that they were not willing to provide deed restrictions so that the city could install the Carson Street Nature Trail on the frontage of the Nature Trail. In addition, Ms. Frost mentioned that SCE was only providing license agreements in increments of five years, so if they need to take back any portion of their land to accommodate grid improvements or expansions, they can do so without having to wait several years.

Next, Ms. Frost provided the commission with information regarding the new insurance requirements for the Tot Lot Program. She noted that members of the Tot Lot Program had attended a recent City Council meeting and voiced complaints regarding the new requirements. Ms. Frost shared details about the non-profit program with the commission. It was said that the city has long supported the Tot Lot Program by providing a city liaison to assist with program needs, and allowing them dedicated use of the 2-to-5-year-old play areas at their respective park free of charge. The Tot Lot Program is advertised in city marketing such as the recreation catalog and the city's social media outlets, and opportunities to fundraise for the program are provided at several city events. All Tot Lot fees are collected and retained by the Tot Lot Program. Ms. Frost informed the commission that in June the city informed the Tot Lot Program that a new agreement would soon be drafted to begin with the new Tot Lot Program year in September. It was said that the program was also notified that they would be required to name the City of Lakewood as

additional insured. An agreement was drafted by Recreation and Community Services staff and provided to the Tot Lot Program in mid-July prior to their advertised registration date. It was said that the drafted agreement appropriately transfers the city's risk to the Tot Lot Program. In addition to the revised insurance coverages, the new agreement also requires that the organization adhere to CA Assembly Bill 506, which requires them to provide background checks, and mandated reporting for those supervising minors. Thirdly, it was said that the new agreement requires that a person trained in CPR and First Aid be on site during the time that the program is in operation. Lastly, Ms. Frost mentioned that the city was requesting that the Tot Lot Program require parents and guardians to sign a waiver indemnifying the city. Staff have provided the Tot Lot Program with referrals for insurance providers and those who conduct background checks for non-profit organizations, along with a web address to the free online Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training, and has offered to provide CPR and First Aid training instructors at no cost to its members with each class attendee being responsible for the \$36 payment for the American Red Cross Certification Card, which is good for two years. Ms. Frost noted that the city would continue to provide the Tot Lot Program with a dedicated city liaison, free marketing of the program, free opportunities to fundraise at city events, and use of the Tot Lot play areas at their respective parks, while ensuring playground safety and maintenance. Ms. Frost shared that a meeting would be scheduled with the Tot Lot Program to reconfirm the city's continued commitment and support of the program and to review the administrative changes, provide guidance, share resources and referrals, discuss opportunities for finding additional time to complete the requirements, and answer any questions they may have regarding the new requirements.

Commissioner Spaseff shared that he attended the LYS Closing Day Ceremony and commended Community Services Supervisor Noel Munoz and staff for a job well done. He mentioned that it was nice that the ceremony was held on the grass instead of the basketball courts with the summer heat. Commissioner Spaseff also commended Community Services Supervisor Caitlin Cariaso for a successful backpack packing event.

Vice Chairperson Lucio shared that she attended the Jr. Recreation Leader Recognition event and mentioned that it was very well done and a great time was had by all. She mentioned that it was nice to see members of City Council present at the event. She commended park staff Alyssa Mejia for doing a great job organizing the program and event.

REPORTS:

1. Facility and Programs Tour

The commission was led on a tour of the Nature Trail Phase 1 and 3, McCormick Pool at Bolivar Park, Centralia Street at Studebaker Road Landscape Project, Home Run Dog Park and Rynerson Park Bridge Project.

2. Activities and Maintenance Report No. 2

A written report and discussion of the Recreation and Community Services Department Programs, Services and Maintenance Activities for the month of July 2023 and a listing of upcoming activities for September 2023.

The Commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Alik Amoranto and Malia Talavou, Co-Employees of the Month for June 2023.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Valdez adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m. to Wednesday, September 13 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission