

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF LA MIRADA**

MARCH 7, 2018

CALL TO ORDER The regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL Present: Commissioner Misty Cota Minjares
 Commissioner Pete Dames
 Commissioner Diane Gramajo
 Commissioner Steve Lee
 Vice Chairman Susan Savage

 Absent: Commissioner Rebecca Cline
 Commissioner Michael Lord

 Staff: Lori Thompson, Community Services Director
 Mark Stowell, Public Works Director/ City Engineer
 Dustin Balke, Aquatics Coordinator
 Micaela Diores, Community Services Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2018

Commissioner Dames moved and Commissioner Cota Minjares seconded to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2018 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Cota Minjares, Dames, Gramajo, Vice Chairman Savage

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Cline, Lord

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Lee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. ANNUAL PARK REVIEW

Community Services Director Thompson thanked Commissioners and members of the Youth Council for conducting the annual park review and said recommendations would be used to help select projects for the Love La Mirada Day of Service and assist Public Works in classifying and prioritizing park needs. She requested Commissioners and Youth Council Members provide brief summaries of their review and introduced Public Works Director/City Engineer Mark Stowell.

In Commissioner Cline's absence, Community Services Director Thompson discussed the review of Ana J. Martin Park which included favorable comments about the community's use of the new playground. Youth Council Member Maximo Vazquez said he was pleased with the park and recommended the park signage be replaced.

Commissioner Gramajo reported on Behringer Park North and Behringer Park South. She said the athletic fields were well maintained and utilized, but shared concerns over pet waste. Youth Council member Adriana Perez reported on her evaluation and recommended an increase in bathroom maintenance.

Public Works Director Stowell responded and said grass regeneration at Behringer Park is an ongoing challenge due to heavy use. He said future park renovations may include concrete repairs to Behringer Park South.

Commissioner Cota Minjares reported on her evaluation of Creek Park and said most concerns were addressed during the draft master plan review discussed at a recent Commission meeting. Youth Council Member Fabian Lee noted Creek Park's peaceful setting and shared his concerns over a potential tripping hazard along with bathroom accessibility and cleanliness.

Public Works Director Stowell responded and said renovations would bring Creek Park to full compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and that shrubs located near Santa Gertrudes Avenue and Kibbee Avenue were recently removed to help address the homeless issue.

Community Services Director Thompson shared Commissioner Cline's review of Frontier Park which was said to be well maintained and used by the community. Youth Council Member Sarah Usmani reported on her evaluation and recommended the bleachers and benches be cleaned.

Public Works Director Stowell responded and said the I-5 Freeway Expansion Project calls for a number of trees to be replanted within the City and Frontier Park would be a prime location for additional greenery.

Commissioner Gramajo shared recommendations from her review of Gardenhill Park which included signage and restroom renovations. Youth Council Member Adriana Perez presented the evaluation submitted by Youth Council member Arian Tirado who recommended additional parking, seating and water fountains.

Public Works Director Stowell reported on the playground replacement at Gardenhill Park and said additional bench seating would be included in the project. He said the park sign would be replaced. Community Services Director Thompson reported on a proposal for a free standing "library" to be developed and maintained by Girl Scout Troop 15564 as part of their Bronze Project at Gardenhill Park.

Community Services Director Thompson shared the evaluation for Heights Christian athletic fields conducted by Community Services Coordinator Amanda Ponce De Leon which included concerns over a possible leak on the field, which is being monitored by Heights Christian Middle School.

Public Works Director Stowell responded and said Heights Christian athletic fields are not owned by the City, therefore limiting the City's ability to make repairs.

Vice Chairman Savage reported on the Community Gymnasium and expressed concerns over the roof and air circulation. She also recommended additional lights be placed along the walkways leading to the parking lot to enhance safety.

Public Works Director Stowell responded and said the Gymnasium's facade would be in need of waterproofing and that future repairs would address the sky lights and air circulation.

Commissioner Dames reported on his evaluation of Los Coyotes athletic fields and commented on the inadequate number of available restrooms for use and other infrastructure concerns. He said Public Works staff continues to provide preventative maintenance but is limited in doing repairs to the 50 year old facility owned by the Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District. Commissioner Dames also said the School District would enclose a portion of the parking lot due to safety concerns.

Commissioner Cota Minjares reported on her evaluation of Neff Park which included the removal of inoperable equipment and recommended maintenance of restrooms and the Neff Mansion steps. She said she was looking forward to the completion of roof repairs for the Neff Mansion, George House, and the Neff Barn. Youth Council Member Maximo Vazquez recommended an increase in parking and restroom maintenance.

Public Works Director Stowell stated there are many desired renovations for Neff Park but repairs must be prioritized. He said preservation of the homes was vital due to their historical value. Community Services Director Thompson reported \$1,500 was donated by the United Methodist Church of La Mirada to go towards updating the tree plaques at Neff Park.

Vice Chairman Savage reported on her evaluation of Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center and said the facility was well utilized throughout the year and suggested signage be placed on the building's facade. She expressed concern over electrical equipment located near water but stated staff promptly addressed the swim team and corrected the matter. Vice Chairman Savage recommended the blue mosaic disks surrounding the pool deck be replaced with disks designed by local students.

Community Services Director Thompson responded and said electrical outlets were strategically placed during the concrete project at Splash! to discourage improper equipment placement and said staff would continue to work with team coaches to ensure proper procedures were followed. She commented that replacement of 31 blue mosaic disks had a cost estimate of \$116,000 and that other design options would be considered. Public Works Director Stowell reported on the new slide project and plans to replace facility lights with LED bulbs to increase efficiency.

Community Services Director Thompson reported on the evaluation of Veterans Park conducted by Commissioner Cline, who suggested the addition of a low maintenance succulent garden.

Commissioner Dames reported on his evaluation of Windermere Park and said the horseshoe pits were in need of repair or removal. Youth Council Chairman David Ramirez reported on the evaluation conducted by Yvonne Chen who expressed concern about restroom cleanliness and the playground.

Public Works Director Stowell reported on the playground replacement at Windermere Park. He said existing restrooms at Windermere and Gardenhill Parks were connected to the community buildings and that plans of additional restrooms for the sole use of the City's recreation programs were being considered.

Commissioner Lee requested information regarding the selection of Love La Mirada projects.

Commisisoner Cota Minjares said the City provided the Love La Mirada committee with 36 possible projects to be completed during the day of service on April 28. She said projects submitted were selected by staff based on community needs and recommendations made through the annual park review.

NEW BUSINESS

* Items 3 and 4 were taken out of order.

4. SPRING EVENTS 2018

Community Services Director Thompson reported on community events taking place in spring including the Easter Egg Hunt on March 31, Love La Mirada Day of Service on April 28, and Mother Daughter Tea on May 12. Mrs. Thompson encouraged Commissioners to

participate in selecting first place winners for the "Love a Tree" poster contest on April 4 at the La Mirada Library. She invited Commissioners to volunteer as judges for the Spring Beautification program, which takes place March 27 through April 6, and shared several proposed enhancements to the awards ceremony schedule for June 11 at the La Mirada Theatre.

3. PORTABLE SOUND SYSTEM

Community Services Director Thompson reported on portable sound equipment utilized by Community Services including three podiums and a portable system consisting of two powered speakers on stands with a built in audio mixer used outdoors at Splash! Mrs. Thompson said professional audio equipment and service were contracted by the City for large outdoor events. She added that as a general rule, groups with a facility reservation are offered a podium and if additional sound is desired, groups must supply their own equipment.

Commissioner Cota Minjares provided additional background by clarifying that Commissioner Cline's request for the report originated from the lack of proper sound during the Meals on Wheels Spaghetti Dinner.

Community Services Secretary Micaela Diores stated the equipment used during the Spaghetti Dinner was not borrowed from the City.

Commissioners Dames and Lee inquired if existing equipment and practices during community events were deemed sufficient by Community Services. Mrs. Thompson responded and said yes.

Commissioners Dames, Gramajo, and Cota Minjares recommended that since the Department deemed it unnecessary to purchase additional sound equipment, groups with a facility reservation requiring additional sound should continue to supply their own equipment.

Resident Lee Olsen commented that a member of the Community Services Foundation advised the Commission to recommend the purchase of a portable sound system to be available for use by service organizations during community events.

Commissioner Cota Minjares recommended further discussion be conducted when all members are present.

The Community Services Commission tabled its discussion of the agenda item.

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES PARTICIPANT SURVEYS

Community Services Director Thompson reported on the new participant surveys automatically sent through the City's online registration program, Civic Rec, after the completion of each class. Mrs. Thompson said online evaluations were implemented in

January 2018 and discussed key results which indicated a 97 percent overall satisfaction in the City's recreation programs.

Commissioner Cota Minjares commented on the value of feedback from program evaluations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SENIOR, HISTORICAL, AND YOUTH COUNCIL REPORTS

Senior Council Chairman Larry Torres reported on several items including SeniorNet registration on March 30, recruitment for a Senior Council representative from The Palms, AARP Tax Assistance, and a gardening class through Suburban Water Systems. He advertised the Elder Fraud Prevention Workshop scheduled for March 15 at 11 a.m. at the Activity Center.

Commissioner Lee expressed the importance of fraud prevention for seniors and suggested the workshop also be scheduled in the evening to allow for additional community members to attend.

Community Services Director Thompson said the fraud prevention workshop would be advertised on the City's social media sites and that the topic would be discussed again during an evening workshop to be scheduled in the near future.

Historical Preservation Advisory Council Vice Chairman Marlene Olsen thanked the Senior Council for its recruitment efforts and Public Works staff for their quick response to concerns regarding the Neff Estate. She reported on the missing Neff House plaque and said she was looking forward to the completion of the roof repairs.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Cota Minjares reported on the ethics training held on March 5, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on April 13 at Holiday Inn La Mirada, Love La Mirada Day of Service on April 28, and a La Mirada Ebell fundraiser on March 17 at the Volunteer Center.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Services Director Thompson thanked Commissioners for attending the ethics training on March 5 and reported on current job openings for aquatic and recreation positions, an MTV production at Splash! generating \$10,000 in revenue, and the StarGuard Elite program. Mrs. Thompson also reported on staff's attendance at a leadership training provided by the Joint Powers Insurance Authority during the week of

March 5 and the California Parks and Recreation Society's (CPRS) annual conference in Long Beach during the week of March 12.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted:



Micaela Diores
Community Services Secretary

Attest:



Susan Savage
Vice Chairman