

**PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**February 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

**6:30 p.m., Las Palmas**

**505 South Huntington Street, San Fernando, CA 91340**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Adriana Gomez, Commissioner NinaMarie Ballin,  
Commissioner Danitza Pantoja and Commissioner Joe Ponce

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Saydith Navarro

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ismael Aguila, Recreation and Community Services Operations Manager  
Linda Bowden-Moreno, Recreation & Community Services Office Specialist

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• **Call to Order/Roll Call**

- Commissioner Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.
- Present: Gomez, Ballin, Pantoja and Ponce
- Absent: Navarro

• **Pledge of Allegiance**

- Commissioner Ponce led the Pledge of Allegiance.

• **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion was made to approve the agenda of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission for February 12, 2013 with the following amendment: Move Up New Business, Item E: Installing Virtual Patrol at Pioneer Park, to be discussed first under New Business.**

Motion: Pantoja Second by: Ballin

For: All

Against: None

Abstained:None

- **Consent Calendar**

- A. Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2013**

**Motion was made to approve the minutes of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission for January 8, 2013.**

Motion: Ballin    Second by: Pantoja

For: All

Against: None

Abstained: None

- **Public Comment**

- Esther Schiller, Director of S.A.F.E., discussed working with the City the last couple of years to successfully pass an ordinance in August of 2012 to prohibit smoking in outdoor public areas.
- Ms. Schiller provided the Commission with survey results of San Fernando residents responding to questions pertaining to exposure of drifting smoke in multifamily units. The results of the surveys indicate many residents are exposed to drifting smoke and that the community supports regulation of tobacco smoke.
- Ms. Schiller is asking the Commission to agendaize this item for further discussion and also to consider taking this issue before the City Council as it falls under the area of health and wellness.

- **New Business**

- A. Installing Virtual Patrol at Pioneer Park**

- Ismael Aguila advised the Commission that Police Department has approached the RCS Department seeking financial assistance in improving security at Pioneer Park.
- Chief Parks reported on the grant of \$1.2 million received by the City in 2009 for Virtual Patrol which provides live camera feed as an added safety measure for the community. This security system utilizes cameras with the capability to zoom in sufficiently to capture a license plate number on a vehicle.

- Pioneer Park does not have Virtual Patrol as it does not have a power source. Edison will not allow use of their pole to secure a camera. A pole and labor was donated by a reserve peace officer who owns his own Edison business. A 45 foot pole has been donated and installed at Pioneer Park. Funding is still needed to fully integrate the system at Recreation Park and Pioneer Park.
- Ismael discussed safety concerns pertaining to staff locking up bathrooms in the evenings at Pioneer Park. The park is very dark. Staff has come across drug paraphernalia close to the dugouts. Additional lighting has also been donated.
- Approximately \$9,000 are needed to complete the Virtual Patrol Security System. On direction from the Commission, staff will take this item to the EPAH Standing Committee and then to Council. Ismael will prepare staff report for this item to include in the March 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
- Commissioner Ponce had questions about requirements for use of Quimby Funds and asked if the Police Department had other funding options. He agreed with the need for additional lighting at Pioneer Park due to safety.
- Commissioner Ballin suggested a partial contribution from Quimby Funds towards the installation of Virtual Patrol. Perhaps The PD could look into other funding options.
- Chief Parks reported that State Farm Insurance just awarded the Police Department with a grant of \$15,000 to be utilized for training. If Quimby funds are not made available for this project other funding options will be explored.

#### B. Reorganization of Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission

- Commissioners discussed reorganizing the Commission by selecting a Chair and Vice-Chair.
- Item was tabled for next meeting as Commissioner Navarro is not present tonight.

#### C. Senior Citizen Advisory Board (Overview and Discussion)

- Ismael Aguila discussed the role of the Senior Board which is a five-member body developed for the purpose of representing existing senior programs and services. The Senior Board also serves an important function in developing long-term goals for seniors in San Fernando.

- At this time the Senior Board is at four members from the following nominate sectors: one from Park Avenue Club, 2 from the Las Palmas Park Senior Club and one at large. Existing members have looked to encourage anyone interested in becoming a member of the Senior Board to apply. At this time there have been no applications submitted.
- Commissioner Gomez recommended seeking a representative from Senior Housing. This is a large senior population in the community which would benefit from having a spokesperson on the Senior Board.
- Commissioner Pantoja expressed support in allowing a representative from senior programming or from senior housing to allow that population input and representation.
- On the Commission's direction, Ismael will take this item to the Senior Board members at the next meeting scheduled on February 28<sup>th</sup>, to discuss more flexibility in seeking a representative such as a member of senior housing or other senior program.

#### D. Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Priorities

- Each Commissioner will add a description of their respective project for further discussion.
- Commissioner Ponce commented that the priorities submitted by the Commission are all great ideas, however, one must keep in mind that the City's current financial situation may impact the ability to move forward with these projects.

#### E. Healthy San Fernando Wellness Program (Funded by Kaiser)

- Ismael Aguila introduced the newly hired Community Wellness Coordinator, Carol Montes, who will be approaching local business and organizations to adopt healthy living techniques. What should be a yearlong project will need to take place in a five month span due to reduced funding from the Kaiser grant.
- As the Community Wellness Coordinator, Carol Montes will be seeking out local organizations and business owners and their employees to buy into becoming a healthier and cohesive unit in the community.
- In association with *Network for a Healthy California*, ten tools will be introduced to adopt and promote a healthier lifestyle within their company such as providing access to stairways, creating a walking club, nutrition classes, etc.

- Carol is seeking input from the Commission as well as recommendations on businesses in the community that would benefit most from this project.
- Ismael advised the Commission that this project would like to target low-income employees and families although it is not required. The ideal candidate would be a business that employees 15-30 people. This project will target 3-5 companies.
- Commissioner Pantoja suggested the local swap meet as a possible candidate for this project. Staff will look into reaching out to the property owner (Robertson Properties) of the swap meet location to identify potential candidates.
- Commissioner Gomez recommended approaching *Pharmavite* to participate. Commissioners will forward any other recommendations to staff.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **A. Police Dept. Monthly Report (Acting Chief Robert Parks)**

- Item tabled

## **IX. Staff Communication**

### **A. Rudy J. Ortega Sr. Park (formerly Heritage Park)**

- No reportable action at this time.

### **B. Layne Park**

- No reportable action at this time.

### **C. Pioneer Park**

- No reportable action at this time.

### **D. Recreation Park**

- No reportable action at this time.

### **E. Las Palmas Park**

- No reportable action at this time.

F. San Fernando Regional Pool Facility

- No reportable action at this time.

G. Other

- March Commission meeting will be held at Rudy Ortega (Heritage) Park.
- Staff informed the Commission that Las Palmas Park was not selected a site to offer free tax preparation assistance this year due to budget cuts from the program.
- Staff informed the Commission that the City Administrator's Monthly Report is available on line and is a good tool to access to keep up with current City activities.

**X. Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Gomez welcomed newly appointed Commissioners and expressed her delight at having a full Commission.
- Commissioner Gomez commented on the parking issues at the Pool Facility and Recreation Park.

**XI. Agenda Items for Next Month (March 12, 2013)**

1. Approval of Minutes for February 12, 2013
2. Commissioners will email any other agenda items to staff.

**X. Adjournment**

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.**

Motion: Ballin     Second by: Pantoja  
For: All  
Against: None  
Abstained: None