

PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**March 19, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m., Rudy Ortega Sr. (Heritage Park)
2025 Fourth Street, San Fernando, CA 91340**

PRESENT: Commissioner Adriana Gomez, Commissioner Saydith Navarro,
Commissioner Danitza Pantoja and Commissioner Joe Ponce

ABSENT: Commissioner NinaMarie Ballin

ALSO PRESENT: Ismael Aguila, Recreation and Community Services Operations Manager

• **Call to Order/Roll Call**

- Commissioner Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Present: Gomez, Navarro, Pantoja and Ponce
- Absent: Ballin

• **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 March 19, 2013 with the following amendment: Table the following items: New Business, Item A: Reorganization of Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission and Old Business Item E: Senior Citizen Advisory Board (Board Member Appointment Update)

Motion: Pantoja Second by: Ponce
For: All

Against:None
Abstained:None

- **Consent Calendar**

- A. Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2013**

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

Motion: Pantoja Second by: Ponce
For: Gomez, Pantoja, and Ponce
Against: None
Abstained: Navarro

- **Public Comment**

- None

- **Old Business**

- A. Police Dept. Monthly Report (Interim Chief Robert Parks)

- B. Installing Virtual Patrol at Pioneer Park and Recreation Park

- Ismael Aguila advised the Commission that Recreation Park is in need of upgrading the outdated hardware. Quimby funds of \$12,000 will be requested at the next Council meeting in order to execute the needed upgrades to enable live feed capacity of existing cameras at Recreation Park and installation of four cameras at Pioneer Park.
 - Commissioner Pantoja asked for clarification of the ability to use Quimby funds for Virtual Patrol installation and also asked about the current balance of Quimby funds. Staff advised that Virtual Patrol is a justified use of Quimby funds and reported that the current balance of Quimby funds is \$354,000.
 - Commissioner Gomez reported that a new “pocket park” will be built on Kalisher Street. The developer of the new 20 unit apartment building on Celis Street has an agreement with the City to build this new small community pocket park.
 - Commissioner Ponce commented on his support to see the Virtual Patrol cameras installed and the need to move this item along to Council.

- Commissioner Gomez asked if Layne Park was being considered for the Virtual Patrol Security System. Perhaps Chief Parks can discuss the need and/or feasibility of cameras at Layne Park.

C. Heal Cities Campaign Update: Smoke Free Ordinance for Multi-Family Housing
(Ms. Esther Schiller, S.A.F.E.)

Ms. Schiller

D. 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.

E. 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 28th, to discuss more flexibility in seeking a representative such as a member of senior housing or other senior program.

F. 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.

G. 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. New Business

A. Reorganization of Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission

- 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