

PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**July 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m., City Hall-Community Meeting Room
117 Macneil Street, San Fernando, CA 91340**

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Ismael Aguila, Recreation and Community Services Operations Manager
Marlene Miyoshi, Interim Public Works Director
Linda Bowden-Moreno, Recreation & Community Services Office Specialist

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

- Commissioner Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
- Present: Gomez, Pantoja, Ballin, Navarro and Ponce
- Absent: None

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Commissioner Navarro led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made to approve the agenda of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission for July 8, 2014 with the following amendment: New Business Item B, “Little Leagues Update”, was removed from the agenda.

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

IV. Consent Calendar

- Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2014

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission for May 13, 2014.

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

V. Public Comment

- None

VI. Police Dept. Monthly Report (Chief Robert Parks)

- Chief Parks reported to the Commission on crime trends.
- Overall, 2013 had a decrease in serious crimes. In 2012, there were three homicides and in 2013 there were zero. Increased break-ins and burglaries may be attributed to AB109 (early prison release program).
- Very few violent crimes in or around the parks with the exception of one attempted murder in close proximity to Las Palmas Park. The suspect has been arrested.
- The ABC (Alcohol Beverage Control) grant secured \$42,000 last year. An additional \$21,000 was received for this fiscal year to combat underage drinking and sales to minors. Some grant funds were utilized to conduct stings at all City parks on June 13th. Eight open container citations were issued at Las Palmas Park and eight citations at Pioneer Park. Several packs of beer were confiscated as well. These stings will be continued throughout the year.
- Commissioner Pantoja inquired about police patrol at Las Palmas on Fourth of July. Illegal fireworks were heard most of the night.
- Commissioner Ponce has questions regarding the location and frequency of undercover sting operations at the parks.
- The Commission congratulated Chief Parks for his recent appointment as permanent Chief of Police.

VII. New Business

A. Pacoima Wash Bikeway Project

- Marlene Miyoshi, Interim Public Works Director, reported on this item. The original grant received in 2007 for this project was \$1.5 million. New legislation required that the City reapply for the grant with the assistance of a consultant paid by Metro.
- Staff presented this item to Council to reaffirm their commitment to this project and to request to apply for additional funding. Redevelopment Agency funds for the local match of almost \$1 million were intended to be used at the time. The reapplication was submitted this year for about \$2 million.
- The Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority is a significant partner for this project which is a total of 3.2 miles. Of the total project, 1.6 miles goes through the City of San Fernando. The project will be in the range of \$2.5 million for the hardscape. This will be a class one bike way connecting by the train tracks.

B. Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Priorities FY 2014-2015

- Ismael suggested the Commission come up with a total of about five priorities.
- Commissioners were encouraged to email additional priorities they wished to include.
- The most recent update to last year's priorities is that the Fourth Street Parking Lot has now been completed and is now in use.
- Commissioner Pantoja submitted the following priorities for the new fiscal year: 5k Relay/Wellness Campaign and Park Safety including a focus on illegal drinking and gambling at the parks.
- Ismael discussed the possibility of bringing back Park Rangers for added park patrol and enforcement of ordinances.
- Commissioners Ballin and Pantoja both would like to bring in programming for individuals with special needs. Commissioner Ballin discussed bringing in programs such as a tennis camp for those with special needs. Commissioner Pantoja suggested City basketball leagues conduct an activity such as a clinic to allow individuals with special needs to participate with the league participants.

- Ismael discussed the City's attempts to bring in this type of programming which is proving to be a challenge with the City's limited resources. Tierra Del Sol students will be involved with The 5K Relay Event which will provide participation opportunities for those with special needs.
- Commissioner Navarro commented on having contacts at Gridley Street Elementary School as well as Tierra Del Sol. Child Development Institute (CDI) in Canoga Park may also be a good resource. Contact information will be provided by Commissioner Navarro.
- Commissioner Gomez commented on AYSO having a soccer team which allows competitive soccer teams to play with VIP teams.
- Commissioner Gomez inquired about the possibility of utilizing the pool for next year's Special Olympics in Los Angeles.
- Commissioner Ballin added park maintenance to the new priorities, specifically the need to improve the appearance of Rudy Ortega Park (formerly Heritage Park). Perhaps scheduling clean-up days at this park.
- Ismael reported that Kiwanis has been a big help in assisting with Clean-Up Days.
- Ismael reported that the Tatavium Tribe has provided maintenance service in the form of two maintenance workers twice per week. Clean-up days were not conducted this year at Rudy Ortega Park. The Public Works Department is currently short staffed and court worker volunteers have decreased significantly. On a positive note, a council member has also identified this park as a priority for upkeep and maintenance which may move this item along more promptly.
- Commissioner Navarro would like to see a Farmers Market to provide healthier options for residents.
- Commissioner Gomez would like to see the elimination of overnight parking at Las Palmas and Recreation Parks. Perhaps permit parking would help eliminate the problem of overcrowded parking lots. Ismael will research this item further with the director of Community Development.
- Commissioner Gomez commented on the group *Levántate* which has expressed an interest in creating a Health Hub in San Fernando to allow local farmers to provide the public the opportunity to utilize crops that would otherwise be trashed due to slight bruising.

VII. Old Business

A. Health Campaign/5K Diabetes Event Update

- Ismael reported that the Health Campaign is now officially up and running. Many sponsors have committed to participate in the campaign and have assisted with many areas of this event.
- 2500 flyers have been sent to residents with the water bills. Door to door flyers also being distributed to advertise summer programming.
- Registration for 5K Relay is available on-line. A link has been created on the City Website to provide more information. (healthysanfernando.com).
- The first official event is the *Dive-in Movie Night* scheduled on July 18th. Information, signage and other health messages will be part of this event.
- Commissioner Gomez commended Ismael for all the hard work he is putting into bringing this campaign to the City.
- Commissioners offered their support towards this effort.

VIII. Staff Communication

- Ismael informed the Commission that CPRS membership has been renewed and will include regular journals for the Commissioners.
- Staff reminded the Commission that the City Attorney's law firm is putting on a workshop on July 19th to discuss the Brown Act and other topics on orderly conduct of City business. This training is for elected officials, commissioners and department heads.
- A flyer from LA Care was distributed to Commissioners for a community event scheduled on August 29th to learn new and innovative ways to get fit and to recruit people to free and low cost exercise programs in the City. LA Care is also promoting their new Family Resource Center which will be opening soon on the corner of Van Nuys and San Fernando Road.

IX. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Pantoja offered her assistance towards the Health Campaign/5K Event.
- Commissioners Ponce and Navarro also volunteered to assist towards the Health Campaign.
- Commissioner Gomez commented that Kiwanis is a sponsor of the Health Campaign and also available to volunteer their assistance.
- Commissioner Ponce had questions regarding how Heritage Park is being utilized and commented that the overgrown brush allows for inappropriate conduct in the park.
- Commissioner Pantoja recommended adding an exercise station at Heritage Park.
- Commissioner Gomez reported on the *100 Pairs of Shoes* event to be held in September. The event will also include children with disabilities and children in the afterschool program at Gridley and Morningside Schools.

X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting (Special meeting in August)

- Commissioners may email agenda items to staff.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

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