

PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

March 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes 6:00 p.m., City Hall - Council Chambers 117 Macneil Street, San Fernando, CA 91340

PRESENT: Commissioner Adriana Gomez, Commissioner Nina Herrera, Commissioner Saydith Navarro, and Commissioner Anna Lopez

ABSENT: Joe Ponce

ALSO PRESENT: Julian Venegas, RCS Director
Linda Bowden-Moreno, Recreation & Community Services Office Specialist

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Commission Chair, Adriana Gomez
Present: Gomez, Herrera, Navarro, and Lopez
Absent: Ponce

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Led by Commissioner Adriana Gomez

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made to approve the agenda of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission meeting for March 13, 2018.

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

IV. Public Comment

- A woman (name inaudible) requested permission to make a public comment after the meeting had adjourned.

- Commissioner Gomez, with the consensus of the Commission, reopened Public Comment.
- Speaker stated she was interested in the item addressing the update of the Santa Rosa Little League. She has grandsons in the little league and would like to know the status. She would like to know if the league is meeting their requirements to operate properly. She also had other questions regarding future plans for the City's parks.
- Commissioner Gomez explained that the Commission cannot respond to her inquiries but directed her question to staff.
- Mr. Venegas reported that staff has met with the league's president to discuss concerns raised by the parents. A meeting will be scheduled soon to allow parents to voice their concerns and to provide them with an update. Staff will obtain the speaker's contact information to provide details on the upcoming meeting.

V. Consent Calendar

- Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2018

Motion was made to approve the Minutes from the January 9, 2018 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Meeting.

Motion: Navarro Second by: Lopez
For: Gomez, Navarro, and Lopez
Against: None
Abstained: Herrera

VI. New Business

A. Introduction of new Parks, Wellness and Recreation Director: Julian Venegas

- Julian Venegas provided the Commission with some history on his background and experience. Mr. Venegas comes from the City of Alhambra where he worked as Deputy Director of Community Services for a period of eight years. His responsibilities included overseeing recreation activities, senior services, aquatics and community programming. He also worked for the City of Arcadia working mainly in senior programming for 10 years.
- Mr. Venegas has 30 years experience working with communities and various special interest groups and will do his best in his new position here at the City

of San Fernando.

- The Commission welcomed Mr. Venegas on board.

B. Parks Master Plan Implementation

- Mr. Venegas reported that the Parks Master Plan was approved by City Council on February 5, 2018. The first item on the implementation of the Parks Master Plan is the renovation of Layne Park. A Housing-Related Grant previously awarded must be spent by the end of this fiscal year. Staff released an RFP seeking project contractors.
- The Layne Park project calls for renovation of the irrigation system, demolishing the existing basketball half-court and installation of a full court, renovation of the play area and relocation of the picnic areas to allow space for the new soccer field.
- Commissioner Gomez had questions regarding the grant amount. The Grant amount is \$113, 000. The goal is to have the grant cover the Layne Park improvement projects, however, that is dependent on the bids that come in.
- Commissioner Gomez commented on phase II of the Harding Apartments. Groundbreaking for an additional 90 units will be coming up in a few months which may help generate additional funds. Per Mr. Venegas, the grant is offered yearly therefore the City can re-apply when the units are completed.

C. Santa Rosa Little League Update

- Concerned parents are requesting that staff intervene with the administration of the little league. There is a history of internal struggles with the league and its members. The City's agreement with Santa Rosa Little League limits the City's authority over the little league. Staff has met with the league's president to gather information on how they operate. A meeting with the parents is planned in the next couple of weeks to discuss their concerns. The City is working with the president and the parents in an attempt to resolve existing issues.
- Commissioner Gomez had questions regarding the specific concerns parents are raising.
- Some parents feel the league is not being run efficiently. Parents also want to know how their funds are being utilized. Some have requested refunds that have not been honored.

VII. Continued Business

- None

VIII. Staff Communication

- Rudy Ortega Park will be hosting a couple of bingo nights for fund raising. They have completed a special event application.
- Pioneer Park continues to be utilized by San Fernando Little League which has started its season. Staff is seeking funding to renovate this park.
- Recreation Park has the Youth Basketball League operating there with over 150 participants of which the majority are City Residents. Summer League registrations are being accepted. Adult sports currently in operation are basketball, men's softball, and open volleyball.
- MMAP has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$50K from the National Endowment of the Arts for the upcoming fiscal year.
- The ENP continues to operate out of Las Palmas Club. The LP Club will have their St. Patrick's Day Dance this month. Senior trips and excursions continue to fill up quickly.
- Upcoming special events include Lions Cub's Annual Walk at Recreation Park, LAUSD is planning a festival, and St. Ferdinand's Annual Fiesta.
- Commissioner Ballin had questions regarding Rudy Ortega Park's hours of operation. Commissioner Ballin has noticed the gates are open past midnight. Park hours are dawn to dusk. Staff will inform the PD who is responsible to lock up nightly.
- Commissioner Lopez had questions regarding the dates the basketball league will begin.
- Commissioner Gomez had questions regarding the Open Streets Festival. Staff informed the Commission that staff is in the final planning stages of the event scheduled to occur on March 31, 2018. The kick-off will occur at 9:30 am at the Lopez Adobe.

IX. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Herrera reported that Rudy Ortega Park has been left unlocked well past midnight on numerous occasions. Staff will report this to the Police Department who is in charge of locking up the park.

X. Agenda Items for Next Regular Meeting (May 8, 2018)

- Commissioners are welcome to contact staff regarding adding agenda items.

XI. Adjournment

- Commissioner Gomez adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

For: All

Against: None

Abstained: None

* Commissioner Gomez, with Commission consensus, reopened the meeting for Public Comment after meeting had adjourned. (*see Public Comment section*).

- Commissioner Gomez adjourned at 6:26 p.m.