

PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**January 14, 2014 Regular 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 Joe Ponce and
Commissioner Saydith Navarro,

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Ismael Aguila, Recreation and Community Services Operations Manager
Virginia Diediker, Cultural Arts Supervisor
Linda Bowden-Moreno, Recreation & Community Services Office Specialist

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

- Commissioner Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
- Present: Gomez, Pantoja, Ballin, Ponce and Navarro
- Absent: None

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Commissioner Ponce led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda

**Motion was made to approve the agenda of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission
for January 14, 2014**

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

IV. Consent Calendar

Approval of Minutes – December 4, 2013

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission for December 4, 2013.

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

V. Public Comment

- None

VI. Presentation

A. Kadima Music Conservatory

- Ms. Beth Elliott, Conservatory Director, and other Kadima members performed a selection of classical music for the Commission. Ms. Elliott addressed the Commission and gave some background on this non-profit organization that funds scholarships and programs in classical music training to disadvantaged students.
- Rehearsals are currently held at the San Fernando Pool Facility. Kadima is requesting space to continue to offer instruction, rehearsals, and other services to those most in need. The request is for space that can accommodate about 40 students. In the summer, the Conservatory would need the use of three separate rooms for rehearsals.
- Commissioner Pantoja requested to hear from one of the Kadima students. Liz Chavez is currently a Cal State Long Beach student studying music thanks to her affiliation with the Conservatory. A great percentage of Kadima students go forward to higher learning education.
- Commissioner Ponce commented on how wonderful this program is and stated that he would like to see this group continue in San Fernando.
- Commissioner Navarro commented that Kadima's performance was fantastic.

B. Mariachi Master Apprentice Program (MMAP)

- MMAP students performed a selection of traditional mariachi music for the Commission.
- The City of San Fernando Mariachi Master Apprentice Program (MMAP) was awarded the 2012 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award by First Lady Michelle Obama, the Nation's highest honor for after-school arts and humanities programs.
- MMAP has been made possible by the support of The National Endowment for the Arts, The California Arts Council, The Alliance for California Traditional Arts Living Cultures Grants Program, Nati Cano and Mariachi Los Camperos, and the City of San Fernando.
- Ms. Virginia Diediker and Mr. Sergio Alonso, MMAP instructor, discussed how San Fernando has served as a model for the preservation of the arts.
- Commissioner Pantoja made the following comment to the MMAP program: "You make us proud".
- Commissioner Ponce commented how fantastic MMAP performed.
- Commissioner Navarro expressed how pleased she was with the performance and thanked the group.
- Commissioner Gomez thanked the MMAP group and instructors for their hard work and a wonderful performance. She also mentioned the prestigious award recently presented by the White House.

C. 2014 Cesar E. Chavez Commemoration (Alex Reza)

- Mr. Alex Reza discussed the legacy of Cesar E. Chavez and the similar struggles that today's you people face. Individuals lacking formal education tend to be forgotten by society. Many are facing difficult struggles due to current financial crisis in this country being the worst since 1929.
- This year's Cesar E. Chavez commemoration will mark the tenth anniversary of the memorial. The event is scheduled to take place on March 30th and will include the "March for Justice" as well as a health and science fair, and art contest.
- With the assistance of a CSUN film instructor, a documentary will be produced and narrated by film actor Jacob Vargas who will also portray

the role of brother to Cesar E. Chavez.

- The Youth Conference held at Cesar Chavez Academy was very successful. It is an event that is expected to occur again.
- Commissioner Pantoja had questions regarding the details of the 2014 Cesar E. Chavez Commemoration. Ismael Aguila will work with Mr. Reza to put together a proposal to present to the Commission at the next meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Senior Citizen Advisory Board Reappointments

- A staff report was provided to the Commission with a recommendation to renew the appointment of the following current members of the Senior Citizen Advisory Board which will keep the membership at five: Michael Kmet & Benita Rivera.

Motion was made recommending that Michael Kmet and Benita Rivera be reappointed to the Senior Citizen Advisory Board for another two year term.

Motion: Ballin Second by: Pantoja

For: All

Against: None

Abstained: None

B. Allocation of Staff Time for MMAP Grants (Virginia Diediker)

- Ismael Aguila reported that staff is requesting a recommendation from this Commission to ask Council to approve staff time be allocated towards the pursuit of grants supporting MMAP since most of the funding comes from donations, grants and performances.
- Virginia Diediker reported that most of the funding which supports MMAP is from the *National Endowment for the Arts*. Applying for grants is a lengthy and detailed process that requires staff time. Two grants are due in the month of February. It is estimated that it will take approximately 40 hours of staff time. With this Commission's recommendation, staff would like to add this item to the agenda for the 2-3-14 Council meeting.

Motion was made recommending that the item of allocating staff time towards MMAP grants be forwarded to City Council for approval.

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

VII. Old Business

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

- Chief Parks provided an update on the parks that included the report on the increase in vandalism, a death investigation across from Recreation Park and a sex crime involving two minors at Las Palmas Park which resulted in charges being filed.
- The month of December had a spike in theft of valuables. This may be related to the recent release of parolees in this area.
- Commissioner Pantoja had questions regarding Virtual Patrol. She also discussed a recent burglary in her neighborhood and suggested a campaign reminding people to keep valuables out of view.
- Ismael Aguila discussed including Commissioner Pantoja's recommendation with disaster preparedness which includes the Nixle Emergency Alert system. Law enforcement also utilize "SNAP" which is a web based system designed to rescue the disabled during a disaster.
- Commissioner Ponce asked about adding Virtual Patrol to the new Pocket Park as he has observed vandalism and loitering. Chief Parks will request additional patrol in the area.
- Commissioner Gomez reported that there is an agreement with the developer of the Pocket Park who is responsible for vandalism and security issues.

B. Update on 5K Diabetes Event

- Staff reported to the Commission on the Council's approval of this Health Campaign which will begin the planning stage in April.
- Four CSUN Interns will be available to assist with this event.

- Commissioners Pantoja and Ponce have agreed to participate in the planning committee.
- Staff will be seeking fiscal partners and fund raising. It is estimated that staff time will consist of about 2-4 hours per week.
- Commissioner Gomez recommended utilizing professional fund raisers to help with this task.

VIII. Staff Communication

- Staff provided the Commission with an update on upcoming activities and programs.

IX. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Pantoja reported that signage is missing near concession stands at Las Palmas Park. Staff reported that some signage is being replaced at Las Palmas which may be the reason for missing signs. Staff will look into this matter.
- Commissioner Gomez had questions regarding the little leagues use of parks. Ismael Aguila reported he is meeting with the leagues and will provide an update in the near future.
- Commissioner Gomez had questions regarding the use of facilities by Kadima.

X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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