

## **PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **February 11, 2014 Special 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  
Linda Bowden-Moreno, Recreation & Community Services Office Specialist

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#### **I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

- Commissioner Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 February 11, 2014**

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

#### **IV. Consent Calendar**

Approval of Minutes – January 14, 2014

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

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

**V.                Public Comment**

- Council Member Robert Gonzales spoke to the Commission as a member of the Cesar Chavez Commemoration Committee. He discussed the stolen plaques from the Cesar Chavez Memorial and expressed his desire to replace those plaques utilizing a more cost effective material that may deter theft.
- Rafael Garcia with Republic Services and the Cesar Chavez Foundation spoke on the scholarship that is to be made available in the near future.
- Tamika Farr, Executive Director of *El Centro de Amistad*, announced that May is Mental Health Awareness Month and discussed the Mental Health Day Event which is in the planning stages and will include the participation of the Police and Fire Departments. She is looking for interested individuals who would like to be part of the planning committee.

**VI.                Police Dept. Monthly report (Interim Chief Robert parks)**

- Chief Parks spoke on the recent rash of theft involving brass and bronze valves. He also made mention of numerous arrests at the parks resulting from possession of narcotics and vandalism.
- Commissioner Ponce had questions regarding the number of arrests.

**VII.                New Business**

**A. Update on Lopez Adobe Preservation Project**

- Ismael reported on the status of the Lopez Adobe Preservation Project being in the final stages of completion. The City is looking to provide weekly tours to the public. It is estimated that the site will be open in April.

#### B. Kadima Music Conservatory Proposal

- Kadima is proposing to provide 6-8 community concerts, work shops and 30 full scholarships. There is no budget impact to the City, only opportunity costs.
- Commissioner Gomez had questions regarding the scholarships and location of rehearsals.
- Commissioner Pantoja had questions regarding the number of rooms Kadima is requesting for rehearsals.
- Commissioner Ballin requested Kadima present a more formalized plan.
- Commissioner Gomez inquired as to the time frame Kadima is working with in order to plan and provide outreach. Staff would like to place this item on the 3/17/14 Council Meeting agenda.

**Motion was made recommending this item go before City Council at the March 17, 2014 Council Meeting.**

Motion: Gomez    Second by: Navarro

For: All

Against: None

Abstained: None

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#### C. 2014 Cesar E. Chavez Commemoration Proposal

- Ruben Rodriguez with *Pueblo y Salud* and Councilmember Robert Gonzalez spoke to the Commission regarding their proposal for the Cesar E. Chavez Commemoration.
- The ten year anniversary of the Cesar Chavez Memorial is approaching. The CCCC would like to work with the City to host an event to commemorate the anniversary.
- The CCCC would like to reinstate the *March for Justice*. The march has not been practiced in several years. The target date is March 2015.
- A list of the donated plaques will be needed in order to determine which plaques have been stolen. The CCCC is looking to fund raise in order to replace those plaques.

- An update on the Cesar Chavez Youth Conference was provided.
- Commissioner Pantoja had questions regarding the amount of money the CCCC is planning to fund raise and about the cost of maintaining the plaques.
- Commissioner Gomez had questions regarding the fiscal impact of having the march reinstated. Staff will research further in order to provide a cost estimate.
- Commissioner Gomez suggested students of Cesar Chavez Academy adopt the memorial and assist with maintenance. Councilmember Gonzales will look into this recommendation further as there may be safety issues associated with students being in close proximity to a busy street.

**Motion was made to recommend staff meet with the Cesar Chavez Commemoration Committee to finalize a proposal which will be presented to the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission in March.**

Motion: Pantoja    Second by: Navarro

For: All

Against: None

Abstained: None

#### D. Update on Little League Operations

- Ismael briefed the commission on the history of the leagues and the City. Past practices allowed the leagues to use park facilities at no cost. The leagues now pay an impact fee due to the economic downturn. Concession stands previously were not up to code but have since been upgraded to allow sales of pre-packed foods only.
- The City and leagues have now entered into a formal agreement. Leagues now have non-profit status and relations have improved between the City and the leagues.
- John Espinoza with San Fernando Little League thanked Ismael for his direction. He also commented that the Virtual Patrol System has been a big help in improving the park. Coaches and parents have participated in maintaining the fields. Relations are now much improved.
- Marcos Martinez with Santa Rosa Baseball also thanked Ismael for his help and cooperation. He commented that he appreciates being invited to this Commission meeting

- Concession stands are only approved for sales of pre-packaged foods. San Fernando Little League has at times used the barbeques at Pioneer Park. Staff will look into the City Ordinance about the leagues use of barbeques.
- Commissioner Pantoja stated she is glad to hear there is an improved partnership between the City and the leagues. She thanked Ismael and the leagues for cooperating with one another.
- Commissioner Ponce had questions regarding staff time. Ismael reported that office staff time amounted to about 20 hours and field prep time takes three staff about two weeks time.
- Commissioner Navarro was happy to hear about the improved communication between the City and the leagues.
- Commissioner Gomez had questions regarding impact fees and sign up fees. She also inquired about scholarship opportunities for low income families.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **A. Health Campaign/5K Diabetes Event Update**

- Ismael reported that Valley Care is the fiscal sponsor for this event. Administrative costs are determined to be 3%.
- Commissioner Gomez had questions about sponsors.
- Commission Pantoja inquired about year round sponsorship.

**Motion was made to recommend this item go before City Council at the March 17<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting.**

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

### **VIII. Staff Communication**

- Ismael reported to the Commission on a 175K grant to improve Recreation Park. Consultants were hired to handle the application process and Recreation Park has qualified for the grant. Funds will be used towards park improvements which were recommended by this Commission.
- Quimby funds have been allocated towards parking lots.
- Staff recently applied for and submitted a grant for the Afterschool Program. Staff will provide the Commission with an update at the next meeting.

### **IX. Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Gomez reported that the landscape at the pool facility is in need of weed control. Staff will submit a work order request.

### **X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting (March 11, 2014)**

- Commissioners will email agenda items to staff

### **XI. Adjournment**

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.**

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