

PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**June 19, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m., City Hall-Community Room
117 Macneil Street, San Fernando, CA 91340**

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Ismael Aguila, Recreation and Community Services Operations Manager
Councilmember Jesse Avila
Linda Bowden-Moreno, Recreation & Community Services Office Specialist

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

- Commissioner Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:34 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 June 19, 2013.

Motion: Ballin Second by: Pantoja

For: All

Against: None

Abstained: None

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2013

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission for May 14, 2013.

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

V. Public Comment

- None

VI. New Business

A. Reorganization of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission

- Commissioner Pantoja nominated Commissioner Gomez to continue as Chair of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission.
Second by: Ponce Second
- Commissioner Ponce nominated Commissioner Pantoja to serve as Vice Chair of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission.
Second by: Gomez

Both nominations were carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Ballin, Navarro, Pantoja, Ponce - 4

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

B. Education Commission-Financial Park Proposal

- Ismael Aguila discussed a proposal submitted by Education Commissioner Luis Lopez who works with a non-profit organization known as *Junior Achievement*. This program teaches students various life skills including money management and business practices.

- The program will consist of a “Finance Park” providing a venue to teach life skills to 11th and 12th grade students from Cesar Chavez Learning Academies for a two year period.
- Council members may allocate transportation funds to provide bus transportation. Council member Gonzales has voiced an interest in donating bus transportation.
- The school would select 40-80 students to participate in the 12 week curriculum program.
- Education Commissioner Patty Lopez is requesting use of a meeting room at Las Palmas Park for this program.
- Commissioner Ponce would like to target students residing in San Fernando.
- Commissioner Navarro supports this project.
- Commissioner Pantoja suggested that students provide City Council a presentation at the conclusion of the program to provide a report on their experience of the program. Another option is for students to somehow give back to the community upon completion of the program. Commissioner Gomez concurred with these recommendations.
- Commissioner Pantoja also recommended reaching out to Subway to possibly sponsor lunches.
- Commissioner Ballin had questions regarding the criteria for selecting the students. Staff advised that criteria details have not been finalized by the school.
- Commissioners Ponce and Pantoja would like to see a significant percentage of City residents participate in this program.
- Commissioner Gomez had questions regarding staff time involved in overseeing this program.
- Ismael will seek additional information on the criteria for the selection process and bring back to the Commission.

Motion was made that Recreation and Community Services Department oversee year one of this project with the recommendations discussed.

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

C. Suggestion to hold bimonthly Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Meetings

- Commissioner Gomez discussed the Standing Committees being placed on hold for the time being and the possibility of changing the City Ordinance in the future to give the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission more purview over the use parks. At this time the Commission has very little decision making power relating to parks.
- Commissioner Gomez also commented on the City's current financial situation and relieving the City from paying monthly stipends and staff overtime and/or comp time by holding meetings on a bi-monthly basis for the time being.
- Commissioner Ballin, Pantoja and Ponce concurred with this recommendation.
- Commissioner Navarro had questions regarding continued communication and contact. Staff will continue to communicate with Commissioners regarding matters relating to the Parks Department. Special meetings can be scheduled when necessary.
- Ismael will review the City Ordinance to confirm meeting requirements.
- Councilmember Jesse Avila discussed the intent of Council to have Commissioners become more involved and to have more authority in important matters. Councilmember Avila also advised the Commission to hold meetings when needed and to have open communication with staff and with Council.

Motion was made to hold the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Regular Meetings on a bi-monthly basis (every other month) and when necessary, to hold Special Meetings.

Motion: Gomez Second by: Pantoja

For: All

Against: None

Abstained: None

VII. Old Business

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

- Chief Parks discussed the crime trends report which has been reformatted.
- Some of the recent crimes include a narcotics arrest at Pioneer Park, a vehicle impound at Recreation Park, arrest for a physical altercation and drug paraphernalia at Las Palmas Park.
- The Communication Center receives approximately 20,000 calls per month.
- Ismael commented on Commissioner Ponce's concerns regarding the safety of the new Kalisher Pocket Park. Commissioner Ponce added that lighting is now better and that virtual patrol would be a good idea. Ismael will do a site survey to determine where camera installation is possible.
- Commissioner Gomez discussed the development of Kalisher Pocket Park and the agreement with the residents to help with maintenance duties.
- Chief Parks reported that the gang injunction has helped in controlling crime and gang activity in the City. He also discussed the release of thousands of inmates as a result of AB 109 and the burden on the community and law enforcement. There are funds available to offset some staff time costs associated with this influx of parolees.
- Chief Parks reported that he paid a home visit to Mr. Layne, a City resident who is a WWII veteran and fought in Iwo Jima. Mr. Layne's

family donated the land for Layne Park. He is now in his nineties and still very sharp.

B. Kalisher Wellness Program Update

- Ismael reported that the goal of this program funded through a Kaiser grant is to encourage employees from local businesses to adopt healthy habits at their respective worksite.
- Three local companies amounting to about 155 employees agreed to participate. The program conducted physical activity demonstrations, nutrition education, and also helped to implement various healthy policies including adding healthy vending machines.
- Ismael presented the Commission with several options for a “Healthy San Fernando” logo. Commissioners discussed the various logos and offered their opinions. The Commission expressed interest in adopting a logo for a “Healthy San Fernando”.
- Staff is currently working on a summary to submit to Kaiser.

C. Heal Cities Campaign: Letter of Recommendation to the Planning Commission

- Draft letter presented to the Commission recommending the implementation of the Smoke Free Ordinance to include multi-family housing.
- Commissioner Ponce had questions regarding the purview of this Commission. He further stated that multi-family housing issues are outside of the scope of this Commission. Staff advised that the Planning Commission is moving forward with this item and this Commission previously expressed a desire to show support in this effort.
- There was discussion regarding moving forward with the recommendation to the Planning Commission. Upon further discussion, the commission agreed to make the recommendation.

Motion was made to provide a written recommendation to the Planning Commission to move forward with the inclusion of multi-family housing in the City's Smoke-Free Ordinance.

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

VIII. Staff Communication

A. Rudy J. Ortega Sr. Park (formerly Heritage Park)

- Clean up days are scheduled on the last Saturday of the month through September.
- Commissioner Pantoja will recommend students from a charter school that need to put in some volunteer hours.

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

- The Food Bank held a food distribution yesterday with a turnout of about 220.

F. San Fernando Regional Pool Facility

- The Fourth of July event has been cancelled this year. This will be communicated to the public as well as locations of alternate Fourth of July events.

G. Other

- Summer Programming flyer was distributed to residents in the water bill.
- Day Camp is currently at 90 registrations and more are expected in the next week.
- Swim lessons are filling up quickly. Session one is now at capacity. Sign-ups for session two will begin soon.
- Tennis is now being offered at San Fernando. The NJTP is seeking to secure coaches to provide instruction to the disabled population.

IX. Commissioner Comments

- No Commissioner Comments

X. Agenda Items for Next Month (July 9, 2013)

1. Approval of Minutes for June 19, 2013
2. Commissioners will email any items they wish to add to the agenda

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Motion: Gomez Second by: Pantoja

For: All

Against: None

Abstained: None