

PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**July 9, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m., City Hall-Council Chambers
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:

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

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

- Commissioner Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Present: Gomez, Pantoja, Ballin, Navarro, and Ponce
- 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 July 9, 2013.

Motion: Ponce Second by: Pantoja

For: All

Against: None

Abstained: None

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes – June 19, 2013

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission for June 19, 2013.

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

V. Public Comment

- None

VI. New Business

A. Discussion on Preparation for the 2014 Fourth of July Event

- Ismael discussed the reason for the cancellation of this year's Fourth of July Event. The cost to put on this event runs about \$30,000 (not including staff time). Perhaps working with local partners may be a good way to put on the event in the future without the City absorbing all the cost. The City may also consider co-sponsoring the event or maybe not having the event at all. Staff is looking for recommendations from the Commission on planning next year's event.
- Commissioner Ballin suggested minimizing staff time by seeking volunteers for the event. She also recommended gathering information on how other cities put on their Fourth of July events. She also suggested looking into a laser show as opposed to pyrotechnics as more cost effective and safer option.
- Commissioner Ponce commented on attending a Fourth of July event in Irvine that was sponsored by their Police Department. Perhaps SFPD would consider sponsoring next year's event, but at the end of the day if funding is an issue cancelling the event is understandable. Staff pointed out that SFPD has been very supported in sponsoring previous City events.
- Commissioner Ponce discussed having mixed feelings about this

event. It is a nice family event but cancelling future events may be the best decision. He has heard comments from residents who want to see the event continue and others who are okay with cancelling it altogether. Money may be better spent on programming.

- Commissioner Navarro supports the idea of seeking collaboration with partners to sponsor or co-sponsor future events. The cost is quite high for only 20 minutes of pyrotechnics. Perhaps a laser show would be a good alternative.
- Commissioner Gomez expressed concern about the amount of staff time and work it takes to put on this event as well as the volume of litter left behind by visitors. She would prefer to see residents rent spaces at the park for family barbeques. In light of the recent accident at the Simi Valley Fireworks Event, pyrotechnics are a public safety concern. A concert in the park would be preferable to fireworks. Commissioner Gomez suggested seeking collaboration prospects. Perhaps an RFP could be considered.
- Chief Parks will discuss the Commission's recommendations on the Fourth of July Event at the next Police Advisory Council meeting.

VII. Old Business

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

- Chief Parks discussed information provided by the dispatcher regarding crime trends in the parks.
- Pioneer Park has recent problems with overnight parking. Cars have been towed away for illegally parking overnight.
- Recreation Park has been having issues with the security alarm going off on Sundays. PD has responded to these alarms which have turned out to be false.
- A theft report at Las Palmas Park was received by PD. An IPAD was stolen from the Lobby.
- Reports of a cross dresser in the women's restroom at Las Palmas Park were received by PD.

- Surveillance at Recreation Park revealed seniors playing cards with markers which usually means gambling.

B. Heal Cities Campaign: (Letter of Recommendation to the Planning Commission-Final)

- The Commission approved the final version of the letter of Recommendation to the Planning Commission in support of the Smoke Free Ordinance in Multi-Family Housing. Letter will be forwarded to the Planning Commission.

C. Education Commission: Financial Park Proposal Update

- Ismael reported that the PW&R Commission's recommendations were passed along to the Education Commission. Staff will continue to update Commission on this item.

D. Adoption of Resolution to hold regular Commission meetings on a bimonthly basis.

- The Commission signed a resolution amending the existing Ordinance to hold regular meetings on a bi-monthly basis on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution amending the date and time of the regular meetings to a bi-monthly schedule.

Motion: Pantoja Second by: Ponce

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.

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

- No reportable action at this time.

F. San Fernando Regional Pool Facility

- No reportable action at this time.

G. Other

- The Food Bank meal distribution continues to provide seniors with food packages at Las Palmas Park on a monthly basis. Approximately 220 seniors received a food package at the last distribution.
- Swim Lessons are in progress. Session 2 is nearly sold out. It is expected that Sessions 3 and 4 will sell out as well.
- There were some phone calls received showing some interest in the Tennis Program, but no registrations were received.
- Sizzlin Summer Nights are coming soon. The first of two Summer Concerts is on July 28th which will showcase the MMAP program. Commissioners are invited to attend this free event.
- Flyers on the upcoming Jam Sessions were distributed to the Commissioners. This is an interactive activity that encourages participation from the audience. All are welcome.

IX. Commissioner Comments

- No Commissioner Comments

X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting (September 10, 2013)

1. Approval of Minutes for July 9, 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 7:23 p.m.

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