



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 11, 2023
ZOOM MEETING STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION. VIDEO AND AUDIO OF THE ACTUAL MEETING ARE AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING AT: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityOfSanFernando>

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commissioner Robert Gonzales called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Executive Assistant, Maria Calleros, called the roll call.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

Commissioners Robert Gonzales, Erica Friend, and Patty Lopez

ABSENT:

Commissioners Joe Ponce and Natasha Sanchez-Brooks

Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks notified staff she would not be attending due to a personal matter.

Chair Robert Gonzales motioned to excuse the absence of Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks. Commissioner Friend seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: R. Gonzales, E. Friend, P. Lopez
NOES:
ABSENT: J. Ponce, N. Sanchez-Brooks
ABSTAIN:

ALSO PRESENT:

Director of Recreation and Community Services Julian Venegas, Recreation Supervisor Maribel Perez, Carlos Hernandez Assistant to the City Manager, Executive Assistant Maria Calleros, and Office Clerk Soledad Chavez

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Robert Gonzales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Lopez motioned to approve the agenda for the May 11, 2023 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission meeting. Commissioner Friend seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: R. Gonzales, E. Friend, P. Lopez

NOES:

ABSENT: J. Ponce, N. Sanchez-Brooks

ABSTAIN:

PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Ricardo Benitez, Sylmar resident, frequently visits the City of San Fernando. He spoke on the business growth in San Fernando. His main concern is regarding the appearance of the trees along Maclay St. Some trees are overgrown, some are dry and some areas do not have trees at all. He would like to see this area maintained and beautified as Maclay is a focal point of the City.

CULTURAL ARTS LIAISONS REPORT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Gonzales noted some errors in the spelling of his last name in the minutes of the April 11, 2023 meeting. Vice Chair Lopez noted that some comments she made were not noted in the minutes. J. Venegas informed Commissioners that minutes include action items and a brief summary of any discussion.

Chair Gonzales motioned to approve the Consent Calendar approving the Minutes of the April 11, 2023 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Meeting, with the edits pertaining to the

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spelling corrections. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: R. Gonzales, E. Friend, P. Lopez
NOES:
ABSENT: J. Ponce, N. Sanchez-Brooks
ABSTAIN:

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. CESAR E. CHAVEZ MEMORIAL

The RCS Department Director presented a draft letter addressed to Pueblo Y Salud seeking collaboration to restore the César E. Chávez Memorial and develop programming. Staff recommended an Ad Hoc Committee be developed to address this project. Staff requested feedback and recommendations on the draft letter.

Discussion ensued and Commissioner Lopez made a recommendation to create a task force. Chair Gonzales clarified that this body would not be participating in negotiations or fund raising. The current MOU sunsets in June 2027. Chair Gonzales requested a copy of the current MOU and recommended appointing two commissioners to an Ad Hoc Committee at a later meeting.

Chair Gonzales motioned to table this item to the next meeting to allow time to review the current MOU. Commissioner Friend seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: R. Gonzales, E. Friend, P. Lopez
NOES:
ABSENT: J. Ponce, N. Sanchez-Brooks
ABSTAIN:

2. DISCUSSION REGARDING VANDALISM IN THE PARKS

The Chief of Police and Community Development Director were invited to attend this meeting, however, they were not available. Maribel Perez provided an update on the history and development of Rudy Ortega Park. Commissioner Lopez expressed concerns regarding vandalism and signage. Staff surveyed the park for current signage and identified posted signs with park hours, the prohibition of alcohol, and informing patrons to pick up after their pets. Samples of

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signs to report suspicious activity and other information were provided to the Commission for their feedback.

Carlos Hernandez, Assistant to the City Manager, reported that the City has a phone number to report nuisance issues to the Public Works Department. Staff is currently in the procurement process to move forward in revamping the City Website which will include reporting feature.

Chair Gonzales motioned to direct staff to provide information on the cost of adding new signage to all City parks and the bike path, with information on reporting suspicious activity and vandalism, using a QR code and non-emergency Police Department phone number, with Spanish translation. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: R. Gonzales, E. Friend, P. Lopez
NOES:
ABSENT: J. Ponce, N. Sanchez-Brooks
ABSTAIN:

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROVIDING TRANSLATION SERVICES AT COMMISSION MEETINGS

This item was added to the agenda by Commissioner Lopez who is recommending language translation services at commission meetings. Carlos Hernandez reported that the City is looking at costs associated with language translation at public meetings and shared the cost analysis that will be presented to Council at the next meeting. Translation services have been made available at certain community meetings such as the Las Palmas Park Revitalization meetings, including translated materials. City Council will be addressing this item at the next Council Meeting on May 15th.

Commissioner Lopez recommends these services be made available. Chair Gonzales had questions regarding the cost of these services and how this item will be presented to City Council.

Chair Gonzales motioned to direct staff to draft a letter to City Council in support of translation services at commission meetings, which will be entered into the record during Public Comment, and to table this item to a future Commission meeting. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: R. Gonzales, E. Friend, P. Lopez
NOES:
ABSENT: J. Ponce, N. Sanchez-Brooks
ABSTAIN:

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4. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON MAINTENANCE EFFORTS ON THE MISSION CITY BIKE TRAIL

Chair Gonzales moved to table this item to the next Commission meeting as this item was placed on the agenda by Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks and she is currently absent. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: R. Gonzales, E. Friend, P. Lopez

NOES:

ABSENT: J. Ponce, N. Sanchez-Brooks

ABSTAIN:

5. PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Chair Gonzales moved to table this item to the next Commission meeting as this item was placed on the agenda by Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks and she is currently absent. Commissioner Friend seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: R. Gonzales, E. Friend, P. Lopez

NOES:

ABSENT: J. Ponce, N. Sanchez-Brooks

ABSTAIN:

6. DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UPDATE

Maribel Perez provided an update on the activities, programs, and workshops going on at the parks. Some of the activities for this month include a 70's themed Spring Dance with DJ for the seniors, a Mother's Day Tea Party, an Emergency Preparedness Workshop, a National Fitness Day with Doc Talk, Vet @ the Park Event, Earth Day Celebration at the Lopez Adobe, Mission City Baseball heading into play off season and a trophy day, the basketball program to begin soon as well as volleyball, the MMAP participants performing at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the ongoing programming at the parks.

Commissioner Friend congratulated the MMAP students and thanked staff for all the programming and events offered, specifically senior programs. She recommended adding another Vet @ Parks event in the summer.

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Chair Gonzales supports Emergency Preparedness trainings and inquired about bringing back the CERT program with LAFD. He also had questions about soccer clinics coming back and possibly offering a soccer league program.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Maria Calleros reported that the annual Senior Expo will be held on Friday, May 19th at Las Palmas Park. This free event will feature live entertainment, vendors, health screenings, raffles, lunch and much more.

Maribel Perez invited Richard Arroyo, Lopez Adobe docent, to speak on his experience with the Lopez Adobe and discuss the recommendation to bring on a historical liaison.

Maribel Perez made announcements on the Lopez Adobe mental health workshops, Summer Day Camp and the Tech Workshops at Las Palmas Park.

Julian Venegas announced that a meeting is scheduled at Las Palmas Park on Thursday, May 18th for those interested in the Resident Camp Program in the San Bernardino Mountains. The Veteran Recognition Banner Program will be hosted at the American Legion Hall on Monday, May 29th to honor our veterans. The Recreation Park water infiltration project should be completed by August and programming is expected to return by mid-September. The Layne Park Project is in construction and will be completed in late July/early August. Las Palmas Park is conducting a community meeting on May 31st to gather community input on the park improvements. All details are available on the City website.

Carlos Hernandez reported that the City released the 2022 annual report covering highlights and accomplishments associated with the City's strategic goals. This report is available in Spanish. Lastly, May is national bike month. Bike to Work Day is on May 25th and a community bike ride will be scheduled on May 27th.

GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Lopez had questions on the process of adding items to the agenda and the status of business cards for the commissioners. She also inquired about the item she added to the agenda previously addressing facility rentals and staffing issues. She had had questions regarding the MOU between the City and Pool Facility.

Vice Chair Lopez moved to place the item of reviewing the MOU between the City and the County regarding the San Fernando Pool Facility. Chair Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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AYES: R. Gonzales, E. Friend, P. Lopez
NOES:
ABSENT: J. Ponce, N. Sanchez-Brooks
ABSTAIN:

Chair Gonzales moved to place the item of adding a category titled: “Future Agenda Items” to the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission agenda format. Commissioner Friend seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: R. Gonzales, E. Friend, P. Lopez
NOES:
ABSENT: J. Ponce, N. Sanchez-Brooks
ABSTAIN:

Chair Gonzales thanked staff for their hard work, for providing information and for the upcoming events such as the biking event.

ADJOURNMENT

The Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.