



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 20, 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 6:34 p.m. Administrative Assistant, Linda Bowden-Moreno, called the roll call.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

Commissioners Robert Gonzales, Patty Lopez, Natasha Sanchez-Brooks and Erica Friend

ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Director of Recreation and Community Services Julian Venegas, Program Coordinator Freddy Tapia Program Specialist, Administrative Assistant Linda Bowden-Moreno, and Office Clerk Soledad Chavez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair R. Gonzales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Lopez motioned to approve the agenda for the July 20, 2023 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Special Meeting. Commissioner Friend seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

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PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Ricardo Benitez, Sylmar resident, commented on attending Monday's Council Meeting where Juan Salas spoke on the activities and programs offered by the RCS Dept. He congratulated Juan on his efforts to create programming involving the youth.

CULTURAL ARTS LIAISONS REPORT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Chair Patty Lopez motioned to approve the Consent Calendar approving the Minutes of the June 8, 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, and N. Sanchez-Brooks

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. CESAR E. CHAVEZ MEMORIAL

The draft letter authored to Pueblo Y Salud was signed by each commissioner and will be mailed out to the director, Ruben Rodriguez. A meeting will be scheduled with the newly formed Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Chair Robert Gonzales and Vice Chair Patty Lopez.

Chair Gonzales indicated that he has been in communication with Ruben Rodriguez who is very interested in setting up a meeting.

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Staff circulated the letter to each Commissioner for signature and will mail out then send out PYS.

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

J. Venegas presented a Power Point Presentation on the maintenance efforts by Public Works to address concerns discussed by Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks. Items addressed included emptying trash more frequently, fencing repairs, graffiti abatement, improved lighting, pressure washing, and more.

Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks inquired as to the reason for removing the bougainvillea and asked if additional trash, recycle and compost bins can be added. Staff will make a recommendation to the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Friend asked questions about vegetation removal vs. periodic pruning and trimming, and also asked if the area under the responsibility of Metro is being maintained properly.

Chair Gonzales recommended considering options to address weeds such as using wood chips or mulch.

3. PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Vice Chair Lopez recommended this item get table is tables to the next meeting as the Power Point Presentation was not available. Item was tabled to the next regular meeting.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING TERMINATION OF LOAN AGREEMENT

Julian Venegas reported that the Lopez Adobe displays artifacts on loan belonging to the Calderon/Shaug Family. The family has requested the items be returned. Staff has identified 15 of the items and will continue to search for the remaining items. Staff is requesting authorization to terminate the loan agreement and return the items. Chair Gonzales thanked the family for loaning the items for display at the Lopez Adobe.

Vice Chair Patty Lopez motioned to authorize the Recreation and Community Services Department to return the family heirlooms to the Calderon/Shaug Family. Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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AYES: R. Gonzales, E. Friend, P. Lopez, and N. Sanchez-Brooks

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

5. DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UPDATE

Freddy Tapia provided an update on the activities, programs, and workshops going on at the parks. Youth Basketball is at full capacity at 122 registrations. Day Camp is also at full Capacity. The Mission City Baseball is now accepting registrations for the fall league. Adult Volleyball is available during open gym. The Pickle Ball program has grown in numbers at Las Palmas Park. Staff is in talks with MLS Go to see if a new soccer program can be brought to the city.

Vice Chair Lopez had questions about the outreach efforts regarding sports programming. Outreach consists of medial blasts, tabling at events and word of mouth.

Chair Gonzales offered to assist with promoting the MLS soccer program. There were also questions regarding the Metro Open Streets regarding upcoming meetings and a sight on Instagram site that is promoting the event.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Staff informed the Commission of a four week Fitness Challenge to encourage Participants to get more active. Prizes will be awarded to those who get the most active. Reminder that Las Palmas Park is a cooling center for anyone in need of a cool place to relax.

The Layne Park project is just about completed. A grand re-opening will be planned for next month. This fiscal year, 398 households were assisted with the Scholarship Program providing \$17,477 in grant assistance for families.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES/REQUEDSTS TO AGENDIZE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT A FUTURE MEETING

Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks had questions regarding sun shades at Layne Park. Shading was not included due to funding constraints.

Vice Chair Lopez thanked staff for the translation of the agenda and the assistance of the interpreter. She invited residents to participate in public meetings.

Chair Gonzales thanked staff and the council for the translation service.

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ADJOURNMENT

The Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.