



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2024
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 6:35 p.m. Administrative Assistant, Linda Bowden-Moreno, called the roll call.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Commissioner Erica Friend

ALSO PRESENT:

Recreation and Community Services Director Julio Salcedo, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor Maribel Perez, 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 March 14, 2024 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting. Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT: E. Friend

ABSTAIN:

PRESENTATIONS

Staff introduced new Recreation and Community Services Director Julio Salcedo

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Mario Oporto, director of *La Prensa de Los Angeles*, extended an invitation to an event honoring the Salvadorian community on April 19, 2024.

CULTURAL ARTS LIAISONS REPORT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Chair Patty Lopez motioned to approve the Consent Calendar approving the Minutes of the February 8, 2024 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Meeting. Commissioner Erica Friend seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT: N. Sanchez-Brooks

ABSTAIN:

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. CESAR E. CHAVEZ MEMORIAL

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Chair Gonzales reported that he and Vice Chair Lopez have discussed planning an Ad Hoc Committee meeting to discuss the MOU with Pueblo Y Salud and to clarify the City's role. J. Salcedo will make contact with the Ad Hoc Committee members to get their availability and schedule a meeting.

Chair Gonzales reported that the Cesar Chavez March is scheduled for this weekend.

Vice Chair Lopez inquired as to when the meeting with Pueblo Y Salud is expected to occur.

2. UPDATE ON BEAUTIFICATION AD HOC AND DISCUSSION ON PARK CLEAN-UP RECOMMENDATIONS

M. Perez provided some background information on the history of the Beautification Ad Hoc Committee developed in June 2021, in an effort to preserve beautiful homes and neighborhoods in San Fernando. Some of the projects completed by the Ad Hoc include The Mission City Bike Path, the Cindy Montanez Natural Park clean-up, and a clean-up of the Cindy Montanez Park in preparation for the rededication ceremony. An additional clean up at the Cindy Montanez Park is scheduled for April 6, 2024. Staff opened up the item for recommendations.

Vice Chair Lopez recommended the Cesar Chavez Memorial and Rudy Ortega Park. Perhaps a partnership with a nonprofit could be considered.

Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks recommended Rudy Ortega Park for a clean-up project.

Chair Gonzales recommended coming up with a schedule to plan out clean up events strategically to capitalize around existing City events. Perhaps partner with Pueblo Y Salud to schedule a yearly clean up of the Cesar Chavez Memorial prior to the annual march, the Cindy Montanez Natural Park around her birthday, or consider Las Palmas Park and Recreation Park prior to baseball season.

After discussion, the Commission reached consensus in prioritizing the Cesar Chavez Memorial and Rudy Ortega Park, and to plan to create a schedule around high traffic events. Staff will share these recommendations with the Ad Hoc Committee.

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3. UPDATE ON NEW PARK SIGNAGE

M. Perez shared a presentation discussing this item originally added by Vice Chair Lopez in March of 2023. The Commission was provided with a report of current signs at the parks. Direction at the time was to put this item on hold pending funding and the new City app. that was in the works. The app has now been launched. The previous direction was to include City branding, include QR code and provide phrasing in English and Spanish.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the various sign options. The Commission liked the blue and white sign sample would be consistent with the City branding and easy to read. It was also recommended to have separate signs in English and Spanish.

The overall consensus was to select a larger sign, both languages, eliminate 911, leave email and QR code, and use the following verbiage: “to report vandalism or damage scan to download or email”.

4. SAN FERNANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON PARK ACTIVITY

In the previous PWR Commission meeting, a request was made for SFPD attend meetings on a quarterly basis to provide updates on crime stats and police activity at the parks. M. Perez shared a sample of the quarterly reports Lt. Dominquez will be presenting beginning in April. Information will include moving and parking citations, traffic collisions, CRM information, and any police activity including a map illustrating the location.

Commissioners were pleased with the format of the report. Chair Gonzales noted that all parks on the map are illustrated in black with the exception of Cindy Montanez Natural Park. He requested for all parks to be illustrated in black for easy viewing.

5. DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UPDATE

Staff provided a report to receive and file providing updates on the programs, activities and events. All information on programming is available on the City website.

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STAFF COMMUNICATION

Staff reported on this year's nominee for Older Americans Month which is observed in May. The nominee is Marysue Luke, a retired physical education instructor and longtime Las Palmas Park participant. Marysue participates in a number of fitness classes, bingo, and other social activities offered at Las Palmas Park. She will be recognized at a ceremony at the Dorothy Chandler Pavillion on May 16, 2024.

The Senior Fest will be held at Las Palmas Park on May 17, 2024. Seniors are invited to enjoy live music, information from approximately 30 vendors, continental breakfast, a healthy lunch, raffles and much more.

Unidos en el Cuido is a program offering classes to those with family members suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Workshops are scheduled on April 11, 18 and the 25 at Las Palmas Park. Register in person or call Las Palmas Park.

Youth Basketball registrations will open up in April. Basketball Clinics for ages 7-17 will be offered in April.

J. Salcedo reported that the City is partnering with KDI to conduct an assessment to identify land and empty lots in the City that may be used for green space or future park sites. This is part of the land and open space inventory discussed by this Commission last year. A community focus group has already been held and more are planned in the near future. This Commission will play an important role in providing input and feedback. KDI will be invited to the next meeting to provide more details.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES/REQUESTS TO AGENDIZE ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT A FUTURE MEETING

Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks is glad to see the City is moving forward in identifying land and open space to possibly accommodate community gardens for all members of the community and perhaps a dog park given the number of pet owners in the City.

Vice Chair Lopez addressed both Spanish and English speaking community members. She welcomed Julio Salcedo to the City and said she is glad to see he is bilingual which is very important in this community. She commented that the City of San Fernando is a small paradise,

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and a unique and peaceful community. The City leadership has heard the community’s needs and concerns and brings programming and activities as needed. Lastly, she requested to adjourn the meeting in honor of City resident Teresa Cruz, for her many years of community service.

Chair Gonzales thanked staff for a successful Mission City Baseball opening day. The Police Department and Recreation staff did a great job. It was well attended and an overall success. Regarding the new signage discussion, he would like to include graffiti coding for all new signage in the parks.

Chair Gonzales recommended to add an item regarding an update and discussion on the Las Palmas Park design. Some complaints have been received regarding the top portion of the brick wall fencing displaying the mural.

Chair Gonzales motioned to add an agenda item for an update and discussion on the Las Palmas Park design. Vice Chair Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT: E. Friend

ABSTAIN:

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gonzales adjourned the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission meeting in honor of Teresa Cruz at 7:47 p.m.