



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 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 6:31 p.m. Recess was called to address technical issue with live streaming. Administrative Assistant, Linda Bowden-Moreno, called the roll call.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

Commissioners Robert Gonzales, Patty Lopez, and Erica Friend

ABSENT:

Natasha Sanchez-Brooks

ALSO PRESENT:

Recreation and Community Services Supervisor Maribel Perez, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor Juan Salas, Social Services Coordinator, Cristina Moreno, Administrative Assistant Linda Bowden-Moreno, and Office Clerk Soledad Chavez. Also present, Food Security Ad Hoc members, Celeste Rodriguez and Mary Solorio.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair R. Gonzales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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Commissioner Friend motioned to approve the agenda for the February 8, 2024 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting. Commissioner Lopez 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:

PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

None

CULTURAL ARTS LIAISONS REPORT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Chair Patty Lopez motioned to approve the Consent Calendar approving the Minutes of the January 11, 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

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1. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FOOD SECURITY AD HOC COMMITTEE

Ad Hoc member Mary Solorio provided background on the development of the Food Security Ad Hoc Committee by vote of the City Council. The Ad Hoc has met regularly to discuss and plan to offer additional food sources to the community. Mayor Rodriguez discussed the food security challenges this community continues to face and the federal funds made available under the American Rescue Plan Act to address those needs as a result of the pandemic. The Ad Hoc realizes these needs still exist.

J. Salas discussed the list of current available services to address food security issues, such as the Elderly Nutrition Program, Food Bank, the newly opened Business and Community Resource Center at City Hall and the North Valley Caring Center, and promoting enrollment in CalFresh, WIC, and other resources. The Ad Hoc is working on identifying partnerships with agencies such as MEND, North Valley Caring Services, as well as local churches and food pantries.

Mayor Celeste Rodriguez discussed local food distributions that are offered monthly and in an effort to close that gap, promoting CalFresh, WIC as a more long term option and look into additional resources.

Vice Chair Lopez thanked the Ad Hoc and staff for addressing this issue and added she has contacts of nonprofits willing to provide assistance to this effort.

Commissioner Friend would like to see more distributions along Maclay Street, such as the YMCA local schools and small businesses in the area to be more accessible to residents. Commissioner Friend offered to assist in food distributions.

Mayor Celeste Rodriguez discussed this item as an ongoing conversation as to how to handle the logistics, funding sources, community buy-in, etc.

Chair Gonzales thanked staff for the packet of resources. He suggested reaching out the Education Commission and the Principals Luncheon. Educators know the community's needs. It would be a good opportunity to promote the scholarship program to provide financial assistance. Libraries are good location to promote community resources for families. Volunteers are always needed at food distributions.

J. Salas added there is a tentative food kit distribution event on Wednesday, April 10th. Once this event has been confirmed, there will be more outreach.

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2. DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UPDATE

M. Perez reported on senior programs such as the Elderly Nutrition Program, Intro to Computers for seniors, La Amistad Café, Doc Talks, and other workshops and activities. The Senior Club Valentine's Day Dance is scheduled for February 17th, and the monthly senior club meetings continue to occur on the first Sunday of the month at 1:00 pm.

TBC meetings have been focusing on mental health, vision boards, goals, self-esteem and other important topics. Tutcint Youth Empowerment will celebrate cohort number 9 at Recreation Park this weekend. Staff focused on mental health services and provided information on resources.

Leisure Classes at Recreation Park are growing in popularity. The Academic Drawing and the Ninja Ninja class is showing some success. Fitness class participants are being motivated by the new Fitness Bingo program which provides the opportunity to enter a raffle for some fun prizes.

Basketball and baseball are up and running. Opening day is on March 2nd. Adult Sports are also up and running just in time for the reopening of the fields and Recreation Park. Pickle ball is really picking up and seems to be a hit with adults.

Save the date for the Spring Jamboree on the March 30th at Las Palmas Park. Lopez Adobe tours have resumed on the fourth Sunday of the month from 1pm-4pm.

Commissioner Friend had questions regarding the Tutcint program and looks forward to the upcoming programs and events.

Vice Chair Lopez thanked staff for all the activities and events put on by the City.

Chair Gonzales inquired about offering youth volleyball as some community members have asked. Staff will look into the possibility of offering a variety of new programs including youth volleyball.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

In response to concerns raised by Vice Chair Lopez, staff reported that the City Manager confirmed the broken door at Rudy Ortega Park has been repaired. In addition, the Chief was not

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available to attend tonight's meeting, however, he did confirm PD is conducting more patrolling at Rudy Ortega Park.

In response to Commissioner Friend's inquiries about the park clean up, the Beautification Ad Hoc will be back this month. The Ad Hoc plans four clean ups per year. The Commission is welcome to make recommendations as a group. The Cindy Montanez Natural Park clean up was postponed due to rain.

The BCRC provided a packet with services and resources available to the public.

Las Palmas Park has been designated to be an 11 day vote center from February 24th through March 5th.

Staff reported that Las Palmas Park is offering free workshops in April to help families living with someone suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia.

The City of San Fernando in collaboration with LA County is promoting people to shop locally. Participants will be entered in a drawing to win \$500.

A final design for the Pioneer Park playground project has been selected. Thank you all for the recommendations.

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

Commissioner Friend inquired about the date of the clean up at the City Montanez Natural Park. Once a date has been secured, staff will inform the commission.

Commissioner Friend asked if there are programs to address homeless individuals who reside at the same location for an extended length of time. Staff reported that North Valley Caring Services reaches out to homeless individuals. In addition, there will be an app available very soon to make service requests for those in need of help. Information is available on the City website, social media and on flyers.

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Vice Chair Lopez requested recommending the Cesar Chavez Memorial for a park clean-up. She also had questions about the area of the Cindy Montanez Natural Park that falls under the City's jurisdiction.

Vice Chair Lopez requested to invite PD to provide a report on updates at the parks. Chair Gonzales added to recommend an annual or quarterly report on updates at the parks.

Vice Chair Lopez motioned to add an agenda item requesting that SFPD provides a regular quarterly report on crime and updates on the parks. Chair Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT: N. Sanchez-Brooks

ABSTAIN:

Chair Gonzales motioned to add an agenda item for the Commission to hold a discussion to prioritize parks for the park clean-ups slated by Ad Hoc Committee. Vice Chair Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT: N. Sanchez-Brooks

ABSTAIN:

Chair Gonzales thanked staff for all the work with the food banks and resources. Also a thank you to the Commission for the input on the design of the Pioneer Park Playground. In regards to the Alzheimer's workshops, perhaps reaching out the senior housing in the City or residents in surrounding areas such as Mother Gertrude to inform those interested in attending the workshops.

ADJOURNMENT

The Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m. r