



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 12, 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 6:32 p.m. Administrative Assistant, Linda Bowden-Moreno, called the roll call.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

Commissioners Robert Gonzales, Natasha Sanchez-Brooks and Erica Friend

ABSENT:

Vice Chair Patty Lopez

ALSO PRESENT:

RCS Director, Julian Venegas, Recreation 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 Friend Gonzales motioned to approve the agenda for the October 12, 2023 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Special Meeting. Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

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PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

None

CULTURAL ARTS LIAISONS REPORT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Robert Gonzales motioned to approve the Consent Calendar approving the Minutes of the August 10, 2023 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Special Meeting. Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT: P. Lopez

ABSTAIN:

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING PIONEER PARK PLAYGROUND

RCS Director provided a Power Point Presentation to discuss the background, funding sources, community input and other details regarding the Pioneer Park Playground.

Commissioner Friend had questions regarding the type of material used for shades and the durability, and also on color options which impact heat and UVA exposer.

Staff informed the commission that any added elements to the design that are not already included will incur an added cost.

The contractor recommends considering that selecting designs on the poured-in-place rubber ground cover will be more difficult to do patch work in the future.

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Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks inquired about using shade sails. The contractor discussed the issues associated with shade sails such as the expense, permits and possible sagging.

Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks also asked about the proximity of the workout equipment to the playground and providing filtered water stations. She also asked about shading for the picnic tables. In addition, she would like the playground structures accessible for all age ranges by providing more climbing, mobility and agility for older children and sited a new playground at a park in Redondo Beach as an example.

Chair Gonzales concurs with the contractor's recommendation regarding the color scheme for the poured-in-place rubber ground cover. He also requested more details regarding color of shade structures and the heat/UVA factors to be discussed at a future meeting, and recommendations on color schemes to lessen the appearance of dirt and soil.

Chair Gonzales also inquired about playground themes and about the ADA attractions that are highly used by individuals. The contractor will provide a check list with items that would qualify the play area as a national recommended site for inclusion.

Chair Gonzales was very pleased with the budget for this project which includes *Measure A* funds from the County.

The contractor (Brandon) provided detailed information on questions. The contractor reported that this playground will be designed as a national demonstration site and follows the guidelines of play-on and inclusion. There will be signage posted with a QR code for the public to provide feedback and also to help track how many visitors use the park.

Chair Gonzales opened the floor to public comments regarding this project.

Uriel Rodriguez, San Fernando National Little League V.P., inquired about how the project will affect the parking lot and asked about the time frame to complete the project. He also commented that he is favor of the shading that is included in the design.

A mom and resident residing very near to Pioneer Park commented that swings, benches, and shading are very important to her. Also the location of trash should be away from benches due to bees and flies. She would like to see more tables available for park patrons to host gatherings. She also likes the idea of a theme for the project but did provide a suggestion. Staff invited her to the upcoming community meeting on 10/26/23 to give her an opportunity to suggest a specific theme for the project.

Chair Gonzales would like to work with the contractor and Public Works such as adding shrubs and planters to allow time for plants to establish. Also ensuring pathways are allow ADA access to benches.

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At this time, staff held a raffle for members of the public attending tonight's meeting. Two winners received a Target gift card.

Commissioners were invited to provide any last comments on this item.

Commissioner E. Friend suggested adding a subtle pattern to the rubber flooring, such as a river design. She also inquired about the color options for metal poles. She also asked about the irrigation system affecting the playground and whether the border around the playground is raised which could be a tripping hazard.

Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks inquired if funding is allocated for benches. She also inquired about incorporating musical instruments into the design, such as xylophones, percussion, etc. She requested to see a list of possible options to incorporate into this design.

Chair Gonzales would like to bring this item back to the commission. Perhaps holding a special meeting one week earlier than the regular meeting date will allow time for the contractor to provide the additional information and for the commission to make final recommendations.

Staff will include all recommendations into the final report to be presented to City Council.

2. CESAR E. CHAVEZ MEMORIAL

This item was added by Vice Chair Lopez. RCS Director provided an update on the meeting the Ad Hoc committee held with Pueblo Y Salud. Discussion included ideas for a potential renovation such as items a fountain utilizing lighting instead of water and replace the lighting throughout the plaza. Pueblo Y Salud will look into how to come up with funds. The discussion also included bringing the request for funding to Council to see if it's possible to allocate funding.

Commissioner Friend has questions regarding the coating material used to retouch the mural and the cost associated with it.

3. DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UPDATE

Recreation Supervisor, Maribel Perez, provided a report with detailed updates on senior programs and activities as well as updates on the teen and youth/adult sports programming.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

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Staff informed the Commission on new senior programming such as Tie Dye Monday, monthly Doc Talks and Matinees, Arthritis Classes and Taking Charge of Your Health Classes.

Staff reported on the upcoming summit put on by Shero's Rise to empower teenage girls. Flyers are available for this and other upcoming events.

The Odd Fellows are hosting a Casino Night event on November 11th as a fund raiser for the Mission City Baseball Program.

San Fernando Mile/Dia De Los Muertos festival will occur on October 28th. Hope to see everyone there.

Layne Park Re-opening will be held on Saturday, October 21st at 10:00 am. All are invited.

Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on November 4th at 11am at the VFW located at 111 N. Hagar St. in San Fernando.

Director Julian Venegas announced he will be retiring at the end of this year after his 6 year tenure with the City of San Fernando.

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

Commissioner Friend inquired about 8th Street Park the homeless encampment at the Foothill entrance and a possible clean up. Staff reported that the City now has a Housing Coordinator who can provide resource information and outreach to agencies that can assist. There is also a Beautification Ad Hoc Committee that can assist with setting up a park clean up.

Chair Gonzales thanked staff, specifically the director for handling this meeting and inviting public input for the Pioneer Park project, and commissioners for their input.

ADJOURNMENT

The Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.