



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO  
PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 11, 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**

Commission Chair 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, Erica Friend, and Natasha Sanchez-Brooks

**ABSENT:**

None

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Recreation and Community Services Director Julio Salcedo, Finance Director/City Treasurer Erica Melton, Acting Lt. Walter Dominguez, 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 April 11, 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, E. Friend, N. Sanchez-Brooks

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

## **PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

None

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Vice Chair Patty Lopez motioned to approve the Consent Calendar approving the Minutes of the March 14, 2024 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Meeting. Commissioner Natasha Sanchez-Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**2. PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET CALENDAR**– Director of Finance/City Treasurer Erica Melton provided presentation and responded to questions from the Commission. She discussed the challenges and accomplishments the City has faced and discussed the budget outlook. The City will continue community outreach, budget study sessions and community town halls. The Commission was invited to all these sessions, specifically the budget study session on May 13 which will be related to Recreation and Community Services.

Vice Chair P. Lopez inquired if these community meetings will be bilingual.

Chair R. Gonzales discussed the financial difficulties the City faced during his tenure on the City Council. He would like to see program fees stay at a low cost and that scholarship program

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continues for low income families. He asked the Finance Director to discuss the opening of the new Target store, and the positive impact new business has on the City's coffers.

**3. SAN FERNANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON PARK ACTIVITY** – Acting Lieutenant Dominguez provided a report and responded to questions on crime activity at the parks covering the first quarter of the year.

**4. UPDATE ON THE SAN FERNANDO PARK OPPORTUNITY PLAN (SF POP)** – Adriana Carías-Sison with KDI provided a report on the San Fernando Park Opportunity Plan. KDI works with under resourced communities to identify vacant lots for future use and development opportunities through community engagement. The Commission is asked to offer feedback and recommendations throughout this process.

Commissioner N. Sanchez-Brooks inquired how focus groups are selected, what the target age groups are and how the presentation is conducted.

Commissioner E. Friend recommends targeting areas that are in need of green spaces to consider possible park developments, public art and other opportunities.

Vice Chair P. Lopez inquired about outreach for seniors who may be limited due to technology or language barriers.

Chair R. Gonzales recommends outreach to the St. Ferdinand's Senior Group, senior food programs and food banks, outdoor market participants, baseball and basketball league parents, pool participants, and local senior residents.

**5. DISCUSSION REGARDING NAMING OF THE PIONEER PARK HOUSE** – J. Salcedo provided background on the partnership with the Wild Horse Foundation (Foundation). A presentation was provided to City Council at the last meeting. The goal of the Foundation is to provide comprehensive health and wellness services and programs at Pioneer Park. The property at Pioneer Park has gone through significant property upgrades. The process was held up due to the 2020 Covid pandemic. On April 2, 2024, a representative from the Foundation asked direction on naming the Pioneer Park house, the "San Fernando Family Center at Puig's House". City Council directed staff to bring this item before this Commission.

Chair R. Gonzales provided background on the initiation of the collaboration with the Foundation which was brought forth by professional baseball player, Yasiel Puig. The naming of the house really solidifies the partnership with the City and Puig's vision to offer many family services to this

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community.

Vice Chair P. Lopez suggested utilizing the house as a space for foster families to conduct meetings and look into identifying grant funding to provide services to those families in need.

The overall consensus was that the Commission supports the naming of the house at Pioneer Park to the “San Fernando Family Center at Puig’s House”.

Chair R. Gonzales motioned to support the naming of the Pioneer Park house to the “San Fernando Family Center at Puig’s House”. Vice Chair P. Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**6. UPDATE ON THE LAS PALMAS PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT** – M. Perez presented a reported and responded to questions on the grant award and revitalization project of Las Palmas Park.

Commissioner N. Brooks had questions regarding protection from baseballs and soccer balls to park patrons, water features, and whether the concession stand will be renovated.

Commissioner E. Friend had questions regarding the color scheme, durability of flooring, and about availability of seating areas and benches.

Vice Chair P. Lopez inquired about the number of picnic tables included in the design.

Chair Gonzales had questions regarding improving ADA parking, changing the dip in the walkway, revitalizing the mural, and including solar panels and phone chargers.

**7. CESAR E. CHAVEZ MEMORIAL** – Chair R. Gonzales provided an update on this item that was brought to this Commission by Vice Chair P. Lopez. The Ad Hoc is working on reviewing the existing MOU with Pueblo Y Salud (PYS) and will look into renewing and updating the MOU. The Ad Hoc will continue meeting with PYS to move forward with the agreement.

J. Salcedo informed the Commission that a Cesar Chavez Day of Service is in the planning stages. More details will be provided as they become available.

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Chair P. Lopez is looking forward to continue working with PYS and perhaps the Cesar Chavez March can be brought back.

**8. DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UPDATE** – Staff provided a report and presentation to receive and file providing updates on the programs, activities and events. All information on programming is available on the City website.

## **STAFF COMMUNICATION**

M. Perez informed the Commission that recommendations were forwarded to the Beautification Ad Hoc regarding scheduling future park clean-ups. In regards to the Park Sign Project, all recommendations has been passed along to the appropriate staff.

M. Perez invited all to the upcoming Spring Book Fair at the Lopez Adobe. Enjoy tours and more!

Staff invited all to the two Housing Workshops (Tenant Empowerment and First Time Home Buyers offered in Spanish) offered this Saturday at the parks. Information available on the City Website or contact Recreation Park at 818-898-1290.

Commissioners are invited to a walking workshop on April 27, at 10am to provide feedback and input related to the Downtown Master Plan. Those interested, please meet at parking lot 6N.

J. Salcedo informed the Commission that new collaborations with community based organizations are in the works to expand our programming and the reach of advertising such as radio opportunities. More details will be provided as they become available.

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

Chair Gonzales thanked Commissioners for their input and participation, as well as all City staff for their hard work and for making this community better. He also thanked everyone who participated in the community clean up at the Cindy Montanez Park. A tree was planted with the collaboration of Tree People.

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Chair R. Gonzales requested calendar invites to Commissioners for any upcoming clean ups or special events as previously requested by Commissioner N. Brooks.

Commissioner N. Brooks requested a map of available land space and empty lots in the City, once it becomes available.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair R. Gonzales adjourned the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission meeting at 9:19 p.m.