

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
PARKS, WELLNESS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**June 14, 2022
ZOOM MEETING STREAMED ON YOUTUBE**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PARKS, WELLNESS & 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

Chair Jason Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT: Chair Jason Hayes
Commissioner Nina Herrera
Commissioner Robert Gonzales

ABSENT: Commissioner Joe Ponce

ALSO PRESENT: Recreation and Community Services
Director, Julian Venegas
Public Works Director, Matt Baumgardner
Recreation Supervisor, Maribel Perez
Admin. Assistant, Linda Bowden-Moreno
Recreation Leader, Daisy Veronica

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair J. Hayes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner N. Herrera, seconded by Commissioner Robert Gonzales, to approve

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the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

OATH OF OFFICE

Linda Bowden-Moreno, Admin. Assistant, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Natasha Sanchez-Brooks.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

No public statements

CULTURAL ARTS LIASON REPORT

No update at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner R. Gonzales motioned to pull the Consent Calendar item, Commissioner N. Herrera seconded the motion, in order to make an adjustment to the April 12, 2022 minutes.

AYES: J. Hayes, N. Herrera, R. Gonzales
NOES:
ABSENT: J. Ponce
ABSTAIN: N. Sanchez-Brooks

Commissioner R. Gonzales motioned to approve the minutes for the April 12, 2022 Parks, Wellness & Recreation Commission meeting, with the following correction: Page 2, of the April 12, 2022 approval of minutes, will reflect that Robert Gonzales abstained from voting on this Consent Calendar item. Commissioner N. Herrera seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: J. Hayes, N. Herrera, R. Gonzales
NOES:
ABSENT: J. Ponce
ABSTAIN: N. Sanchez-Brooks

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 1. DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UPDATE**– Julian Venegas informed the Commission that in-person programming is now in full swing. The Department continues to collaborate with CORE at Recreation Park, offering COVID-19 vaccines and testing, and also with the Dept. of Public Health and Elements Pharmacy. The LA Food Bank continues to distribute drive-through food kits on the first Monday of each month, except holidays, for seniors age 60 and over. This program serves approximately 150 seniors monthly.

Mission City Baseball had about nine teams over the spring season, which ended on June 12th. Sports clinics will continue during the summer months.

Summer Day Camp begins June 20th and ends on August 12th. Information on exercise classes, line dance, family programming, and other activities is available on the City’s website or by calling the main office at (818) 898-1290.

Senior programs include Tech Wednesday, Walkable Wednesdays, Zumba, Chair Zumba, Senior Club dances and meetings, Crafty Ladies Program and more.

Upcoming special events include Fourth of July Celebration at the San Fernando Mall, Movies and Concerts in the Parks, and the *Campana de La Libertad* Ceremony.

- 2. LAYNE PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT**–J. Venegas presented a power point illustrating the design concept planned for Layne Park. A Notice Inviting Bids (NIB) for the constructions phase has been released. Proposals are due by June 23, 2022. Project completion is expected by early 2023.

Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks had questions regarding types of shading and ADA access.

Commissioner Gonzales had questions regarding fencing around the perimeter and playground and asked for clarification on the bids (due date, posting, outreach to contractors) and a walking path.

M. Baumgardner discussed outreach to pre-approved contractors for this type of project.

Chair J. Hayes had questions regarding the community’s feedback pertaining to the fencing.

- 3. LAS PALMAS PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT**– J. Venegas presented a concept plan for the Las Palmas Park Revitalization Project. This process will include community engagement in the form of outreach, community meetings and focus groups. The City released a Notice Inviting Bids (NIB) on June 8th for the design phase of this project. Bids are due by July 7th.

Commissioner Gonzales reported that he attended the focus group and pop-up group. The focus

groups offered a better opportunity for brainstorming and discussion on specific ideas. Inviting feedback from staff in Public Works and Recreation is key in addressing concerns that may come up in the future.

Commissioner Hayes supports the idea of gathering input from subgroups such as staff and frequent park users. In addition, providing opportunities for the community to rank or select specific ideas will provide good data for the focus groups.

Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks had questions regarding how staff is capturing the community's ideas at the pop-ups. She recommended utilizing ipads for the public to identify and rank their priorities to capture data in quick and easy manner.

J. Venegas reported that adding baseball equipment boxes to the Las Palmas Park fields as recommended by Commissioner R, Gonzales, would incur a cost of \$5681.00 plus an additional \$1100 for tax and shipping. Staff recommends adding this item to the grant application. In the meantime, the RCS Department can temporarily utilize equipment boxes from Recreation Park since those fields are not in use at this time.

GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Gonzales welcomed Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks to this body. He commented on the importance of ADA access at the parks and improving drinking fountains to be ADA accessible and to add water bottle fillers. He also recommended looking into community gardens in this City and addressing water regulations and the impact on our parks as well as looking into turf reduction. He also thanked staff and volunteers for their work. He also stated that the pop-ups were successful but there is always room for improvement.

Commissioner Hayes echoed Commissioner Gonzales' sentiments. He would like to address the issue on water restrictions in a future meeting. He welcomed Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks on board, wished everyone a Happy Pride Month and thanked the City for the flag raising ceremony. Lastly, the Community Theatre Program will be planning a meeting in the near future for those interested in participating.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Recreation staff member, Daisy Veronica, informed the Commission that the Department participated in a competition for the Social Purpose Grant. Las Palmas Park was selected for the grant and awarded \$70,000 towards education and technology programming. This will provide the funds to purchase computers and offer technology classes to the community.

Staff informed the Commission that SFPD will be hosting a community event on Wednesday, June 15th at Las Palmas Park at 9am, to provide information on various social services such as assistance on housing, immigration, and much more.

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Recreation Supervisor, Maribel Perez, welcomed the new commissioner and provided updates on youth sports such as basketball, baseball as well as adult sports including volleyball and open gym.

Public Works Director, Matt Baumgardner, would be happy to attend future meetings to discuss water restrictions, specifically relating to the parks. He is in discussions with Tree People who are working with MWD to develop guidance on how to maintain trees during the current drought conditions.

RCS Director, Julian Venegas, provided additional information on the technology grant award and thanked staff members, Juan Salas and Marisol Diaz, for their hard work in submitting the application. This funding will make it possible to offer youth and parents learning opportunities on navigating educational platforms in order to become better advocates.

Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks expressed that she is honored to serve on this Commission and looks forward to sharing ideas and working together.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, Chair J. Hayes adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.