



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 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

Chair R. 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, Natasha Sanchez-Brooks and Julie Cuellar.

ABSENT:

Commissioner Erica Friend

ALSO PRESENT:

Recreation and Community Services Director Julio Salcedo, Recreation Supervisor Maribel Perez, SFPD Sergeant CJ Chiasson, Administrative Assistant Linda Bowden-Moreno, and Office Clerk Soledad Chavez.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair R. Gonzales led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair P. Lopez motioned to approve the agenda for the July 11, 2024 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting. Commissioner J. Cuellar 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, J. Cuellar

NOES:

ABSENT: E. Friend

ABSTAIN:

PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Ricardo Benitez, member of the public, commented that he attended the Board of Supervisors meeting on July 9th, where it was discussed that a measure will be added to the November ballot. He is asking to support this measure to add an additional 4 members to Board of Supervisors.

Sean Rivas, Planning and Preservation Commissioner, thanked the Recreation and Community Services team for a great Fourth of July event and for providing Cooling Centers for the Community.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair R. Gonzales pulled the consent calendar and noted a clerical error on the May 9, 2024 meeting minutes regarding comments he made at a previous meeting. Chair also wanted to confirm the protocol for commissioners wanting to add agenda items for future meetings and also discussed the request by Vice Chair P. Lopez to add an item regarding Special Events and Facility Rental process.

Vice Chair P. Lopez requested to pull the May 9, 2024 minutes due to her request to add the agenda item regarding Facility Rentals and Special Events.

J. Salcedo reported that the protocol to agendize an item is for a Commissioner is to make a motion and secure a second by another Commissioner to add the agenda item. The item requested by Vice Chair P. Lopez was address in June of 2023. The agenda report was provided

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in hardcopy form to each Commissioner today, addressing all the procedures, forms, and protocols for all facility rentals for public and private special events. Vice Chair P. Lopez has been made aware that if she is unable to find the information she needs in the agenda report, she may add the item to the agenda with the support of another Commissioner.

Staff will edit the minutes from the May 9, 2024 PWRC meeting and make the corrections cited by Chair R. Gonzales.

This item is tabled to the next meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

2. SAN FERNANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON PARK ACTIVITY – Sergeant CJ Chiasson provided an update on the activity and crime in the parks located in the City of San Fernando. A copy of the Quarterly Crime Trends Report and Park Crime Map was provided.

Commissioner N. Sanchez-Brooks thanked SFPD Sergeant CJ Chiasson for his report and the SFPD for protecting the community.

Commissioner J. Cuellar commented that there seems to be a need for additional patrol at Cindy Montanez Natural Park due to an increase gang activity and graffiti. She asked if this park is locked in the overnight hours. She asked if there is overnight parking at Recreation Park and requested more patrol at the parks in general.

Vice Chair P. Lopez discussed concerns regarding unhoused individuals under the bridge along Foothill Blvd., suggested better lighting in those areas, incidents of vehicles parking in handicapped spaces without a placard, and asked if pushcart food vendors need to have a permit or business license.

Chair R. Gonzales had questions regarding parking citations at Pioneer Parks for overnight parking on private property and the need for added signage for parking restrictions. He also inquired about adding Kalisher Pocket Park to the update report.

Commissioner N. Sanchez-Brooks commented on the need for additional signage at Pioneer Park to deter overnight parking.

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Chair R. Gonzales thanked Sergeant CJ Chiasson for this informative quarterly report.

3. UPDATE ON THE PIONEER PARK PLAYGROUND RENOVATION – M. Perez presented an update and presentation on this project. Demolition is complete and construction is under way. This project has been a long time coming from securing funding, gathering community input, selecting a design, presenting designs to this Commission and to City Council with recommendations. Option No. 7 providing robust shade sail installation was approved by City Council. Signage has been posted to notify the public.

Commissioner N. Sanchez-Brooks is happy to see shading sails over the playground. She commented on the need for shade covering the seating areas. Perhaps adding trees would be a prudent option. Staff will look into the possibility of relocating benches closer to existing shading and look for added shading down the road.

Vice Chair P. Lopez asked about the length of time to finalize this project. Staff expects to schedule ribbon cutting in early fall.

Chair R. Gonzales commented on how well this Commission worked together to make recommendations and gather feedback. Chair appreciates Council's consideration in extending the budget to include the large shade structure.

4. CESAR E. CHAVEZ MEMORIAL – Chair R. Gonzales directed staff and the Ad Hoc Committee members to meet following tonight's meeting to link up calendars and schedule a meeting.

5. 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 and activities is available on the City website.

Commissioner Sanchez-Brooks thanked staff and looks forward to all the upcoming events.

Commissioner Cuellar commented on observing a dangerous situation at the Fourth of July event where vehicles were at stand still on the train tracks while watching the drone show. In the distance the train was approaching while vehicles were stopped dangerously close to the train tracks. Perhaps parking enforcement can be secured for future events to prevent vehicles from parking on the train tracks.

Commissioner J. Cuellar inquired about available workshops offered in English by the Dept. of Mental Health.

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Vice Chair P. Lopez had questions regarding attendance of senior programs, cost of activities, membership dues, and discount opportunities.

Chair R. Gonzales commented on the success of the baseball trophy day and thanked the individuals who donated the photo backdrop.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

M. Perez reported that the Lopez Adobe will be open to the public on Saturday, July 27, 6pm-8pm.

J. Salcedo thanked staff members Marisol Diaz and Patty Garcia for their leadership and execution of this year's great Fourth of July event. He reminded everyone to make use of the Cooling Centers and to look out for the most vulnerable people such as seniors and children.

J. Salcedo informed the Commission that an Afterschool Teen Program is in the developing stages and will operate out of Recreation Park in the afterschool hours. This program will offer tutoring, volunteer opportunities, a leadership component and more. Also in the works is a Tiny Tots Sports Program for children 3 to 5 years old.

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

Commissioner N. Sanchez-Brooks commented on the need to address the safety of pets during excessive heat. Perhaps a social media announcement of some sort to inform the public of keeping pets safe by providing water and shade, and avoiding walks on hot concrete.

Commissioner N. Sanchez-Brooks motioned to add an item to request on update on the policies and procedures related to pets and Cooling Centers. Vice Chair R. Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT: E. Friend

ABSTAIN:

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Commissioner N. Sanchez-Brooks asked when KDI would be providing an update on the open spaces survey. Staff expects KDI will be attending the next meeting with an update.

Commissioner N. Sanchez-Brooks inquired about the process of recommending a new activity or program for youth such as classes on nature or cooking. Staff recommended Commissioners motion to add agenda items on any particular class or activity to allow input and discussion from the Commission.

Vice Chair P. Lopez motioned to add an item providing a presentation on the process and procedures of facility rentals and special community events. Commissioner J. Cuellar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT: E. Friend

Vice Chair P. Lopez requested that water be made available at future Commission meetings.

Vice Chair P. Lopez asked which schools will be involved with the Afterschool Teen Program and funding sources. J. Salcedo reported that the program is open to all children ages 12 – 17 in the City and that City Council approved the funding request to start up this program.

Commissioner J. Cuellar motioned to add an item to provide an update on programming and activities planned at the San Fernando Family Center at Puig’s House. Vice Chair P. Lopez seconded the motion.

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

NOES:

ABSENT: E. Friend

Chair R. Gonzales thanked staff and stated that the Cesar Chavez Ad Hoc agreed to compare calendars and schedule a meeting after this PWRC meeting adjourns.

ADJOURNMENT

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Chair R. Gonzales adjourned the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission meeting at 7:57 p.m.