

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

**December 8, 2020
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 Sandie Richards called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and conducted the roll call.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:	Chair Sandie Richards
	Commissioner Jason Hayes
	Commissioner Nina Herrera
	Commissioner Saydith Navarro

ABSENT:	Vice Chair Joe Ponce
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ALSO PRESENT:	Director of Recreation and Community Services Department, Julian Venegas Office Specialist, Linda Bowden-Moreno
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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner S. Navarro led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner N. Herrera motioned to approve the agenda for the December 8, 2020 Parks, Wellness & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting. Commissioner J. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote:

PARKS, WELLNESS & RECREATION COMMISSION - MINUTES

December 8, 2020

Page 2

AYES: S. Richards, J. Hayes, N. Herrera, S. Navarro

NOES:

ABSENT: J. Ponce

ABSTAIN:

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

None.

CULTURAL ARTS LIASON REPORT

Cultural Arts Liaison, Javier Verdin, expressed his appreciation to the Commission for continuing to meet and work through the challenges as a result of the pandemic. He wished everyone a nice holiday season and looks forward to the opportunity to continue working with this Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner J. Hayes motioned to approve the minutes for the November 10, 2020, Parks, Wellness & Recreation Commission meeting. Commissioner S. Navarro seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: S. Richards, J. Hayes, N. Herrera, S. Navarro

NOES:

ABSENT: J. Ponce

ABSTAIN:

PRESENTATION

Liana Stepanyan, San Fernando Library Manager, provided a presentation to promote the library's online services and resources. The library offers sidewalk services Monday-Friday. In addition, wireless printing services, Chromebook kits and a variety of virtual wellness classes are available. All information is available on the library's website.

Julio Catalan, My Brother's Keeper Peer Advocate, provided a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the teen programs offered by the library such as *Brainfuse*, a live tutoring service. These services are free and available to those with a library card. All details are available on the library's website.

Commissioner Richards inquired about the 19th Amendment library cards and Commissioner Hayes had questions about the length of time for checking out books and about the *Brainfuse* program.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CONTINUED BUSINESS

1. **STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION SPP GRANT –**

J. Venegas reported that staff is conducting Community Input Meetings inviting stakeholders to provide their input on the different park projects. Staff has held two meetings thus far, and will plan to hold several more Community Input Meetings next year.

2. **VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING –**J. Venegas reported that this programming is on going. The Commission was invited to view the Virtual Holiday Tree Lighting event scheduled for this Thursday. The program will feature a concert by MMAP and a story read by Santa Clause.

The Reindeer Dash Virtual Program allows participants to run a distance of 1K, 5K or 10K at their own pace. Participants submit their time online to receive a medal by mail. In addition, the City is hosting the Virtual Reindeer Challenge for children to receive clues in order to complete a mission and win a prize.

Regular virtual programs such senior bingo, exercise classes, etc. are still ongoing. All information and registration for programs and activities are available on the City Website.

3. **COMMUNITY THEATRE PROGRAM –** J. Venegas reported on last month's meeting and the forming a board, which is the governing body of this program. An application has been developed and has been distributed inviting interested individuals to serve on the board.

4. **DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19–**J. Venegas informed the Commission that Round 2 of the Residential Food Program held on November 21st provided 140 food boxes to qualifying families residing in the City of San Fernando. The next Food Distribution will be held on December 19th at Las Palmas Park. The location was changed due to the Covid-19 testing sight being conducted at Recreation Park.

Covid-19 testing is available at Recreation Park Tuesday through Saturday during December. Participants can register online but walk-ins are welcome, depending on space availability. The City is working with LA Dept. of Public Health to host an MPOD site for mass dispensing of the Covid-19 vaccination. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

5. **LAYNE PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT–**J. Venegas informed the Commission that interviews are scheduled for tomorrow to select a design firm for the Layne Park Project.

6. **LAS PALMAS PARK RENOVATION**—J. Venegas reported that renovations have been completed. Staff is fishing up a few final touches and looking into purchasing a few pieces of furniture.

Commissioner Navarro commented on having toured the facility and thought the renovations turned out quite nice.

7. **YOUTH REINVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM (TUTCINT YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM)** –

J. Venegas discussed the update provided at the previous Commission meeting by Tutcint staff. This program works with youth and focuses on three main goals: 1) increase cultural competency, 2) reduce incarceration and recidivism, and 3) improve academic success. The program collaborates with outside agencies to provide additional resources. There is an MOU in place with SFPD and an MOU with the local Bar Association is in the works. Online referrals are accepted. Anyone who knows a student interested in participating can refer them to the program.

STAFF COMMUNICATON

J. Venegas reminded the Commission that a reorganization of this body will be planned in the near future, just as soon as new Councilmembers announce their selected appointees to the Commission.

L. Bowden-Moreno reported that the monthly Food Bank Distribution Program for seniors continues to be offered on the first Monday of the month at Las Palmas Park. Over 150 food packages were distributed in November.

J. Venegas wished everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Commissioner J. Hayes thanked and acknowledged staff for all the hard work in bringing virtual and online activities to the community. He commented on the success of providing activities to individuals of all ages and stated he is very impressed at staff's efforts in this endeavor.

Commissioner Navarro thanked staff for all the work throughout the year. She is happy to have served on this Commission and looks forward to seeing what the City has in store, especially with an all-woman City Council.

Commissioner Richards wished everyone a wonderful holiday season and echoed comments made by Commissioner Hayes regarding staff's ability to provide virtual programming to the community.

PARKS, WELLNESS & RECREATION COMMISSION - MINUTES

December 8, 2020

Page 5

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner S. Navarro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Commissioner J. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: S. Richards, J. Hayes, N. Herrera, S. Navarro

NOES:

ABSENT: J. Ponce

ABSTAIN: