

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

**September 15, 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 7:11 p.m. and conducted the roll call.

The following persons were recorded as present:

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:	Director of Recreation and Community Services Department, Julian Venegas
	Program Specialist, Marisol Diaz
	Office Specialist, Linda Bowden-Moreno

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

J. Venegas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Hayes motioned to approve the agenda for the September 15, 2020 Parks, Wellness & Recreation Commission Special Meeting. Commissioner Ponce seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

None.

CULTURAL ARTS LIASON REPORT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner J. Hayes motioned to approve the minutes for the August 11, 2020, Parks, Wellness & Recreation Commission meeting. Commissioner S. Navarro seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: S. Richards, J. Hayes, J. Ponce, S. Navarro

NOES:

ABSENT: N. Herrera

ABSTAIN:

NEW BUSINESS

1. **PROPOSE RENOVATION PROJECTS FOR THE PROP. 68 PER CAPITA GRANT** – J. Venegas provided a list of various potential projects for the Commission to consider and prioritize for the Prop 68 Per Capita Grants and future funding sources. Upon discussion, the Commission reached consensus in identifying three projects as most necessary.

Commissioner N. Herrera motioned to make a recommendation to City Council that the three following project be considered priorities for the parks:

1. Pioneer Park Playground
2. Las Palmas Park Outdoor Lighting
3. Repair of the Recreation Park Roof

Commissioner J. Ponce seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote:

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AYES:	S. Richards, J. Hayes, J. Ponce, S. Navarro
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. **STATWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION SPP GRANT** – J. Venegas reported on a new grant opportunity. An agency called California Consulting is collaborating with a company to offer free grant writing services to the City to assist with grant applications.

The City has reached out to the landowner of the parcel identified by this Commission as a possible location for a Community Garden. The City is waiting to hear back from the owner as to whether there is interest in selling the property to the City.

Community Outreach Meetings will be planned in the next few months to engage community members and get their input on park projects. J. Venegas is requesting the participation of two Commissioners to participate in these upcoming meetings to be conducted via zoom once dates have been selected.

3. **VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING** –Marisol Diaz, Program Specialist, provided an update on the virtual programming offered by the Recreation and Community Services Department. Some of those activities include senior exercise classes, zoom trainings, workshops, bingo, trivia activities, a virtual concert, Teens for a Better Community program, 5K virtual race, and drive-through events such as the Grandparent’s Day celebration. Many of these events are sponsored by our partners such as Anthem, Optum and Regal Medical Group to name a few.

Commissioner J. Hayes commented on the outreach efforts such as social media. Many residents benefit from the newsletter and wellness calls as a form of outreach to those who do not have social media access.

Commissioner J. Ponce had questions regarding outreach information for the MMAP virtual concert.

Commissioners S. Navarro and S. Richards expressed appreciation for the Department’s efforts to keep people connected.

4. **COMMUNITY THEATRE PROGRAM** – J. Venegas reported that the last virtual meeting was very well attended. Commissioner J. Hayes discussed the program’s mission and the value of having J. Venegas on the board as a liaison to facilitate the process of moving forward with this program. The next meeting will be planned for October. Invitations will go out once the date

is secured.

The film festival is tied to the Dia de Los Muertos event and is open to anyone who has a stake in San Fernando. There is no cost for participants under the age of 20. Those over 20 years of age will pay a \$20 fee. The deadline for film submissions is October 16th.

Commissioner S. Navarro is pleased to see the interest in this program. Commissioner J. Ponce congratulated those working on this program as they are doing a great job.

5. **DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19**—J. Venegas updated the Commission on the Residential Food Program for City residents. At this time, 83 applications have been received and are in review. The RCS Department will be purchasing food items, assembling food boxes and will plan to conduct the distribution sometime towards the end of the month. Food boxes will contain approximately \$200 in food items as well as PPE.

The Department is working on setting up locations at Recreation Park and Las Palmas Park to designate as Learning Centers for children to have a place with WiFi accessibility in order to do their schoolwork.

Free Covid-19 testing will be available at Recreation Park on September 16th and 17th. Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are welcome. A flu vaccine event will be planned sometime in October.

Commissioner Ponce asked if parents are welcome in the Learning Center. Families are welcome to attend. Social distancing and recommended guidelines will be enforced.

Commissioner N. Herrera had questions regarding making donations to the Residential Food Program.

6. **LAYNE PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT**—J. Venegas reported that the project is on schedule. The City is seeking bids from a firm to provide a design and the cost of completing this project. An RFP will be released on September 24th. Construction is projected to begin in April or May of next year.

Commissioner Richards reported that she reached out to the Layne Family who are thrilled to hear about the upcoming project.

7. **LAS PALMAS PARK RENOVATION**—J. Venegas reported that renovations are under way and on track to be completed by the end of October.

Commissioner S. Richards asked if a re-opening ceremony is planned for Las Palmas Park. Commissioner J. Ponce inquired about Commissioners attending the ceremony without

violating the Brown Act. J. Venegas will plan on a re-opening ceremony for Las Palmas Park and all Commissioners may attend as the Brown Act excludes ceremonies.

8. **YOUTH REINVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM**—J. Venegas reported that this program is recruiting youth participants at this time. Information and registration is available on the City's website. Anyone who knows a student who may be interested can refer them to the program.

STAFF COMMUNICATON

Staff reported on the Senior Food Bank distribution conducted at Las Palmas Park. The last distribution provided about 100 food boxes to senior participants. The event is conducted every first Monday of the month and is geared towards seniors.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Commissioner S. Richards discussed rotating the assignment of Commission Chair to allow others the opportunity to lead the meeting. Staff will look into rotation policies.

Commissioners will submit agenda items they wish to discuss to staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner J. Hayes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Commissioner J. Ponce seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: