

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY HALL NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM
2535 COMMERCE WAY, COMMERCE, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017 AT 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Perez at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
AND INVOCATION**

Commissioner Garcia led those present in the salute to the flag and invocation.

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Perez
Commissioner: Aguilar, Garcia, Zavala
Absent: Commissioner Griego

REORGANIZATION

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

**APPEARANCES AND
PRESENTATIONS**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gloria Nezahualcoyotl thanked Director Lipton for fixing the fence between the property line of the Vista Del Rio homes and Veterans Park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Aguilar approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 7, 2017. Commissioner Zepeda seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VETERANS PARK UPDATE

Director Lipton provided the Commission with an update with respect to the closure of Veterans Park due to lead and asbestos abatement and explained that the building is currently more like a skeleton, the study on Veterans Park has been completed and a Council Meeting will be held to discuss the future of Veterans Park. Mr. Lipton explained that the Public Works will have presentation ready for Council. There is an option to keep the actual building as well as the option to tear down the building. Mr. Lipton explained the department's actions of renting gym space in other areas and explained the temporary use permit. Flooring, lights and a ventilation system will be to be installed. If we can keep the gym open on a temporary basis, it should be up and running in about 4-6 months if approved. Should the City decide to tear the building down, the concern is delays for a variety of reasons. Veterans Park is currently operating out of two bungalows. He invited the Commission to the Council meeting. Ideas looked at is making the former Marksmanship Range a full fitness center. The racquetball courts area can be transformed into a studio area. Director Lipton explained that the City of Commerce does not have their own gym, explained the renting of buildings outside of Commerce with limited availability to Commerce. \$49,000 estimated in rental fees and explained the breakdown of fees. The City does receive a discount rate from the City of Bell Gardens. Mr. Lipton is hoping to keep the

building and explained his reasons. At this point, Mr. Lipton was unable to provide further detail until after the Council meeting. Commissioner Garcia asked how long have you guys been thinking about this and is there proposals, who have you been talking to? Mr. Lipton explained that there has been a study which will be presented to Council that includes the temporary use permit. Commissioner Zavala asked if the Commission can get that email for that meeting. Robert explained, yes, they will receive an email. There being no other questions, this item was received and filed.

STAFF REPORT

Director Lipton updated the Commission on the October Events and Happenings, reporting on Crush Volleyball tryouts, the Halloween programs and the Haunted House at the Teen Center. The Commission assigned themselves to the different parks for the Halloween Parade. Dia de Los Muertos at Bristow Park was announced. Mr. Lipton advised the Commission about the Hepatitis A concerns, how it is spreads and the actions staff has taken to keep areas clean. The concern about keeping staff safe and a brief update on the concerns with respect to the homeless people in and around our park facilities. Mr. Lipton reported on the Small Green Door group attended the Council Meeting to propose a dog park near the open space by Steven's Steak House. Mr. Lipton explained the issues that may arise should this be approved. Caltrans would have to be involved. Planning Commissioner Serfozo shared information with respect to their experience with the proposed areas and the different ideas for this area and their discussions with Steven's Steak House, stating that the City should go to the community and ask if this is something they want. Mr. Lipton shared his insight with what the dog park would require. Robert announced the retirement of Camp Program Manager Ruben Villalobos.

Commissioner Garcia followed up with a concern that was brought up at the last meeting with respect to Camp Commerce, stating that last month, a patron brought up something about the kitchen and the cook not being ready for the residents and asked if we looked that up, did we resolve that? Director Lipton explained that we did have a situation where we were using a contractor up there and we are no longer using the contractor at this point, it has been resolved. Commissioner Aguilar asked if the cook was under contract? Robert replied, yes, we couldn't get any bodies up there. Commissioner Garcia asked so what are you doing now for it? Director Lipton reported that we are only doing weekends now and the Head Cook works the weekends now. She has a Wednesday – Sunday schedule.

Commissioner Garcia stated that the spray pools were also brought up last month and the department was supposed to look into it to see what was going to happen with the spray pools, is there an update on that? Director Lipton responded that we are looking into

grant money to possibility change them out splash pads. If we keep the spray pools, they would all have to be retiled. The difference between a spray pool and a splash pad is that you have to have a lifeguard on duty. The benefit of having a splash pad is that it can stay open longer. There is an expense to the splash pad, around 500,000. They are expensive. There have been some in the City of Los Angeles that had some contamination issues that have now been resolved. If we do not get grant funding, we will re-tile the pools for about \$10,000. Commissioner Aguilar asked when we know when we get that money, Robert reported in a couple of months. Bristow and Veterans Park definitely need to be re-tiled.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Zepeda reported on her attendance to the Bristow Park Soccer Banquet, she really enjoyed it. Mrs. Zepeda attended the Fiestas Patrias Celebration and enjoyed the fact that she was able to sit and enjoy the festivities. She was disappointed that the Posole ran out. Enjoyed the Performing Arts Production of Greece and requested a letter of appreciation.

Commissioner Aguilar reported on his attendance to the Fiestas Patrias, enjoyed the performers and the food. Attended the Soccer Banquet at Bandini, there were a lot of people in attendance and expressed with concerns with respect to banquet preparations, noted that there was a team with only 3 players in attendance that should have gone first.

Commissioner Garcia reported on her attendance to the Boxing Show, noted it was an excellent show. Inquired about the measures taken by the department to advertise Boxing Show. Ms. Garcia expressed her concerns with respect to staff decorating the concert stage/area during the Boxing Show, noting it was not organized. The area leading to the Boxing Show was not presentable, would like to see proper signage. Ms. Garcia arrived to Veterans Park between 1:25 – 1:30 p.m. and noticed more staff than patrons. Commission Garcia concluded by complimenting the Boxing Show and the great set up.

Chairperson Perez reported on her attendance to all events mentioned, noting the Concert in the Park, something new and a good idea to have. Complimented the decorations and stated she had a great time. Reported on the Sports Banquet and noted that the raffles at each park are not evenly distributed; some parks have more raffles than others. Chairperson Perez concluded her report by inquiring what happened to the certificates normally given at the Sports Banquets and recommended the Department go back to the original form of certificates.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 6 p.m.