

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5655 JILLSON ST., COMMERCE, CALIFORNIA  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019 AT 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

Vice Chairperson Zavala  
Commissioner: Aguilar, Garcia and Perez  
Absent: Chairperson Griego  
Interim Director Marquez  
Senior Office Specialist Macias

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Sharon Basic addressed the Commissioners and reported that the shrubs on the south side, between the library and senior center, need a trim because they are looking shabby. Ms. Basic wanted to know if seniors fill out the camp commerce forms with their personal information and the condition they are in every time they are registering for senior camp or is the information on file. She recently went on a Senior day trip to Camp Commerce and the bathroom in the bus was broken. She was very concerned for all the seniors on the bus. Ms. Basic dropped off her camp registration form at the senior center and they assured her that they would take it to city hall. The Brenda Villa Aquatic Center's parking lot needs to be repaved. It is in terrible condition. Out of respect for Brenda Villa it should be fixed. Is that being considered this year?

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Perez motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 1, 2019. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**PARK MAINTENANCE**

Senior Park Maintenance Crew Leaders, Nick Padilla and Pete Dorame were in attendance as well as Park Maintenance Worker Mario Moran. Nick reported that he oversees Rosewood Park, the Civic Center, Bandini Park, and medians. Senior Park Maintenance Crew Leader Pete Dorame oversees Bristow Park, Veterans Park, and medians. Mr. Padilla presented some pictures of some areas that the Park Maintenance division maintains. Nick reported that the daily primary objective for all Park Maintenance workers is make sure all worksites are clean and safe by picking up all trash, replacing trash liners, and blowing all entrances and playgrounds. They also have a well established pressure washing crew. Second, is to begin on lawn maintenance duties such as mowing, edging, string trimming, and the blowing off of all clippings that fall on sidewalks at all locations. When all lawn work is completed, staff check on and repair all irrigation

concerns as best as possible, such as main line breaks, irrigation valves repair and replacement, irrigation rotors, pop ups, and the redesigning of irrigation systems, in order to provide the best water coverage as possible. Other duties performed are the prepping of baseball diamonds, special event prep, and assisting other divisions during special events, weed removal, aeration, seeding and fertilization. They also provide and respond to special requests such as the moving of special equipment for special events like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Cinco de Mayo, etc. and in setting up the sinks, tanks, carts, canopies, sandbags. Staff also repairs equipment in the parks such as picnic tables, barbecue pits, etc. As senior leads, Pete and Nick create and conduct safety staff meetings and communicate with the management team and other department supervisors in efforts to best organize outside work assignments with all park programs with the goal of maximizing the best beautification and safety in all parks and city medians. Pete Dorame addressed the Commissioners and reported that all crews have daily routine maintenance duties in their respective work areas. However, at times they may encounter some challenges that may interrupt their daily routines. For instance at Veterans Park they have had to deal with quite a few challenges. They have had to address broken irrigation in the park and on the islands that have caused the landscape to dry out. The repairs were performed by park maintenance workers, Eric Zavala and Luis Flores and now the parks are looking green and beautiful again. Some irrigation valves at Veterans park behind the ball field recently malfunctioned as some roots grow into the valve causing dry areas in the rear of the park. Mario Moran and Alfredo Beltran responded to this repair. One of the biggest challenges recently was the leak in the 3 inch main line near the bungalow and the playground. Mario Moran and Alfredo Beltran dug a 4 foot deep trench to repair the leak. Mario and Alfredo did a very good job of completing this massive project.

Commissioner Garcia asked Pete if he had staff he is responsible for. Pete responded that he is responsible for 2 full time and 2 part time employees at Veterans, 2 full time and 2 part time at Bristow Park and 2 full timers on the medians.

Commissioner Garcia asked what the routine is like at Veterans Park. Are full-timers overseeing the part-timers? Do the full-timers travel to oversee the part-timers at the park to make sure they are doing their duties? Pete responded that he oversees the schedule of full timers and part timers. It's normally a routine daily but varies once in a while. Just as Nick stated they start off with clean up then lawn and planter maintenance and irrigation repair. However when there is a big issue like the main break, those routine duties are placed on hold.

Commissioner Garcia asked if when he is working at Veterans park are the part-time staff there with the full-time staff. Pete responded yes.

Commissioner Garcia asked how long it took to figure out that there was a leak. Pete responded that this particular leak they have noticed

because they were leveling and adding dirt and Park Maintenance Worker Mario Moran noticed a wet spot near a tree. They started to troubleshoot it and realized that it was a possible main line leak. Mario started to dig it out and that started this involved project. Park Maintenance Worker Mario Moran addressed the Commission and presented various photos of the project from the beginning mud spot to the large trench that needed to be dug out. He also showed photos of the roots of the nearby tree that had grown and encased part of the main line. Mario was the employee who troubleshooted the mud spot. Mario reported that he has been assigned to Veterans Park since 2006 and line breaks happen quite often as a result of the park being on top of a defunct landfill. The land is constantly moving and shifting from the methane gas build up underneath the ground that develops as a result of the trash buried in the ground. The irrigation system has to be monitored and maintained daily to make sure they can keep the areas as green as possible for safe play, the sports program or day-to-day use of the public. They had to remove the nearby ficus tree because the roots were causing a big issue to the irrigation system. It will eventually be replaced with a California native tree. Mario assured the Commission that he is working to make Veterans as beautiful as he can to the best of his capabilities.

Commissioner Garcia asked how long have the ficus trees been at Veterans Park. Mario responded that he did not know.

Commissioner Garcia asked why we are only realizing now that these trees are causing problems. Mario responded that it is various things that cause issues. Since the ground is constantly settling, any shift can cause something (roots, rocks) to move in to puncture the lines. And it only takes a pinhole puncture to create a significant leak. Every year they have to add truckloads of soil to the land to account for the shifting soil just so that there is enough soil for grass to grow on. He's had to refill the pitcher's mound because every once in a while Dodger Town will notice that it is a few inches too short.

Commissioner Garcia asked if it is fixable. Mario responded that everything is somewhat fixable. Mario mentioned that he has repaired and replaced every single valve in Veterans Park since the time he started there in 2006.

Commissioner Garcia asked if we could ever get to the same status as Rosewood Park. Mario said yes. The foundation of the irrigation system is the most important part of keeping landscaping up to par and as long as the City is on board they can make sure that Veterans has a efficient and operational system, and therefore a well maintained landscape. Pete thanked and congratulated Mario and Alfredo for completing this very challenging project. They did an excellent job. Pete also mentioned that he knows all the other workers do a great job as well at their respective locations.

Interim Director Marquez mentioned that Nick and Pete did a great job

with their presentation. He knows that all of Park Maintenance do an exceptional job throughout the city and knows they do their best to keep our city looking great.

The Commissioners thanked Nick and Pete for their presentation. Commissioner Perez told them to keep up the good work.

Vice Chairperson Zavala thanked the Park Maintenance staff for all their hard work. If it weren't for them, our city and parks wouldn't look beautiful as they do.

Commissioner Garcia also thanked all the Park Maintenance employees for all their hard work. She thanked Nick, Pete and Mario for their presentation and explanation. She now understands a lot more of what they do.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Interim Director Marquez passed out envelopes to each Commissioner with invitations to various city events. They were also emailed to them. Hopefully we can take the group picture next month. We hope to see the Commissioners this month at Fiestas Patrias and Concert in the Park. Those two flyers are in the Fall brochure and the brochure will be delivered this weekend. The Commissioners are invited to the Lion King Sing-a-Long fundraiser tomorrow night. Tickets are still available for purchase.

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

Commissioner Aguilar reported that he had a speedy recover. Thank you for all the well wishes and to those who visited him during his recovery. He knows Mario Moran personally and also worked with him for many years. He is glad he brought up the work that he does because people don't see the behind the scenes. Park Maintenance does a great job. Commissioner Aguilar also requested a follow up on how the concerns at the Senior Center were handled.

Commissioner Perez attended the Back to School Bash. It was very well attended. She could see that both the kids and the adults had a lot of fun and it was a good way to end summer. Staff did a great job as always. Commissioner Perez praised the staff for doing such a great job during one of the busiest months.

Commissioner Garcia had no report.

Vice Chairperson Zavala reported that she attended the Day Camp Showcase. She really enjoyed it and everyone did an awesome job.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 3, 2019 in the City of Commerce Council Chambers.