



Thursday, May 9, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held in the Council Chambers, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California. Chair Saucedo called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Michael D. Lay, Joseph A. Palombi, Jacob A. Rodriguez, Youth Ex Officio Yulissa Chavez, Vice-Chair Monica M. Sanchez, and Chair Patricia A. Saucedo

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. MINUTES:

- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of April 11, 2019
Recommendation: Approve

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Sanchez and seconded by Commissioner Palombi and carried on to roll call vote to approve the Minutes of April 11, 2019.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Sheriff's Update by Deputy Brandon Longoria

Park Deputy, Brandon Longoria, provided the total number of reported incidents that led to arrests by park site and information on noteworthy incidents that occurred. Although the Sheriff's Department has responded to several incidents there have been a few that have led to arrest. The following has been reported arrests since February 28, 2019:

- Rio Hondo Park has had a total of 3 arrests.
- Streamland Park had had a total of 5 arrests.
- Obregon Park has had a total of 4 arrests.
- Pico Rivera Golf Course has had 1 arrests.
- Pico Park has had a total of 3 arrests.
- Smith Park has had a total of 4 arrests.
- Rivera Park has had a total of 7 arrests.

Park Deputy Longoria reported a total of 27 arrests, in addition he reported a total of 14 arrests while in transit to the park sites. Several of these cases have been due to possession of a controlled substance such as methamphetamine, heroine, or marijuana. Other arrest have been made due to possession of drug paraphernalia which consist of glass pipes and needles, as well as drinking in public, and outstanding warrants. Noteworthy events included the following:

- On May 9 the Sheriff's Department received a call regarding the power lines at Rivera Park. According to Southern California Edison there were several live

wires that were down. In order to prevent a fatality the Sheriff's Department blocked the northern side of the park. Soon after Southern California Edison personnel arrived and fixed the power lines.

- On April 27 the Sheriff's Department responded to a call from Pico Park. Staff reported an individual that was standing outside the women's restroom exposing himself. The individual is currently incarcerated.
- On April 24 an individual was riding his bicycle through the Farmers Market and was harassing patrons and threatening to ride them over with his bicycle. When Park Deputy Longoria confronted the individual, he responded in a physical manner. The individual was arrested for assaulting a Deputy and resisting arrest. The individual is currently incarcerated.
- The week of March 24 the Sheriff's Department Detectives opened a grand theft investigation. Several items had been removed for the Rio Vista snack bar. The value of the items totaled to about \$4,000 and is still under investigation.

Park Deputy Longoria further stated that vandalism has been reported at Rio Vista Park, Rivera Park, and Smith Park. The vandalism seems to be occurring at night which is why the Sheriff's Department has decided to schedule deputies to work beyond the park hours of operation to catch the individuals who have vandalized the park. In addition he has also received calls from the coaches of the youth leagues to report needles in the dugouts.

Vice-Chair Sanchez noted that he had mentioned that smoking in the park was a misdemeanor. She asked Park Deputy Longoria to further discuss the penalty fine.

Park Deputy Longoria noted that any individual that is found smoking near the playground area would be charged with a misdemeanor and will also receive a citation. Park Deputy Longoria noted that the Sheriff's Department is hoping that the countless arrest that have occurred could potentially stand as a warning to those that might want to think twice about their behavior at the park.

Commissioner Lay asked if these individuals resided in the City.

Park Deputy Longoria noted that some individuals might just be lingering from the riverbed.

Director of Parks and Recreation, Arlene Salazar, commended Park Deputy Longoria for responding professionally at the April 24 incident.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked what park site had reported needles and paraphernalia. In addition, he asked Park Deputy Longoria to provide any additional steps that the Sheriff's Department planned to do to deter some of these transients.

Deputy Longoria explained to the Commission that he usually walks the park grounds in order to introduce himself to the public and provide his contact information. He is hoping that this method will help the public feel more comfortable reporting any illegal activity.

Commissioner Palombi thanked Park Deputy Longoria for providing all the information and also commended the Sheriff's Department for serving the community. He wondered if the reported activity at Smith Park could be due to the close proximity of the Pico Gardens or the skate park. Park Deputy Longoria noted that the Sheriff's Department had a Crime Analyst who studies the activity that occurs and tries to determine where the individuals are lingering from. The Crime Analyst has determined that many of these individuals are from the Knights Inn, Pico Gardens, Angels Motel, and the riverbed access on Mines Avenue. In addition, the park is centrally located which attracts several individuals to the park.

b) Youth Activities by Rosa Aguilar

Director Salazar introduced Recreation Leader III, Rosa Aguilar, she is the lead staff at the Youth Center. She commended Recreation Leader Aguilar for her commitment to the Youth Center. She has dedicated over 30 years to Youth Center and has helped many teens.

Recreation Leader Aguilar prepared a presentation of the Youth Center programming, facility updates, and goals. The Youth Center has recently updated their kitchen and added workout equipment. The Public Works Department will be adding a fresh coat of paint to the interior and exterior part of the facility, new flooring, and storage space. The Youth Center has hosted several special events which include Casino Nights, Career Nights, Dances, Karaoke Nights and Lip Sync Battles. The Youth Center Teen Club originated in the early 90's, as an alternative to the adverse activity. The following criteria is mandated to participate in the Teen Club: passing grades, volunteer hours, and a passing score on the Word of the Day Quiz.

Commissioner Palombi inquired about the number of teens at the Youth Center.

Recreation Leader Aguilar informed the Commission that the number of teens at the Youth Center varies as the students graduate.

Director Salazar informed the Commission that in addition to the Youth Center programming the Youth Center staff have also assisted with the adaptive programming.

Chair Saucedo asked Recreation Leader Aguilar to identify a need for the Youth Center.

Recreation Leader Aguilar noted that added transportation could be very helpful for teens that do not have means of transportation.

Commissioner Palombi thanked staff for inviting Recreation Leader Aguilar to share an overview of the Youth Center.

3. OLD BUSINESS: None

4. ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION REVIEW: None

5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORT:

a) Director's Report

Director Salazar noted that staff had been working with the Pico Boys Baseball League in order to help them meet the criteria to be a Recognized Community Sports Organization. The League has continually struggled to obtain their 501(c)(3) and meet the required residency rate. She further mentioned that staff would be discussing the recognition status at the next scheduled meeting. Director Salazar briefly reviewed the events that occurred during the month of April. The R.E.A.C.H. Afterschool Program completed their registrations for the 2019-2020 school year. The Tiny Tots program will be concluding their program and preparing for graduation. The Senior Center hosted several events which included their Senior Volunteer Recognition and the Coordinating Council Inaugural Ball. The Senior Center has also extended some of their services throughout the weekends, the new services include excursions. The Commission was invited to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 27. At the next scheduled City Council Meeting the Council would be making a motion to adopt the Memorial Plaque Criteria which is the process in which an individual can submit a name of a veteran to be added to the Veteran's Memorial Wall. Director Salazar informed the Commission that the Senior Follies event had been cancelled due to the low number of registrations. Staff has determined that the seniors would rather have a karaoke night.

b) Recreation Upcoming Activities

Director Salazar briefly reviewed the upcoming events for the month on June and July. She also informed the Commission that the City would be completing several maintenance projects at several facilities. The Public Works Department is in the process of adding a fresh coat of paint to the interior and exterior facility at Pico Park. Staff intends to complete several maintenance projects before the summer programming begins.

Chair Saucedo asked when construction would begin at Pico Park.

Director Salazar noted that construction would begin on June 3.

May			
Date	Time	Event	Location
5/11 Saturday	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Family Fun Events - Mother/Daughter Par-Tea	Senior Center 9200 Mines Ave.
5/15 Wednesday	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Farmers Market	Smith Park 6016 Rosemead Blvd.
5/15	10:00 a.m.	Senior Center - Special	Senior Center

Wednesday		Presentations: Isolation	9200 Mines Ave.
May (Continued)			
Date	Event	Event	Location
5/18 Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Trips & Tours - Battle of the Mariachis	Pico Park 9528 Beverly Blvd.
5/22 Wednesday	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Farmers Market	Smith Park 6016 Rosemead Blvd.
5/27 Monday	10:00 a.m.	Memorial Day Ceremony (Breakfast served at 8:00 a.m.)	Pico Rivera Veteran's Memorial and Eternal Flame
5/29 Wednesday	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Senior Health & Fitness Day	Senior Center 9200 Mines Ave.
5/29 Wednesday	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Farmers Market	Smith Park 6016 Rosemead Blvd.
June			
Date	Time	Event	Location
6/5 Wednesday	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Farmers Market	Smith Park 6016 Rosemead Blvd.
6/5 Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Senior Center - Special Presentations: Auto insurance Rights & Your Rights	Senior Center 9200 Mines Ave.
6/08 Saturday	12:30 p.m.	Senior Follies	Senior Center 9200 Mines Ave.
6/10 Monday	Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Summer Food Service Program Begins	Pico Park, Rivera Park, Smith Park, Rio Vista Park, Pio Pico Playground, Veteran's & Ladies Auxiliary Park, Rio Hondo Park
6/12 Wednesday	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Farmers Market	Smith Park 6016 Rosemead Blvd.
6/13 Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	City Council Chambers 6615 Passons Blvd.
6/14 Friday	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Youth Center: End of the School Teen BBQ	Youth Center 4632 Orange St.

6. COMMISSIONER REPORTS – Park Facility Issues

Senior Center	-	Chair Saucedo
Pico Park	-	Commissioner Palombi and Chair Saucedo
Rio Hondo Park	-	Commissioner Palombi
Streamland Park	-	Commissioner Rodriguez
Smith Park	-	Vice-Chair Sanchez and Youth Ex Officio Chavez
Rivera Park	-	Chair Saucedo and Commissioner Lay
Youth Center	-	Commissioner Rodriguez and Youth Ex Officio Chavez
Golf Course	-	Vice-Chair Sanchez

Youth Ex Officio Chavez thanked Deputy Longoria for helping the community feel safe with his presence.

Director Salazar commended Youth Ex Officio Chavez for being accepted to the University of La Verne.

Commissioner Rodriguez thanked Recreation Leader Aguilar for her presentation and her dedication to the Youth Center. He has had the opportunity to stop by the Youth Center several times and the participants are always very friendly. He believes this is due to the dedicated staff at the Youth Center. He further stated that a resident had spoken to him about a Volun-teen Program offered in the City of Whittier. The program is offered to teens between the ages of 14 – 16. The teens are assigned to shadow a staff member to assist them with programming and also gain transferable skills. He wondered if there was any feasibility that Pico Rivera can also offer this program.

Vice-Chair Sanchez wondered if the City had also held a volunteer recognition event to honor teens that have dedicated several volunteer hours.

Director Salazar informed the Commission that the Department does not host an event for teen volunteers. The Department has continually offered volunteer experience at several special events. Staff has noticed that teens that have attended are strictly there to volunteer for mandated hours. At the conclusion of the event all participants usually receive a token of appreciation in addition to a certificate for their volunteered time. The City has also begun to hire from the age of 16 which has given several of the teens from the Youth Center the opportunity to apply and gain job skills.

Vice-Chair Sanchez noted that she had the opportunity to attend the Easter Eggstravaganza Event. She commended staff for putting together a fun filled and well organized event. She also attended the 17th Annual Park Summit, to which they offered several informational workshops.

Commissioner Lay requested door stoppers for the outdoor restrooms by the concession stands at Rivera Park.

Chair Saucedo stated that she also attended the 17th Annual Park Summit which was very informative. She requested additional information on possible transportation for the Youth Center participants.

Director Salazar informed her that no additional shuttle services could be added because of potential overlap with the built in transportation services. The services include the Montebello Bus Lines and the Metro Bus Lines.

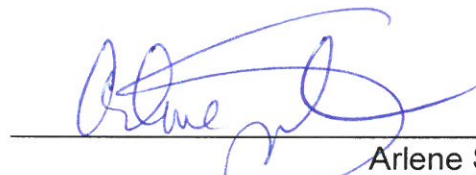
7. CITY COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE REMINDER

a) Commissioner Jacob Rodriguez – May 28, 2019

ADJOURNMENT:

The Parks and Recreation meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m. by Commissioner Palombi and seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez.



Patricia A. Saucedo, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

Arlene Salazar,
Director of Parks and Recreation