

**CITY OF BUENA PARK
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
November 15, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Kato called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, California.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Vaca, Pearson, Kato, Weinstock, Siebert

ABSENT: Gomez, Wilson-Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Margaret Riley, Director of Community Services
Dale Kurata, Community Services Supervisor
Veronica Ramirez, Senior Community Services Coordinator
Michelle Van Sickle, Senior Community Services Coordinator
Angela Arias, Acting Senior Administrative Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Kato.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 18, 2018 - Regular Meeting**
*** *M/S/P* - Commissioners Weinstock/Pearson approved the minutes as presented.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
3. **DIRECTOR'S/STAFF REPORT:** Ms. Margaret Riley, Director of Community Services reported that on November 13, 2018 City Council approved a shade structure for Larwin Park that will go over the playground. It is estimated to be completed by January 2019 and \$200,000 to install.

Mr. Dale Kurata, Community Services Supervisor reported on the success of Silverado Days. Mr. Kurata also announced that the Community Services Department will be applying for Silverado Days grants which will be confirmed at the end of December.

Ms. Michelle VanSickle, Senior Community Services Coordinator reported that Youth Soccer League will be concluding with the last game being Saturday, November 17, 2018 and the banquet will be on November 27 and 28, 2018 at Ehlers Event Center. Staff is currently preparing for Candy Caneland.

Ms. Veronica Ramirez, Senior Community Services Coordinator reported that most user groups are wrapping up their season. Staff are preparing for the Youth Basketball League to begin.

4. **CITY UPDATES:** None.
5. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**
 - a. Naming of Dog Park "Rocky" The City's First Police Service Dog – Presentation by Retired Police Lieutenant, Bob Mote – The Parks & Recreation Commission are considering naming the Dog Park after a Buena Park Police Department K-9 and

requested a presentation from retired Officer Bob Mote, to give us background on the City's first police service dog, Rocky. Mr. Mote was hired in 1977 as a Community Service Officer and retired as a Lieutenant in 2007 from the Detective Bureau. K-9 Rocky was a Belgium Malinois Dog. Rocky was involved in 72 apprehensions throughout his tenure. Mr. Mote was promoted to Sergeant in 1997, and following that, Rocky was put down later that year due to cancer. The Commission will table this item for the following meeting.

- b. Update on City's Efforts to Assist Homeless Population – Presentation by City's Homeless Liaison Officers – At the September 20, 2018 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, Commissioner Weinstock requested to have a discussion on issues in the parks regarding vandalism and or crime with a presentation from the City's Task Force. Detective David Pantoja, Detective Kevin Franklin and Sergeant Ryan Dieringer presented on Bright Paths and City Efforts to assist the homeless population. There are currently 314 individuals who have been removed from the street and transitioned back into society and 26 have reverted back into homelessness. Efforts are at retention rate of 92%. Commissioner Siebert asked if a majority of the transient population are residents of Buena Park and Detective Kevin Franklin mentioned that the majority of the transients either went to school or lived in Buena Park at one point and the majority are single, females. Chair Kato asked what their role as Homeless Liaison Detectives are, Detective Pantoja said that their role is to find the best resource for the individual. Once Detectives have made contact with the transient population, City Net works to find a transitional home or shelter for the individual. City Net provides outreach on each Monday to provide specific resources to contacted individuals. Currently, the City of Buena Park is working with the City of Anaheim's Task Force on the river bed issues and will soon be a part of the POT program in Anaheim to further efforts to assist the homeless population. Detectives offered recommendations such as installing video cameras in efforts to reduce crime and vandalism in the parks.
- c. Youth Sports Scholarship Update – Ms. VanSickle reported that scholarships are currently being submitted for Youth Basketball and no scholarships have been awarded in the last reporting period. Three (3) scholarships have been turned in for Basketball and will be reviewed once the missing information is provided.
- d. Candy Caneland & Craft Faire Update – Ms. Ramirez reported that Candy Caneland will be on Saturday, December 1, 2018 and extended an invite to all Commissioners. Ms. Ramirez also extended the invite for Commissioners to participate in the annual booth decoration judging at 12:30 p.m., followed by an awards ceremony at 1:30 p.m. on the Main Stage.
- e. Community Gardens Report – Ms. VanSickle reported that there are 196 plots at the Community Gardens and all are occupied. Current gardeners had the opportunity to renew their plots from Tuesday, September 4, 2018 – Friday, September 28, 2018 and registration for new gardeners ran Monday, October 1, 2018 – Friday, October 26, 2018. Open registration on a first come-first served basis opened on Monday, February 4, 2018. Two Recreation Leaders do weekly checks on the Community Garden Plots to ensure that

all gardeners are being compliant to the policies and rules. Ms. VanSickle announced that the Food Garden Workshop was a success. Each workshop was led by a master gardener and a snack was made with the available produce as an example of what they may make at home.

- f. Park Projects Update - Ms. Riley mentioned that the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) at Ehlers Event Center has been installed and will be running by November 16, 2018.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. News Releases, Department Flyers, Etc.

- i. Photos of Police Service Dog K-9 Rocky and Corporal Bob Mote 1992-1997, Scholarship Update Memo

7. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Discussion on Naming of Dog Park "Rocky" The City's First Police Service Dog. Chair Kato reminded all Commissioners of the Holiday Potluck on Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m at the Buena Park Community Center.

8. ATTENDANCE SHEET: as distributed.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

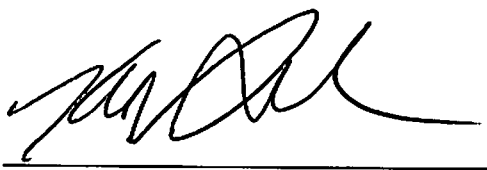
- a. Next City Council Meeting, Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.
- b. Next Regular Commission Meeting: Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
- c. Commission Holiday Reception: Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chair Kato declared the meeting adjourned to the next regular meeting on Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:



Angela Arias, Recording Secretary



Gail Kato, Chair