

**CITY OF BUENA PARK
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 17, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wilson-Thomas called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, California.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Kato, Vaca, Wilson-Thomas, Siebert, Weinstock
ABSENT: Pearson
ALSO PRESENT: Jim Box, Interim Director of Community Services
Dale Kurata, Community Services Supervisor
Michelle Van Sickle, Senior Community Services Coordinator
Maura Toohey, Community Services Coordinator
Angela Arias, Acting Senior Administrative Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Wilson-Thomas.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 20, 2018 - Regular Meeting**
*** *M/S/P* - Commissioners Kato/Vaca approved the minutes as changed.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
3. **DIRECTOR'S/STAFF REPORT:** Mr. Jim Box introduced himself as the new Interim Director of Community Services Department. Mr. Box has over 27 years of experience in Local Government, Community Services and Senior Services. Mr. Box most recently served with the City of Stanton for 17 years, the City of Tustin as the Director for the Tustin Area Senior Center for 15 years, the City of Cerritos as the Founding Director of the Senior Center, the City of Norwalk and the City of Los Alamitos. Mr. Box reported the resignation of Veronica Ramirez, former Senior Community Services Coordinator and announced the internal recruitment which will open on Thursday, January 17, 2019.

Mr. Dale Kurata informed the commission on the reorganization of responsibilities since the resignation of Veronica Ramirez. Buena Park National Little League is preparing for their Opening Day in Mid-February. Buena Park Girls Softball ASA is preparing for their opening day also in mid-February. Due to renovation at Buena Park High School, the baseball team will not have access to their baseball fields, therefore they will be using field 3 at Bellis Park. The use of the fields will not interrupt city-programming. Mr. Kurata also announced that staff is preparing for the upcoming aquatics program and Soak City will be using city pools for their lifeguard training beginning in March to early May. The Silverado Days Luncheon will be held on February 28, 2019 where grant amounts will be presented.

Ms. Michelle Van Sickle informed the commission that the Track Meet on April 12, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. will be held at the Buena Park High School Track Field. A food drive will also be incorporated with the Track Meet. Ms. Van Sickle also informed the commission of the new agreement with the Boy and Girls club. In cooperation with the Boys and Girls Club, each child that is registered in the Youth Basketball Program may become a member for one year at

no additional cost as the Community Services Department is picking up the fee which is estimated at \$5.00 per child. Youth Basketball Banquets are tentatively scheduled on March 19, 2019 and March 20, 2019 at Ehlers Event Center. Staff are preparing for summer programs.

Ms. Maura Toohey reported that sports classes at the gymnasium have concluded and continuing is the Little Stars Parent and Me classes. Adult basketball began on Sunday, January 13, 2019 and runs on Sunday Nights at 5:00 p.m. Registration per team is \$360.00.

4. **CITY UPDATES:** Mr. Box reported that the Homeless Navigation System was discussed during the City Council Meeting on January 8, 2019 and due to the large attendance, a town forum will be held on February 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber to encourage discussion between patrons and City Council.

Mr. Box reported that the Butterfly Palladium developers requested a year extension for its development during the City Council meeting on January 8, 2018. City Council denied the developer's request of an extension and directed the City Attorney to issue a notice of default for the project.

Mr. Box also informed the commission that Park and Recreation Commissioner Rick Gomez passed away on January 2, 2019. He served as a commissioner for 26 years. The City Council meeting on January 8, 2019 was adjourned in honor of Rick Gomez. During the council meeting, Mayor Pro-Tem Smith recommended to discuss the naming of the new park on Western and 8th street after Rick Gomez at an upcoming study session.

Mr. Box informed the commission that the office will be closed on Monday, January 21, 2019 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

5. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. Naming of Dog Park "Rocky" The City's First Police Service Dog – Mr. Kurata presented on the background of Bellis Dog Park Grand Opening on September 6, 2008. On January 21, 2016 City Council approved the dog park.
- b. Youth Sports Scholarship Update – Ms. Van Sickle reported the four applications for youth basketball scholarships have been approved and are pending participation.
- c. Candy Caneland & Craft Fair Evaluation – Ms. Toohey presented on the success of the 48th Annual Candy Caneland & Craft Fair on December 1, 2018. The event attendance was an estimated 2,800. The average revenue from vendors who participated was \$250.00. Commissioner Weinstock asked how one may become a vendor for the event and Ms. Toohey informed the commission that the flyer and application are posted on the City website, BP Today brochure and also advertised on Facebook so those interested may apply on the corresponding dates. Entertainment included the snow hill, pictures with Santa, and performances by Webby Dance, Zumba, Pre-K & Tiny Tots singing, Hula dancing, Karate, Impact Dance Center's holiday Troupe, and Ballet Folklorico Amor de Mexico. And it was estimated that 1,298 persons utilized the transportation shuttle.

- d. Youth Soccer Evaluation – Ms. Van Sickle reported on the success of this program. Registration for the Soccer League ran from June 4, 2018 through August 9, 2018. Registration for Soccer Clinic ran from June 4, 2018 through September 27, 2018. Games began early September and ran through mid-November.
- e. 2019 Calendar of Events for Park and Recreation Commission – Mr. Kurata reviewed the handout of the 2019 Community Services Events Calendar. The handout included dates of upcoming programs that traditionally include Park and Recreation Commission participation.
- f. Park Tour Discussion – The Park Tour was tentatively set for Saturday, March 23, 2019 for a Park Tour. Further details will be discussed at the next meeting.
- g. Park Projects Update – Mr. Kurata presented on the playground renovation at Lindbergh Park on 8000 4th Street. Mr. Kurata presented visuals of preliminary proposed options. Mr. Kurata also informed the commission that the shade structure at Larwin Park is moving forward.

Mr. Box reported that Mayor Pro-Tem Smith recommended that the new proposed park off of Western Ave and 8th Street be named in honor of Park and Recreation Commissioner Rick Gomez and it be agenized. Also presented were early preliminary conceptual designs of the new proposed park. Mr. Box added that the demolition and design process will be in 2019 and construction is tentatively scheduled for 2020. Commissioner Kato requested to include the new park as a stop in the Park Tour on March 23, 2019.

- h. Santa Letters and Santa Visits Evaluation – Ms. Van Sickle reported on the success of both programs. Letters to Santa program ran on November 27, 2018 - December 6, 2018. Santa was able to send a personal response if an address was provided. Santa Visits were held on December 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15. Visits were limited to fifteen minutes per household with a total of five visits per night.
6. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**
- a. News Releases, Department Flyers, Etc.
 - a. Scholarship Update Memo, 2019 Community Services Events Calendar, 2019 Spring Eggstravaganza Flyer, 2019 P-Nut Baseball Flyer and the Buena Park Independent Newsletter.
7. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Commissioner Weinstock recommended that Rick Gomez be honored for the 2019 Memorial Grove and it be calendared for the next meeting. Commissioner Vaca also recommended that Rick Gomez be honored for the Memorial Grove and it be calendared. Commissioner Vaca said that the Parks Division staff are fantastic to work with and commented on their hard work.
8. **ATTENDANCE SHEET:** as distributed.
9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a. Next City Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
- b. Next Regular Commission Meeting: Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chair Wilson-Thomas adjourned the meeting in Honor of Rick Gomez.

ATTEST:



Angela Arias, Recording Secretary



Wilson-Thomas, Chair