

**CITY OF BUENA PARK
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
March 21, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wilson-Thomas 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, Kato, Wilson-Thomas, Siebert, Weinstock
ABSENT: Pearson
ALSO PRESENT: Jim Box, Director of Community Services
Dale Kurata, Community Services Supervisor
Michelle Van Sickle, Senior Community Services Coordinator
Maura Toohey, Senior Community Services Coordinator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Siebert.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 21, 2019 - Regular Meeting

***** M/S/P - Commissioners Weinstock/Kato approved the minutes.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

3. DIRECTOR'S/STAFF REPORT: Mr. Box reported that there is a change to the agendas for commission meetings used by all commissions. Staff reports will be prepared for all Discussion/Action Items going forward.

Arbor Day was celebrated on March 9, 2019 at Smith Murphy Park. The event was sponsored by the Beautification and Environmental Commission. Over 40 trees were planted. The event included comments by the Mayor and Congressional leaders, a pledge of allegiance led by the Buena Park High School Air Force JROTC group, and musical entertainment by Karen Hayhurst's preschool students. Mr. Box said he expects this to become an annual event.

Three electric vehicle charging stations will be added to the Community Center on April 8 and after completion three more will be installed at Ehlers Event Center. The project is slated to take about three weeks at each location. Commissioner Siebert asked if it would be free or if the charging will have to be paid for.

Mr. Box announced that he will be presenting a report on the naming of the 8th & Western St. park in honor of commissioner Rick Gomez during the City Council on Tuesday, March 26.

Mr. Box was pleased to announce that the city was awarded a \$30,000 grant for exercise equipment at Boisseranc Park as part of the National Fitness Campaign.

Recruitments are ongoing for two positions in the department: Community Services Coordinator at Ehlers Event Center and Senior Administrative Assistant at the Buena Park Community Center.

Mr. Box reported that Council has directed staff to look into the feasibility in appointing commissioners by district. The first task will be making sure there are seven members on each board, then dedicate five commissioners to be representatives of each district. Mr. Box read, "If a Council Member cannot find a suitable candidate from a respective district, that Council Member may nominate someone from a different district at their discretion". The Council also has the right to have a third "at large" commissioner. Mr. Box encouraged the commissioners to attend the next City Council meeting where this will be discussed.

Mr. Box reported that at the next City Council meeting on April 9, they will be discussing the Navigation Center.

Mr. Dale Kurata reported the Park Tour will be taking place this Saturday, March 23. Everyone will be meeting at 8am at the Buena Park Community Center. He also reported on the shade structure project at Larwin Park and that the staff has had to move picnic shelter rentals around to accommodate construction.

The Memorial Day program is being planned. This year it is being coordinated by the Buena Park Moose Lodge #1945.

We are working with Public Works on making four permanent outdoor display signs for advertising city programs. They will have a permanent sign on top and a replaceable banner below. The display units will be placed at: Edison Right of Way near Knott Ave., Boisseranc Park, Bellis Park, and Peak Park.

Part-time recruitments are going on and an assessment center will be held on Monday, March 25.

Ms. Michelle Van Sickle reported that the city's youth basketball league has concluded and thanked Commissioners Weinstock and Seibert for attending the awards banquets this week. P-Nut baseball registration is taking place right now and a new program is being introduced this year. In the spirit of Rick Gomez, "Get Your Mitt" is a non-profit program developed to coordinate providing free gloves to players in need. Commissioner Weinstock asked if we could use some of the scholarship funds to pay for gloves. Mr. Box said the staff would look into it.

The track meet is still being planned. Registration ends next Wednesday, March 27 and staff has been going to each of the schools to pick up registrations. Holder Elementary has turned in 20 registration forms. Ms. Van Sickle expects to have 400-500 participants this year. Commissioners are welcome to help at the awards table.

Spring Eggstravaganza planning is continuing as scheduled. Staff are finalizing activities for the event. There will be a larger petting zoo this year to accommodate the large crowds. The entertainment is scheduled from the leisure classes and will include our hula and zumba classes.

Ms. Van Sickle reported that the summer park program planning is in the early stages. She also advised there is a new component to the program which staff are very excited about. There will be four evening movies in the parks with two at Smith Murphy, one at San Marino, and one at Peak during the P-nut campout. All the movies will be rated G.

Community Gardens are going well. The city's FIT Committee has set up a demonstration garden. Most recently staff have built wooden garden boxes that the committee placed in their plot. There are many weeds in the garden from all the rain but everything looks good otherwise.

Commissioner Weinstock asked about a plaque that used to be at Larwin Park. He had looked for it thinking it would be returned to the park after the renovation. Mr. Kurata said the plaque is in the possession of Public Works and will look into it.

Ms. Toohey reported on the youth organized play classes at the Community Gymnasium which have started back up since the end of the city's youth basketball league. In addition to the basketball and volleyball classes during the week, Little Stars classes are held on Saturday mornings and are going well.

Aquatics is just getting started. The city has partnered with Knott's Soak City to let them utilize Peak Park Pool for training this year. They started with a group of 35 potential lifeguards for their staff and will be using the pool about every weekend until the beginning of May.

As part of Love Buena Park there will be a wall mural project at Peak Park Pool to revamp the pool deck and freshen up the paint.

4. **CITY UPDATE:** Mr. Box reported that the City Council has approved David Volz Design, the landscape architect for the Western and 8th St. Park. Mr Box has worked with Volz in the past and added he provides quality work. He will be holding two community workshops to ask for design elements from the public. Those dates will be provided to the Commission once they are announced. The park location will be a stop on the park tour.

Mr. Box also reported that he was appointed as the permanent Director of Community Services.

5. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. Youth Sports Scholarship Report - Ms. Van Sickle reported that on February 26, at the Silverado Days Grant Luncheon we received a donation of \$500 that will go directly to the youth scholarship fund. The current balance is \$4,393.
- b. August Commission Meeting to Possibly Go Dark - Mr. Kurata acknowledged that historically the Commission has gone dark in the month of August.

Motion by Siebert/ Seconded by Kato

Votes were recorded as follows:

AYES: 5 Commissioners: Kato, Siebert, Vaca, Wilson-Thomas, Weinstock

NOES: 0 Commissioners

ABSENT: 1 Commissioner: Pearson

ABSTAIN: 0 Commissioners

- c. Lindbergh Park Playground Renovation - Mr. Kurata referenced the renderings that were provided. The airplane themed renovation is budgeted for \$90,000. After working with a couple of different manufacturers, staff are happy with the design provided by Miracle

Playground. The project is scheduled to go out to bid on May 9 and have a bid opening on May 23. Chair Wilson-Thomas asked if the bench that exists currently would be replaced/removed/ or stay. Mr. Box asked what the Commission's recommendation would be and Chair Wilson-Thomas said that as it is not currently shaded so perhaps move the location.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. News Releases, Department Flyers, Etc.

CSUF Kin-ACT Free Physical Activity Coaching flyer

P-Nut Baseball season flyer and registration information

Spring Eggstravaganza flyer

All City/Schools Youth Track & Field Meet flyer and registration form

7. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Commissioner Vaca commented that last month he and his daughter were traveling down Dale Ave. and didn't see any graffiti and asked for a brief update. The general consensus of the Commission is that there is less graffiti in the City. Commissioner Kato asked how to report any issue at a park. She said the grass is not well cut at San Marino and has seen people lighting something that caused a big flame as well. Chair Wilson-Thomas reported that her students are out at the parks gaining good experience with the CSUF Kin-ACT free physical activity coaching. Commissioner Weinstock asked if the chances of a naming a park after Rick Gomez will be hindered because the commission already selected him as this year's Memorial Grove recipient.

8. ATTENDANCE SHEET: As distributed.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Park Tour: Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

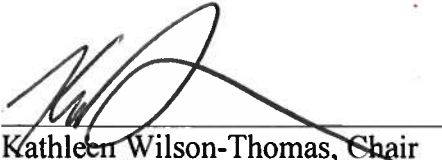
b. Next City Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

c. Next Regular Commission Meeting: Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chair Wilson-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:42 PM.

ATTEST:


Maura Toohey, Recording Secretary


Kathleen Wilson-Thomas, Chair