

**CITY OF BUENA PARK
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
May 16, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wilson-Thomas called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, California.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Pearson, Siebert, Vaca, Weinstock, Wilson-Thomas

ABSENT: Kato

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Box, Director of Community Services
Dale Kurata, Community Services Supervisor
Maura Toohey, Senior Community Services Coordinator
Michelle Van Sickle, Senior Community Services Coordinator

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 18, 2019 - Regular Meeting

***** M/S/P - Commissioners Weinstock/Pearson approved the minutes as amended.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

3. DIRECTOR'S / STAFF REPORT: Mr. Jim Box announced that the position of Senior Administrative Assistant has been filled. Her first day will be June 10 and she comes from the City of Covina. Mr. Box said that he had the honor of participating in Love Buena Park on May 4 by installing 130-140 smoke alarms in cooperation with Orange County Fire Authority. The mural at Peak Park Pool is not yet finished so we will provide a full report next month. San Antonio Park was cleaned up by the girls softball teams and pictures of this project were shown at the City Council meeting this past Tuesday.

Mr. Box reported that there are two park planning workshops coming up. The first is on June 8th at 10:00 a.m. at Rick Gomez Park, 7501 8th Street. Since parking is limited a shuttle will be running from City Hall to the future park site starting at 9:30 a.m. The second meeting will be on Thursday, June 20th during our regularly scheduled Park and Recreation Commission meeting. RJM Design, Inc. will be presenting on the Whitaker School Park project. They have compiled findings from the April 24th community meeting held at Whitaker School.

Mr. Box congratulated the Recreation Services Division, specifically Ms. Michelle Van Sickle on her success coordinating Spring Eggstravaganza. Mr. Box also mentioned that the entire Community Services Department staff comprised of the divisions of Recreation Services, Cultural and Fine Arts, and Senior and Human Services, will all come together on Monday, May 20 for an all staff in-service training.

Mr. Dale Kurata reported that the Larwin shade structure project is underway and not yet finished but it is not hindering any programming or rentals. The Lindbergh playground project is planned to go to bid in June with the bid opening in July. Mr. Kurata reported the Moose Lodge is hosting this

year's annual Memorial Day ceremony at Bellis Park at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 27. There will be a pancake breakfast hosted by the Soroptimist starting at 8:00 a.m. After the ceremony there will be a lunch at the Moose Lodge. Mr. Kurata reported that the Memorial Grove plaque has been ordered as approved by the Commission and it will be installed in advance of this year's ceremony in September.

Ms. Michelle Van Sickle reported that the Youth Sports division is currently in the third week of P-Nut Baseball and taking a break the week of Memorial Day. Soccer registration starts June 3 and the program will begin in August after the P-Nut baseball season. The Summer Parks Program staff are preparing park sites by decorating and getting everything ready for the kids. The Kids Café program is moving along in the approval process. This free lunch program will be offered at Bellis Park and Peak Park. The lunch will be worked into the schedule for those locations. Everything for the Family Movie Nights and Parent's Night Out programs is going as planned.

Ms. Van Sickle reported two Community Service Leaders are going out to the Community Gardens three days a week and since they have started the appearance of the gardens has improved. So far the additional staffing has been a great addition to the program and it demonstrates to the gardeners that we care and in turn they are taking care of the space.

Ms. Van Sickle also reported on the Youth Sports Scholarship. Two scholarships have been approved. One family has two children and another family has one child. Both families are also interested in aquatics and the Youth Summer Sports Camp programs.

Ms. Maura Toohey reported on Youth Summer Sports Camp, which is an eight week program starting June 3. Currently the Youth Organized Play basketball and volleyball classes are in their second week and Little Stars classes are going well. Ms. Toohey added that rentals at the Community Gymnasium are full. Aquatics staff are training and getting the pools ready for summer. Lifeguards are reviewing not only rescue skills but also the swim lesson program. Pools open on Memorial Day, May 27. As part of Summer Concerts, there will be another session of recreation swim called Twilight Swim offered from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Boisseranc Park.

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Rocky Dog Park – Mr. Kurata recalled that during the January meeting the Commission voted to name the Dog Park after Rocky, the first service dog for the Buena Park Police Department. The item will be taken to Council in the near future for approval. Mr. Kurata presented a draft design of a possible sign. Further, he suggested incorporating the naming of the park into a dog themed special event such as a “Paws in the Park” event with vendors, entertainment, and activities geared towards dogs and their owners. Mr. Box suggested that the event could occur around February 2020. The Commission was in favor of the proposed item.
- b. 2019 Citywide Track Meet Evaluation – Ms. Van Sickle reported on the event held on Friday, April 12th at Buena Park High School's brand new stadium. Ms. Van Sickle said the event was free and available to residents of Buena Park and students that attend a school in the city. Registration was accepted at the Community Center and many schools designate one faculty member that is responsible for holding practices, accepting registration, and passing information to the parents. The schools involvement is reason for our great participation. This year we had 380 registered participants. For the schools that do not hold practices, recreation staff held a

one hour track clinic at Boisseranc Park once a week leading up to the track meet. The first day of track clinic this year had 40 participants and by the end there were 60 participants. This year's track meet required 27 Community Service Leaders, 5 volunteers, and 4 contracted officials. Ms. Van Sickle thanked Commissioner Weinstock for helping at the awards area. Staff did a good job keeping the meet on time and getting everyone out at a reasonable hour. Those participants that placed 1st through 4th qualified to move on to the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) Orange County meet at Mission Viejo High School. There are registration fees associated with this meet and participants are required to provide their own transportation. This year we have 45 Buena Park participants registered for the Mission Viejo meet. Top qualifiers from that meet will advance to the SCMAF meet at Warren High School in Downey.

- c. 2019 Spring Eggstravaganza Evaluation – Ms. Van Sickle reported that the event took place on April 20th at Boisseranc Park. This year was possibly the largest crowd ever with an estimated 3,000 people. The day began with a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Noon Lions. Following breakfast were free events led by the Community Service Leaders, pictures with the Easter Bunny, and stage entertainment from our leisure classes. There were two bunnies available for pictures this year in front of staff-painted backgrounds. Additionally there was the opportunity to tour a fire engine and pick up pet adoption paperwork. There was a new petting zoo this year that brought different animals such as a tortoise, unicorn, pot-belly pigs, and more. The event concluded with the candy scramble at 12 noon. People began lining up for the candy scramble as early as 11:30 a.m. on the basketball courts. Several of the plastic eggs in the candy scramble had Bunny Money in them which could be used to redeem Easter baskets at the clubhouse. Similar to the track meet, staff was assigned to particular areas to keep the event organized.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS:

- a. News Releases, Department Flyers, Etc.
Community Garden Flyer (English and Spanish)
Summer Concert Series Flyer (English and Spanish)
Community Workshop Flyer (English and Spanish)

- 7. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Commissioner Weinstock asked about rules about drones in parks and if there is a way to prohibit usage similar seen at Spring Eggstravaganza. He also wants to calendar a discussion on using scholarship funds towards Get Your Mitts.

Commissioner Vaca asked if there are any other dog parks in Southern California that are named after police dogs; perhaps that would be a good way to promote the dog park.

Commissioner Siebert recommended bringing Petco in as a vendor. He also asked if next year the sponsoring of baskets at Spring Eggstravaganza will be opened up to all the commissions.

Commissioner Pearson recommended low cost vaccinations from SEAACA.

Chair Wilson-Thomas suggested dog licensing. Chair Wilson-Thomas asked the Commissioners about “visions of the future” and what might be Commission goals in the next 5-10 years.

8. **ATTENDANCE SHEET:** As distributed.

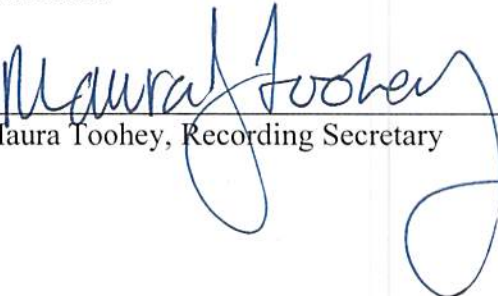
9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

a. Next City Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

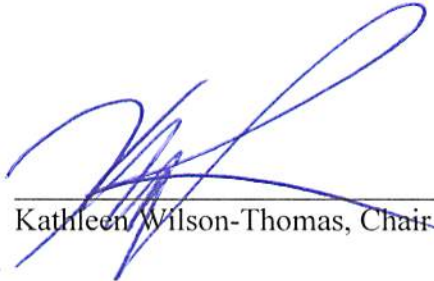
b. Next Regular Commission Meeting: Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Chair Wilson-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:04 PM.

ATTEST:



Maura Toohey, Recording Secretary



Kathleen Wilson-Thomas, Chair