

**CITY OF BUENA PARK  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
January 21, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Kato called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Deterding, Kato, Weinstock, Beger, Hoque, Kim

**ABSENT:** Siebert

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jim Box, Director of Community Services  
Dale Kurata, Community Services Supervisor  
Sylvia Gonzales, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Michelle Van Sickle, Senior Community Services Coordinator  
Randy Franklin, Community Services Coordinator  
Connor Traut, City of Buena Park Mayor  
Susan Sonne, City of Buena Park Council Member

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

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**November 19, 2020 - Regular Meeting**

\*\*\* *M/S/P* – Commissioner Beger made a motion to approve and Commissioner Deterding seconds the motion to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/STAFF REPORT/CITY UPDATE:**

Jim Box congratulated Mayor Traut and Council Member Sonne on their new appointments to City Council. Mayor Traut is also the Park and Recreation Commission Liaison.

Dale Kurata gave out information on the COVID-19 Testing that the city offers every Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Ehlers Event Center. Appointments are required.

Mr. Kurata updated the Commission on the postponement of the Rick Gomez Park Groundbreaking Ceremony from Saturday, February 20, 2021 to late April early May when actual construction begins. Once we have a date, we will send it out to all of the Commission. We are currently in the process of securing Proposition 68 Per Capita funds for this project.

Mr. Kurata reported to the Commission on the final Proposition 68 Community meeting for Whitaker School Park with our VOLT Leadership Committee. The meeting went well. We are on target for submitting the grant application for this project. The application for this grant is due March 12, 2021. The grant looks really good and is very competitive. We are asking for the full project amount which is just over 3 million dollars.

Mr. Kurata updated the Commission on the completion of the Stencils in the Park project that was completed by America on Track. The stencils look good just like the pictures that were presented at the November 2020 Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

Mr. Kurata updated the Commission on Little League. They are hoping to start up again in late March. They cannot play until the county goes into the red tier. Contract classes are taking place outdoors with the exception of two at a reduced capacity. Staff is planning for summer programs. We hope to be able to offer a variety of programs. We are also beginning to recruit staff for the summer. Our Elementary Art show is accepting artwork through February 23, 2021. This year's theme is, People and Places in my Neighborhood. The art will be displayed in the Council Chambers from February 26, 2021 through March 23, 2021. There will be no in person award ceremony this year. Instead we will release a special video via social media. The video will highlight the show and awards that will go out March 18, 2021.

Michelle Van Sickle updated the Commission on youth sports. We had to cancel youth basketball but are planning to run P-Nut baseball. We will be moving the baseball season back and start the season with games in June rather than May. We are hoping by doing, this we will have a successful season.

Randy Franklin reported on Aquatics. We will be starting aquatics in April. We will start programs off with spring swim lessons. The plan is to have low participant numbers then raise the number of participants with recreation swim in the summer. Currently our gymnasium is closed due to COVID and no indoor activities, we hope to reopen late April early May.

Mr. Franklin reported to the Commission that he will be coordinating the Spring Eggstravaganza Drive Thru Event this year. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 3, 2021 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at Ehlers Event Center. We also received a toy train donation from a Buena Park resident. It was displayed at a toy store at Disney California Adventure. We will now use it at special events such as Candy Caneland and Tree Lighting.

**4. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. Election of Officers – Presented by Sylvia Gonzales & Jim Box

Office of Chair is now open. Vice Chair Kato nominated herself. Hearing no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

AYES: (6) Commissioners: Beger, Hoque, Kim, Kato, Weinstock, Deterding

NOES: 0 Commissioners:

ABSENT: (1) Commissioners: Siebert

ABSTAIN: 0 Commissioners:

Motion has passed for Vice Chair Kato to be Chair of Park and Recreation Commission 2021 term.

Office of Vice Chair is now open. Chair Kato nominated Commissioner Hoque. Hearing no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

AYES: (6) Commissioners: Beger, Hoque, Kim, Kato, Weinstock, Deterding

NOES: 0 Commissioners:

ABSENT: (1) Commissioners: Siebert

ABSTAIN: 0 Commissioners:

Motion has passed for Commissioner Hoque to be Vice Chair of Park and Recreation Commission 2021 term.

a. Commission Meeting Start Time – Presented by Dale Kurata

Commissioner Beger made a motion to recommend to City Council to approve the change of the start time of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting from 7:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Commissioner Yikwon seconds the motion. Roll call was taken all in favor, motion passed.

AYES (6): Kato, Beger, Hoque, Weinstock, Kim, Deterding

NOES:

ABSENT (1): Siebert

ABSTAIN:

5. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

a. News Releases, Department Flyers, Etc.

6. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Commissioner Weinstock would like to agendize to have a report on any issues with the homeless in the parks, a discussion on the naming of the Dog Park, and a discussion/review of the scholarship program. Commissioner Kim asked about the status on the meeting for the planting of international trees in parks and the labeling of the trees that was discussed at the November 2020 meeting. Mr. Box and Kurata advised Commissioner Kim that there will be a meeting with the Beautification Committee in the future. Commissioner Beger and Vice Chair Hoque would like to be a part of the meeting on international trees so, it has been decided that we invite the Beautification Committee to a future Park and Recreation meeting. Vice Chair Hoque inquired on when adult softball would resume. Chair Kato thanked both the Mayor and Council Member for attending the Park and Recreation meeting tonight.

7. **ATTENDANCE:**

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

a. Next City Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

b. Next Regular Commission Meeting: Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Commissioner Weinstock adjourned the meeting at 7:37 PM.

**ATTEST:**

  
Sylvia Gonzales, Recording Secretary

  
Gail Kato, Chair