

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

April 24, 2014

The regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order at 6:35 p.m., Thursday, by Chairman Bologna in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

Members present: Chairman Bologna, Commissioner Castro, Commissioner DeFrain, Commissioner DuDeck, Commissioner Farwell, Commissioner Fralish, Commissioner Brandon Garcia, Commissioner Jose Garcia, and Commissioner Simonson.

Commissioners absent: None.

Staff present: Loretta McKinney, Director of the Library and Community Services; Amy Shipley, Assistant Director of Community Services; Karen Williams, Older Adult Services Manager; Nicole White, Supervisor III; Peter Ritchie, Supervisor III; Joel Agg, Supervisor III; Annabel Ramos, Supervisor I; Jilaine Hernandez, Supervisor I; Corky Triol, Administrative Coordinator and Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Simonson, seconded by Commissioner Fralish, to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2014, meeting as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sand Lake Name Change – No Action Required

Ms. McKinney referenced the staff report.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

2. Park Master Plan Update – No Action Required

Ms. McKinney referenced the staff reports and requested input. She also indicated that a task force would be developed for the El Caballo Park.

Commissioner DeFrain asked how much was raised from the fundraisers held in

Grape Day Park. Ms. Shipley noted that this was done through the Historical Society who donated \$8,000 toward the playground equipment.

3. Park Project Update – No Action Required

Ms. Shipley referenced the staff reports and requested input.

Chairman Bologna and Ms. Shipley discussed the park development funds with regard to possible overrides for the Jesmond Dene park lighting. Ms. McKinney provided a brief overview of Capital Improvement Funds (CIP) and Park Development Funds.

Chairman Bologna asked if there were any plans to review the 11th Avenue park project. Ms. McKinney noted that funds were being allocated to this project, however, not enough funds were available to complete this project. She also stated that City Council focus was to use funding to maintain the existing parks.

Commissioner Simonson requested information regarding the operations for the Kit Carson Park concession stands. Ms. Shipley noted that the new concession stand would be operated differently, noting that an RFQ would be forthcoming.

4. Recreation Program Update – No Action Required

Ms. Shipley referenced the update and then introduced Nicole White, Peter Ritchie, Joel Agg, Annabel Ramos, Jilaine Hernandez, and Karen Williams who provided brief descriptions of their role and programs.

Nicole White, Recreation Supervisor III, introduced herself and provided a brief description of the Aquatic Programs, East Valley Community Center Programs, and the Fore Escondido Charity Golf Tournament.

Peter Ritchie, Supervisor III, provided a brief description of the background history, current status, and budget for the Escondido Sports Center. He noted that the original operating concept of the Sports Center was for it to be a self-sustaining center. As such, staff created branding, membership cards, perpetual trophies, sponsorships, and awards programs. He expressed his concern with participation numbers falling due to the economic pressures on participants and by City Council, deterioration of the facilities, and the loss and lack of experienced staff. He noted that he had developed a new Sports Center operating model in January that was adopted, which entailed an agreement for services by two local groups to operate the soccer and hockey programs. He stated that they were looking at an actual surplus of \$107,000 for 2014/2015. He expressed concern with losing this momentum by a decline in quality, which was shown in this year's T-shirt, facility maintenance and capital improvements. Mr. Ritchie noted that the Recreation Department was the only City department that requested its supervisors to fully cover their cost of their employment through the programs they supervise. He

expressed his concern with the compensation for a recreation supervisor, being at the bottom of the supervisor pay scale for the entire City. He expressed his view that it was unrealistic for recreation staff to work under a 100 percent cost recovery. He indicated that a recreation manager had told him that there was no political will by City Council to recognize the value or support the recreation department. He requested that the Commission be proactive by visiting the recreation facilities and speak with the participants and staff to help formulate which direction recreation should be headed.

Chairman Bologna asked how long it would take to replace the flooring in the hockey arena. Mr. Ritchie stated that it would take approximately one week.

Discussion ensued regarding a clarification of the costs for the original T-shirts.

Joel Agg, Supervisor III, and Annabel Ramos, Recreation Supervisor I, provided an overview of the youth programs and special events, which included the On Track After School Program, On Track Kid's Camp, Full S.T.E.A.M Ahead Program, and Teen Camp Program. Mr. Agg noted that they received an achievement award from the California Parks and Recreation Society for having an outstanding recreation program, as well as being nominated by the Diego Science Alliance for having an outstanding partnership with the University of San Diego.

Commissioner DuDeck suggested the Commission visit the various programs. Commissioner Brandon Garcia asked if staff could set up a tour for the after school programs. He also expressed his enthusiasm with the work being done on the various programs.

Jilaine Hernandez, Recreation Supervisor I, provided a brief overview of the Escondido Recreation Guide, which included information about City-sponsored recreation classes, camps, aquatics, and sport events. She also noted that she was in charge of registration.

Ms. McKinney noted that staff was looking at a future opportunity for creating revenue through advertising in the Escondido Recreation Guide. Ms. Shipley noted that they were looking at printing the guide on a trimester basis.

5. Older Adult Services Update – No Action Required

Karen Williams, Older Adult Services Manager, referenced the staff report and provided a brief description of her background history. She then provided an overview of the programs being offered at the center and invited the Commission to tour the Center and come to lunch.

Ms. Shipley noted that Commissioner DeFrain was just honored for volunteering at the center. Ms. McKinney presented Karen Williams with a certificate for serving on the 2013 Management Planning Team. She also recognized the recreation team for

their work.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Advisory Body Handbook Review

Ms. McKinney referenced the Advisory Body handbook and made special reference to Pages 16 and 19. She introduced Corky Triol, Administrative Coordinator, to the Commission and provided a brief description of her job duties. She also stated that the normal meeting dates for the Commission were on the fourth Thursday of January, April, July, and October.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Site Committee

Revenue & Operations Review

Community Activities

Facility Use

Ms. McKinney noted that the July meeting would include subcommittee assignments.

Commissioner DeFrain and Ms. McKinney discussed the status of the Grape Day Task Force.

Chairman Bologna suggested that the commissioners send subcommittee recommendations on to staff.

COMMISSIONER MEMBER COMMENTS:

Future Agenda Items – Subcommittee Assignments

Subcommittee & Chair Assignments – Tabled to next meeting.

Quarterly Meetings for 2014 – Thursday, July 24 & Thursday, October 23

Commissioner Simonson welcomed the new commissioners and thanked staff for the Advisory Handbook. He then referenced the item for the Sports Center, feeling that the content of the presentation was inappropriate for this venue.

Commissioner Jose Garcia stated that he was educated as a new commissioner at tonight's meeting. He also felt the content for the Sports Center presentation was inappropriate for this venue and asked if the Commission could do anything to help.

Ms. McKinney noted that the City along with all other cities had gone through economic challenges, noting that as the economy improved the department heads would be informing the City Council what was needed. She assured the

Commission that staff was moving forward in a positive and productive manor to address issues in a timely and priority manor.

Commissioner Farwell asked what the best method would be for a community member or Commissioner to communicate to the City issues or concerns about the Sports Center, as well as being advocates for staff to the City Council.

Ms. McKinney noted that commissioners were the liaisons to staff and as such could forward any comments on to staff, which would be forwarded on to the property entity. Ms. Shipley noted that a great way for the public to provide input was through Oral Communications.

Ms. Shipley noted that staff would be happy to provide tours to commissioners of the various recreation facilities.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for July 24, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.


Loretta McKinney, Director of
Library and Community Services

Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk