

City of Huntington Park
Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 22, 2017
6:00pm
City Hall, Council Chambers
6550 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park, CA 90255

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Huntington Park, California was called to order at 6:02p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 6550 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jonathan Sanabria.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair Jonathan Sanabria, Vice Chair Betty Davis-Gonzalez, Edgar Gordillo, and Manuel Avila. Other City Officials and employees: Josette Espinosa, Director of Parks and Recreation, Guillermo Portillo, Management Intern

ABSENT: Julian Zatarain

PUBLIC APPERANCE- None

STAFF RESPONSES- None

MINUTES

Approval of minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission meeting from March 14, 2017. Item was motioned by Commissioner Avila and second by Vice Chair Davis-Gonzalez. Minutes were approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Discussion and Consider Updating the Work Plan for 2016/2017**

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION

Director Espinosa informed the commission about her partnership with the Land Trust and Spots to Lots in order to create an expansion of green space. She also brought the example of their work with parks created in neighboring cities such as Maywood and Lawndale. Furthermore, she mentioned the organizations are providing assistance by applying for grants to create the new parks.

Director Espinosa discussed a meeting with a member of the farmer's market and possibly looking at different times, different days, or moving to another location.

Director Espinosa discussed the inclusion of extra security for next year's budget with regards to security cameras and cadets at the park. Furthermore, she mentioned the increased presence of cadets at the parks recently has helped in reducing the amount of gambling, which occurs at the park.

Commissioner Gordillo commented on how the rain has significantly impacted the walking trail surrounding salt lake park and. Director Espinosa informed the commission, that the repairs will begin once the climate changes to dryer conditions. Commissioner Gordillo asked about the possibility of beautifying the Huntington Park Community Center with flowers. Director Espinosa responded that she will discuss with Bennet Landscaping about placing more flowers that bloom. Commissioner Gordillo brought to the discussion about lawsuits with the department of parks and recreation. Director Espinosa informed the commission of two lawsuits, which have occurred involving the department, and mentioned that further information regarding lawsuits can be retrieved from the city clerk's office.

Motion: None

2. Discussion of Action for Splash Pad

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION

Director Espinosa informed the commission of few added features to the splash pad, which now includes an orbit, and a concrete turtle. Chair Sanabria asked about the opening date of the splash pad. Director Espinosa informed the commission that the opening date would be approximately mid-July or early August due to the fact that approval is needed from the public health department which takes at least 30 days.

Motion: None

PRESENTATIONS- None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Director Espinosa informed the commission of the increased homeless community in the parks. Based on the observations made by park monitors homelessness has increased in variety such as now there are families, couples, and individuals who are homeless. Homeless individuals have been spotted sleeping near the batting cages at salt lake park, inside of cars at parking lots, near buildings, and once inside of the Christmas tree at Keller Park. Director Espinosa mentioned the staff is informed to pass flyers and other articles of information to help the homeless. Chair Sanabria stated he will provide more flyers and other articles of information to help combat the problems of homelessness at the park.

DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION- None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS- None

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Avila mentioned the new changes that are coming up due to the newly elected officials. Furthermore, commissioner Avila invited everyone to the reorganization ceremony and to the celebratory party located at Leonardo's restaurant. Commissioner Avila expressed his appreciation for the parks and recreation commission due to their hard work and large involvement with the city. Commissioner Avila concluded his statement by promising to keep the parks and recreation department in his heart. Commissioner Gordillo congratulated commissioner Avila on his new position as a council member and promises to assist him as much as possible.

Commissioner Davis Gonzalez expressed her appreciation for working with commissioner Avila. She wished commissioner Avila the best on his new position as council member. Commissioner Davis Gonzalez complimented director Espinosa's high level of professionalism. Chair Sanabria commended commissioner Avila for his strive to help the community. He also mentions how Edgar Gordillo's unique perspective as a family man and resident of the community has helped in lots of the decision making and hopes he reapplies for a position as commissioner.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:47 p.m. Chair Cervantes adjourned the City of Huntington Park Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on Monday, April 26, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Josette Espinosa, Director of Parks and Recreation