

## RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION

March 16, 2021

Chairman Joe Britt called the March 16, 2021 Recreation & Parks Commission meeting to order at 6:47 p.m., via Zoom.

### • **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Vice Chairman Scott Sparks

Chairman Joe Britt

Commissioner Jose Aparicio

Commissioner Jan Morrison

Absent:

Commissioner Noemi Clara

Commissioner John Silva

Commissioner James Maldonado

Also Present:

Julio Salcedo, Acting Community Services Manager

Chairman Joe Britt started the meeting by asking for the Pledged of Allegiance to be carried out. Commissioner Jose Aparicio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Joe Britt followed the pledge of allegiance by asking the commission to consider approving the minutes of the January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 commission meeting. On a motion by Vice Chairman Scott Sparks and a seconded by Commissioner Jan Morrison the minutes were approved.

### **III. DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No items were discussed by the public.

### **IV. INFORMATION/STATUS REPORTS**

#### **Mid-Year Budget**

Julio Salcedo stated that the budget has been on the Council for the last 2-3 months it was first a presentation of the mid-year budget, then it was the mid-year budget workshop. In this past meeting they approved the mid-year budget. It did not have an effect on our department although we have not been closed with our regular programming, we have been in a supporting role out in the parks more to make sure that the COVID-19 restrictions are being followed not only by our residents but also other groups that wanted to hold large group gatherings for social activities at our parks. As a department we suggested to move some money around and that is where the money came from for the park ambassador program and for the park patrol program. Park ambassador

program has been receiving a lot of good comments people are starting to see a decline in graffiti, other small crimes around the parks. We specifically get those comments from our residents at Joe Sampson Park we also can keep a closer eye on our new refurbished Frisbie Park. The major item in this budget was that 3 of the full-time positions that were before under the Community Services Department those being the facility maintenance assistants Jacob, Freddie, Maria those 3 positions were transferred to our Public Works, so they are no longer under Community Services. In response to that we suggested on hiring part time janitors to be placed at all locations for Community Services although the idea was accepted the mid-year budget was not the place to include those. In the meantime, we will be using some of the existing rec leaders to take the place of the position for light maintenance light janitorial, we still have the choice to send all major work needed to Public Works. In the new fiscal budget 21-22 that is where the new positions will be placed and hopefully, we will be able to get them approved. That is the biggest change to the mid-year budget, there was no significant deduction in staff expenses or material and supplies. Even though we were closed in the beginning of the fiscal year we were able to prove that we were making good use of those resources. Again, through being out there at the parks, virtual content, and putting a few special events together. We are now preparing to look at the next fiscal year budget that is something that Jessica and myself will start working on before the end of this week. Julio Salcedo then asked if there are any questions for him. No questions were asked. Commissioner Joe Britt asks Julio Salcedo what information does he have on Community Services. Julio Salcedo stated again we have been receiving good feedback on this side of Community Services looking at the numbers talking about COVID-19 looking at the trends from the County and the City has seen it has been positive hopefully those numbers will continue in the same direction the City and the County are now in the red tier which has allowed us to open up some programming, to open up partially some of the facilities, the main desk at the Community Center is now open for walk ins. The fitness and aquatic center is open now for group exercises, the pool will be open on March 22<sup>nd</sup> we wanted to open the pool up as well on the 15<sup>th</sup> but unfortunately public works found a problem with the pool pump and a part was needed. A concert for the seniors is taking place on March 17<sup>th</sup> at Rialto City Park. We are also putting together a mini special event for children which includes a breakfast with the Easter bunny, also a family movie night showing the movie HOP before the main Spring Eggstravaganza event. Julio Salcedo also stated we are starting to see a good trend in numbers of vaccinations are out pacing the number of cases by a large number I hope the numbers keep following in that direction and soon we will be able to open all facilities. As far as Community Services that is the staff report. Mr. Wilson will go more into depth about the park shelters that are now available for renting and youth sports. Julio Salcedo is open to answer any questions. Commissioner Jan Morrison asked if Spring Eggstravaganza is going to take place as before or has the event been scaled down a bit. Julio Salcedo answers Commissioner Jan Morrison stating we will still be hosting the Spring Eggstravaganza event as a drive thru event only. Commissioner Jan Morrison asks the activity that is taking place before the Eggstravaganza event. Julio Salcedo stated the breakfast with the Easter bunny and the family movie night those are limited attendance by appointment only, when someone calls and makes a reservation for any of those two events, we go over the safety precautions with them which are they need to be always wearing masks, they need to stay in the area that is assigned to them, temperature checks, we ask them question if they have been exposed. COVID-19 restrictions still to all the activities that we are re-opening, including the exercise classes, the pool, we are also going to be starting a sit and be fit class for the seniors but with COVID-19 restrictions. COVID-19 restrictions are the temperature check when entering the

facility, wearing of their masks, and reservations. Everything right now needs to be made by reservations that way we can make sure that everyone is able to remain social distancing. Commissioner Jan Morrison stated she was just curious the activity the breakfast with the Easter bunny will that also be an event that will go viral too that way let's say if parents do not want too or did not get a chance too make an appointment could they view that activity online would they be able to do something like that. Julio Salcedo stated he knows that Rialto network will be at the senior concert tomorrow filming it I am not sure about the Easter event, but I will check. Commissioner Jan Morrison ask the senior event is going to be something that seniors can do at home if they want too. Julio Salcedo stated yes, the Rialto network will be streaming it and filming it so that way the seniors can replay it, I am not sure about the Easter event, but I will check and let you know and give you that information. Commissioner Jan Morrison stated that might not be a bad idea I don't know if you want to put that on there to see how if for the people if that's an alternative. You must have a quota so if they can't come maybe they will be willing to view something on tv and maybe do something in their backyard. You know there is people who are going to try and make Easter for their kids anyway no matter what. Julio Salcedo stated I will send you that information. Chairman Joe Britt stated let's continue to program updates.

### **Senior Center**

Chairman Joe Britt ask a question. Are you guys still giving out lunches on Wednesday's. Julio Salcedo states yes, we are the Senior Center still gives a lunch out between 60-80 participants on a weekly basis the lunches are for a whole week. It is a drive thru lunch which is held every Wednesday from 10:00am until 11:00am.

No further questions.

### **Youth Sports**

Chairman Joe Britt asks Mr. Wilson to talk about the youth sports. Mr. Wilson stated because we entered the red tier which is a less restricted tier of the COVID hierarchy we have now opened our park shelters with COVID restrictions for rentals again. The COVID restrictions that we have is of course the limit of amount of people they must be always masked and social distancing as much as they can in the sense of, we know the shelter fine nine space. We just don't want large gatherings which is still not allowed even though we entered the red tier it is still not allowed. We posted actual signage at every shelter within the City. We opened up the shelters on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> our premier parks Joe Sampson and Frisbie we had 3 rented from yesterday to today at Frisbie and 1 at Joe Sampson they cost the same amount \$50 we give them the COVID restrictions if they register online they have to sign a waiver stating they have received the COVID restrictions and they understand them, also those restrictions are also printed on their permit or receipt so that there is no excuse when we let them know they can only have a certain space and they show up with half of Rialto and we let them know unfortunately we can not have you on with that many people. Once we get into less restrictive tiers than of course we can open them up. Our park ambassadors will be key to facilitate the checking in the users of the shelters, our park patrol as well will be key to some of those that don't have ambassadors scheduled or they are scheduled at a certain time. Then the park patrol will go around and ask the participants what time they want to check in. Unfortunately jumpers and things like that are still not permitted. When we move on to the less restrictive tier than that might be an option that we will open. Commissioner Jan Morrison stated she didn't realize that we allow jumpers, do they have to pay electricity for the use. Mr. Wilson stated under normal conditions no we do not provide the electricity, but most jumper places have

generators for the person to rent. They do have to pay an extra fee and provide insurance or pay for City insurance if they are going to have a jumper at their event. So, no we do not provide any electricity we do not want extension cords going to the whole neighborhood once we turn on the power. Mr. Wilson stated with the state authorizing outdoor youth sports some sports have been authorized to commence and now that we have gone to a less restricted tier that gives them a little bit more. So, we have a meeting with all of the baseball leagues exception of 1 that use our parks on tomorrow they have all submitted COVID-19 safety plans which have been looked over by myself, Mr. Salcedo and City Administration with exception of a few tweaks all of them have been approved. We are going to meet with the groups to approve and authorize them to begin youth outdoor sports baseball and girls' softball now they will still have to adhere to the established rules of providing insurance do all the necessary and do all of the payments that the facility allocation policy has already authorized them to do. We will be authorizing the groups with the meeting tomorrow. We have 4 groups Birdshal which is north Rialto little league Bill Bats girls' softball which plays at the newly renovated south side Frisbie Park Rialto Eastern little league which is the north of Frisbie Park and Rialto City Park little league which is Rialto City Park. They were all happy and they all confirmed they will be at the meeting because they are excited, and they have been getting calls from their patrons. They can start as early as Friday provided they have all the necessary. Mr. Wilson stated he is welcome to any questions. Unfortunately, indoor sports girls' volleyball youth basketball which we the City does is still not authorized even by the state they do allow for practice and things like that but because we use school district facilities and the COVID testing is using our main facility we will be put off until we can get back to our league play. However, coming soon, you will be hearing a report that we will be doing some at the park clinics so we can get the kids back to our fold. Commissioner Scott Sparks asked what about soccer. Mr. Wilson stated soccer is on the high contact we wanted to start with the baseball get their plans and then we are going to authorize soccer but unfortunately our soccer leagues usually in their league in April. I talked to one of the soccer league presidents which is Rialto youth soccer he stated they were going to call it and start in July hopefully we will be in a less restricted tier. We do have Rialto united so once we get baseball under wraps and get going than I am sure Mr. Salcedo will give direction on how our soccer leagues. But normally this time is when we normally close our soccer fields for growth and maintenance. We usually close them in April and do not open them until July 4<sup>th</sup>. Before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event so that the grass can grow, and we can fix any sprinklers or anything.

No further questions.

## **V. PROGRAM UPDATES**

### **COVID Testing Center**

Julio Salcedo stated the COVID testing center again is in partnership with the Counties Public Health agency and the City of Rialto right now it is at the Carl Johnson Center the agreement was basically slated to end at the end of this month March 31<sup>st</sup>. In talking with the County, they are still some concerns out there we are starting to see the numbers looking better but we would just rather be overly careful, and the testing site has been prolonged until the end of June. The County along with the participation of Community Services Department will now be offering free testing to our community at least through the end of June 30<sup>th</sup> and depending on the numbers and what we see at that time. It can be soon it can be later that we will stop that activity there. The main

information is that the testing center has been prolonged at least till the end of June.

### **Vaccination clinic**

Chairman Joe Britt ask about the vaccination clinic. Julio Salcedo states that we are fortunate to have a collaboration with the Counties senior services and their public health agency. We are fortunate enough to have a vaccination clinic this past Thursday at the Grave Vargas Senior Center the idea was to offer the COVID vaccine to seniors that attend our programs regularly. What we did with working with the County we came up with a list with 200 seniors that we have information on that attend our programs regularly, we called them to see if they need the vaccine our Rialto seniors had a first pick in getting the appointments. We got a good surprise when calling our seniors, we found out that more than half of the seniors we had called has already gotten their vaccines which was good news. For those that were still in need of it we scheduled them an appointment and they received their first dose Thursday of last week which was on the 11<sup>th</sup>. We were able to set up 160 appointments although at first, we were only scheduled for 100 they were able to bring it up to 160. The second dose will be administered on April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Grace Vargas Senior Center we are happy that we are able to provide the vaccines to our seniors which is another positive step in the process of reopening our programs. In talking with the County, we told them that we would love to do this again when the vaccine amounts permitted that we would like to become a vaccination site they love the Grace Vargas Senior Center it is a beautiful facility. We are keeping close communication with the County in hopes that we turn Grace Vargas Senior Center into a vaccination site, or when the time is ready that the Johnson Center goes from a testing site to a vaccination site. Chairman Joe Britt asks how you are getting the word out to the community that it's a vaccination site. Mr. Wilson states once we learned we were going to become a vaccination site we did post it on our social media and let the calls come in, we are also indivial called the members of our senior center. Now if we do become a vaccination site, we will do more marketing, we wanted to make sure we targeted the audience first and then open it up to other seniors so they can get vaccinated as well. Chairman Joe Britt states that sound excellent hopefully when the time comes, we will have our tv station publish it to the community whenever we come an official vaccination center.

### **VI. Project Updates**

Mr. Wilson stated that there have been some issues we are working with the contractor to finish the 200 wing, they want to get started on the 300 wing but we don't want to start on one without completing the other. We have a couple of contractors there today doing some electrical tweaks that were on the punch list and the flooring in the 200 wing for the most part the main item left for our 200 wing as of right now. We still have our fire system but that is being worked on conjunction with Community Services, Public Works, and the contractor at this time. Chairman Joe Britt asks if there are any questions for Mr. Salcedo.

No further questions.

### **Community Rehab Center**

NONE

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **Adhawk Committee**

Julio Salcedo stated for this action item we are asking the commission to consider forming an adhawk committee that we look into the plan that we have to implement the sports fees for the youth organizations that we have in our City we would like that committee to at least have two commission members that will meet with Mr. Wilson and myself we will then present the plan to them and get their feedback on what they see about the plan if they want to expand on something want to change something or add something and have that committee present to full commission at a later date. Our recommendation youth sports fee plan and adhawk committee be formed today and Mr. Wilson and myself will get in contact with those that volunteer in the committee in the future and set up a meeting to go over the information we have collected to this point.

Chairman Britt states it sounds good he makes a motion that we start an adhawk committee for information on the youth sport fees that we need to implement since everything is going up if you notice the gas prices are going up everything has gone up because of COVID you think it would be just the reverse people are broke and hungry because of everything that has gone up. This might be a good time to try and get those fees to go up a little bit. So, we need two energetic commissioners that got a little time on their hands they can donate to this cause. Chairman Joe Britt volunteers for it. He stated to have Mr. Salcedo call Noemi to see if she has time if not, he will be the second person in this. Chairman Joe Britt takes a vote all commissioners approve so it is now official.

## **VIII. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

**COMMISSIONER SCOTT SPARKS** – Would like to thank you guys for moving forward the sports and shelters and the youth's sports plan its something. I asked Julio a couple of weeks ago where we were going with it, I am glad he worked that out. I kind of been doing the same thing with the School District about their sports and their lack of conditioning their sports are having and I told them I will be talking with us as well. So, I'm glad I don't have to be upset. It's a fantastic idea to get your vaccinations done as far as if you guys had some and you quickly gave them to the people who always show up to your events. We have a bingo at my school which the most experience people show up to that bingo giveaway vaccines come to bingo get a vaccine just to get more people vaccinated. So that is a great idea for getting those vaccinations.

**COMMISSIONER JAN MORRISON** –it is good to see you I am excited that we are on the move I have been at home for the last year. I had already planned my retirement, so this has been a nice, exciting way to end it because it was one of the bucket list to be able to work from home. With I am excited to see things on the move I haven't been rushing on getting the vaccine, but I was referred to the senior center, but the appointment was done by the time I could get in there I thought it was an ongoing thing now that it is not, I am going to continue to pursue that. The other thing I wanted to check on in January we talked about Sandy Courtney if were opening up now I don't know what that looks like I know that is still probably considered close contact for folks to do any type of in person shows and I just wondered if you would explore the possibilities of maybe having some shows that have been done in the past maybe recorded and could've been shown on

the network and I don't know if you had followed up on that or not so I just wanted to bring that back to the floor and put that out there. The other thing is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July I am excited to see that we have the senior is going to have that event coming up for Easter and the dance and also the Easter breakfast with the kids along with Eggstravaganza I'm wondering if there is something very similar for the plan for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Idea that we can have an event that could be limited we've always done something that has been pretty descent and to go ahead and continue with something like that with the COVID things in place by appointment only. I know a few Cities are charging a couple of dollars but I'm not sure if we are doing that. Just thought id put it out there that we are preparing to do something like that. The adhawk committees that we formed, and they are still sitting dormant the youth one and the historical society. As your opening things up for the youth or any plans for the summer I don't know if you wanted to bring that back to the floor so we can work on that project. I know I told some folks here that I am working with the fireworks committee appointed by the City Council we have done quite a bit of work at this particularly point we are in the process of creating some educational information that should be out in the community starting at the end of March beginning of April to talk about the dangers of fireworks as well talk about that we had that giant explosion in Ontario, so we are going to talk about that. We are in the process to sit down with our nonprofits to discuss. It will be no illegal fireworks we are trying to clamp down on purchasing illegal fireworks. We want to continue to support the nonprofits with the regular fireworks. Hopefully they will help us with making sure we keep the illegal fireworks out of the hands of folks we know that illegal fireworks have a high cost in our community in terms of property loss and possibly even fatally. Chairman Britt asked Commissioner Jan Morrison if on the books if you get caught with illegal fireworks you get charged with a 1,000 fine is that correct. Commissioner Jan Morrison stated she does not know what the cost is, but I do know that they are going to be looking at that fine a little bit more substantially these days I am not sure what that fine is. Commissioner Scott Sparks stated he wants to suggest if you fine 1,500 you can give the 500 to the people who call it in as a reward system. Commissioner Jan Morrison stated she will make sure she gets that to the committee

**Commissioner Joe Britt** – will get a video for the grant process. Chairman Joe Britt asked Julio Salcedo how the video turned out. Julio Salcedo stated it went well. The video was you and interim City manger Sean Grayson and a community member talking about what it would mean to you personally and to the City of Rialto as a community to have an all-exclusive playground at Rialto City Park. The prop 68 application was due Friday of last week we turned it in on Thursday. We believe we have a strong application. The grand total we are asking for is 7,000,000 that will include the playground side projects dog park, and other amenities.

**Commissioner Jose Aparicio-** I am a big proponent to open everything back up parks are open youth sports slowly coming back it a good idea that these leagues do have guidelines for COVID as far as soccer is concern soccer is an everyday sport those travels teams that we have here in Rialto they always conditioning 4-5times a week so we can open the parks for that for getting the kids and ourselves out of the house. Parents want their kids to get back out and kids want to get back out hopefully we can as safely and as fast as possible. So, with Mr. Wilson in charge, I will see if I can make myself useful in that department. As far as everything else I'm glad everyone is safe.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Joe Britt adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m., announcing that the next meeting will be April 6, 2021.