

RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION

May 4, 2021

Chairman Joe Britt called the May 4, 2021 Recreation & Parks Commission meeting to order at 6:33 p.m., via Zoom.

• **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Chairman Joe Britt

Commissioner Jose Aparicio

Commissioner Jan Morrison

Commissioner James Maldonado

Commissioner Noemy Clara

Absent:

Vice Chairman Scott Sparks

Commissioner John Silva

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 March 16th, 2021 commission meeting. On a motion Commissioner Jose Aparicio and a seconded by Commissioner James Maldonado the minutes were approved.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

NONE

IV. INFORMATION/STATUS REPORTS

Mobile Recreation and Special Events

Julio Salcedo stated that since the numbers are looking better through the County and State as a whole, we are going to transition for the park ambassador program to the second phase of that program which is the Mobile Recreation Program. Mobile Recreation is taking the activities and services out to the parks where people are. We plan to be at least twice a week in three different parks to start with those parks are Fergusson Park, Flores Park, and Joe Sampson Park. We wanted to go to parks where our presents are minimal so we can spread the services and programs. Mr. Salcedo stated just like how Vice Chairman Sparks stated in previous meetings basically going out

to the community instead of having them come to us. We are looking to start the Mobile Recreation in early June given that the numbers stay looking how they are. Mr. Salcedo also stated that to start with is what we want to start doing in the beginning of June is having goodie bags at those 3 locations so that the Community knows that the program is coming, they can sign up in advance and to get the word out. Mr. Salcedo stated that for Special events we will be having a socially distanced event for the 4th of July currently the staff are working out all the details as you know Ms. Jessica Perez is working on that with her team. The event will be hosted at Jerry Eaves just as past years, we are going to spread the activities and the vendors around. The activity area is larger since the vendors will be spread out. We are not going to be having activities like the years before that includes a lot of touching like the carnival games, we will be having designated areas for the eating areas only. The event is also doing reservations anyone can attend it doesn't have to be with the reservation, but we are going to do reservations for those who would like to reserve a spot right in front of the entertainment stage and of course in better areas to see the firework show. Council did approve the budget \$26,000 for the fireworks at their past Council meeting. Mr. Salcedo stated that we are looking forward to the 4th of July event. Again we will not be having the same activities in the past which includes the eating contest, but we are going to substitute those activities with more creative activities where we won't have a lot of people waiting in group or people waiting in long lines, we are going to keep as socially distanced as possible. Julio Salcedo asked if there were any questions. Chairman Britt stated that the \$26,000 is for the 4th of July event I want to see how that goes but good for the Community people need to let their hair down since being caged up at their house for a year. Chairman Britt stated I am just hoping that the COVID situation has died down. Julio Salcedo stated yes, we are hoping that as well hopefully the numbers stay looking good as they have been. Commissioner Aparicio has a few questions he states with the Mobile Recreation who I can contact so we can be involved. Julio Salcedo stated that you can contact Jasmine Monroe and you can reach her at (909) 421-4949. Actually, right now is the perfect time to get involved because right now we are developing activities and the calendar were hopeful that we will begin to start in the beginning of next month. Commissioner Aparicio also asked do we get reservations for the 4th of July event? Mr. Salcedo stated if you are interested in getting reservations please send me an email and I will get you those reservations. Chairman Britt asks if anyone else has any questions for Mr. Salcedo concerning the 4th of July event? NONE.

Community Services

Julio Salcedo stated just want to inform the commission as the numbers are getting better we are still being cautious about the re-opening plans but I did meet with our City Manager Sean Grayson this past week we thought that it will be appropriate and safe to do some re-opening of some of the programs as you know we already started limiting programming at the pool with the lap swim we also started opening the Fitness & Aquatic Center for those who want to work out on an appointment basis only at only 25% of capacity. This time around we spoke about special events, but we also spoke about youth sports, in the past we had already issued permits to the baseball and softball leagues. This time around we are getting the COVID safety plans for the soccer and football leagues we already gotten 3 leagues that have turned in their safety plans and we are in the works of getting them back on the field. Mr. Salcedo also stated that we are also going to open up two programs which is two additional programs at the Senior Center we saw some pretty good numbers as far as seniors that are participating in our programs that are being vaccinated those numbers look hopeful the only difference is that the program is going to be open but not the Senior Center itself. To explain in another way before when the Senior Center was opened any senior can

come and just hang out at the center and play pool and basically be there from opening to closing this time around we are taking the cautious route the seniors now can only be at the Senior Center for the program itself. So, for example we are going to open up the crochet art club, on Mondays from 8:00am-10:00am so the participants are limited to 12. So, the seniors can only be at the Senior during that time once the program is over the participants are asked to leave the premises. Mr. Salcedo stated that we are hiring for a couple of positions we actually interviewed for a couple a position which was lifeguard and rec leader we were able to hire 3 positions for each which is going to help a lot in the re-opening procedures. Slowly but surely, we are taking the safe road with re-opening it helps a lot that we have a fire chief as our City Manager he gives very good input and very good suggestions. Mr. Salcedo concludes the update and is open to any questions. NONE.

V. PROGRAM UPDATES

COVID Testing Center

Mr. Salcedo states just to update the commission the current testing center at the Carl Johnson in the gym we has extended that agreement with the County to have that testing center at least until the end of next month until the end of June of course we are not getting the numbers that we use to get like in the beginning. In the beginning there was just lines and now is has slowed down a lot but I think it is still important to keep that open as you know there is various strains of this various and we are hoping for the best but we are going to be prepared for the worst just wanted to alert the commission that the COVID will remain open at least until the end of June it is still free and still opened to anyone. Mr. Salcedo is opened to any questions. Commissioner Aparicio asks how long does it take to get the results? Mr. Salcedo states the County says 48hrs, but it is usually faster. He than also states that we also have some take home COVID tests the results are going to take a little longer. Chairman Britt asks we contracted through the County is that right? Mr. Salcedo states we partner with the County we have an MOU instead of a contract. Chairman Britt asks is that paid do we get paid for that? Mr. Salcedo states no we do not basically the county provides the service and we provide location that is why it is free to the community.

Vaccination clinic

Mr. Salcedo states we had a vaccination clinic at the Grace Vargas Senior Center that lasted a whole week we had 500 appointments per day and actually this week they are doing the second dose. At first when we had this clinic they were going to give out the Johnson and Johnson vaccine at that time is when the CDC suggested that they put a hold on the Johnson and Johnson vaccine so instead of cancelling the vaccination clinic they changed it to the Pfizer vaccine so this clinic happened 3 weeks ago at the Grace Vargas Senior Center and this week they are giving the second shots. This is the third event we have with vaccinations with the County we hope that they will keep on doing them. The vaccination clinic is taking the same route as the testing you know at first we saw a big demand for it there was lines and lines and you could not get an appointment now the demand is a little less now is the perfect time to get the vaccine it is available multiple places and we want to make it easier for the community to get their vaccines. Chairman Britt states that's good for the citizens of Rialto. No further questions.

Youth sports

Mr. Salcedo states again as to get back to somewhat normal but also taking the cautious route we have been asking the soccer leagues and the football leagues to turn in their COVID safety plans once we approve their safety plans and we compare those plans with the County and State guidelines for the outside sports. Once we approve their safety plans and they turn in their insurance and their field reservations then they are able to start their recruitment for their sports. Mr. Salcedo states that it has already start for 2 soccer leagues and 1 football league we are also waiting for one of the most popular pony leagues to fix some problems that they had with their 501c3 for some reason that designation was taken away we spoke with them they said they will have it ready, in the meantime the fields that they would be using we will be renting it to other interested groups while they fix their business. Once we finish the collaboration with the County and we can use the gym again hopefully by that time we can start looking at our indoor sports volleyball and basketball that concludes my report and ill be glad to answer any questions. Commissioner Aparicio states he knows that Supervisor Baca will be hosting an event at the Bud Bender park? Mr. Salcedo states yes, he will. Commissioner Aparicio asks if Supervisor Baca is doing the event in combined with the pony league there at the park? Mr. Salcedo stated that he is not aware he does not have that information in front of him, but I can forward you that information. No further questions.

Community Rehab Center

Mr. Salcedo states there is 3 wings right now that are being worked on at the community center the 200 wing is actually almost done just minor details we still need to order the front desk for the office we hope that by the start of next month we are going to be able to move everyone back to their offices. The 300 wings have also made some very good progress the design of the 300 wing has been finalized actually some of the demolition work has already started. The 300 wing is where we are going to be housing our day care and preschool programs so the whole wing is going to be dedicated to those programs we had the programmer that is in charge of that division and some of the instructors be part of that design team that way we can have better use of the space better classrooms, even the restrooms are going to be brand-new we are looking forward to that. The 400 wing is where we mostly hold our contract classes was just approved for the CDBG grant of the amount of \$360,000 to do some renovation on that wing in collaboration with our Public Works department we turned in that application for the CDBG committee from the City and it was approved. Mr. Salcedo states that he also applied for some money to put a fence around out skate park the reason for that is because we have been getting some crime, vandalism in the skate park and looking at other Cities they have structured programming in their skates it shows that they have control of the skate park by putting a fence. What we want to do is have our control back of the skate park that way we decide what hours or operation, structure activity and we can enforce the safety rules that we have that the majority of the users now to pay attention too. I applied for \$120,000 for a fence around the skate park and a water fountain by the skatepark and thankfully it was approved as well by the CDBG committee. Mr. Salcedo states I am open to any questions. Chairman Britt states for the fence around the skatepark is it rot ironed or chain linked? Mr. Salcedo states it is going to be rot ironed we are going to get something that goes with the gate that surrounds the Community Center something durable, something that cannot be jumped so easily. Commissioner Jan Morrison asks compared to prior knowing that we have been on a really crazy year lock down, how much do you equate the vandalisms, the activity all that stuff to the COVID

situation verses just regular stuff? Compared to what it was before when it was opened accessible to the youth now that it has been closed off is there some thought process to why that is happening is it something that has been going on for a long time? How are you looking at that? Mr. Salcedo states just to let you know this fence project we actually applied for it in the last funding cycle last year so the idea of this came from the pandemic the vandalism and the crime at the skatepark has been an ongoing thing ever since I started with the City which was 6 years ago. The reason why we started with the fence is because before we use to see light vandalism we got the graffiti we can wipe it off we got the trash and everything but now we are starting to see more serious crimes we get a lot of fights in that area, drug deals, at the beginning of the pandemic we almost had a near overdose in fact one of my staff that was at the front desk ended up saving this guys life at the skate park. We know who is doing it we call the police the police get there, and they leave. I couldn't say for sure if the pandemic made it worse or if was just a pattern following even before the pandemic, but I can tell you this has been an ongoing issue and it was getting worse. This is not an area that is being used a lot during the week and because of that they don't see staff around they don't see a lot of people around. Mr. Salcedo also stated when we were able to host the little tots' sports that's the area, we use to use during the weekend we had some issues during the sessions not major ones like during the week. We as a department thought it would be worth a lot than just not having any supervision at all. Commissioner Jan Morrison states with doing renovation has anyone thought about the possibility of opening up a walk space towards the back where the skatepark is so that way they can see staff and staff will have access to walk up. Mr. Salcedo states what we can look into is place an office in our gymnasium but the way the offices are set up it would be hard to get a staff to have a door looking out that way. But what we are doing is the staff that are scheduled for facilities, rental, or program supervision we ask them to take perimeter walks. They are supposed to walk the area and make sure there is no trash laying around or anything illegal. We also have one of our programmers who is doing the same thing. Right now, it is calmed down because with the agreement we have with the County they have 2 probation officers there looking over the park. Commissioner Jan Morrison states my main concern was that if there was a way to maybe get more windows to look out that way I was just thinking since there was so much renovation I just wondered if anybody ever thought about plans or what they can do to give the staff more visibility in that area since that continues to be an issue. No further questions.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

Youth sports Feed plan

None

VIII. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

COMMISSIONER JAN MORRISON –I am excited Mr. Salcedo to see the Community involvement with the COVID testing and the COVID vaccination are you guys doing it now where they don't have to have an appointment, or can they do just walk in? Mr. Salcedo states right now it is by appointments. Commissioner Jan Morrison states I am glad to see the 4th of July event

coming back. I am apart of the firework committee and you should start seeing on social media about fire safety now since it is the season and how effects the kids how it effects the animals. The organizations are now dealing with the Community Development department with selling the fireworks, the committee is working on getting some flyers out there for the community and for the organizations to post well selling.

Commissioner James Maldonado-I recently received news that for all the schools I have applied too for my MBA program and I got into every single one of them and I wanted to let you guys know that I wrote about the commission in a lot of my essays. This upcoming fall I will attending Yale for my MBA program.

Commissioner Joe Britt – I would like to give away backpacks for the kids that are going back to school we can hook up with one of our sponsors. I talked to the Mayor about doing something at Frisbie so we can put Frisbie on the map. I would like to add to the agenda for next meeting for an adhawk committee to look into that see how much it would cost just entertainment out there just local entertainment. The other issue is car shows how do we stop them the largest parking lot we have is Fergusson. What if we do a process to do a car show.

Commissioner Noemy Clara- a couple of weeks ago my degrees came in I will be getting my 5th degree in the summer. I also have my theater production.

Commissioner Jose Aparicio-it is good to hear from Commissioner Clara we haven't heard from her in awhile and Commissioner Maldonado great news. Going back to the parks I made my way to Fergusson park and to Frisbie and I was at wow with Frisbie it was my first checking it out and it was full of people. Everyone is interactive at the park. I just had a quick question about the marijuana smoke do we have a zero policy on that is anyone coming to check on those kinds of things? Mr. Salcedo states marijuana use we did it as alcohol use it is not permitted at all and we have zero tolerance policy in the parks we do have the park ambassadors there if they see something, they do call somebody. He also states the main problem we are having at the parks right now are car shows. We have been in close contact with the PD they have been better at responding. Commissioner Aparicio states contracted classes are they coming back anytime soon? Mr. Salcedo states we are waiting to see if we can go into the yellow tier in order to make that happen contract programs are usually inside a class room we are looking in our guitar classes karate classes we are asking them to provide their COVID safety plan and we will assist them in anyway we can.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Joe Britt adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m., announcing that the next meeting will be April 6, 2021.