

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING COMMUNITY AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION Tuesday, March 14, 2017

The regular meeting of the Community and Senior Services Commission was called to order at 6:05 p.m. in the MRC Room of West Covina City Hall. Commissioner Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked to observe a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Steve Bennett, Vice Chair Phil Kaufman,
Commissioners Luanne Arredondo, Paul Blackburn, Steve Cox, Tam Dinh,
Glenn Kennedy, Nick Lewis, Leticia Lopez, and Dave Stewart.

Staff Present: Director Nikole Bresciani.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1. January 10, 2017 Regular Community and Senior Services Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Cox, second by Kaufman to revise the Regular Community and Senior Services Commission meeting minutes as recommended and to hold over to the May 9th meeting for approval. Motion carried by a vote of 7-1, with Commissioner Blackburn in opposition, and Commissioner Lopez and Chair Bennett abstaining.

ADMINISTRATION

NEW BUSINESS

- 2. Community Service Day** - Community Services Director Bresciani gave a report on Community Service Day on April 29, 2017. The event starts at 8am at City Hall with breakfast and then volunteers will go out into the community and do projects. This year's projects include painting, mulch at parks, home improvements at two homes in the community, and Rotary is doing the Helping Hands project at the Senior Center. Everyone will meet back at the Senior Center by 1pm for a BBQ lunch.
- 3. Commissioner Handbook** – Community Services Director Bresciani reported that the Commissioner Handbook was updated and given to all City Commissioners. The Commission discussed Commissioner conduct and some felt the language in the handbook was a violation of First Amendment Rights. Discussion was had on past commissioners' behavior and if there would be any future discipline. Director Bresciani reminded everyone that all commissioners had been informed of the expectations of behavior moving forward and that past issues had been addressed. At this time no Commissioner was being asked

to resign and that is a decision for each Councilman to decide as the commissioners are appointed by the City Council. The Commission also discussed the issue of whether commissioners should be permitted to take an opposing position against the Council as a resident without using the title of Commissioner.

4. **Volunteer of the Year & Outstanding Older American Nominations** – Community Services Director Bresciani reported that the volunteer nomination forms had been emailed to our Community Service Group, Sports Council, commissioners and available on our website. This year the information was promoted earlier in hopes of getting a larger number of submissions to review. Director Bresciani explained that due to the Outstanding Older American nominations being due back to the County in March, the Commission would not be selecting that award recipient. The deadline for nominations for Community Services Volunteer of the Year and Recreation Services Volunteer of the Year will be May 9th at noon. There was some concern about receiving too many of them the same day of the Commission Meeting, but staff felt it was doable since the agenda for May is historically light with the commissioner rotations occurring.
5. **Rotation of Commissioners in May 2017** – Community Services Director Bresciani reminded all commissioners about the importance of attending the May 9th Commission Meeting as the rotation of commissioners occurs as well as the selection of ad hoc committees. Director Bresciani reminded commissioners to be thinking about what committees they want to serve on for the upcoming year and nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.
6. **Facilities Report** – Community Services Director Bresciani informed the Commission about the attached facilities report which provides a summary of activity at the community facilities. This report is a monthly report sent to Council. Commission should receive and file.
7. **4th of July Events Update** – Community Services Director Bresciani provided the Commission with an update on the activities planned for the 4th of July. The day's festivities begin with a pancake breakfast at Hurst Ranch at 9am. Then from 1pm-9pm at Edgewood High School and on Merced Street, there will be a car show, beer garden, family fun zone, vendors, D.J. and contests, live entertainment and the fireworks show.

CONTINUED BUSINESS (OLD BUSINESS)

1. **Park & Facility Project Updates** – Community Services Director Bresciani provided an update of projects that have been in the works or are upcoming for the next fiscal year. The Aquatics Center is slated to be done by West Covina Unified School District with the bond funds at Edgewood High School but no timeline has been developed yet. The Orangewood Soccer Complex is scheduled to be completed by May due to weather delays, with a grand opening in July or August. Palmview Soccer Field started work this week and will be done by May. Galster Park needs some work on the trails and City staff reached out to the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps as we have some maintenance funding for youth employment from the County. Staff will need to schedule time with the CIP committee after the 2017-18 budget is approved for the tot lot at Shadow Oak Park. The restroom

construction for the lower plateau at Shadow Oak Park should begin in May. City staff is looking to put a new bike patrol team together for the parks and will be taking the staff report to City Council the second meeting in April.

Commissioner Cox inquired about whether the City had discussed the potential to acquire land with the School Districts at Lark Ellen School, Del Norte ROP or Walnut Grove. Director Bresciani stated that she did not know what the School Districts' plans were for those properties at this time, but that the City was looking at viable options to replace the parcel at Sunset Field once it is sold.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports at this time.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. **Safe Injection Houses** – Commissioner Cox provided an overview of what safe injection sites are and their purpose to provide a safe and clean environment, along with supportive services, to help those addicted to drugs. Safe injection sites are medical facilities, which allow people to use intravenous drugs legally. It was reported that these facilities are common in Europe. A lengthy discussion was had by the Commission about the need for more information regarding illegal drug activity and issues in the community. Motion by Cox, second by Kennedy to direct staff to return to a future Commission meeting with more information on safe injection sites, and if there is a need for them in West Covina. The motion passed 7-3, with Commissioner Arredondo, Blackburn and Dinh in opposition.

ITEMS TO BE AGENDIZED

1. Safe Injection Sites

UPCOMING EVENTS (ANNOUNCEMENTS)

1. March 17th 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. St. Patrick's Day Lunch at the Senior Center.
2. March 18th 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Cherry Blossom Festival at South Hills Plaza
3. March 31st 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt & Lunch at the Senior Center.
4. April 15th 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Egg Celebration Hunt at Shadow Oak Park.
5. April 22th 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Earth Day/Arbor Day & Tree Planting at Cameron Park
6. April 26th 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at the Senior Center.
7. April 28th 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Roaring 20's Speak Easy Casino Night at the Senior Center.
8. April 29th 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Community Service Day Starting at Cameron Center.
9. May 5th 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Cinco de Mayo Lunch at the Senior Center
10. May 10th 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mother's Day lunch at the Senior Center.

Director Bresciani noted that she forgot to include the Town Hall Meeting date in April and would email commissioners the date as soon as the meeting was over.

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Discussion was had regarding Easter Egg Hunt vs Egg Hunt. The Senior Center event was listed as Easter Egg Hunt and the event at Shadow Oak was listed as Egg Hunt. Director Bresciani advised that she had not changed those event names since she arrived two years ago, but would check as maybe it was a typo. She noted that it is common for cities to be inclusive of all people at the events and Easter is religious in nature, which may be the reason the city-wide event does not say Easter in the title. Director Bresciani to follow up and provide clarification regarding the event name.

Commissioner Cox inquired as to the cost of the Red Ribbon Program on Saturday from City resources. He had concerns about the amount of City resources being used on a weekend and thought the event was being moved to a weekday to conserve resources. Director Bresciani commented that the City did try to coordinate with the West Covina Unified School District and Rotary to have the event during the week, but ultimately it was decided that the event would still be held on a Saturday. She remarked that City resources would still be allocated. Commissioner Cox made a motion to request staff to provide a report on the cost of the City's resources for the Red Ribbon Program. The motion died for lack of a second.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Cox, second by Chair Bennett to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.
Motion carried by a vote of 10-0.

2017 Regular Commission Meetings

May 9, 2017

July 11, 2017

September 12, 2017

November 14, 2017