

CITY OF DUARTE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

Regular Meeting
September 12, 2022

7 PM

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:

PRESENT: James Finlay, Jennifer Luna-Nguyen, Anne Wilkins, Barbie Bylsma-Houghton

ABSENT: None
Manuel Enriquez, Department Director

AUDIENCE: Cheryl Alexander, Margaret Ettenheim, Varinder Bajaj, Cora Mendoza, Vilas Tiwari, Shubhra Tiwari, Jade Chong, Yvette Isaac, Poonam Gupta, Lourdes Villanueva, David, Karen Wilson, Rosa Bell, Kayla Wilson, Brian Phan, Ruwanka Purasinghe

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Wilkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments included:

- Ruwanka Purasinghe, resident, stated he is against the City's plan in converting Hacienda Park to a dog park and has created a local petition opposing the dog park.
- Vilas Tiwari, resident, and President of the Rancho Duarte Homeowners Association stated the association has not been contacted regarding the dog park, which is a violation. Also stated he is against the dog park.
- Yvette Isaac, resident, feels a dog park is unfair and would impact her and her neighbor's safety and is against it.
- Dr. Biadi, resident, stated that he considers the park their privacy and is against the dog park. Appreciates the City wanting to make progress but leave the park the same.
- Shubhra Tiwari, resident, is for a dog park but not in her backyard due to safety, parking and losing the spirit of the neighborhood.
- Cheryl Alexander, resident, agrees with everyone who has spoken. Suggested Encanto Park or Royal Oaks Park as an alternative.
- Margaret Ettenheim, resident, doesn't feel there would be adequate parking and has concerns about traffic. Asked if another park could be considered.
- Karen Wilson, resident, asked if it has already happened/been decided upon. Inquired as to where she could get information on how Hacienda Park was chosen. Also doesn't want it in her

neighborhood.

- Resident, at 898 Calle del Norte stated she feels there will be more crime and traffic.
- Jade Chong, resident, stated her kids don't use the park anymore, but her senior parents use it for walking. Has concerns about parking and vandalism.
- Pierre Wigglesworth, resident, has enjoyed to park being a buffer to noise and is opposed to the dog park.

Enriquez shared some background on the process of considering a dog park and the research done. Stated that nothing is official yet. Shared that there is another group of residents that had reached out to Council at a Council meeting who have submitted a petition requesting an off-leash dog park. Council then asked staff to research options for where the City could potentially build a dog park.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES:

Luna-Nguyen motioned, and Wilkins seconded to approve the August 2022 minutes with the following correction: it was Megan Finlay's birthday instead of James Finlay. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF
BUSINESS:

A. Update: Fish Canyon Falls Trail Restoration Project

Enriquez gave an update of the project and the progress made. Some of the highlights presented included:

- The City has obtained permission from Vulcan to access the property and our consultant will be there assessing the trail and taking photos for the next two weeks.
- Once the assessment is finished, they will come back with a detailed punch list/comprehensive report of recommended repairs/rehabilitation needed.

Finlay inquired as to whether they would be using the existing trail and if grant funds are being used for the project.

Enriquez replied that they would start by using the last version of the trail and that Prop. 68 funds received through Rivers and Mountains Conservancy are being used for the project and that the City is also looking for any additional funding available for restoration once the assessment is completed.

B. Preview: Fall Recreation Classes and Events

Enriquez gave a preview of upcoming fall events. Some information provided included the following:

- Classes have gone live and will be starting the end of September.

- Fall swim lessons are being reintroduced and will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays. For families that can't make it during the week, we will be offering lessons on Saturdays.
- Parks and Recreation will have a number of fun Halloween activities for all members of the family from pets to seniors.
- The Halloween Howl event returns to Royal Oaks Park this year with games, costume contest, inflatables, and a DJ.
- Also returning this year is the Duarte Family Feud Fun event on October 15.
- The Unity March returns the first Saturday in November.
- The City Picnic celebrating 65 years is coming up quickly and will be held Saturday, September 24 at Royal Oaks Park.
 - There are over 40 vendors signed up and 40 cars registered for the classic car show.
 - Great entertainment is scheduled throughout the duration of the event.
 - Staff reached out to the Duarte Unified School District and asked them to encourage school spirit at the picnic with incentives for kids who show up wearing their school paraphernalia.

Finlay asked how many people usually attend the picnic.

Enriquez replied that their best estimation is approximately 2,000 over the course of the event.

Wilkins requested copies of the Fall Newsletter for Westminster Gardens and the Chamber of Commerce.

Luna-Nguyen asked how the Duarte Under the Stars Event went.

Enriquez replied that the event was great with our maximum of 25 spots reserved. A local Boy Scout Troop was there helping participants set up tents, serving food, etc.

Luna-Nguyen asked if there was an option for registrants to submit feedback regarding classes.

Enriquez responded the Department has done random surveys to participants of specific classes. Asked if there was a specific class she was interested in hearing feedback about. Announced he could also set up a meeting where the supervisor who oversees classes can attend.

C. Pool Deck Resurfacing

Enriquez gave an update of the Pool Deck resurfacing. Some of the information provided included:

- There is a lot of wear and tear happening around well-used parts of the deck, especially the larger competition pool.
- The last resurfacing was funded through a grant from L.A. County.
- In using funds available we were able to resurface with a plaster-like deck coating, which doesn't hold up well after a lot of wear and tear and starts to crumble.
- Enriquez is currently looking at a few options, especially something that will hold up better than the current material used.
- Concrete is one option that is more expensive but would last much longer and require less maintenance. This option would also include making it ADA accessible.
- Enriquez will report back to commission once all quotes have been received.

Bylsma-Houghton stated that the material isn't intended for a public environment and is more for a backyard pool. Also mentioned a process to minimize slipping on concrete and said she would pass that information on to Enriquez.

Enriquez replied that any information she could forward to him would be appreciated.

ITEMS FROM
STAFF:

None

ITEMS FROM
COMMISSIONERS:

Finlay:

- Announced he attended the Dog Park meeting at Hacienda Park and thought there was good discussion at the event.

Luna-Nguyen:

- Announced she was glad to see fall swimming back at the pool and likes the new schedule.

Bylsma-Houghton:

- Announced she also went to the Dog Park meeting at Hacienda Park.
- Wanted to commend Enriquez and his staff for putting on a great meeting and was glad the meeting was held at the park.
- Felt the meeting at Hacienda Park was mostly positive.
- Is glad the deck is getting fixed, and that swim programming is being offered year-round.

Wilkins:

- No comments.

ADJOURNMENT: Finlay motioned, and Luna-Nguyen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner
Wilkins

ATTEST:



Pamela Romero, Secretary