

**CITY OF DUARTE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
March 13, 2023

7 PM

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:

PRESENT: Barbie Bylsma-Houghton, Anne Wilkins, Jennifer Luna-Nguyen, Alex Streff, James Finlay
ABSENT: None
Manuel Enriquez, Department Director
AUDIENCE: Wallace Wolff

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Wilkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Duarte City Clerk, Annette Juarez, gave the Oath of Office to new commissioner Streff and returning commissioner Finlay.

REORGANIZATION:

Wilkins nominated Finlay for Chairperson and Luna-Nguyen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Wilkins nominated herself for Vice Chairperson and Finlay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Bylsma-Houghton motioned, and Luna-Nguyen seconded to approve the December 12, 2022, minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. Update: Duarte Park Revitalization Project

Enriquez gave an overview of the Duarte Park Revitalization Project. Some updates included:

- A contract with MIG will be presented at the March 28th City Council meeting to authorize an agreement with MIG for the project.
- MIG is a well-renowned architect firm with experience in regard to park spaces.
- The scope of work has two phases. The first phase will be a site assessment and data collection and the second phase will include conceptual designs.

- The current budget has an allocation for replacement of the current park playground equipment. However, after consultations with playground vendors and an overall esthetic look at the park, they will look at a total revitalization of the park and park building.
- Enriquez shared what would likely be included in the project such as ADA compatibility, expansion of the boxing facility, a possible dog park.
- Upon completion of the assessment Enriquez will present it to Parks and Recreation Commissioners and finally to the City Manager and Council.
- Staff is requesting consideration of a total revitalization of the park as everything this park is very outdated.

Enriquez asked if anyone had any questions

Bylsma-Houghton asked how secure/safe the ADA equipment would be.

Enriquez replied that from the surfacing to the structure it will be safe.

Streff asked how long it would be before the report is done and when would it be added to the budget.

Enriquez replied that it would take approximately 3 months once agreement is executed to receive the initial report and that we are intending to use grant monies from LA County for the playground structure and resurfacing. Any additional changes/additions, such as including the building, would come from the City's general fund and that process could take time as the costs are unknown at this time.

B. Overview: City News, Spring 2023

Enriquez gave an overview of the City News, Spring 2023 edition. Some information provided included the following:

- The City used a vendor they have used in the past for the design of the publication.
- This summer the City will resume sending out the publication to residents by US mail.
- Even with the updated digital presence, such as the flipbook on the website, many residents still come in requesting a hard copy.
- The Teen Center had a great turnout at their 3 on 3 Basketball tournament at the High School.
- The Teen Center also held their Fashion Show this past weekend at the Duarte Performing Arts Center
 - There were over 40 models and great attendance.

- The Teen Center's partner in the event was Macy's.
 - The event is a fundraiser for the Teen Center and the boxing program.
 - The event raised approximately \$1,800 in profit.
 - The Examiner and Tribune were in attendance and printed photos in their papers.
- The Cesar Chavez Day of Service event will be held on March 25 at Westminster Gardens from 9 AM to 1 PM with a continental breakfast and lunch to be provided.
 - April will begin with our Underwater Egg Hunt at the Duarte Fitness Center pool from 2:30 – 4:30 PM.
 - A Spring Break Camp will be held during DUSD's spring break week.
 - Open Recreation Swim will also be available during spring break week from 2 – 4:30 PM.
 - On April 8, the day will start with the Rotary Club's Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at the Community Center followed by the City's annual Duarte EGGFEST at Encanto Park at 10 AM with the egg hunts beginning at 10:15 AM sharp.
 - The Community Yard Sale will be held on April 29 in the Senior Center parking lot from 8 AM to 2 PM with spots available at \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-residents.
 - The 2nd Wild Stylez Dance Competition will also be held on April 29 beginning at 1 PM at the Duarte Performing Arts Center where surrounding dance groups will compete.
 - May 2 at 6 PM will be our annual State of the City and Schools address at the Duarte High School Football Stadium.
 - A Community Clean-up and Shred drive through event will be held on May 13 from 8 AM – 2 PM in the Civic Center parking lot.

C. Survey Data Review: Dog Park

Enriquez gave an update on the Dog Park Survey. Some of the information provided included the following:

- In December Enriquez facilitated through Flash Vote, a third-party vendor the City has secured, to generate a flash vote survey regarding a dog park.

Finlay asked where residents can go to sign up for Flash Vote.

Enriquez directed Finlay on where to find it on the City's website.

- There are typically 7-8 multiple choice questions with a section for additional comments.

- A total of 170 residents took part in the survey that went out to 321 registered through the system.

Enriquez provided some answers to questions presented. Some questions included:

- The first question asked if they owned a dog and 74 respondents answered that they did not own a dog.
- When asked if they had more than one dog 96 responded that they had at least one dog.
- One question asked if the City were to create a dedicated off-leash park, which location listed would be best for the whole community.
 - Most respondents with no dogs picked not sure, with Encanto Park and Royal Oaks Park Extension were tied at about 18.1 %, followed by Hacienda Park.
 - Respondents with at least one dog: 7 said Duarte Park, 10 – Royal Oaks Park, 13 – Royal Oaks Park Extension, 8 – Encanto Park, 5 – Hacienda Park, 5 – Otis Gordon Sports Park and 11 – Not Sure
 - Respondents with 2 or more dogs: 3 – Duarte Park, 1 – Royal Oaks Park, 7 – Royal Oaks Park Extension, 3 – Encanto Park, 0 – Hacienda Park, 3 – Otis Gordon Sports Park, 8 – Not Sure and 4 said Other
- In the comments section, a few comments included: With easy parking, don't need or want a dog park, Aloysia Moore Park, further away from where kids play
- Positive comments included: Great idea, needed, wonderful community builder, essential quality of life item, other reason to move here (2), support dog park and more
- Not so positive comments included: Not Hacienda Park (3), no, not located in a small park (naming Orange Blossom Park), not in an existing park, consider parking, find better problems and more
- Our insurance authority came back with some best practices for a dog park and recommends working with the community to identify the best location.
- After previous research, Encanto Park and Royal Oaks Park Extension were recommended.

Enriquez asked commissioners if we should continue moving forward with the Duarte Park location, or does this data warrant another follow-up survey.

Finlay asked if other locations like the Donald and Bernice Watson Trail could be considered instead of a park.

Enriquez replied absolutely, and that he will be meeting with the Community Development Department to discuss options of amenities that can be incorporated to the trail with the \$1.6 million

in federal funding the City recently received.

Luna-Nguyen asked if the dirt/horse path next to the trail belong to the City and Enriquez replied that yes it does.

Enriquez asked commissioners what they're thoughts are moving forward.

Audience member Wolff commented that maybe calling it a Dog Park is the wrong approach as it might be misleading to some as an amusement-style park for dogs.

Finlay and Luna-Nguyen stated that they both like the idea of Duarte Park.

Finlay motioned and Luna-Nguyen seconded that in addition to including a dog park in the revitalization of Duarte Park adding a Dog Park Run to the Donald and Bernice Watson Trail Improvement Project. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FROM
STAFF:

1. Council approved the Aquatics Survey Study for the pool deck to incorporate the ADA portion and Enriquez will be working with the consultant.

ITEMS FROM
COMMISSIONERS:

Bylsma-Houghton:

- Asked if the CPRS Conference was being held in San Diego.

Enriquez replied that yes, it is and that he and 3 staff members would be attending and gave an overview of the event.

- Asked if Enriquez could do a report at the next commission meeting.

Enriquez replied that yes, he would.

Streff

- Introduced himself and gave a little background.
- Asked when the CPRS Conference would be held.

Enriquez replied that it will be held the week of April 3.

- Stated he's excited about a potential Dog Park.
- Also stated he would like to see more activities/special events for adults.

Luna-Nguyen:

- No comments

Wilkins:

- Stated that most adult excursions are held on Thursdays, which limits attendance for working adults.

Enriquez replied that in looking for the best rate, most are offered during the week.

- Inquired as to whether the “On the Move Riders Club” was still happening.

Enriquez replied that it has not be brought back since the pandemic as volunteers who facilitated the program either no longer attend the Senior Center or are no longer interested in the program.

Finlay:

- Shared pictures of the new tennis courts at Duarte High School and that the courts include LED lighting and built in seating for spectators.

Streff asked if the courts were open to the public.

Finlay replied that they are not open yet, but once they are they will be open to the public.

ADJOURNMENT: Bylsma-Houghton motioned, and Wilkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chairperson

Finlay

ATTEST:



Pamela Romero, Secretary