

**CITY OF DUARTE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
September 11, 2023

7 PM

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:

PRESENT: Jennifer Luna-Nguyen, Alex Streff, Anne Wilkins,
Barbie Bylsma-Houghton
ABSENT: James Finlay
STAFF: Manuel Enriquez, Department Director
Brian Villalobos, City Manager
AUDIENCE: Irene Consejo, Alice Filipetyan, Fabiola De La
Torre, Lilibeth K. Penafuerte

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE:**

Wilkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS:**

Audience members in attendance wanted to voice their concerns regarding swim lessons for children with special needs, as they recently found out that the Regional Center will provide funds and insurance. They are asking that allotted lane times be made available for children with disabilities to learn how to swim.

Enriquez replied that he is aware of the situation and that staff has been looking into it, but because it isn't an item on the agenda, it's not something he can speak of in great detail and be able to take any action on. He also stated that staff has been working on ways to improve inclusivity and gave a brief overview of what has been happening behind the scenes with special requests, and possible upcoming repairs to the pools.

City Manager, Brian Villalobos, introduced himself to commissioners and wanted to let them know he is available to them and thanked them for their service to the City.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES:**

Luna-Nguyen motioned, and Streff seconded to approve the May 8, 2023, minutes with the correction of Enriquez being present at the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

**ITEMS OF
BUSINESS:**

- A. Request: Childhood Cancer Awareness Campaign
Enriquez read a letter from Brianna Rosales, representing the Rosales Family, regarding the campaign. They are asking for

approval to post visual awareness posters and yellow painted rocks with the names of children who have passed from cancer along the Donald and Bernice Watson Recreation Trail, as September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Walking the trail was something their son, Jonas, enjoyed, especially during his battle with cancer.

Wilkins motioned and Streff seconded to approve the request to place the rocks along the trail for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. The motion passed unanimously.

B.

First Review: Conceptual Design for Duarte Park Revitalization Project

Enriquez presented an aerial view of a conceptual design from the consultant and went over changes and additions to the park. Enriquez is requesting feedback from commissioners. Some information provided included the following:

- The department will hold a community meeting for resident input to help with the design from selections presented.
- The extension of a shade shelter patio for the boxing program at the Teen Center.
- Relocation of basketball court closer to the Teen Center.
- Potential addition of a dog park where basketball court is currently and includes previous dog park concept design ideas.
- The addition of walking path along every amenity of the park.
- Sizeable green space with two gazebos for rental.
- Onsite restrooms (3 unisex/ADA compatible)
- Two play sections with rubberized surfacing. One for the little ones and one for older youth.
- The proposal also includes demolishing the current building and replacing it with a more current, usable friendly, multi-use building.
 - A unique request will be to have a retractable wall facing the play equipment.

Enriquez asked if there were any questions.

Luna-Nguyen asked if there was any opposition to the dog park.

Enriquez replied not at this time, but we'll know better once we hold the community meeting with residents located near the park. Also announced that this year's Howl O' Ween Pet Costume Contest will be held at Duarte Park.

Streff asked how the size of Duarte's Dog Park would compare to Arcadia's dog park and what would be the timeline.

Enriquez believes it's comparable but will confirm it and the timeline for moving forward is potentially 1 ½ to 2 months.

Wilkins asked if there would be more than one community meeting.

Enriquez replied that currently there is only room for one in the contract timeline.

C. Fitness Center Aquatics Assessment Overview

Enriquez shared the very extensive report, approximately 72 pages, that will be shared with Council at tomorrow's City Council meeting and the consultant will be present. Some of the information provided included the following:

- There are several code and maintenance concerns and mechanical recommendations.
- Once something is changed and not just like for like, additional upgrades need to be made to meet current code requirements.
- Commission suggestions regarding upgrades were presented to Council.
- Doing repairs/replacements would be more expensive to do in stages.
- The cost if everything was done in compliance would be approximately \$4 - 5 million.
- The minimum repair needed would be fixing the decking at about \$100,000.

Streff asked what the timeline would be for the whole project.

Enriquez replied that it would take approximately 18 months.

D. Royal Oaks Park Tennis Court Conversion to Pickleball Courts

Enriquez asked for the Commissioners thoughts on whether to convert the tennis courts to pickleball courts or do a like for like resurfacing? Enriquez asked if commissioners are in favor of splitting the courts to include both or converting all the courts to Pickleball.

Wilkins stated she observes a lot of tennis players utilizing the courts at ROP on the weekends.

Bylsma-Houghton and Streff are in favor of converting all ROP tennis courts to Pickleball courts.

Luna-Nguyen and Wilkins are in favor of having both options available at ROP.

Bylsma-Houghton asked if Enriquez knew if they were converted to

Pickleball courts as to whether tournaments could be held there.

Enriquez replied that he will inquire about the specifics of holding tournaments and that he would table this item until more information could be obtained.

ITEMS FROM
STAFF:

1. Stated that at the budget workshop council asked staff about renaming Royal Oaks Park Extension after Tzeitel Paras-Caracci.

ITEMS FROM
COMMISSIONERS:

Bylsma-Houghton:

- Stated that the November meeting would be her last meeting as a commissioner.

Streff:

- Announced he attended the City's Dodger excursion and had a great time and that they won.
- Stated that he has been visiting a lot of parks and noticed there has been a lot of usage at them.

Luna-Nguyen:

- Stated she heard there was a male in the female's restroom at Royal Oaks Park and asked how that could be handled by a parent.

Enriquez replied that as a city, we do not have a policy restricting usage of someone who identifies as a specific gender from using that specific restroom.

Wilkins:

- Stated that she is still amazed and in awe at all the different programs Parks and Recreation offers to the community.

ADJOURNMENT:

Wilkins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM. The motion was carried unanimously.

Vice Chairperson
Wilkins

ATTEST:



Pamela Romero, Secretary