

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – October 9, 2019

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Spiller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Present: Baranoff, Brand, Dean, Duff, Gorham, Radenheimer, Spiller. Commissioners Absent: none
Staff Present: Sue Richardson, Community Services Director; Leon Firsht, Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 11, 2019. Commissioner Duff motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Dean. Motion passed with all in favor. Commissioner Radenheimer abstained.

GEOCACHES IN CITY PARKS PRESENTATION

La Mesa resident Polly Kanavel gave a presentation on the City's geocache program, which started in 2012 with the City's Centennial celebrations. Ms. Kanavel, said La Mesa was one of the first city sponsored geocache programs in the US. Commissioners check geocaches during quarterly park inspections.

PARK INSPECTION REPORTS

Director of Public Works Firsht gave the following updates:

- Aztec Park. Lids have been added to trash cans, and Building Maintenance will check out the drinking fountain. They are also seeing what they can do about dying trees.
- Briercrest Park. There are several repairs to be made post construction of Westmont development. The City walked through the park to identify problems developer needs to fix. Commissioner Brand highlighted that tree surface roots show signs of too much watering, and suggested the City's horticulturist resolve irrigation issues.
- Collier Park. The City is waiting to find out about award of Prop 68 grant monies to renovate the park at the south end. Drinking fountains were water pressure checked. Cement block debris on hillside will be removed.
- Highwood Park. Paper supplies replaced, and gophers will be addressed. Pavers in front of teen center will be aligned.
- Jackson Park. Fountain at playground has been replaced. Dumpster enclosure fix will be added.
- La Mesita Park. Will look into possible dying pine tree.
- Lookout. Cleaned up debris, and missing tiles will be replaced.
- MacArthur Park. Tree trimming taking place.
- Northmont Park. Trash receptacles on order for Northmont and other parks. Will get lids on or replace 13-15 trash cans. This is the park that was tagged by four individuals. Cost recovery of \$750 submitted. Since the drought, sycamore trees are having issues. Milkweed were all vandalized. Floor drain has only 2" opening with a hard 90; can't get any equipment in there to break it up. Team investigating repair options.
- Porter Park. Pine needles and sweeping under equipment done.
- Rolando Park. No report.
- Sunshine Park. Valve in grassy area has been fixed. Soap dispenser in Women's restroom has been replaced multiple times; not replacing again.
- Sunset Park. Bathroom floors needed to be cleaned. Dirt and debris behind ball field scoring. Wood gates will be added to work list. Sidewalk up by Challenge Center to be fixed, too. Added parking space signs reserved for Challenge Center during their business hours.
- Vista La Mesa. Repairs to the ballpark are the league's responsibility. Shade canopy over the bleachers is sagging. Water fountains pressure to be addressed. Staff have been instructed to check fountains in all parks each day.

Additionally, a sidewalks survey will be done to address trip hazards in the parks.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Director of Public Works Firsh gave the following updates:

- There are seventeen ongoing grant projects throughout the city.
- There are an additional eighteen projects they are working on (e.g., sewer improvements, traffic calming, bike lanes, and more).
- Public Works also monitors land development, e.g., Jefferson project.
- North Spring Street to Commercial project bids for the last section of approximately 30 feet of pedestrian crossing are underway.

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

Community Services Director Richardson gave the following updates:

- Livable La Mesa Action Plan was approved by City Council.
- Agreement between the City and the La Mesa Park and Recreation Foundation to operate and maintain a Community Garden at MacArthur Park was approved. The Community Garden Committee has already secured a \$5K grant to start the garden.
- The annual East County Intergenerational Games will be held at La Mesa Arts Academy on Thursday, October 10.
- A MacArthur Park Master Plan workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 29 at the Community Center.
- The La Mesa Arts Academy and the City's Community Relations & Veterans Commission will honor veterans at a Veterans Day concert on Thursday, November 7 in the La Mesa Arts Academy auditorium.
- November 9 is Park Appreciation Day. 200 trees will be planted in Harry Griffen Park.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

- Commissioner Radenheimer told the Commission about inclusive "Magical Bridge" playgrounds, and will share information with Director Richardson prior to next MacArthur Park Master Plan Workshop.
- Commissioner Baranoff shared information about upcoming programs at the La Mesa Library, and also the La Mesa Historical Society's Annual Home Tour. She will resign from the Commission because she has accepted a position with the Community Services Department.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Spiller adjourned the meeting at 7:36 PM, to the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 13, 2019.

Submitted by:



Susan Richardson
Director of Community Services