

MINUTES

CITY OF OXNARD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING Regular Meeting April 23, 2008

A. ROLL CALL/POSTING OF AGENDA

At 5:36 p.m. the regular meeting of the Oxnard Parks and Recreation Commission convened in the Council Chambers. Chairman Postel and commissioners Cobb, Barber, Garcia and Pinkard were present. Commissioner Lemos was excused. The Recording Secretary stated that the agenda was posted on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States led by Tyler Cobb. Chairman Postel presided and called the meeting to order. Staff members present were: Gil Ramirez, Recreation Superintendent; Lori Rice, Parks Manager; Richard Arias, Recreation Supervisor; and Hidania Novoa, Recording Secretary.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. SUBJECT: Approval of minutes – February 27, 2008
ACTION: Approved. (Garcia/Cobb)

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Gingrass, asked for a delay of the Rio Lindo Park planning until the neighborhood's input is gathered.

Lori Rice, Parks Manager responded that she had met with the Rio Lindo neighborhood and there is no problem delaying the project.

D. CEREMONIAL CALENDAR

1. SUBJECT: Teacher Appreciation Recognition.
DISCUSSION: Item continued to May's meeting per Gil Ramirez.
2. SUBJECT: Recognition of Bone Builders Volunteer Instructors.
DISCUSSION: Marisue Eastlake shared that there are ten sites around the city now. Jaci Gutierrez then followed by introducing the Bone Builder Volunteer Instructors.
3. SUBJECT: Recognition of Martin Erickson and Jason Samonte, Youth Developer Award.
DISCUSSION: Martin Erickson and Jason Samonte thanked City Corps for the award received from Efren Gorre.
4. SUBJECT: Recognition of Rotary Club of Oxnard, "60th Rotary Basketball Tournament."
DISCUSSION: Gil Ramirez presented an award to Bonnie Weigel, President of Oxnard Rotary Club. Mrs. Weigel thanked Recreation staff and shared that she's looking forward on working again with the Recreation Department next year.
5. SUBJECT: Commendation to the Tae Kali Do Competitive Team.
DISCUSSION: Precious Garcia, 9 year old member thanked for the award on behalf of all the Tae Kali Do students.

6. SUBJECT: Administrative Professionals Recognition of Departments.
DISCUSSION: Gil Ramirez thanked all the Administrative Assistants in the Recreation Department, including Police Activities League, City Corps and Senior Services.
7. SUBJECT: May is Older Americans' Month.
DISCUSSION: Pramod Gulati shared his gratitude for the award received on behalf of the Senior Services Commission.

E. REPORTS

1. SUBJECT: "We Hear You" Potential ½ Sales Tax Informational Presentation. Edmund Sotelo, Karen Burnham, Grace Hoffman, Martin Erickson, Christina Aerenlund, Police Chief Crombach and Fire Chief Milligan.

City Manager, Edmund Sotelo thanked the commission for the invitation and allowing him and his team to give the presentation. He then introduced the team: Karen Burnham, Assistant City Manager; Grace Magistrale-Hoffman, Deputy City Manager; Jim Cameron, Chief Financial Officer; Police Chief John Crombach; Martin Erickson, Management Analyst; Michael Henderson, General Services Superintendent; Christina Aerenlund, Public Information Officer and Fire Chief Joe Milligan. Mr. Sotelo clarified that the presentation was not to convince anyone to support the ½ Sales Tax, but to only provide information of what it consists of.

Jim Cameron stated that the City of Oxnard has maintained its 'A' rating by Standard & Poor's since 2003. And, a recent survey concluded that 57% of residents felt the city's finances are generally well managed.

Martin Erickson shared that the City of Oxnard has never increased its own sales tax; therefore, it has the lowest tax rate in the State of California.

Christina Aerenlund stated that the proposed measure would include provisions to require all expenditures to be reviewed by a citizens' oversight committee and as with all City revenues and expenditures, an independent financial audit would be conducted.

Edmund Sotelo provided a retail sales tax comparison example showing how much a half-cent sales tax increase would affect the public. He mentioned that it would only be an increase of fifty cents on a purchase of \$100 and also commented that groceries are not subject to sales tax.

Karen Burnham explained how sales tax is divided and where it goes to. Currently, 6.0% goes to the State, .95% goes to the City of Oxnard, .25% goes Statewide and .05% goes to the County of Ventura. The proposed Sales Tax increase will only be added to the City of Oxnard percentage; therefore, it would total to 1.45%.

Grace Magistrale-Hoffman stated that the half-cent sales tax proposal will raise \$10 million dollars in Sales Tax to our operational budget. This increase will improve and maintain all the current programs in the City.

Chief John Crombach added that this proposal will definitely enhance the quality of life in the City of Oxnard.

Edmund Sotelo clarified once again that the presentation is not to convince anyone to support the sales tax proposal, but only to provide information and to answer any questions. A survey was sent to every household in the City of Oxnard to receive feedback and input. He also shared that sometime in June 2008, a resolution will be

going to City Council, and that's when it will be decided if the tax proposal will be on the November ballot.

Caridad Peralta shared her gratitude to the Preschool To You program.

Steve Hampton expressed thanks to the PAL programs.

Norma Skinner commented how grateful she was for the youth programs; such as PAL.

Bonnie Wiegel shared her support of the half-cent sales tax.

Cherie Moraga showed support in the preschool programs; such as Preschool To You.

Emma Carmona expressed her satisfaction with the Preschool To You program.

Rosario Espino shared her appreciation to the Preschool To You program.

F. PARK MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

1. **SUBJECT:** Report of the Recreation Superintendent

The following items were highlighted in the Recreation Superintendent's Report:

1. Summer Programs from Richard Arias.
2. Kids Second Annual Swap meet from Sandy Wilusz.
3. Senior Softball Tournaments from Richard Arias.
4. Second Annual Senior Legends Games from Richard Arias.
5. Junior High School Grad Night from Gil Ramirez
6. City Corps from Efren Gorre.

ACTION: Commission accepted report.

2. **SUBJECT:** Report of the Park Manager

Lori Rice updated the commission on the following upcoming events: Arbor Day in Via Marina on April 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. and the Grand Opening of College Park Phase 1A on May 27, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Rice also shared that the playground in Via Marina was recently vandalized and burned to the ground; however, it will be restored as soon as the funding is received.

G. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Cobb thanked Lori Rice and her staff for the prompt response received and for the information provided to the Via Marina neighborhood regarding the vandalism in the park and reminded everyone to be safe on the streets.

Commissioner Garcia thanked City Corps for their hard work.

Chairman Postel thanked the Parks and Recreation Departments for providing great customer service.

H. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:39 p.m. the Parks and Recreation Commission concurred to adjourn the meeting.

Next regular meeting scheduled for June 25, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Gloria M. Postel, Chairman