

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

OCTOBER 26, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park
Big Red Barn, 2nd Floor Conference Room
1801 E Chestnut Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92701
5:40 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kenneth Nguyen

ROLL CALL

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS
MEMBERS/STUDENT REPS PRESENT
Matthew Cruz, Max Madrid, Elizabeth Michel,
Kenneth Nguyen, Gerald Tiritilli, Wendy
Tobiska, Ava Steaffens, Maricela Vallejo,
Jonathan Espinoza, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Gerardo Mouet, Executive Director
Jenny Rios, Community Services Manager
Ron Ono, Administrative Services Manager
Kent Yamaguchi, Zoo Director
Heather Folmar, Library Operations Manager
Jeannie Jurado, Board Secretary

PRESENTATIONS

SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD – NOVEMBER 2011

Juan Lara was present to accept this award.

SPECIAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD – OCTOBER 2011

Sharon Jones, Steve Jones and Rebecca Solkamins were present to accept this award on behalf of UCCE Master Gardeners.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Recommended Action:

Approve recommendations on the following Consent Calendar items.

MOTION: W. Tobiska

SECOND: A. Steaffens

VOTE: AYES: Cruz, Madrid, Michel, Nguyen, Steaffens, Tiritilli, Tobiska, Vallejo (8)

NOES: None (0)

ABSENT: (at voting) None (0)

1. MINUTES

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held on September 28, 2011.

2. ABSENCES

There were no absences.

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ** BUSINESS CALENDAR**

NEW BUSINESS

1. PRIVATIZING THE ZOO UPDATE

- Zoo Director, Kent Yamaguchi, reviewed recent study results provided by consultant firm Shultz and Williams for the Santa Ana Zoo. The Request for Council Action report that Kent passed out identifies potential ways of privatizing the zoo. These include closing the zoo, shifting the zoo to a non-profit entity or to have the zoo be self-sufficient by decreasing services and increasing revenue. The consultants will be sending final recommendations in February 2012.

2. SAVING THE SANTA ANA PUBLIC LIBRARY

- County will give proposal to Parks and Recreation in November on cost for running the Library.

Matthew Cruz – Boardmember of the Board of Recreation and Parks

- Drafted a letter about saving the library for board members to review. This is a letter that he is suggesting the board to send to the Mayor and Council, which shows their support of saving the library from being outsourced to the county.

Gerardo Mouet – Executive Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

- The letter that board member Matthew Cruz drafter can be discussed and noted on at the next Board Meeting of Nov 16th, once it is approved by the board to be agendized.
- The Friends of Santa Ana Public Library's board recently sent a letter to the public and to the Mayor and Council regarding the same issue and it was handed out at the meeting in order for board members to review. The main point of this letter focused on how programs would be eliminated from the city if the library was outsourced to the County of Orange.

Heather Folmar – Library Operations Manager

- Looking forward to seeing the proposal.

MOTION TO AGENDIZE BOARDMEMBER MATTHEW CRUZ'S SANTA ANA PUBLIC LIBRARY LETTER FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

MOTION: W. Tobiska

SECOND: M. Madrid

VOTE:

AYES: Cruz, Madrid, Michel, Nguyen, Steaffens, Tiritilli, Tobiska, Vallejo (8)

NOES: None (0)

ABSENT: (at voting) None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Glenn Stroud – Santa Ana Resident

- Mr. Stroud gave advice to the board on time sensitive matter.

Patricia McGuigan – Santa Ana Resident and Former Councilwoman

- She shared that there are various departments that are looking at various options regarding the budget.

3. OTHER BUDGET IMPACTS FOR PRCSA

- Gerardo Mouet updated the board that Interim City Manager Paul Walters has asked for 13% department reduction, which is 2.4 million for the Parks and Recreation Department. The proposal was submitted on the October 1st deadline and is currently under review.

4. SPURGEON METHODIST CHURCH (POSSIBLE MORRISON PARK EXPANSION)

Please note: Board member Max Madrid abstained on this item due to conflict of interest

- The property adjacent to Morrison Park, currently the Spurgeon Methodist Church, is up for sale. Gerardo Mouet discussed the Morrison Park Neighborhood Association letter that was handed out to all board members. In this letter the Morrison Park Neighborhood Association board is asking for the Parks and Recreation Department to consider this property as a possible community center for Morrison Park. This letter included a map of the property that is being sold, showing the total area of 24, 200 sq. ft.

Jenny Rios – Community Services Manager of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

- Stated that Ron Ono and she took a tour of the facility and were currently looking into the area to know more about the community. There have been suggestions from the church, neighborhood association and community on ways that they can get funding for this plan. This included applying for grants.

MOTION TO AGENDIZE LETTER TO SUPPORT PARK EXPANSION TO COUNCIL:

MOTION: K. Nguyen

SECOND: M. Cruz

VOTE:

AYES: Cruz, Michel, Nguyen, Steaffens, Tiritilli, Tobiska, Vallejo (7)

NOES: None (0)

ABSENT:

(at voting)

None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Debbie Muise – Morrison Park Neighborhood Association Boardmember

- Presented a series of scenarios of why Spurgeon Church property would be a perfect addition for a community center in north Santa Ana. The property includes a big auditorium, state licensed Nursery school, kitchen, offices, classrooms, conference room and a spacious parking lot.

Eric Scandrett – Morrison Park Neighborhood Association President

- All 14 members of the Morrison Park Neighborhood Association are unanimously in favor of the Morrison Park expansion project. There will be a 15% increase of the park itself, providing more space for volleyball, basketball softball courts and expansion on the children’s playground.

Christina Dorsa Smith – Morrison Park Neighborhood Association Secretary

- Stated that currently the Spurgeon Church is used by many organizations. This is where they hold their neighborhood association meetings and she is uncertain on where meetings will be held after property is sold. The current space they use at this property holds up to 300 people and there are not many facilities available around that area.

Johanna Scillieri – Board of Trustees of Church

- Spoke about how a community center at that location can market a small convention exhibit business. This hidden market can bring profits of up to \$6,700 a day. She offered to volunteer two years of her service to get this project established.

Julie Stroud– Prior Board Chairperson

- Was raised in the Morrison Park area and wanted to affirm her support of this great opportunity for the park's expansion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar for October and November were distributed and reviewed.

Gerardo Mouet – Executive Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

- Mentioned that on the morning of Saturday, November 19th there will be a ribbon cutting event of the Santiago Park Nursery, with the partnership of the Back to Natives non-profit organization. That same night there will be a fundraising dinner for Back to Natives.

Jeannie Jurado – Board of Recreation and Parks Secretary

- Informed that on Saturday, November 12th from 6:30 to 9 PM the Santa Ana Public Library will host the “Cine de Oro” Poster Exhibit by Ernesto Martinez. This exhibit contains 200 posters from the Mexican Cinema Golden Era. This event will include movie memorabilia and a VIP reception.

STATUS/UPDATES

1. PENDING ITEMS /ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS – Budget Impacts for PRCSA updates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve McGuigan – Secretary of the Friends of the Santa Ana Zoo Board of Directors

- Mentioned that it is important for institutions, like the Zoo, remain in the City of Santa Ana for the next generation.
- Announced the “Boo at the Zoo” event taking place from Friday October 28th to Sunday October 20th from 5:30-8 PM.
- On November 16th Dream Night at the Zoo will take place with partnership from the Make a Wish Foundation. At this event sick kids and their families come to the zoo and enjoy a nice outing together. There are volunteer opportunities open for this occasion.
- On December 16th-18th Holiday with the Critters will take place. The Zoo will be decorated with lights and provide enjoyment for the whole family.

COMMENTS

STAFF COMMENTS

G. Mouet

- Updated that the City is discussing a major league soccer team, Chivas USA. Willowick is a course owned by the City of Garden Grove, but within Santa Ana limits. At the moment they are only discussing the feasibility of this plan.

J. Jurado

- Mentioned that registrations for the month of November are taking place for leisure classes at all of Santa Ana recreation centers. There are various leisure classes taking place all year round, from ballet, exercise classes, drawing, etc. The complete leisure class brochure can be found on the City of Santa Ana's website.

J. Rios

- Added that the Zumba class is having a party on Friday October 28th, and mentioned that Zumba has increased in popularity in Santa Ana.
- On November 5th, the Park Ranger Staff Training will take place at the Lawn Bowling Clubhouse. This training will focus on prioritizing when park rangers are needed to respond and on the different issues that take place at the parks and centers.
- On November 8th, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez is having a workshop on Senior Fraud at Santa Ana Senior Center.
- Mentioned that on December 9th the Artesia Pillar Neighborhood Association is having their Posadas at El Salvador Park from 6-9PM.

R. Ono

- Updated that he met with the architect in charge of the 4 million dollar Willard Grant project. Also, submitted an application for Prop 84 funding (2nd round) for Roosevelt Elementary School, in the amount of 5 million, and is under review at the moment.
- There has been an application submitted for the Riverview Way Grant for Santiago Park of 3 million dollars. This grant will help with trail and landscape improvements.
- The Fairview Landscaping Grant project will begin on November 14th and be completed on January 2012.

K. Yamaguchi

- Reminded everyone that Fall is a wonderful time to visit the zoo. Was happy to announce that the zoo's poison dart yellow frogs recently laid tadpoles.
- On November 19th and 20th the Master Gardeners will have fun activities and information about gardening at the Santa Ana Zoo from 11AM-3PM.

H. Folmar

- Mentioned that the Teen Program held their annual haunted house at the Main Library. The haunted house took place on October 25th and 26th and was a great success, providing a lot of fun for the children and teens.

BOARD/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Jonathan Espinoza

- Remarked that he likes the idea that was presented about Morrison Park, since his family visits that park on a regular basis. Also, he pointed out that he has seen lewd activity going on at Santiago and Centennial Park after it is closed.

Ava Steaffens

- Is concerned on how the Morrison Park expansion project can be funded, when in the recent years a lot of reductions have taken place. She is hopeful that the project will be able to happen, but knows that the current budget state is not the best.

Elizabeth Michel

- Agreed that she has the same concerns as Ava and is also hoping for the best outcome on the project.

Maricela Vallejo

- Thanked the public who spoke on the Morrison Park expansion for presenting their ideas, since she was not aware of this project until they brought it up to the board's attention.

Wendy Tobiska

- Knows that sometimes there is money available for expansion, but there might not be funding for staffing.
- Informed all to take advantage of all their resources, since nowadays social media has a huge impact on people's outlooks.

Max Madrid

- Announced that there will be a budget meeting on October 27th at the Santa Ana Senior Center at 6:30PM.
- On Sunday, December 4th the Santa Ana Zoo will host a Christmas Party from 10AM-2PM. Admission is free with the donation of a \$10 toy for the Toys for Tots foundation.

Matthew Cruz

- Is amazed of what the Parks and Recreation Department has been able to accomplish with the money that they are given.
- Shared that today a little boy came up to him and told him that he felt good every time he came to school because he felt like he was going to a park in Santa Ana.

Kenneth Nguyen

- Mentioned that he supports the Morrison Park expansion.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

MOTION: M. Cruz

SECOND: W. Tobiska

VOTE:

AYES: Cruz, Madrid, Michel, Nguyen, Steaffens, Tiritilli, Tobiska, Vallejo (8)

NOES: None (0)

ABSENT:

(at voting)

None (0)

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at Santa Ana Main Library in Room A at 26 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, 92701.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:44 P.M.

Jeannie Jurado, Recording Secretary