



PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, January 11, 2010, 6:30 P.M.
Stratton Community Center
Bordwell Park
Riverside, CA 92507

Commissioners Present: Kallinger, Leibe, Macias, Moore, Poulsen, Ritzau, and Sotelo

Commissioners Absent: Berg and Gerry

Youth Representative: Hee-Jung Lim

Staff Present: Ralph J. Nuñez, Director
Tina Lang, Sr. Administrative Assistant
Robin Metz, Recreation Superintendent
Shirley Bennett, Parks Superintendent
Patricia Callaghan, Interim Community Services Superintendent

Public Works Staff Present: Robert Filiar, Urban Forester
Jeff Smith, Project Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Leibe, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Commission approved the minutes for November 9, 2009 as presented.

Motion: Poulsen
Second: Moore
Ayes: All

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following matters, presented to the Park and Recreation Commission on the consent calendar for consideration, were approved by one motion affirming the action appropriate to each item.

3. Community Services Division Monthly Report
4. Parks Division Monthly Report
5. December Recreation Division Monthly Report

6. Capital Improvement Projects Tracking Report
7. Public Works Department/Urban Forestry/Landscape Division Monthly Activity Report
8. Crime Statistics Summary for Riverside Parks

Motion: Moore
Second: Poulsen
Ayes: All

PRESENTATIONS

9. GIVING BACK RESOURCE FAIR AND ART PROGRAM RECOGNITION

Superintendent Metz introduced Annette Ramsey, Eastside Art Program and Giving Back Resource Fair volunteer, and recognized her for her outstanding work organizing a program to provide 550 Thanksgiving food baskets to deserving families and organizing and offering free art classes for Eastside residents.

10. ORANGECREST GIRLS AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION (ASA)

Superintendent Metz introduced Robert Schmidt, founder of Orangecrest Girls Amateur Softball Association, and recognized him for teaching and encouraging youth to give back to local organizations and charities through the Orangecrest Girls ASA program.

Following the presentations, a motion was made to receive items 9 and 10 for file.

Motion: Poulsen
Second: Kallinger
Ayes: All

DISCUSSION

11. NAMING OF BALL FIELD AT VILLEGAS PARK

Director Nuñez indicated that staff received a request asking that consideration be given by the Commission to name a baseball field at Villegas Park the "Casa Blanca Veterans Memorial Field." The item was presented to the Parks Committee on October 28, 2009 and the Parks Committee recommended naming the ball field "Veteran's Memorial Field."

Paul Chavez, Chair of the Casa Blanca Community Action Group (CAG), indicated that the matter had not been formally presented to the CAG and the CAG would like to review the proposal and provide input before the Park and Recreation Commission made their recommendation.

Jacob Hernandez, Casa Blanca resident, former Chair of the Villegas Park Advisory Group (PAG), Riverside Neighborhood Partnership Member, Volunteer Award Recipient, and member of the Hispanic Historical Society, indicated that the Park Advisory Group, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, met at Villegas Park and voted unanimously to support naming the ball field at Villegas Park the "Casa Blanca Veterans Memorial Field." Mr.

Hernandez further stated that he brought this matter before the VFW CA Post 184 (Veterans of Foreign Wars Department California Ysmael R. Villegas Memorial Casa Blanca Post) and noted that some members of the Community Action Group attend the Park Advisory Group meetings and although the matter was not formally brought before the Community Action Group, they were aware of the Park Advisory Group's request.

Commissioner Kallinger indicated he wanted to make sure he had full community input before he made his recommendation.

Rudy Chavez, Chairman for the Concerned Citizens of Casa Blanca, indicated that the Concerned Citizens of Casa Blanca have actively honored the accomplishments of many Casa Blanca residents. Since 2001, the Concerned Citizens of Casa Blanca planned to propose the naming of this ball field the "Casa Blanca Veterans Memorial Field," to honor veterans of Casa Blanca who served with courage and valor in all areas of the armed forces. By this dedication, the story of the Casa Blanca veterans would give the children of Casa Blanca positive role models and demonstrate that serving in the armed forces is honorable. Mr. Chavez indicated that in the future, the VFW CA Post 184 could hold memorial ceremonies at the ball field honoring Casa Blanca veterans.

Ed Martinez, Park Advisory Committee member, indicated that since 1914 more than 500 Casa Blanca residents have served their country in the armed forces, and honoring these soldiers is a way to thank all those who have served and will bring pride to the Casa Blanca community.

Commissioner Moore asked if there were any ball fields in the city whose names begin with the name of a neighborhood.

Director Nuñez indicated that he was not aware of any ball fields that were named after neighborhoods.

Christina Duran, Eastside resident, indicated that the Community Action Group represents the Casa Blanca neighborhood and is open to hearing from all neighborhood groups.

Following discussion, a motion was made to refer the matter to City Council with no action by the Commission.

Motion: Poulsen
Second: Macias
Ayes: Poulsen and Macias
Nays: All except Poulsen and Macias

A motion was made to refer the item back to the Parks Committee for further discussion and follow up.

Motion: Kallinger
Second: Moore
Ayes: All except Poulsen
Nays: Poulsen

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETING DATES & COMMISSION REQUESTS

Commissioner Poulsen	Requested the date for the La Sierra Senior Center Grand Opening.
Director Nuñez	Announced that the La Sierra Senior Center Grand Opening is scheduled for February 27, and the Riverside Raincross 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for February 20.
Commissioner Ritzau	Suggested recognizing outstanding community volunteers in the Activity Guide.
Superintendent Metz	Indicated that small articles were included in the Community Center quarterly newsletter for both groups recognized at the meeting.
Director Nuñez	Announced that PRCSD was recognized at the Mayor's State of the City for receiving the Award of Distinction from Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful for Andulka Park, Bobby Bonds Skate Park, Rutland Park and Challen Hill Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Leibe adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:42 p.m.