



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers
8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Vice Chair Jason Gray, Commissioner Trissa Bui, Commissioner Tam Do, and Commissioner Khanh Nguyen

Present: Commissioner Trissa Bui, Commissioner Tam Do and Commissioner Khanh Nguyen.

Absent: Vice Chair Jason Gray

Staff Present: Vanessa Johnson, Community Services and Recreation Director; Jake Ngo, Public Works Director/City Engineer; and Tammy Huynh, Senior Administrative Assistant.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Commissioner Nguyen led all those present in the salute to the flag.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Do led all those present in the Invocation.

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Sharon Nicholas spoke about Captain Paul Jacobs and was in favor of installing a plaque to honor him at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park. She encouraged the commissioners to watch the documentary about the story of the USS Kirk and its crew called “The Lucky Few”.

Commissioner Nguyen informed those in attendance that item 4.1 is coming up on the agenda and that anyone who would like to speak on that item is welcome to do so at that time.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 Meeting held on Monday, October 24, 2022

Motion was made by Commissioner Do, and seconded by Commissioner Nguyen, to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2022 Community Services and Recreation Commission Meeting. Motion carried 3-0, with the following vote:

AYES: BUI, DO, NGUYEN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: GRAY

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Park Check List Reports

Commissioner Nguyen reminded the commission if they wanted to add any parks to their list, to let staff know. Commissioner Nguyen mentioned he would like to add Westminster Park to his list.

Commissioner Do asked staff to add Tony Lam Park to his list.

3.2 Playground Project Updates

Jake Ngo gave a presentation on the upcoming playground projects which included timelines for the existing playground projects and information on upcoming new playground projects. He also informed the commission about the new pickleball courts coming to Sigler Park, ball diamond improvements, building improvements at Blakey Park and a new community garden.

Commissioner Do inquired about the location of the proposed pickleball courts at Bowling Green Park, Jake Ngo responded that staff is currently working with the contractor regarding the location of the proposed pickleball courts for Bowling Green Park and Westminster Park.

Commissioner Nguyen inquired about the environmental documents associated with proposed pickleball courts at Sigler Park and asked staff to make sure the consultant is aware of the potential noise issue from pickleball, especially since there is a church and homes nearby. Commissioner Nguyen also inquired about the size of the lot for the community garden.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Request to install a plaque at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park (Staff Report)

Vanessa Johnson presented the staff report and presentation to the commission regarding the request received to install a plaque at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park to honor the late Captain Paul Jacobs.

Jake Ngo informed the commission he met with the architect of the Vietnam War Memorial to review the location options proposed by the requester for the installation of the plaque. Jake Ngo reported on the potential issues of each proposed option and informed the commission that Option #4, rear left of the statues, would be the best option.

Commissioner Nguyen inquired about the different options.

Commissioner Nguyen asked the commissioners if they had any questions, seeing that there were no questions from the commissioners, Commissioner Nguyen welcomed any remaining speakers from the audience to speak on the item.

Oral Communications Continued

2. Angelique Tran spoke about the late Captain Paul Jacobs and expressed her support for the installation of the plaque to honor him at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park.
3. Jackie Wright spoke about the late Captain Paul Jacobs and how great of a man he was. She expressed her support for the installation of a plaque to honor him at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park.

Commissioner Nguyen invited Sharon Nicholas to continue her speech from earlier in the meeting, since she previously ran out of time.

Sharon Nicholas spoke about events that have occurred to honor the late Captain Paul Jacobs and his crew and continued to speak about the documentary, “The Lucky Few”. She mentioned her group would want the plaque to be installed in Westminster because of the large Vietnamese Community in the city.

4. Lacey Wright mentioned that he had met Captain Paul Jacobs and he was an honorable man. He expressed his support to have the plaque installed in Westminster, at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park.

Commissioner Nguyen asked staff to read the E-Comment received into the record.

Vanessa Johnson read the E-Comment received into the record.

E-Comment

1. Robert. L. Harrison, USMC, Vice President Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1024; Vietnam War Memorial in Westminster Inc., agreed that the late Captain Paul Jacobs should be honored, but he did not agree with singling out any individual with recognition on the Vietnam War Memorial as it represents all South Vietnamese and American Veterans that fought in the Vietnam War. He expressed that the small plaque cheapens the accomplishments of Captain Jacobs, where he deserves much more recognition. He also expressed his concern that recognizing a particular individual would open the flood gates. He suggested having the plaque installed along the walkway, alongside other plaques.

Commissioner Nguyen asked staff to show the walkway that the submitter of the E-Comment mentioned on the screen so that commissioners can take a look at that suggested spot.

After discussion about all of the proposed locations, commissioners agreed that Option #4, would be the best option.

Motion was made by Commissioner Nguyen, and seconded by Commissioner Do, to make a recommendation to the City Council to have the proposed plaque installed at option #4, rear left of the statues. Motion carried 3-0, with the following vote:

AYES: BUI, DO, NGUYEN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: GRAY

4.2 Select Next Meeting Date(s)

Commissioners agreed to select a date via email. Vanessa Johnson mentioned that she anticipates the commission may need to meet soon. Commissioner Nguyen asked when new commission appointments will be made, Vanessa Johnson informed him that they city is waiting for more applications to seat a commission and that recruitment is still open.

5. REPORT FROM STAFF

5.1 Upcoming Events

Vanessa Johnson informed the commission about the successful Bunny Hop Pop-up events over the past weekends, she also informed the commission about the upcoming Earth Day Events – a Community Cleanup at Buckingham Park and a Beautification event at the Senior Center, Black April Event at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park, and the summer opening of the Sigler Park Splash Pad.

5.2 Spring Newsletter and Recreation Guide

Vanessa Johnson provided the commissioners with a copy of the Spring Newsletter and Recreation Guide and informed the commission staff is currently working on the Summer Newsletter and Recreation Guide.

6. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Do mentioned that he's received some requests for low-level fence in between the courts at Tony Lam Park to prevent balls from rolling over to the other courts. Jake Ngo displayed what the fence at Bolsa Chica Park looks like and Commissioner Do mentioned they want something similar to that, where there is a break in the middle of the fence. Jake Ngo mentioned they can definitely look into that.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Huynh, Senior Administrative Assistant
Community Services & Recreation