



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers
8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Chair Jason Gray, Vice Chair Jessica Lostaunau, Commissioner Kenneth Abell, Commissioner Christine Hernandez, and Commissioner Tim Hogan

Present: Chair Jason Gray, Vice Chair Jessica Lostaunau, Commissioner Kenneth Abell, Commissioner Christine Hernandez, and Commissioner Tim Hogan

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Vanessa Johnson, Community Services and Recreation Director; Tuan Pham, Assistant City Engineer; Ron Weber, Police Deputy Chief; Gina Nunes, Community Services and Recreation Supervisor; and Tammy Huynh, Senior Administrative Assistant.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Chair Gray led all those present in the salute to the flag.

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

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Commissioners received a printed e-mail from Debbie Johnson regarding various issues at Margie L. Rice Park.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2024

Motion was made by Chair Gray, and seconded by Vice Chair Lostaunau, to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2024, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Motion carried 5-0, with the following vote:

AYES: ABELL, HERNANDEZ, HOGAN, LOSTAUNAU, GRAY
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Park Check List Reports and Assignments

Vice Chair Lostaunau asked if the basketball courts at Land Park are city or school district property. Staff informed the commission that they will look into that and inform the commission.

Commissioner Hogan informed the commission that he received numerous emails and text messages from residents about the squirrel issue at Margie L. Rice Park and suggested closing the park down until the squirrel issue is taken care of. He also reported that he noticed a swing that was cut in half.

Vice Chair Lostaunau inquired about the progress made with the issues at Margie L. Rice Park. Tuan Pham provided the commission with a detailed update on the various issues that have been resolved at the park.

3.2 Project Updates

Tuan Pham informed the commission about the status of park projects, including Newcastle Park Playground and Tony Lam Park Playground. He also shared updates and timelines for upcoming projects like the Cherry Community Garden and the new soccer fields at Sigler Park.

Commissioner Hernandez asked what the Council decision was regarding the pickleball courts at Westminster Village. Vanessa Johnson informed the commission that the input received from the residents did not support placing pickleball courts at Westminster Village Park. Since the design concepts for the playground projects came in over budget, the funding that was meant for the pickleball courts, through the American Rescue Plan Act funds, will be able to support the design concepts for the playgrounds. However, staff remains open to exploring other options for pickleball courts and will continue to gather community input.

4. NEW BUSINESS

[4.1 “Parks Make Life Better Month” Presentation \(Link\)](#)

To commemorate Parks Make Life Better Month, staff members from the Community Services and Recreation Department gave a presentation to the commission showcasing the department's various services and activities.

Commissioner Hernandez expressed gratitude to the staff and emphasized the positive impact of the department's recreation classes, services, and events on the community.

4.2 Next Meeting Date and Time

The commission discussed the next meeting date and time. Commissioner Hogan mentioned that a citizen had suggested moving the meeting time to 5 p.m., as 4 p.m. was too early for their schedule. Vice Chair Lostaunau expressed openness to trying a 5 p.m. start time to gauge whether it would lead to increased community involvement.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Lostaunau, and seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, to hold the next Parks and Recreation Commission at 5 p.m., on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Motion carried 5-0, with the following vote:

AYES: ABELL, HERNANDEZ, HOGAN, LOSTAUNAU, GRAY
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

5. REPORT FROM STAFF

5.1 Upcoming Events

Vanessa Johnson gave a presentation to the commission while announcing the City Council's recent approval of two new full-time positions for the Community Services and Recreation Department: a Management Analyst and an additional Community Services and Recreation Coordinator. She also provided updates on upcoming events, including Movie Night, Safety Day, and the Fall Festival. Furthermore, Vanessa shared a recap video of the recent Senior Center activities and outlined upcoming classes and programs for the center.

6. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hernandez praised the inclusion of the Westminster Arts Academy at the Movies event, inquiring whether staff would consider featuring other community partners in future Movies and Music series. Gina Nunes confirmed that the Parks Program Kids would be performing a hula dance and the Taekwondo class would be demonstrating their skills at upcoming Movie nights.

Commissioner Hernandez raised the topic of the ice-skating rink's new ownership, asking if the department would be reaching out to the new owner. Vanessa Johnson confirmed that the department would be contacting the new owner to explore the possibility of a contract instructor arrangement.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10th at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammy Huynh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Huynh, Senior Administrative Assistant
Community Services & Recreation