



**MINUTES
CITY OF LAWDALE
PARKS, RECREATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Woods called the WebEx hosted virtual meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Daniel Woods, Chairperson
Christina Carroll, Vice Chairperson
Shirley Rudolph, Commissioner
Madonna Sitka, Commissioner
Erica Harbison, Commissioner

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Estes, Director of Community Services

B. FLAG SALUTE

Chairperson Woods led the commissioners and those in attendance in the flag salute.

C. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 10th, 2020 MINUTES

Commissioner Rudolph made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairperson Carroll, to approve the minutes of August 10, 2020, as written.

Motion carries 5–0

D. PRESENTATIONS

None.

E. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

None.

F. ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY SERVICES STAFF

1. School District-owned Park Hours for the Fall:

Director Estes reported to the PRSSC that park hours for the school district-owned parks have been abbreviated as of Monday, September 7th. Parks hours were reduced from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in preparation for the days getting shorter as we move closer to daylight savings in November. However, hours for the school district-owned parks on weekends have not been changed and remain at 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Director Estes agreed with one Commissioner's comments that some of the school district-owned park openings have been inconsistent. Director Estes also reported that he will be making changes to the opening responsibilities for the school district-owned parks.

As a means to save on employee costs, the Community Services Department was relying on the landscape maintenance contractors to open the school district-owned parks on weekends at 10:00 a.m. after the parks were cleaned. This resulted in the parks remaining locked on some weekend days due to either a lack of focus by the landscapers, or messages not being delivered appropriately. Director Estes confirmed with the PRSSC that due to some inconsistencies this past weekend, Community Services staff will begin taking responsibility to open the school district-owned parks on weekends and they will continue to open the parks on school days at 3:00 p.m.

2. Modifications to Harold E. Hofmann Community Center Energy Use:

Director Estes informed the PRSSC that the City is looking at different ways to reduce energy costs at the Community Center among other facilities as the City's revenue base has been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Director Estes confirmed that the use of electricity at the Community Center has been greatly reduced in a number of ways effective September 2nd, 2020 such as: 1) reducing the parking garage lights to a 25% level, or emergency light mode; 2) turning off lights in the Community Center south parking lot; 3) turning off lights at the outdoor terraces on both the second and third floor; 4) setting the HVAC system to high temperature levels that will prevent the thermostats from activating in areas that are not being used on a daily basis; 5) unplugging computers and monitors in the second floor computer lab and at all vacant office spaces; 6) unplugging all electrical components in the third floor fitness room; 7) reducing external lights; and 8) reducing light usage in the second floor office wing as we are able to do so.

Those of you that go through the Civic Center area at night will see that the Community Center is dark compared to normal conditions. In addition, when daylight savings takes effect in November, it will have to be determined whether we want to run the lights at Jane Addams and William Green parks after dark, or realize additional savings by leaving the lights off and close the parks at dark.

3. Discussion Pertaining to Holiday Decorations for 2020:

Director Estes reported to the PRSSC that the City has been discussing plans to decorate certain areas of Hawthorne Boulevard with holiday decorations. As has been true in the past, the City has not included funds in the budget for this purpose. The City is anticipating approaching the PRSSC at a future meeting on either September 28th, or October 5th with a funding request. Director Estes reported to the PRSSC that he will meeting with the City Manager and Public Works Director in the coming week to formulate a decorating plan for 2020. Director Estes encouraged questions and comments from the PRSSC members as it relates to this topic. Outside of the decorations themselves, the City may need to install electrical outlets in designated areas as power sources for the decorations.

The following comments were made by members of the PRSSC:

- We will be able to make a decision after seeing the funding report.
- Can you include in the report how much has been spent on holiday decorations in the past?
- One member suggested a Go Fund Me page to secure donations.

- We have donated a lot of money in the past and we need to make sure that whatever is purchased is able to work.
- One commissioner supported collecting donations from the residents and businesses in Lawndale.

G. PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITIES UPDATE

4. Potential Parks Security Camera Replacement Project:

Director Estes reported to the PRSSC that the report did not go to the City Council for consideration as anticipated on September 8th as there are funding options that still need to be worked out prior to the report going before the City Council for consideration. The City is planning on securing non-City dollars for the City-required match for this grant project. More updates will be provided as they become available.

H. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None submitted.

I. SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

5. Annual Halloween Haunt Special Event Program, October 31st, 2020:

Director Estes reported to the PRSSC that a report will be going to City Council on September 21st that recommends cancellation of this event. Although the Los Angeles County Safer at Home order prevents this type of event from happening, or prohibiting “events or gatherings” from taking place whether indoors or outdoors, the County of Los Angeles just recently released “Guidance for Celebrating Halloween” public health notice. The public health notice suggests the following: 1) Halloween events or gatherings with non-household members, even if held outdoors are discouraged; 2) Carnivals, festivals, live entertainment and haunted house attractions are not allowed; 3) Door-to-door trick or treating is not recommended due to the difficulty with social distancing on porches and at front doors; and 4) trunk or treating, an alternative to trick or treating, is not recommended.

The City has been discussing this event for approximately two months and waiting to see what happens with the pandemic and how the Los Angeles County Safer at Home order is revised before making a decision. However, as we get closer to the actual event date, there comes a time where time is too short to adequately plan for such an event.

6. Annual Angel Tree Lighting Event, December 4th, 2020:

Director Estes reported the following to the PRSSC regarding the City’s annual Angel Tree Lighting event: 1) City staff has been discussing this event for some time; 2) staff will be taking a report to City Council on November 2nd and likely recommending cancellation of the event unless conditions change immensely, or the Los Angeles County Safer at Home order allows such an event; 3) although the pandemic has flattened recently, it is difficult to determine where the pandemic will go in future weeks; and 4) I expect the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to take a stance in the coming weeks for holiday events as they did for Halloween just recently.

One commissioner inquired whether the Santa Sleigh program is being cancelled.

One commissioner wishes that 2020 will be gone.

J. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Individual Comments from Commissioners:

None.

K. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Woods adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m. to a regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, September 28th, 2020, via the Cisco WebEx teleconferencing platform.

Daniel Woods, Chairperson

Attest:

Mike Estes, Director of Community Services