



**MINUTES
CITY OF LAWDALE
PARKS, RECREATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 28th, 2020**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Woods called the WebEx hosted virtual meeting to order at 7:02 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

Commissioner Sitka led the commissioners and those in attendance in the flag salute.

C. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14th, 2020 MINUTES

Commissioner Rudolph made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairperson Carroll, to approve the minutes of September 28th, 2020, as written.

Motion carries 5–0

D. PRESENTATIONS

None.

E. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

None.

F. ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY SERVICES STAFF

1. Update on School District-owned Park Operations:

Director Estes the following to the PRSSC: 1) due to the inconsistency of school district-owned parks being unlocked, the Community Services Department has made a change to handle this responsibility with part-time employees; and 2) the landscape maintenance contracted employees were handling this responsibility on weekends which led to the inconsistencies in the times the parks were being opened on weekends.

2. City Facilities Reopening to the Public:

Director Estes informed the PRSSC that the City has been discussing reopening its administrative facilities such as, City Hall, Public Works and Municipal Services departments on October 5th, 2020. However, the Community Center is not part of the City's reopening plan due to the fact that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health still views community centers as high risk recreational facilities.

There was a question from one commissioner inquiring about how long the PRSSC WebEx conference call meeting would last and when face-to-face meetings will resume.

There were additional discussions about what method of meeting that the members prefer. The majority of the PRSSC members prefer meeting in the current fashion via WebEx conference calling platform.

Director Estes stated that it is likely that the City will declare at some point when it is okay for commissions and committees to begin meeting face-to-face at which time we can further discuss the PRSSC's desire in terms of type of meeting.

3. Previous PRSSC Fireworks Trust Fund Account Holiday Decorations Cost:

Per the request from a member of the PRSSC, Director Estes provided the members with historical data confirming the amount of PRSSC Fireworks Trust Fund Account dollars spent on holiday decorations in the past. The research completed by staff reveals the following expenditures:

2014: \$12,193.00
2017: \$1,325.00
2019: \$1,253.50
Total: \$14,771.50

4. Discussion Pertaining to Decorations on Hawthorne Boulevard:

Director Estes reported to the PRSSC that per the discussions at the September 14th, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting, that the City is seeking a donation of an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 from the PRSSC Fireworks Trust Fund Account for the purchase of holiday decorations for Hawthorne Boulevard. The City is looking at a very simple decorating plan which entails providing string lights to decorate trees at intersections along Hawthorne Boulevard. In addition, the City is planning to decorate the City's four monument signs with string lights and colorful garland. The Public Works Department has confirmed that they have a temporary solution for the electrical needs for the trees being lighted. There have been discussions about lighting some of the City buildings in and around the Civic Center such as, the roofs for City Hall and the Community Center.

After some discussion, the PRSSC was in favor of considering a resolution for an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. There were also some discussions pertaining to the electrical solution that will be used to provide power for the decorations.

G. PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITIES UPDATE

5. 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