



MINUTES

**Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting
May 18, 2022**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair Palmer called the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Present: Chair Palmer, Vice Chair Gonzales, Greenberg, Kuhn, Martinucci, Nigel, Zamattia, Zastrow, and Zbriger. Staff Present: Brewer, Mottola, and Venezia.

Commissioner Zamattia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **REVIEW OF AGENDA: MSC Nigel/Greenberg.** Unanimous.

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:** Minutes from April 20, 2022. **MSC Martinucci/Gonzales.** Unanimous.

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** None.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA:** None.

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Memorial Recognition Subcommittee Appointment – **Superintendent Brewer** presented the staff report. **Chair Palmer** asked for volunteers. **Commissioner Kuhn** stated he would be interested. Chair Palmer and Commissioner Kuhn will make up the subcommittee.

- b. Information Regarding Summer Access Scholarship Program – **Superintendent Brewer** presented the staff report. She gave kudos to Kelsey Clyma, Recreation Services Coordinator, for writing the grant. This County grant will allow a \$1,000 scholarship per qualifying child for summer programs. 20 scholarships have been awarded so far. **Director Mottola** explained that our existing scholarship is limited to \$200 per family per trimester of the calendar year. This is a substantial difference and a much needed type of adjustment for the summer program. The real equity of access to programs is important. Many of the summer camps are learning through play based.

Commissioner Greenberg asked about summer camp locations. **Director Mottola** stated that the first week of camp will be at Commodore Park and everything else will be at Parkside.

Vice Chair Gonzales congratulated Kelsey Clyma for this amazing opportunity for families in the community. **Chair Palmer** echoed Vice Chair Gonzales' words.

Commissioner Kuhn asked if scholarships had been awarded and if applications were still being submitted. He asked about the deadline to enroll in camps.

Superintendent Brewer stated that applications were still coming in. She stated that between 20 – 25 have been awarded. She stated that there were still openings for camps and that the deadline was when it is booked or it started. The scholarship information was still being advertised through social media and emails.

Chair Palmer asked about the infrastructure part of the grant. **Director Mottola** stated that some hotspots and additional canopies would be purchased for outdoor camps.

Commissioner Zastrow asked about the cost of camps. **Superintendent Brewer** stated that the \$1,000 would cover approximately 75% of the cost if all weeks are needed during the summer.

8. **ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

- a. RAC Communications – **Chair Palmer** showed the presentation from tonight's earlier RAC Advisory Committee Meeting.

Vice Chair Gonzales and **Commissioner Martinucci** presented the idea of a park scavenger hunt to get the community involved with visiting all of the parks. The commissioners discussed the idea and were in favor of developing it. **Director Mottola** thought this was a brilliant idea to get people to go explore. **Chair Palmer** agendaized until next month's meeting.

Commissioner Nigel stated he just completed his 52nd year on the commission. Commissioners congratulated him.

Commissioner Greenberg completed a park visit to Buckeye Park. She spoke to people visiting the park and asked for their thoughts and suggestions. She reminded everyone that the renovation at Greenberg field would begin on May 23rd. **Chair Palmer** asked if there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the start. **Commissioner Greenberg** stated that there was talk that it would be at the completion of the project.

Vice Chair Gonzales stated that the parks looked great. She and Commissioner Martinucci visited 6-7 parks. She thanked Dan and staff. Other commissioners agreed.

Chair Palmer brought Helen Kiefer her Community Recognition Award plaque. He was impressed by all of her work. **Commissioner Martinucci** stated that she enjoyed having these awards presented on zoom so family and friends from out of the area could attend.

9. **ITEMS FROM STAFF:**

- a. Recreation Division Staffing Update – **Director Mottola** presented an overview of the status of staffing levels within the Recreation and Senior division. It was born out of necessity as well as best practices that a more unified division of Recreation and Seniors was created. She reviewed program delivery pre-Covid, through Covid, and current. **Director Mottola** acknowledged all of Superintendent Brewer's excellent work with the Senior lunch program during Covid. She stated that the new deputy director would be starting in mid-June. The position was needed due to the growth of the RAC and new programs. Staffing was the lowest it has been since 2019 with four staff. She reviewed the body of work that would be needed to open the RAC. Program plans with recommended fees would be upcoming for the Commission to review before going to Council. This work would need to be done by December so a mid-year resource request could happen. It will be an exciting and heavy workload over the next six months. She acknowledged the extraordinary effort that was put out

on a daily basis in order to serve the community.

Chair Palmer thanked Director Mottola for her comprehensive report. He gave kudos to the staff for all of their work.

Commissioner Zamattia stated she was impressed by how much staff does and thanked staff.

Superintendent Brewer announced that Community Day would be taking place on Sunday, June 5th after the Posy Parade. It would happen on San Mateo Avenue from noon – 5pm. She reviewed the day's events. She asked if the commission would like to staff a table for the event. Since there was interest, she stated that she would send out an email and then put together a schedule. **Vice Chair Gonzales** asked if there could be printed information for the table about the RAC. Commissioners discussed the look of the table and giveaways.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no other business to be conducted, **Chair Palmer** adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.