

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY  
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chair Evans at 4:06pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Commissioner Jones

**ROLL CALL** Commissioners present: Commissioner Silver, Commissioner Harman, Commissioner Jones, Vice Chair Collins and Chair Evans

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Action Motion: **Move to approve the agenda of the March 13, 2012 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission meeting.**

Move: Harman      2<sup>nd</sup>: Collins      Vote: 5-0-0-0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. **MINUTES OF PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2012**

Recommendation: **Approve minutes as presented.**

3. **YOUTH COMMISSION REPORT**

Recommendation: **Move to receive and file the Youth Commission Monthly report for February 2012.**

4. **MUSEUM REPORT**

Recommendation: **Move to receive and file the Museum Monthly report for February 2012.**

5. **RECREATION REPORT**

Recommendation: **Move to receive and file the Recreation Monthly report for February 2012.**

*All items listed on the consent calendar are considered to be routine or non-controversial matters. The items listed on the consent calendar may be enacted by one motion and a second. There will be no separate discussion of the consent calendar items unless a member of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission or Town staff requests discussion on specific consent calendar items at the beginning of the meeting.*

Action                      Motion: **Move to approve Consent Agenda items 2-5**  
  
   Move: Collins                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Silver                      Vote: 5-0-0-0

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Margo Sturges stated to the commissioners that they should be proud to be able to represent the community. Ms. Sturges suggested that they wear their name badges in public, to let the public know they are there for them. She inquired if the Commissioners have had any training on the Brown Act. She gave a brief overview of the Act.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **6. REQUEST FOR A FEE REDUCTION- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Director Schooler reported on a request from Alcoholics Anonymous. The group requested a reduced rate for the use of the Yucca Room on October 6, 2012 to hold their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hi Desert Round Up. The applicant is respectfully asking for a weekday rate of \$25 per hour and lowering the refundable deposit to \$200. The current Facility Use Policy outlines the cost for this type of event at \$45 per hour on a Saturday with a \$500 deposit.

Katherine Cook spoke on behalf of the organization. She noted that they are not asking for a complete waiver but a reduced rate. Their goal is to make the conference free to all who attend. Ms. Cook said she feels the group plays an active role in the community. The organizers are hoping to have 150 in attendance and agreed to leave the building in good shape.

Commissioner Silver stated she is glad that they are not asking for a complete waiver and is comfortable with the request. Commissioner Harman inquired on how many conferences they hold each year. Ms. Cook replied that only one round-up conference is held each year. Chair Evans reviewed the criteria on granting a waiver or reduced rate of facility use fees. Ms. Cook stated that the conference is free and open to the public and youth are welcome.

Action                      Motion: **Move to approve Alcoholics Anonymous a reduced rate of \$25 an hours and allow a \$200 deposit for the October 6, 2012 Annual Round Up event**  
  
   Move: Jones                      2<sup>nd</sup> Silver                      Vote: 5-0-0-0

## **7. REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF FEES – DISABLED VETERANS OF AMERICA**

Director Schooler reported on a waiver of fees request. Disabled Veterans of America has requested a waiver of fees for a small room use. The group would like to hold their monthly meeting at the community center for two hours on the first Saturday of each month. Director Schooler noted that currently there is no user group consistently scheduled in the building on Saturdays, but another group is in the building twice every other month on Saturday mornings.

Mr. Stuart Durrant representing the group stated that they have been meeting at the VFW, however they are having some conflicts with the meetings days and are looking at other alternatives. He would also like to store some items here if possible. Director Schooler stated we would look in to that but storage space is extremely limited.

Chair Evans thanked Mr. Durrant for his service to the country and also inquired on where the headquarters of the organization is. Mr. Durrant said the group is from Yucca Valley but has a post office box in Joshua Tree. Chair Evans asked whether the group would be able to change their meeting days to piggy-back with the current user group that meets every other month on the second and third Saturdays. Mr. Durrant stated they would have to change their constitution, but would bring that back to the group members for consideration.

Commissioner Silver would like to suggest a reduced rate for the group if they can not change their meeting days. Commissioner Collins shared that the commission would like to accommodate the request, but has some concerns on opening the building for such a small group. She is comfortable with the group piggy backing on the same days as the current Saturday user. Commissioner Jones agreed.

Mr. Durrant stated he is looking at other locations and will take this information back to his group. Mr. Durrant reiterated the options he had been presented.

- Change the bi laws and meet every other month in conjunction with the current user group, with waived fees.
- Meet in the Community Center at the regular or reduced rate every month or every other month.

The issue was tabled until Mr. Durrant returns with more information from his board.

## **8. REQUEST FOR A REDUCTION IN FEES – SANDSHARKS**

Director Schooler reported on the Sandsharks request for a reduction of fees for Yucca Valley High School pool use. Director Schooler mentioned that the pool is used by two swim teams the Yucca Valley High School swim team and the Hi Desert Aquatics Sandsharks. The Sandsharks will be starting their season next week and continue until the middle of June. A representative of the group was not available to attend the meeting, however they did send the request in writing.

The group is requesting a reduced hourly rate of \$30 for 2012 season. In February of this year, the Commission granted a request for a fee reduction to \$30 per hour to the high school team for this season. The Hi Desert Aquatics Sandsharks anticipate their use to be 150 hours for the 2012 season.

Action                      Motion: **Move to approve the Hi Desert Aquatics Sandsharks swim teams request for a reduction of pool facility use fees from \$40 to \$30 per hour for the 2012 season.**

Move: Silver

2<sup>nd</sup> Collins

Vote: 5-0-0-0

## **9. COMMUNITY CENTER PARK - SCHEDULED USE OF SOFTBALL FIELDS**

Director Schooler opened discussion on a request from the public at last months meeting. At the February meeting a few citizens came to ask the commission to consider suspension of the leash law at the Community Center softball field, similar to that which is in place at Machris Park. The group has indicated that there is an incompatibility between their dogs and the dogs that frequent Machris Park during the suspension of the leash law which is dawn to 10am, when no recreation or maintenance activities are scheduled.

Director Schooler gave a brief history on the suspension of the enforcement of the Town's "leash law" at Machris Park. He stated that in response to the increased use of the Machris Park softball field by dog owner, the Town Council granted a temporary suspension of the Town's leash law at that park. The Council also directed staff to accelerate work on the design and development of a dog park at the South Side Park location of Warren Vista and Joshua Lane. With a 60 to 90 days construction period the dog park is expected to be ready for use in late summer or early fall.

Director Schooler reported on some issues to consider. He stated that there is a tremendous demand for Town field space for practices and games and overall recreation use.

The staff has reported ongoing problems at Machris Park associated with the presence of dogs on the field and the messes left behind. Same issues are dealt with at the Community Center Park. Park patrons complain that the presence of dogs and dog owners at the softball fields interferes with their recreational pursuits and feeling of safety.

In the last year there have been incidents of serious dog attacks at the Community Center. Staff anticipates a re-education process when the temporary suspension of the leash law enforcement is lifted, and the new dog park opens. Suspending the leash law at the Community Center softball field would open the facility to all dogs and dog owners not just a small group with small dogs.

Margo Sturges mentioned that she has brought her dog and pig to the Community Center and there is no fencing to enclose the area. Ms. Sturges added that being on a leash does not always protect a dog from attacking or being attacked.

Sharon Cartier representing the group stated they are requesting the softball field which is fenced and gated. Larry Burge responded that he frequents Machris Park and is shocked regarding the mention that droppings are left. Mr. Burge stated that every now and then there is an aggressive dog that comes in. One dog has had a broken rib and another dog jumped on a visitor.

Chair Evans stated he is a dog owner however he has a hard time with suspending the “leash law” at the Community Center while there is a facility in the process of being built. He suggested that maybe there is a way that the pet owners can work it out amongst themselves. Commissioner Silver inquired on how long the leash suspension will be in effect at Machris Park. Director Schooler stated until the dog park opens at South Side Park. Vice Chair Collins mentioned she has the same concerns as the other commissioners.

Action                      Motion: **Move to decline to decline the suspension of the enforcement of the Towns “leash law at the Community Center softball field.**

Move: Collins

2<sup>nd</sup> Silver

Vote: 5-0-0-0

## **10. COMMUNITY CENTER PLAYGROUND RENOVATION DESIGN**

Director Schooler reported on the Community Center Playground Renovation design. He passed around a concept drawing of the playground area. RJM Design is designing the project including the removal of non compliant playground equipment and the renovation of the site to make it a more user friendly area, as well as to include the splash pad facility. Director Schooler reviewed the preliminary design with the commissioners, along with some options of the use of water for the zero depth splash pad.

The renovation project was considered a priority because of changes to playground safety standards that rendered the current playground apparatus at the Community Center non compliant. The proposal called for replacement of the apparatus and inclusion of a zero depth splash pad at the site.

Chair Evans inquired on the funding for the project. Director Schooler stated this year’s allocation will be the third year of funds going towards this project. There is approximately \$401,000 available for the project. Director Schooler stated that it is not clear how far the funds will go until the project goes out to bid. If the splash pad could not be constructed, the infrastructure could be, unless some other funds could be added to the project. Director Schooler mentioned that the eventual scope of the completed project is not clear until bids are received.

Margo Sturges commented on the previous commission's work on the playground equipment /splash pad project.

Director Schooler reported that there is discussion about the construction timeline with an effort to minimize the impact to park patrons.

Action                      Motion: **Move to receive and file the report on the preliminary design of the Community Center Playground Renovation project.**

Move: Harmon

2<sup>nd</sup> Collins

Vote: 5-0-0-0

## **STAFF ONFORMATION ITEMS**

Director Schooler informed the commissioners that the Planning Commission meeting set for tonight has been cancelled. Director Schooler reported that staff is getting inundated with requests to use the Town's fields. Brehm project is underway. Grading has begun and should be complete this week. The Public Arts policy is scheduled to go to council in April. The aquatics program is gearing up to get started soon.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

- 1. Commissioner Silver** Commissioner Silver inquired if the Town is looking at providing additional parking, possible paving the dirt lot by the sheriffs sub station. Director Schooler stated the lot is used for several things along with overflow parking for concerts in the park, greenery recycling program and a circus will be up in that area at the end of this month.
- 2. Commissioner Jones** Commissioner Jones stated she is sorry she did not make sports council meeting on Monday evening. She did attend the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Museum event and it was wonderful. Commissioner Jones commented that she is pleased that the Museum works with the art community. It is very apparent that this community has a wealth of art.
- 3. Commissioner Harman** Commissioner Harman noted the Town needs more sports fields.
- 4. Vice Chair Collins-** Commissioner Collins thanked staff, stating they always do a great job. She likes getting the agenda ahead of time to review it. Vice Chair Collins mentioned that when the commissioners do their "due diligence" it all works out.
- 5. Chair Evans** Chair Evans pointed out he appreciates the commissioners attending other meetings. He went to the Youth Commission meeting and commented that the two staff that work with the kids are very receptive to them. He congratulated those that are working with the youth. Chair Evans stated that volunteers make this community happen. He inquired to Director Schooler if there has been any conversation regarding closing off

the parking lot between the playground and soccer fields or if there have been any accidents with all the foot traffic crossing from one area to another. Director Schooler reported that there have been no serious issues but they are aware of the problems with congestion and vehicular traffic in that area..

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission will be on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 4:00pm in the Joshua Tree Room of the Yucca Valley Community Center.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Disable American Veterans

## **ADJOURNAMENT**

Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 5:36pm

Respectfully submitted,

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Maureen S. Randall, PRCC Secretary  
Community Services Department