

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

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chair Evans at 4:02 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Commissioner Silver

**ROLL CALL** Commissioners present: Commissioner Silver, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Jones- Poland, Vice Chair Harman, and Chair Evans.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Action                      Motion: **Move to approve the agenda of the September 10, 2013 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission meeting.**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. **MINUTES OF PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2013.**

Recommendation:    **Approve minutes as presented.**

3. **MUSEUM REPORT**

Recommendation:    **Move to receive and file the Hi-Desert Nature Museum monthly reports for June, July, August 2013.**

4. **RECREATION REPORT**

Recommendation:    **Move to receive and file the Recreation monthly reports for June, July, August 2013.**

5. **TENDER LOVING CHRISTMAS**

Mara Cantelo, representative from Tender Loving Christmas, was present and commented that this is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the event. She also stated that they are always looking for volunteers to assist with the event.

**Recommendation: Move to waive the facility use fees associated with Tender Loving Christmas 2013 event.**

*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: Jones                      2<sup>nd</sup> Jones-Poland                      Vote: 5 -0-0-0

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**STAFF REPORTS**

**6. Youth Commission Appointments**

Director of Administrative Services Curtis Yakimow presented an overview of the Youth Commission program and presented the applicants for the 2013-14 year which include Aaron Ahmadi, Tommy Bracamonte, London Caldwell, Tyler Geeson, Francisco Gonzalez, Miranda Green, Harmony Hayes, Shawn Idnani, Nathan Lafferty, Kaylin Moffit, and Blake Rowe. Supplemental applications from Rachel Green and Hannah Bogue were submitted by staff and accepted by Chair Evans.

Youth Commission applicants present were Tyler Geeson, Rachel Green, Miranda Green, Shawn Idnani, Kaylin Moffit, and Francisco Gonzales who introduced themselves to the Commission.

Discussion was held, with the Commission expressing concern that there no middle school applicants in the pool for the Youth Commission and that the application requirement of a full page essay may have deterred some students. The Commission directed staff to perform a modified recruitment at local middle schools for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders that requires only a paragraph length response.

Action                      Motion: **Review the applications and move to recommend appointment of the selected applicants to the 2013-14 Youth Commission.**  
  
   Move: Jones-Poland                      2<sup>nd</sup> Silver                      Vote: 5-0-0-0

## 7. Fall Schedule of Activities – Community Services Department

Director Yakimow summarized the Fall Schedule of Activities as presented in the staff report, and explained that the timing of the presentation of the Fall Schedule was delayed due to staff transition and the lack of an August Commission meeting. Future schedules will be brought to the PRCC and Council prior to finalization.

Action     **Motion: Move to receive and file the information regarding Fall 2013 Community Services Department programs and events.**

Move: Harman

2<sup>nd</sup> Jones

Vote: 5-0-0-0

## 8. Professional Services Agreement – Hi Desert Nature Museum Registrar

Director Yakimow presented the staff report including background on the need for a qualified individual to provide registrar services to manage the museum collection. He explained that this responsibility had previously been coordinated by the Museum Supervisor with the contribution of a key volunteer. He introduced Vanessa Cantu who has volunteered her time at the museum performing registrar assistance for over a year.

Ms. Cantu was introduced and reviewed her education and qualifications for the contract services. She further described her experience with the Museum and outlined the duties she performed there.

Action     **Motion: Move to approve the proposed Scope of Work between the Town and Vanessa Cantu for Museum Registrar services and recommend approval of a related professional services agreement for consideration by the Town Council.**

Move: Jones-Poland

2<sup>nd</sup> Harman

Vote: 5-0-0-0

## 9. Park Facilities Update

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle reported that the Community Center playground was near completion and should be open by Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be scheduled at a later date. He reported that the Town had received county authorization to proceed with Paradise Park playground replacement. Contract will go out to bid with target completion by the end of the calendar year. Jacobs Park was the last of the Town parks that remained out of compliance with playground standards; however, after significant vandalism damage the playground has been removed. Staff is looking for budget funds to replace the playground with a compliant structure.

Commissioner Silver questioned what steps could be taken to prevent vandalism of new playground equipment. Manager Stueckle responded that although prevention is impossible, staff is looking into possible installation of additional security cameras.

Chair Evans asked about the status of further improvements at Paradise Park. Manager Stueckle replied that Home Depot had expressed interest in improving the park but no dollar amounts had been specified. Talks will be reinitiated with Home Depot.

Commissioner Silver asked if security equipment could be included in renovation projects. Manager Stueckle responded that it is possible but the Community Center project did not include security equipment and that extra trenching and infrastructure, poles, etcetera were not budgeted for in these projects. Commissioner Jones-Poland commented that building these new parks without security is a concern. Manager Stueckle responded that steps could be taken to minimize access by instituting locked gates to limit access to facilities.

Commissioner Silver commented that some vandals had been apprehended. Manager Stueckle reported that juveniles had been apprehended in the window breaking incident at the Community Center and that their parents will be held responsible.

Manager Stueckle reported that Essig Park improvements were underway including efforts to reduce sogginess at the dog fountain, grass will be aerated and should improve, and additional benches and trees were planned. A long term goal is to replace the DG path around the dog park with concrete. Chair Evans inquired about future development of the area north of the developed area of the park. Manager Stueckle responded that there is no funding presently but suggestions include a skate park or BMX track although no determination or direction has been received. Commissioner Jones commented that Essig has been a huge success and she sees many people at the park and has received positive feedback. She suggested going to the community for donation of trees in name of a family member or like. Manager Stueckle suggested that we already have a policy in place for such donations. Chair Evans suggested that the donation of park improvements be brought back as a future agenda item.

Commissioner Jones-Poland suggested that the Youth Commission work on the vandalism issue and come up with suggestions on how to remedy. She also asked why there are no benches in the Community Center courtyard, commenting that she enjoys that area with her children but there is no seating available. Chair Evans also suggested that benches be added to the courtyard. Director Yakimow mentioned that vandalism issues and teens loitering in the courtyard have been a problem. He explained that staff has engaged the Sherriff Department in attempting to remedy the situation. He suggested that the Youth Commission entertain an anti-loitering ordinance to further address the issue. Chair Evans suggested a gate or decorative barrier may help to close off the area at night.

Action     **Motion: Move to receive and file verbal update regarding  
Essig Park, Community Center Playground Park and other  
Town Park Facilities.**

Move: Jones-Poland

2<sup>nd</sup> Silver

Vote: 5-0-0-0

## 10. Brehm Sports Park Update

Director Yakimow reported on the status of the Brehm Sports Parks noting that the Town is negotiating a lease agreement to take over operations and maintenance of Brehm Park I with possible implementation by the end of the calendar year. Once a plan is in place for the Brehm I Sports Park, staff will proceed with crafting an agreement for the Brehm II Sports Park.

Commissioner Jones questioned what the lease agreement for Brehm I Park would entail; would the Town be paying for a lease? Director Yakimow responded that staff initially assumed that the Park would be a donation from Basin Wide Foundation, but that because the property is owned by the Boys and Girls Club, the Club board prefers a long term lease for \$1.00 per year for 30-35 years. Commissioner Jones asked what the present budget is for maintenance of Brehm I Park. Director Yakimow replied that prior partnership amount was approximately \$12,000 in prior years, but is zero in the current fiscal year budget. He further explained that there will be no replacement partnership to Basin Wide Foundation when we take over the park.

Commissioner Jones-Poland asked why we are taking over these parks and expressed concern over spreading our resources too thin. Director Yakimow replied that Basin Wide Foundation was never interested in maintaining the parks and the Town is interested in reducing or eliminating partnerships. The Town is also eager to have parks that are safe and usable. Commissioner Jones-Poland asked who the user groups for these parks would be. Director Yakimow replied that youth sports organizations such as soccer and baseball groups, among others, would utilize the facilities.

Action      Motion: **Move to receive and file update regarding Brehm Sports Parks Update.**

Move: Jones-Poland      2<sup>nd</sup> Silver      Vote: 5-0-0-0

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

1. **Commissioner Silver:** Thanked staff for reports and appreciates their efforts.
2. **Commissioner Jones:** Reminded all that the upcoming Brown Bag Lecture at the museum features Ken Drummond as Galileo at 12:00 pm.
3. **Commissioner Jones-Poland:** Commented that it is great to be back. She welcomed Vanessa Cantu to the museum and expressed excitement about the items ahead.
4. **Vice Chair Harman:** Congratulated Vanessa Cantu and the new Youth Commissioners.

5. **Chair Evans:** Thanked Director Yakimow and Recreation Supervisor Sue Earnest. Mentioned that on September 17<sup>th</sup>, the GPAC information will be presented to the Town Council and encouraged the Commission members to attend. Thanked the Commissioners and former Commissioners for their work. Thanked the Town's GPAC consultant.

## **STAFF INFORMATION**

Director Yakimow stated that the draft General Plan EIR is available for review by the public. He thanked staff for all their work during the summer months and hopes that fall will provide some time to regroup. He mentioned that the concerts were well received and looks forward to next year.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Winter Guide Program Review (October Agenda)  
Facility Use Waivers (October Agenda)  
Donation Guidelines (November Agenda)  
Facility Use Policy (December Agenda)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission will be Tuesday, October 8 at 4:00 p.m. in the Joshua Tree Room at the Yucca Valley Community Center.

Commissioner Jones-Poland commented that she will not be in attendance for the October meeting date.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Action Motion: **To adjourn the meeting.**

Move: Silver      2<sup>nd</sup> Jones      Vote: 5-0-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

---

PRCC Acting Secretary  
Community Services Department