

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Eigner 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL Commissioners present Hill, Keesling, and Chair Eigner. Commissioner Silver excused. Commissioner Quander absent.

Staff members present, Community Services Manager Earnest, Secretary Neely.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Commissioner Hill

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Keesling moved to approve the agenda of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission meeting of September 8, 2015. Commissioner Hill seconded. Motioned carried 3-0-2 on a roll call vote.

AYES: Hill, Keesling, Chair Eigner

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Silver, Quander

CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed on the consent calendar are considered to be routine matters or are considered formal documents covering previous Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission instruction. The items listed on the consent calendar may be enacted in 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. Public requests to comment on consent calendar items should be filed with the Commission Secretary before the consent calendar is called.

1. Minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Commission meeting of June 9, 2015

Recommendation: Move to approve minutes as presented.

2. Museum Report

Recommendation: Move to receive and file the Hi Desert Nature Museum Monthly Report for June and July 2015.

3. Recreation Report

Recommendation: Move to receive and file the Recreation Monthly Report for June and July 2015.

Commissioner Keesling moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-3. Chair Eigner seconded. Motion carried 3-0-2 on a roll call vote.

AYES: Hill, Keesling, Chair Eigner

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Silver, Quander

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

4. Tender Loving Christmas Request for Facility Use Waiver

Community Services Manager Sue Earnest opened discussion on Tender Loving Christmas facility use request. The organizer has requested a waiver of facility use fees for the annual Christmas event. Based on previous Town Council direction and Commission action the request is well within the facility use policy guidelines. Mara Cantelo the founder of the event wrote that they serve at least 2,000+ each Christmas. The event is free to all Morongo Basin residents. The request is for December 21 through December 27. They are also requesting the use of a small room for planning meetings for 2 hours on specified weeknights during the months of September, October, November and December.

Commissioner Keesling moved to approve the waiver of facility use fees associated with Tender Loving Christmas 2015 event. Commissioner Hill seconded. Motion carried roll call vote 3-0-2

AYES: Hill, Keesling, Chair Eigner

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Silver, Quander

5. Grubstake Days Town Participation History

Manager Earnest reported that at June's commission meeting there was a request to staff to provide an overview of the Town's participation in the Grubstake Days events. The Grubstake Days celebration dates back over 60 years in the basin. Through 2005, the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce held the event on sixty acres of vacant land. The Chamber's Grubstake Days events included a parade, carnival, rodeo, demolition derby and other activities. The Town hosted the Grubstake Run as part of the festivities.

In 2006 the Chamber lost use of the event property and the Town was approached by chamber members Hi Desert Publishing, Z107.7 Community Radio and the Basin Wide Foundation regarding the use of the Community Center property for a Grubstake Days Community Fair. The fair took place at that location from 2006 through 2012.

Although not a town event, Town staff was instrumental in the execution of the fair by providing substantial facility management services as well as a variety of program offerings in support of the event. While at the Community Center location the Town continued to participate in the community event by providing several activities including a beard contest, horseshoe tournament as well as the 5k, 10k, Run, 2k Walk and continued participation in the parade.

In 2013 the organizers of the community fair moved the event from the Community Center property to Brehm Youth Sports Park where it remained for 2014. The Town continued to participate by providing several event activities. However, downsizing of staff limited the Town's efforts in the event. Town staff was able to continue giving support through participation in the parade, providing the Grubstake Run event and providing marketing support through advertising in the Experience Yucca Valley Town publication and on the Town website, a value in excess of \$2,500.00.

Town funding and in-kind allocations for the Grubstake Days Parade has been included in recent budget allocations including \$5000 in FY 13-14, \$4500 in FY 14-15 and \$4500 in FY 15-16.

Commissioner Hill stated it's sad that the event is getting smaller and inquired what the 2016 plans for the event are. Manager Earnest stated she understands that the Chamber will be putting on the annual parade but no news of any other events. Chair Eigner mentioned that it seems the Chamber is moving away from the Community Fair participation. He stated that with the current decreases in Town staffing levels, he recommended that the participation in Grubstake Days event support remain the same by continuing the present programming including the Grubstake Run and the parade float entry, and if possible continues with the monetary contribution to the parade. Mr. Eigner suggested that any additions to the event should be Chamber driven.

Commissioner Keesling thanked Manager Earnest for her report and stated that the Chamber parade was the best it has been in a while.

Commissioner Keesling moved to receive and file the report outlining the Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department past participation in the Grubstake Days events conducted by the Chamber of Commerce. Chair Eigner seconded. Motion carried roll call vote 3-0-2

AYES: Hill, Keesling, Chair Eigner

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Silver, Quander

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Square Dance Club
Facility Use Policy
Youth Commission Appointment recommendation
Paradise Park Program History
Town grant summary

PUBLIC COMMENT

In order to assist in the orderly and timely conduct of the meeting, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission takes this time to consider your comments on items of concern which are not on the agenda. When you are called to speak, please state your name and community of residence. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less. Inappropriate behavior which disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting will result in forfeiture of your public comment privileges. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission is prohibited by State law from taking action or discussing items not included on the printed agenda.

Margo Paolucci Yucca Valley resident. Ms. Paolucci stated that she lives on Carmelita Circle for the last eight years and inquired on the timing and angle of the lights at Machris Park. She stated that they lights are angled into her home and she would like them to be adjusted. She also mentioned that on occasion the lights are on and nobody is on the field.

STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Manager Earnest gave a brief update on the former Pomona First Federal Building. Council has hired an architect company to assist the Town in evaluating the property to determine the feasibility of utilizing the property for appropriate Town purposes, as a lease option for County Library facilities or identify other potential municipal uses.

- The Experience Yucca Valley Fall/Winter guide will be out soon. There are a few new classes in the publication.
- Ms. Earnest met with the Senior Club last week. The club stated they were happy with the outcome of the Luau Dance
- Bingo attendance is up. The Yucca Valley Senior Nutrition site provides approximately 115 meals basin wide and 45 at the site.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

6. Chair Eigner recommended that anyone trying to reach him should text as that works best.

7. Commissioner Hill inquired if there is a master calendar of events. He thanks staff for the business cards. Commissioner Hill spoke about the lack of true bike lanes in Yucca Valley. He also informed the commission that because of the recent fires between White Water and Big Bear a portion of the Pacific Crest trail is closed and mentioned that there may be hikers/travelers coming through Yucca Valley on Town streets for a month or two.

8. Vice Chair Keesling stated that this summer he participated in some of the Hi Desert Nature Museum programs. The Museum staffs inspired him and he thanked them for putting on great events.

9. Commissioner Quander absent

10. Commissioner Silver excused

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Time, date and place of the next Parks, Recreation & Cultural Commission meeting

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Commission is scheduled October 13, 2015 at 4:30pm in the Joshua Tree Room of the Yucca Valley Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen S. Neely, PRCC Secretary
Community Services Department