

*City of South Gate  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
April 10, 2008*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

At the hour of 7:00 p.m., Chair Jennifer Cypert called to order the regular meeting of the City of South Gate Parks and Recreation Commission.

**2. FLAG SALUTE AND ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Dan Cruz led the flag salute. *At roll call, the following were present:* Chair Jennifer Cypert, Secretary Marvin Cole, Vice Chair Naomi Nixon, Commissioner Dan Cruz, and Commissioner Bobbie M. Thompson. *Staff was represented by:* Paul L. Adams, Parks & Recreation Director; Steve Costley, Recreation Superintendent and Glenn Massey, Jr., Parks Superintendent.

**3. REPORT ON POSTING & APPROVAL OF PARKS & REC. COMMISSION AGENDA**

The report on posting was read by Ana V. Medina, Sr. Secretary M/S/C (Secretary Cole/Vice Chair Nixon); to approve the Agenda as read

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

M/S/C (Vice Chair Nixon/Commissioner Thompson); to approve and file the February 14, 2007 minutes.

At this time Chair Cypert introduced the new Commissioner, Dan Cruz, he expressed he was happy to be appointed, and looking forward to the work ahead.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

**5. S.G.J.A.A.** - Financial report submitted and reviewed

**6. S.G. Swim Team** - No financial reports submitted

**7. A.Y.S.O.** - No financial reports submitted

M/S/C (Chair Cypert/Secretary Cole) to receive and file Consent Calendar Items 5 and 7.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Recognized: Danny Gonzalez, 9725 Dorothy - wanted to know the status of the batting cages that were to be built in the old Tweedy School site. Director Adams stated that he was directed to hold off on major projects until the Parks Master Plan, which was started in 2007, was completed. The Parks Master Plan is almost completed so staff will begin to move ahead on the Tweedy School site project.

**PRESENTATIONS**

None

**AGENDIZED ITEMS**

**9. Program Fee Recommendations**

Director Adams reviewed this item; staff has recommended a cost of living increase of 3%, for some of the classes, Day Camp fees will be charged weekly instead of biweekly. Chair Cypert asked if the tax measure doesn't pass would this item be revisited; Director Adams replied that if it doesn't pass, staff would be bringing many issues back to the Commission based on the new financial situation, but staff is waiting for the results of the elections to see how to proceed; a discussion ensued.

M/S/C (Secretary Cole/Vice Chair Nixon) to receive and file this item.

**10. Department Goals and Performance Standards for Fiscal Year 2008/09**

Director Adams, Recreation Superintendent Costley and Parks Superintendent Massey each reviewed this item. Secretary Cole expressed concern about the softball and basketball adult leagues and what kind of publicity the Department is doing to get those leagues back, Director Adams stated that due to lack of staff a couple of the leagues had to be cancelled; staff is looking into submitting information regularly to the Wave newspaper, the Community Calendar, and using the City's website.

Recognized: Danny Gonzalez, 9725 Dorothy - suggested using middle school kids to assist in the Tot

Time and Tiny Two classes, for extra credit.

Recognized: Cyndi Esquivel, 4718 Tweedy - Commented on the Sunday league, feels that additional staff is not needed, field staff chalks the field only once in the morning. Cerritos lowered their fees to attract South Gate leagues, as have Santa Fe Springs and Long Beach. Recreation Superintendent Costley stated that some softball teams have been lost but some have returned and the leagues have picked up. A discussion ensued.

Chair Cypert asked if the Cesar Chavez Park land is leased from DWP. Director Adams stated that with the exception of State Street Park all the land along Southern does belong to DWP. The City is negotiating a new lease with them allowing the City to improve the land and provide the up keep. Vice Chair Nixon asked what the RMC is Director Adams replied that they are a state agency that provides grants to improve riparian land. They are assisting the City with a grant that the county gave to the City to improve land along the river, but the area was in the City of Lynwood and belonged to Cal-Trans. The project location was changed to another site, and the agencies are working with the owner to buy the land.

M/S/C (Secretary Cole/Vice Chair Nixon) to receive and file this item.

#### **11. Quarterly Report - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY 2007/08**

Vice Chair Nixon questioned some of the numbers in the Recreation Division, Recreation Superintendent Costley replied he will check with staff; Director Adams stated that this item will be revisited at next months meeting; a discussion ensued.

M/S/C (Vice Chair Nixon/Chair Cypert) to receive and file this item with comments.

#### **12. Ameri-Corps Exercise Equipment**

Director Adams stated that he has checked with the City of Compton's Public Works and Parks & Recreation Departments and they had no information regarding this item.

Recognized: Cyndi Esquivel, 4718 Tweedy - Channel 5 had a news report on the equipment, and E. Los Angeles was one of the cities that had the equipment installed. Director Adams will follow through on any information Ms. Esquivel can forward to him.

M/S/C (Chair Cypert/Commissioner Thompson) to receive and file this item.

#### **13. North Playground Final Plans - Oral Report**

Recreation Superintendent Costley reviewed this item, updated playground diagram and budget, this includes the requests from the Commissioners, of the boulders and the Neos play machine, this maybe possible because the Los Angeles Conservation Corps could do the labor, payable with a grant from Linda Sanchez; a discussion ensued.

M/S/C (Chair Cypert/ Vice Chair Nixon) to receive and file this item.

#### **14. DIRECTOR'S REPORT / CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Recreation Superintendent Costley - the Azalea Festival was successful, the Fashion Show went very well, with 100 participants and 800 spectators. There was a "Community Stage" during the carnival, which was very well received, with approximately 500 spectators each day.

Art Day, Miss Azaleita, and the skate competition were also big draws. The location of the carnival was changed to the parking lot on Tweedy for more exposure.

Parks Superintendent Massey - The Azalea tournament had over 60 participants. Our Earth Day event will be April 26, held at the cookhouse, 8am - 12pm with litter removal and graffiti paint out.

Director Adams - the City had received a grant in 1998 to plant trees at some of the City schools and parks. Parks Superintendent Massey has taken charge of the implantation and soon 140 trees will be added to the parks. This year the LA River Ride will be June 8; the RMC has asked the City to host the Family and Youth Ride, from Hollydale Regional Park to Dills Park in Paramount and back; a press conference will also take place there; there will be many famous and infamous people attending.

#### **15. PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

Secretary Cole - wants to know who is the soccer group renting at South Gate Park? Recreation Superintendent Costley stated that currently it is Soccer World. Vice Chair Nixon stated there are leagues playing again at Circle Park. Director Adams will have Park Security patrol the park more. Secretary Cole asked if the soccer fields at the Tweedy School site going to be affected by the City's financial situation, Director Adams stated the Mayor asked that it be a priority, but at the moment, it is on hold.

Vice Chair Nixon - asked when they would offer exercise classes at the senior center again, Recreation Superintendent Costley: staff has not been able to find anyone, but there are classes at the Sports Center, seniors could use the Phone-a-Ride to go there. Feels that the

Recreation staff should supervise the Azalea Queen's Coronation more, the day of the event, she assisted the Mayor, but there should be a rehearsal so the event will go smoothly.

Commissioner Cruz - no report

Commissioner Thompson - asked Secretary Cole if the track meet was still on, Recreation Superintendent Costley replied that he has left several messages for Chris, but he has not replied. Enjoyed being 2007 Azalea Queen and Chairing the 2008 Azalea Festival, and thanked everyone for their support.

Chair Cypert - Welcomed new commissioner, Dan Cruz. Stated that Park Security disperses the soccer players from inside the tennis courts, but as soon as they leave, the play continues.

They are kicking balls against the fence, which is bowing out; also, they are starting to kick balls at the tennis net. The trashcans are being dumped out and placed on the newly planted trees. May 3 is opening day for the JAA.

**16. REQUEST FOR ITEMS ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

Chair Cypert would like to review the proposal for the Tweedy School site

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

As no further business remained, Chair Cypert asked for a motion to adjourn.

M/S/C Vice-Chair Nixon/Commissioner Thompson) to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Marvin W. Cole, Secretary  
Parks and Recreation Commission