

Regular Meeting of the  
City of Huntington Park Parks and Recreation Commission  
Wednesday, October 28, 2015

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Huntington Park, California was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 6550 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park, California.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director of Parks and Recreation, Josette Espinosa.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Commissioner Manuel Avila, Commissioner Betty Davis-Gonzalez, Commissioner Edgar Gordillo, Commissioner Jonathan Sanabria, and Commissioner Julian Zatarain. Other City Officials and employees: Josette Espinosa, Director of Parks and Recreation and Jessica Perez, Management Analyst.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

There were no public comments and/or appearances.

**STAFF RESPONSE** - None

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**1. Elections**

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Open Elections and Nominate a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson person

Parks and Recreation Director, Josette Espinosa presented item and requested a motion to nominate a Parks and Recreation Chair.

**Motion:** Commissioner Davis-Gonzalez motioned to nominate Commissioner Jonathan Sanabria as Chair. Motion was second by Commissioner Gordillo.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioner(s): Gordillo, Davis-Gonzalez and Zatarain

NOES: Commissioner(s): None

ABSTAINED: Commissioner(s): Sanabria and Avila

Director Espinosa requested a second nomination for Chair.

**Motion:** Commissioner Zatarain motioned to nominate Commissioner Manuel Avila as Chair. Motion was second by Commissioner Sanabria.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioner(s): Sanabria, Davis-Gonzalez, Zatarain, and Avila

NOES: Commissioner(s): Gordillo

Per majority vote by the Parks and Recreation Commission, Manuel Avila was elected as Chair.

Parks and Recreation Director, Josette Espinosa requested a motion to nominate a Parks and Recreation Vice Chair.

**Motion:** Commissioner Avila motioned to nominate Commissioner Jonathan Sanabria as Vice Chair. Motion was second by Commissioner Zatarain.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioner(s): Gordillo, Avila, Davis-Gonzalez, Zatarain

NOES: Commissioner(s): None

ABSTAINED: Commissioner(s): Sanabria

Per majority vote by the Parks and Recreation Commission, Jonathan Sanabria was elected as Vice Chair.

## **2. Work Plan FY 15-16**

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

### **1. Discuss and Consider Developing a Work Plan for FY 2015/2016**

Director Espinosa recommended that the Commission start to identify approximately five projects they would like to be considered for the FY 15-16 Work Plan. Director Espinosa asked the Commissioner to bring their list to the November Commission meeting for further discussion and consideration.

Management Analyst Perez asked if there was any specific information the Commission would like to help them identify potential projects for the Work Plan. Commissioner Zatarain requested more information of how the work plan is developed and the procedure involved and a list of the City's special events; Commissioner Sanabria requested a presentation on the day-to-day responsibilities of staff and how the department is operated on the ground level; Commissioner Davis-Gonzalez requested a park tour of all City parks.

### **3. Meeting Date Change**

#### **RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:**

1. Consider cancelling or changing the date of the next regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

Director Espinosa informed the Commission that the subsequent Commission meeting would land the day before Thanksgiving and recommended that the Commission consider changing the date of the meeting or to cancel it. Director Espinosa informed the Commission that the Council Chambers were available to host the meeting on Monday, November 23, 2015 or Tuesday, November 24, 2015.

**Motion:** Commissioner Sanabria motioned to reschedule the November meeting to Monday, November 23, 2015. Motion was second by Commissioner Zatarain.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioner(s): Gordillo, Avila, Davis-Gonzalez, Sanabria, Zatarain

**NOES:** Commissioner(s): None

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Creating a Healthier Huntington Park – Presentation by Department of Parks and Recreation**

Director Espinosa and Management Analyst, Jessica Perez provided the new Commission a presentation on how the Department of Parks and Recreation strives to create a healthier Huntington Park through its various divisions. Specifically, staff presented the programs offered under the Cultural Arts, Youth & Adult Sports and the Administration division.

Management Analyst Perez highlighted the personnel challenges that the department faces, with the reduction of its full time staff and the high turnover rates of part-time personnel. Implications regarding these issues were discussed, such as the reduction of services the department has had to make, in terms of programming and special

events. Staff addressed potential solutions to these issues, which included: (1) support of the LA County Parks Needs Assessment; (2) developing a marketing strategy, and (3) developing and implementing a Volunteer Program. Staff suggested that the Commission consider these items when developing their FY 15-16 Work Plan.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

1. Distribution of recreation brochures, including recreation classes and Little Dribblers program
2. Request for costume contest judges. Commissioner Avila volunteered to be a judge and Commissioner Sanabria, Davis-Gonzalez and Zatarain tentatively committed to volunteer.

#### **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS** - None

#### **COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Gordillo commented that he looked forward to working together as a commission and suggested they get involved with the programs for children and seniors and seek more program opportunities.

Commissioner Sanabria stated that he looked forward to assisting the Department with fulfilling the needs of the community.

Commissioner Davis-Gonzalez noted that she was motivated by the presentation provided by the Department and felt she is now more informed than she has ever been, to be able to assist the Department.

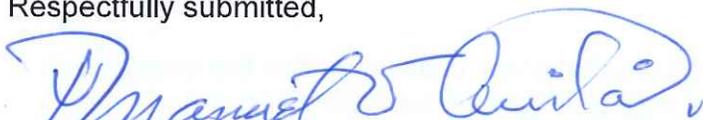
Commissioner Zatarain expressed his desire for the Commission to look at the environmental justice issues facing the City and potential policies that would help address those issues. Commissioner Zatarain also expressed interest in exploring ways of creating a more sustainable City, which included the City's park system.

Commissioner Avila commented that the Department had done a good job of being more sophisticated and was excited about the composition of the new commission and the opportunity to work with the community, once again.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:30 p.m. Chair Avila adjourned the City of Huntington Park Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Manuel Avila, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair