

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
July 14, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Reyes at 6:05 p.m. at Holifield Park, 12500 Excelsior Drive, Norwalk, California. Commission members present were: John Brammer, Thomas Golightly, and Martin Greenidge. Commissioners Ray Fernandez-Silva, Victor Juan, and Norma Merino were absent. Staff present were Chris Ponce, Recreation Supervisor and Grace Walters, Office Assistant III.

Commissioner Greenidge motioned to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Brammer seconded the motion.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Commissioner Brammer made a motion to postpone the election of officers until the following meeting in hopes that more commissioners will be present. Commissioner Greenidge seconded the motion. All in favor.

**STAFF REPORT**

**Recreation Director Position**

Staff informed the commission that Dave Verhaaf retired on July 6, 2016 from the position of Recreation Department Director after serving the City for 35 years. Currently, City Manager, Mike Egan, is conducting interviews for the position and has named Bill Kearns as Interim Director. No timeline has been provided for a permanent appointment.

**Recreation Department Update**

While on a walking tour of Holifield Park, Staff Ponce pointed out to the Commission the two playgrounds, three sets of restrooms, a full service snack bar, and a small, pre-packaged snack bar.

He also informed the Commission about the programs offered at at the park: Pony Baseball, Small Fry T-ball, Youth and Small Fry Football, and Adult Softball. The City also runs a recreation program for kids out of the office located in front of the park; this includes crafts, games, and more.

**Ceremonial Transfer Event**

The Air Force will be coming to Norwalk on August 16, 2016 for a ceremonial transfer of property, giving the City 15 acres of land from the "Tank Farm" property. The land is intended to be used to expand Holifield Park. At this time, no specific plans have been

developed for the park expansion. Plans for the rest of the park are undetermined. The Commission is invited to attend this event.

### **Commissioner Vacancies**

With the recent resignation of Councilman Marcel Rodarte, the terms of service of his commissioners also ended thus leaving the Parks & Recreation Commission with only eight commissioners. When Recreation Commissioner Kathy Porter resigned, it then left the Commission with only seven commissioners. Vice Mayor Kelley can appoint someone at any time to fill Ms. Porter's seat. The other two vacancies cannot be filled until Mr. Rodarte's Council seat is filled. City Council has yet to decide if they will make an appointment or wait until March and fill the seat via election.

The August 11, 2016 meeting will take place at Vista Verde Park. The September 8, 2016 meeting will take place at Sara Mendez Park.

### **Current/Future Programs and Events**

Staff informed the Commission about the following:

Free concerts at the City Hall Lawn take place every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. until August 10.

Friday Family Night Movies are at Norwalk Park until July 29.

The Halloween Parade will be on October 15; the assistance of the commissioners would be needed.

The Halloween Festival will be on October 31; the assistance of the commissioners would be needed at this event as well.

### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Golightly inquired about the use of fields and the Aquatic Pavilion for a soccer coach and local cheerleading team that he is acquainted with. Staff Ponce provided him with the information.

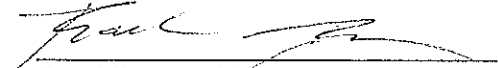
Commissioner Brammer said that he appreciates the tours of the parks and that the Recreation staff keeps the Commission up-to-date with the programs held there.

Commissioner Greenidge would like to know if a recommendation may be made to the City Council in regards to filling the vacancies within the Commission.

Vice Chairperson Reyes is happy to experience leading the commission meeting for the first time and he, too, hopes that the vacancies in the Commission will be filled soon.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Golightly moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Brammer. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Raul Reyes, Vice Chairperson

