

**CITY OF ONTARIO  
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION  
JANUARY 27, 2020  
MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** DEAN, RILEY, OVITT, TRINIDAD, BINNEY,  
CAMARENA

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** MC ALARY, GONZALEZ, HICKEY, HUISMAN,  
VALENCIA

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** SAUCEDO, NELSEN, SOTO (*excused*)

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair,  
Kenneth Dean at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Virginia Riley, Commission Member

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**M/S (BINNEY/RILEY) TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 2019 CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No Public Comments

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1. Monthly Statistical Reports for November and December 2019.

**M/S (OVITT/TRINIDAD) TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT  
FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2019 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

1. **Recreation & Community Services** – Kathy Hickey, Recreation & Community Services Manager narrated a Power Point presentation on department highlights of program activities that occurred in November and December 2019.

*A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Commission Secretary.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Election of 2020 Recreation and Parks Commission Officers**

**NOMINATION: (OVITT/RILEY) FOR KEN DEAN TO CONTINUE AS  
RECREATION AND PARKS CHAIRPERSON FOR THE 2020-2021 TERM.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**NOMINATION: (OVITT/TRINIDAD) FOR VIRGINIA RILEY AS RECREATION AND PARKS VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE 2020-2021 TERM.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Introduction of Recreation & Community Services Director** – Helen McAlary, Executive Director, Community Life & Culture announced the appointment of Nicholas Gonzalez as the Recreation and Community Services Director. Helen announced that she asked Commission Chair Ken Dean to be part of the selection process. Ken Den stated, “It was an honor to serve on one the interview panels.” He briefly explained the process. The panels met after the interviews to discuss the candidates and their qualifications and to make their recommendations. Ken shared his excitement to have Nick serve the community and the department as the new Recreation and Community Services Director.
  
2. Nick Gonzalez thanked Helen McAlary, Kathy Hickey and Ken Dean for the very robust recruitment process for the Recreation and Community Service Director position. He stated “the City of Ontario holds a really special place in my heart. I started with Revenue Services Department about 9 years ago serving as a Customer Service Specialist. For those of you who called if your trash pick-up was missed or if you had some issues with your water service, you may have talked to either myself or one of my other colleagues in that department. I am very excited to now take the role as the Recreation and Community Services Director and to lead the team into great success. 2020 is going to be a big year to us. I am bringing with me project management experience, community needs assessments, marketing and public relations that will help the department step into the next level. I cannot forget Julie Dorey’s 34 years of dedication and all her hard work in the department. Obviously, she has been a tremendous support especially to management and to myself as I was going through this recruitment. I also look forward to working with all of you! As we discussed previously when I was in my role as CLC Officer, we have a fee study that we will be rolling out soon. We will look at more ways of enhancing revenues to our department to be more competitive in the region. My goal is to make sure we are the top recreation department in the Inland Empire and Southern California. I hope to build up the leadership skills for all the great staff that we have and to work with all of you, to make sure you have all the tools and resources to go out into the community and be champions and advocates for everything we do in Recreation and Parks. I’m very excited to work with all of you in 2020 and in the years to come. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the City of Ontario in the Recreation and Community Services Department and work with the community one piece at a time.

**REMINDERS:**

1. Kathy shared upcoming events with the Commission.
  - a. State of the city will be held on March 24, 2020 please let Ann know if you’ll be attending.

## **COMMENTS:**

- VALENCIA:** “We missed adding to the upcoming event slide the February O.Y.A.L. Soccer Clinic event with the Ontario Fury. I attended last year and had an amazing time! The Police and Fire Departments interacted with the participants. It was a great experience! I talked to all the parents and they were very appreciative of this program and what it’s doing for their kids. I commend your staff for bringing that back again!”
- RILEY:** “I want to welcome Nick, it will be a pleasure working with you! I liked the new Reindeer Run route! It was fun to talk and walk in the area we live in. The Ovitt’s and I have a historical view after living here for so long and we walked and reminisced about people we all knew that used to live around the same area. I was disappointed in the craft fair after the event and I didn’t purchase any items.”
- OVITT:** “Congratulations Nick, I look forward to working with you! Helen, congratulations on the Maloof event! It was wonderful! I agree with Virginia about The Reindeer Run. It was fun going through the neighborhoods. I was wondering at the beginning of the event if the route would work out, but it ended up being very nice. The weather wasn’t very cooperative I must admit. We did buy some bread at the craft fair. One problem I’ve noticed, when you go to craft shows, there are not as many quality craftsperson’s around. You can buy all kinds of prefabricated commercial type items such as sports items etc. Not a lot of homemade crafts like they used to have. I wish you all a very happy New Year. Also, congratulations to our 2020 Commission Officers!”
- TRINIDAD:** “Congratulations Nick, I can’t wait to work with you! One of the things you mentioned is that you wanted to look at community needs. I’ve received comments from people in the community that permits are an issue for using the parks and facilities. I would like to work on that and maybe see if I can get a copy of the policy in issuing out permits. Also, I was looking at our website and going through to see if it is easy to flow through. I noticed some inconsistencies in the Parks section with phone numbers pertaining to facilities related to community centers. It is mis-leading and doesn’t guide you to the right information. Can you have staff look into it? Also, regarding AED machines, do all community centers have them? Are they accessible to the public or are they behind the counter? Lastly, it was awesome having the 5K downtown!”
- HICKEY:** “All AED machines are accessible to public and employees at all centers.”
- BINNEY:** “I hope you all had a good holiday and I wish everyone a good New Year. The venue for the Reindeer Run in Downtown is a better place. The parking was much more convenient in getting to the run.”

**CAMARENA:** “Welcome Nick, I can see how well qualified you are for this job! Happy New Year to everyone!”

**DEAN:** “Once again Nick, congratulations!”

**M/S (BINNEY/OVITT) ADJOURNED THE MEETING. NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

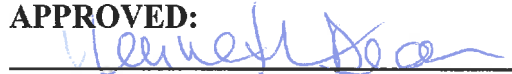
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 6:40 PM**



Ann Huisman, Recording Secretary

**APPROVED:**



Kenneth Dean, Chairperson