

**CITY OF ONTARIO
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
May 2019
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: DEAN, NELSEN, RILEY, BINNEY, OVITT,
TRINIDAD, SAUCEDO, ZENDEJAS, MEDINA

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: MC ALARY, HICKEY, SALGADO,
FAZLURREHMAN, HORTA, HUISMAN

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Brittany Zendejas, Student Representative

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

M/S (BINNDY/RILEY) TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR MARCH 2019 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comments

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Monthly Statistical Reports for March and April 2019.

M/S (BINNEY/OVITT) TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2019 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. **Recreation and Community Services** – Kathy Hickey, Recreation and Community Services Manager narrated a Power Point presentation on department highlights of center activities that occurred in March and April 2019.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Y.E.S. Update/Aquatics** – Kathy Hickey, Manager stated that she was asked at the previous Commission meeting to confirm the amount of Y.E.S. participants who completed the Lifeguard and or the Water Safety Instructor classes in the summer of 2018. Ms. Hickey confirmed that there were four Y.E.S. participants who passed their tests. A total of eight students completed the program and became members of our staff. The Y.E.S. recipients who complete the program successfully and work at least 100 hours

in their first summer will receive a reimbursement. The question was also asked if we could offer more lessons this summer. At this time, we are at capacity and offering the same number of classes as we did last year. We are limited by the amount of staff hours and locations that we have and the amount of lessons we can legally offer each day.

2. **O.Y.A.L. Update** – Amber Fazlurrehman, Coordinator reported to the Commission that the program was initially spearheaded by Mayor pro Tem Ruben Valencia. Our program kicked-off this past April with sixteen participants ranging in age from ten to fifteen years old. They paired up with *First Tee*, a national golf company along with Gary Nichols, a golf professional from Whispering Lakes Golf Course who together provided instructions for the O.Y.A.L. participants. *First Tee* is a national program that is trying to inspire and instill the love of golf to today's youth. Many golf courses are challenged, some have been closing due to water costs, maintenance and land issues. Two city staff mentors are on board with us, Dave Coots from the Parks Department and Gabe Gutierrez from the Police Department. At the end of the golf outing, a meal at Graziano's was provided for the participants. This Thursday will be their last golf lesson for the season. We will start up the program again in August. We have been ordering a variety of participant incentives such as hats, shirts, back packs and travel water bottles that they can use for excursions. Ms. Fazlurrehman added that Mayor pro Tem Valencia, *First Tee*, and Whispering Lakes Golf Course provided golf clubs. She also added that Los Angeles County has a similar program and members of the Commission stated it would be fun to have a tournament between the two programs. Ms. Fazlurrehman stated that O.Y.A.L. will collaborate with Ontario Montclair School District as they will recommend children in need of the benefits this program has to offer. The program is free to all participants. Our City Council has supported funding. Plans for a beach trip, Knotts Berry Farm and other excursions are coming together for the fall program. They will be looking for additional mentors to join in as the program grows. As the participants complete the program each year, they will focus on transitioning them into the T.A.C. program.
3. **Student Representative Recruitment Update** – Kathy Hickey, Manager reported that four applicants were submitted this year. Two students are from Chaffey High School and two are from Ontario High School. You will meet them at our next Commission meeting and voting will take place as we elect our new Student Representative and Alternate Student Representative.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Helping Kids and Communities RISE** – Mark J. Lillis, Executive Director, *The Leaven* shared with the Commission *The Leaven's* organization mission. They work with members of local communities, parents and volunteers who team together to provide a safe place for children, kindergarten through 5th grade. They offer tutoring, socialization and mentorships to children in communities that have known gang and criminal activities to help decrease the crime rates. The organization converts rooms in apartment complexes into tutoring/mentoring centers. Currently, *The Leaven* has a center on 4th Street near the Anthony Munoz Park. They provide daily after school tutoring and mentoring. It is a cooperative between the city, school district and the faith community. Local police departments in the areas where we have established centers have reported a 60% drop in crime. Mr. Lillis shared a video presentation of the program to the Commission. He

stated they also partner with local police, fire departments, ambulance companies and the military. He stated they work to change communities from the inside out. They appreciate that the City of Ontario has given them the ability to serve in Ontario and they hope to do more. Their organization has been having conversations with the City Manager regarding future opportunities and locations.

COMMENTS:

NELSEN: “I am very impressed that you are providing a “safe haven” for children. Kids are growing up in a very different society with a lot of added negative outside influences.”

OVITT: “When I worked in my past position at the County, we had a chance to visit the center in Rialto. It was an amazing story, yet we had heard about conflicts. The Fire Department would not go in to assist anyone without Police escorts because it was so dangerous. After a short period of time, they started getting fewer calls. Now, they feel safe to go in and have barbeques with the local community. Families participate in supporting everything at the center because they’ve seen the positive results of the program.”

2. **Ontario Museum of History and Art** – Rebecca Horta, Museum Curator of Education, shared a presentation and report to the Commission regarding the programs, partnerships, permanent and revolving exhibits at the Ontario Museum of History and Art. Ms. Horta invited everyone to stop and visit and to spread the word among friends and family. She shared that the museum just recently renovated their gardens which is now a “Water Conservation Focused Garden.” They provide tours of the native and non-native plants that can help save water not only for us but for our future generations. Ms. Horta stated the Ontario Museum of History and Art offers several 3-day summer camps that focus on arts, dance and science during spring and summer breaks. Registration fee is \$60 per child. The museum also has a scholarship program to assist with qualified low-income participants. Ms. Horta shared photos of the recent Arts and Culture Awards dinner held on April 25, 2019. Two artists were honored Tony Sheets, Sam Maloof and Randal Lewis who is a local art supporter and entrepreneur. The event helped support the exhibits and programs offered by the Museum Associates in coordination with the Arts Agency.

COMMENTS:

BINNEY: “It was so nice to see the event at the Ontario Senior Center handing out wrist bands for the *Care Harbor* event at the Pomona Fairplex. When you think about what Medicare does not cover, it’s wonderful to offer our seniors the opportunity to get the additional health care they need. I also had the opportunity to attend the annual Talent Show at the De Anza Community and Teen Center. I’d like to suggest for next year, that the Commission as a group to consider providing some healthy refreshments during intermission.”

SAUCEDO: “I had the opportunity to go to the grand opening of the James. R. Bryant Dog Park. It was outstanding! I’ve never seen so many dogs at one time! I live in that area and drive by daily. Now since the grand opening, the park is always

busy with families with their dogs. It's neat to see that it will be utilized to the maximum. Kudos to the staff who planned and ran the event. You're all so professional. I am always blown away with how things really go together and run so smoothly. It's a lot of hard work behind the scenes. You do an outstanding job. I really appreciate everything you all do!"

RILEY: "I want to mention the excellent *Soroptimist Prism Lunch and Awards Ceremony* last month. We honored *Daphne Vizcarra* who won the *Violet Richardson Award*, also *Maria Alonzo* for her work with the *Huerta Del Valle Community Garden* in Ontario. The Soroptimist also had their first booth at the May 15th Culture Festival at Ontario Town Square. We plan to return next year. The James R. Bryant Dog Park grand opening was very fun. I remember how that park has evolved over the years and now it is a place that everyone feels it's safe, pleasant and inviting to the community."

OVITT: "James R. Bryant Park used to be the site of my elementary school. Helen, in the short time you've been overseeing the Community Life and Culture Agency, it's amazing to see how all three departments are all working so well together. I give you credit. Some great things are coming from your combined effort including the Arts and Culture Awards dinner. *Randal Lewis* is very involved in this community. It was a very nice evening. The food was excellent too! Of course, as always, our Recreation Department has always been stellar. You continue to do well and the same for the Museum and Library. We are just proud to be here!"

TRINIDAD: "Gary said it all! Thank you to *Mark Lillis* for coming tonight and sharing your presentation on *The Leaven*. Regarding a couple of park issues, I am wondering if there is a system or plan on the placement of trash cans in the parks? Can someone make a recommendation for placement in a certain park?"

HICKEY: "We recently added a trash can at John Galvin by the Little League field. Just bring it to our attention and we can pass on the information to our Parks Department."

TRINIDAD: "Recently I was at Westwind out near their Little League field and noticed there are some large trees that have roots that stick out above the ground and could be a tripping hazard."

HICKEY: "I will talk with the Supervisor at Westwind and will also contact our Parks Department to have them check on the area."

TRINIDAD: "Will the Mentors for the O.Y.A.L. program be recognized for their volunteer hours?"

HICKEY: "The program is still new and developing. At some point we will honor and recognize the mentors for their time and efforts. We currently have two active mentors who are city employees. We will be giving out certificates of

appreciation to them. They will also be invited to our Annual Volunteer Banquet.”

ZENDEJAS: “Thank you to all of today’s presenters. It’s nice to see the growth of all the departments involved with Community Life and Culture Agency.”

MEDINA: “One of the main things I’ve learned is the amount of people who are behind the scenes that make Ontario the community that it is. It goes to show how Ontario is growing when I listen to all of the presentations about our progress.”

NELSEN: “I also attended the James R. Bryant Dog Park Grand Opening. It was beautiful to see everything involved. My comment to *Mr. Lillis*, what an incredible program this is. To provide kids a “safe haven” so they can learn. What a great mentoring tool. I’d also like to remind everyone that I’ll be passing out tickets for the Kiwanis Annual Pancake Breakfast on June 1st. Please come and enjoy.”

DEAN: “Thank you to all of tonight’s presenters. Helen, kudos to you! We didn’t see this happening before you came into the picture. All those different arms worked well but they just weren’t working together. It’s so nice to witness first-hand. Also, welcome back! Going back to the Soroptimist luncheon in April, it was quite impressive! I am so proud of Daphne as she presented herself not only as a T.A.C. member but also a wonderful representation of the Ontario Recreation Department!

THE NEXT RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON JUNE 24, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER.

M/S (BINNEY/TRINIDAD) MEETING ADJOURNED.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 7:16 PM



Ann Huisman, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Kenneth Dean, Chairperson