

**CITY OF ONTARIO
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: DEAN, NELSEN, RILEY, BINNEY, OVITT,
TRINIDAD, SAUCEDO, SOTO

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: MCALARY, DOREY, AYALA, FLORES, ROMERO
HUISMAN, VALENCIA

MEMBERS ABSENT: CAMARENA

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair,
Kenneth Dean at 6:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Julissa Soto, Alternate Student Representative

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**M/S (BINNEY/TRINIDAD) TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 2019 CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comments

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Monthly Statistical Reports for August 2019.

M/S (RILEY/NELSEN) 2019 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Jay Littleton Ball Park Historic Structure Report** - Diane Ayala, City of Ontario Senior Planner introduced Emily Rinaldi, Associate Architectural Historian for the Galvin Preservation Association. Ms. Rinaldi presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission of their historic structure report for Jay Littleton Ball Park. She stated that the City of Ontario received a CLG Grant to complete the project. They engaged *GPA Consulting*, an interdisciplinary firm, specializing in environmental planning, biology and history preservation. *GPA Consulting* works on a wide range of projects including historical contesting statements, historical resource surveys and historical structure reports. Included in her presentation were prioritized recommendations for treatments, a “Five-Year Plan” and recommendations for further study. See attached slides that highlight Ms. Rinaldi’s presentation for reference purposes.

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

COMMENTS:

BINNEY: “Will you consider using wood materials or alternative products? We’d like to use materials that will last.”

RINALDI: “Our team recommends the use of wood to keep the integrity of this historical site. Possibly cedar which is very durable.”

DEAN: “There are so many more choices of woods and wood treatments out there now that can also help maintain the preservation of the structure.”

NELSEN: “Did you notice termite damage?”

RINALDI: “We saw split structure and peeling wood and normal wear and tear. We did not notice termite damage.”

SAUCEDO: “Normally in structures as these, you would notice dry rot or splitting because of moisture. In most cases, Douglas fir is one of the most common woods and redwood was also used at that time. Whatever species were available at that time was utilized. There are so many different methods treating the wood now. There are many different species of wood that can be more durable than the original wood that was used.”

RINALDI: “Another recommendation we had was to do further studies as to what type of wood that was originally used to ensure what we will utilize with possible new types of wood that would expand and shrink naturally and not deteriorate.”

AYALA: “This process is what historic preservation means and how we implement it. We are looking into what types of materials and options. It’s walking that balance and making decisions and what you choose to preserve the character with the best options that you have available to you. Technology is great now. The first step in going out and ascertaining what is the original wood would be a significant benchmark for us in moving forward.”

2. **Early Literacy - Daisy Flores, Youth Services Supervising Librarian** offered a PowerPoint presentation on a new program, *Little Learners, Big Futures*. This was funded by a \$71,000 grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act administered in California by the State Librarian. This project is focused on early learning for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The program will benefit children ages 0-5 and their parent/caregivers. The program will be implemented through “Neighborhood Book Nooks” and special story time with programming called the “Family Place” focusing on books for that age group for children and their parents. We chose to focus on early learning for several reasons that benefit both the city and the community including the reduction in crime and poverty and the high return on investment. *Little Learners, Big Futures* is focused outward, meaning it’s about the community and because of that the components of the project will be out in

the community rather than just in the library. The two main components are semi-permanent libraries and pop up library programs.

For more details, a copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

3. **Water Conservation Report 2018/2019** – Brian Romero, Irrigation Conservation Specialist shared his official updated report. The City Converted (2) areas of turf into California Friendly Landscape at De Anza Park and Veterans Memorial Park. City staff applied for and received a rebate for the De Anza Park turf removal project and will receive a \$23,586.00 rebate check from So. Cal Water. The department upgraded (4) *Calsense* controllers to the new 3000 version which gives the department the ability to make changes from any electronic device from anywhere. The new version gives a real time ET (Evapotranspiration) for additional water savings. Mr. Romero also shared the department's 3-year plan update for the fiscal year 2019/2020.
 - a. FY 18/19 Water consumption savings: 22.5% savings from state mandated fiscal year 13/14.
 - i. A Savings of 187,619,652 gallons

For more details, a copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. **Recreation and Community Services** – Julie Dorey, Recreation and Community Services Director narrated a Power Point presentation on department highlights of program activities that occurred in August 2019.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. No Old Business

REMINDERS:

1. Halloween Costume Contest Judging, 2:00 PM October 31, 2019 at the Ontario Senior Center.
2. Commission Holiday Dinner will be combined with other boards from the City. Date and time TBA.

COMMENTS:

VALENCIA: "I'm wondering if we have that book-shelf program that Daisy mentioned also at our community centers?"

DOREY: "Currently, the library has a very successful book program at our Senior Center. We've tried having in the past at our community centers. We are looking forward to our upcoming mobile program which will allow us to not only go into neighborhoods with recreation and museum programs but with early literacy programming from our library for our community centers as well."

VALENCIA: “A couple of months ago, I was visiting my office late at night and even though we have a lot of signage for “no skateboarding” there were about six kids out skateboarding in the parking lot. I got them together and asked them about their skateboarding experiences in the city of Ontario. They all said their parents get upset with them because they must go out into other cities to utilize their skateparks. There are no skateparks that are close to their homes. I met with a couple of them at the Chino skatepark. That place was thriving. There were so many kids out there with their families, it was amazing. It’s been there for many years. These kids all said the problem is by the time they get all the way down there and their parents call them, they get in trouble because they have a long way to return home. I also learned that Chino brags about being one of the 100 top family friendly cities to live in. I challenge you to put your thinking caps on so we can strive to have that same distinction as well. I think we go beyond the usual, that’s the way we operate in this city. Let’s try to figure out how we can get that distinction of the top 100 kid friendly places to be.”

NELSEN: “Liability is the main reason why we don’t have a skatepark. The many injuries that occurred at the Vans Skatepark that was at the Ontario Mills is why the concern for liability is so high.”

VALENCIA: “My challenge is to find out how Chino is thriving with their skatepark? What are they doing and why is it still in existence? We can’t always just say it’s because of liability. Think about this, liability is also carried in our parking lot here. That same child that doesn’t have a skatepark gets injured, what happens then? Same liability, same fire department call. We can’t just say it’s liability. Water features in our parks can be a liability. I’m sure you’ve all looked at different parks and facilities for these types of amenities and we have to provide that for our residents.”

RILEY: “Montclair has had one for quite some time now.”

VALENCIA: “We’ve talked about it before as far as locations. Probably the best area would be in central Ontario. That’s why you’re all picked to be in the positions you’re in. You’re the best. You are the thinkers. That’s why I’m putting it out there.”

BINNEY: “Mayor pro Tem Valencia brings up a good point. One of the things we can really brag about is our schools. With all their vocational programs preparing kids for full time jobs. My nephew being one of them. He graduated Chaffey’s vocational program. He went on to Fontana Metal Works and is now in a full-time job. He continues to take classes to further his credential. Our schools are really something we can brag about. Also, our parks are so beautiful, safe and well maintained. We have a lot that we can talk about here in Ontario and I am very proud of. We also have very strong and active/healthy Senior programs. Thank you for that comment, we have to also focus on our children.”

TRINIDAD: “I think we discussed a skatepark in the recent past at Grove and 4th. I think it’s something we should look in to again. I’d like to discuss the soccer complex. I’m wondering if we could consider adding restrooms in the outer fields. I also

wonder if the soccer complex is open on the holidays so that families can go and enjoy.”

DOREY: “We don’t typically close it down unless there is a reason. I will check into it and get back with you. There might be certain holidays we don’t have it opened or it could be closed for field maintenance. I will get back with you.”

SOTO: “I really enjoyed seeing teens involved and going on field trips. I feel we should provide more opportunities for the teens from other centers to get together and interact. I really enjoyed this meeting. I like how the Seniors have little celebrations. I volunteered for the Senior Prom; it was a lot of fun.”

RILEY: “Great car show this last weekend! Soroptimists are holding their annual casino night on Saturday. We have invited ten seniors to attend at no cost to them. I hope they have a good time and win one of our ten grand prizes. I appreciate getting all the different reports at our Commission meetings. The information is so widespread, and I really appreciate it.”

SAUCEDO: “I’d like to thank all the staff and everything that goes into making the city what it is. We do an outstanding job not just in the parks but with our overall programming and services we provide for the youth. Thank you to Mayor pro Tem Valencia for bringing up the skatepark. I have driven by so many skateparks wondering why the City of Ontario doesn’t have one. I understand that sometimes our youth seek other facilities in other cities, and we don’t want to necessarily see that, but they do because we don’t have something for them. When you’re a skateboarder, you’re a skateboarder. They most likely aren’t interested in basketball or swimming. I’m hoping that there’s some way we can work it out where there can be a skate park and even water features for the younger kids. With Mayor pro Tem Valencia wanting the same thing, that’s an advantage we have. Hopefully we can put on our thinking caps together to provide something in the not too far away future. I hope we can all come together and work something out.”

NELSEN: “I am so proud that ballpark is named after Jay Littleton. Thank you so much that this facility will be preserved and taken care of. This is Ontario history! Thank-you Brian, for the Water Conservation report. I’m so proud of Ontario for all their water conservation efforts. We are far ahead as a city. We’re always striving to learn from others. I’m inviting everyone tonight to attend the Bellevue Cemetery Tour on October 12th at 10:00 AM sponsored by the Ontario Heritage Group. Ontario has such a rich history of successful businesses and those that help build the community into what it is today. We will have actors acting out the scenes of some of the lives of those that are buried there.”

DEAN: “I just love hearing the presentations from the other departments. It really gives us a better perspective.”

M/S (BINNEY/NELSEN) ADJOURNED THE MEETING. NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 7:33 PM



Ann Huisman, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Kenneth Dean, Chairperson