



MINUTES  
Recreation and Community Services Commission  
Adjourned Regular Meeting  
June 12, 2024

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MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Veronica Lucio.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Kristie Larison.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE: The Oath of Office was administered to Commissioner Anitza Valles.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Veronica Lucio  
Commissioner Dave Allen  
Commissioner Kristie Larison  
Commissioner Ted Spaseff  
Commissioner Anitza Valles

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of May 8, 2024. A motion was made by Commissioner Kristie Larison and seconded by Commissioner Ted Spaseff to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2024. Minutes were approved as submitted with Commissioner Anitza Valles abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Assistant Director Kevin Bright informed the commission that at a recent City Council meeting, City Council approved the two-year budget, from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. He noted that the commission would receive the annual report detailing the Recreation and Community Services Budget at the July commission meeting.

Mr. Bright shared that at the City Council meeting, the mayor had requested a study session to hear the status of the Lakewood Equestrian Center. As such, the council meeting was adjourned to the study session, scheduled for Tuesday, June 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the Weingart Ballroom at The Centre. The commission was encouraged to attend.

Next, Mr. Bright provided information on upcoming programming and events. He shared that on Saturday, June 15, the LYS Opening Day Ceremony would take place with 90 baseball, softball and t-ball teams raring to start the summer season. It was said that the parade begins at 9:30 a.m. with the ceremony concluding around 10:15 a.m. The commission was asked to RSVP with their secretary if interested in attending.

Mr. Bright announced that both Mayfair and McCormick pools would open for full summer programming on Saturday, June 15. Youth swim lessons, the Junior Lifeguards Program, lap swim, water aerobics and daily recreation swim will be in full swing.

The commission was informed that the Civic Center Block Party was scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 29. Mr. Bright noted that the event opens at 4 p.m. with stage entertainment. Then at 5 p.m. the headlining act, *The MVPs*, will rock Clark Avenue into the night. As always, the On the Block Food Court will offer a variety of delicacies, while the Family Fun Zone gives kids a

place to play, jump and slide throughout the evening. The crowning event is the Fireworks Spectacular, launched from the Costco parking lot at Lakewood Center at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Bright mentioned that staff would be busy setting up, maintaining cleanliness and safety, and ensuring Clark Avenue and the Civic Center return to looking pristine and untouched following the event.

Finally, Mr. Bright shared that at the July commission meeting, the commission will be presented the RCS budget for fiscal year 2024-25. Also at the meeting, the annual commission reorganization will occur, at which a new Chair and Co-Chair will be nominated and elected by the commission. Also at the July meeting, the RCS supervisors, the program coordinator, and the ERD lead workers will present to the commission.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff shared that he attended the Pan Am Fiesta at Mayfair Park, the Memorial Day Ceremony at Del Valle Park, the Summer Kick-off at Monte Verde Park, and the Car Show at Palms Park. He mentioned that the events were well attended, highly organized and had a great turnout. He commended staff for a job well done.

Commissioner Anitza Valles shared that her daughters play softball for another city, but have games at Lisa Fernandez Field often. She mentioned that she, and the other parents were always very impressed with how nicely maintained the field is and how helpful staff are.

Vice Chairperson Veronica Lucio mentioned that the Summer Kick-off event is a great way to build comradery. She thanked Commissioner Dave Allen for speaking at the event on behalf of the commission. She also shared that she attended the Memorial Day Ceremony, and stated that it was a very nice event.

## REPORTS:

### **1. Commission FY 24-25 Work Calendar Adoptions**

Mr. Bright presented the FY 24-25 Work Calendar for the RCS Commission. He reminded the commission that these reports would be presented to the commission throughout the course of the fiscal year. Mr. Bright informed the commission that at any time they may request from staff an opportunity to report on something new.

Mr. Bright recommended that the commission adopt the FY 24-25 Recreation Commission Work Calendar.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dave Allen and seconded by Vice Chairperson Veronica Lucio.

The secretary took roll and with a unanimous vote, the work calendar was adopted by the commission.

### **2. DASH Transit Annual Report**

Community Services Manager Chuck Martucci displayed slides and provided the commission with information regarding the DASH Transit program in 2023. Mr. Martucci provided the commission with DASH Transit personnel updates. He shared that

new staff included two new members of the dispatching team, and three new members of the driving team.

Mr. Martucci provided DASH rider statistics as noted in the written report.

Information regarding the new dispatching software, *My Senior Center*, recently installed on all DASH buses, was provided by Mr. Martucci. He noted that the software contained two main components, an online web-based program called the dispatcher's module and a tablet-based application called the driver's module. Information regarding the new software was provided as noted in the written report.

Mr. Martucci reminded the commission that the DASH Transit program also oversees the Adult Travel Trip program. He shared that DASH recently hosted several exciting travel trips including a trip to Sofi Stadium; *Tina* the Musical; Warner Brother's Studio; Danish Day Fest in Solvang; LA Zoo Lights; *MJ* the Musical; *The Wiz* the Musical; Carlsbad Flower Fields and Outlets; Whale Watching; and the Carlsbad Village Street Faire.

Commissioner Valles shared that she used to use public transit, and commented that the state of the public transit system was not great, or safe. She noted that it was great to have DASH to provide safe transportation for the senior population in Lakewood. Mr. Martucci confirmed for her that only minor safety incidents have happened on DASH buses. Mr. Bright added that DASH drivers are very attentive and that DASH provides an incredibly safe form of transportation, as no major accidents have been recorded.

The commission received and filed the annual report on DASH Transit.

### **3. Landscape and Turf Maintenance Annual Report**

Environmental Resources Division Supervisor Mike McDade displayed slides and provided the commission with information regarding landscape and turf maintenance activities in 2023. Mr. McDade reported that in the last year ERD staff has been busy completing numerous projects throughout the city including a second phase of improvements at the Arbor Yard; a beautification project at the Carson Street entrance to Phase I of The Nature Trail; maintenance at the Department of Water and Power (DWP) sites that run throughout Lakewood; a turf renovation, and over-seeding at Home Run Dog Park; and the replacement of old atmospheric backflow prevention units along street turf panels. Details regarding said projects were provided by Mr. McDade as noted in the written report.

Mr. McDade introduced ERD Lead Worker Edward Salas to the commission. Mr. Salas assisted Mr. McDade in presenting to the commission, a brand new backflow device. He explained that the device was exactly what ERD staff install throughout the city.

Mr. McDade confirmed for Commissioner Kristie Larison that only six of 80 planned backflow devices had been installed to date. He explained that it was a time-consuming process, and the goal was to install 12 per year.

Mr. McDade confirmed for Commissioner Allen that galvanized piping has greater longevity than plastic PVC piping.

Mr. McDade informed Commissioner Larison that contractors hired by the Water Department test the backflow devices annually.

Commissioner Spaseff commented that all businesses are also required to have annual inspections done on their backflow devices as well. He commended staff for their hard work in installing the backflows in addition to completing all of their daily tasks. He explained that it was beyond regular maintenance, and was amazing that staff could execute the work in-house.

Mr. McDade provided Commissioner Valles with information regarding potable and reclaimed water use throughout the city.

The commission received and filed the annual report on Landscape and Turf Maintenance.

**4. Commission Newsletter No. 12**

A written report of the Recreation and Community Services Department programs, events, services and maintenance activities for the month of May and a listing of upcoming activities for July 2024.

The Commission received and filed the report.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Letter to CJ Martucci, Employee of the Month for March 2024.
2. Thank you letter for Caitlin Carioso
3. Appreciation from Lakewood High School Softball

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Vice Chairperson Lucio adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m. to Wednesday, July 10 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary  
Recreation and Community Services Commission