

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: DEAN, RILEY, NELSEN, OVITT, BINNEY, SAUCEDO, CAMARENA

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: MCALARY, GONZALEZ, HUISMAN, HICKEY, MICHALAK, VALENCIA

MEMBERS ABSENT: TRINIDAD, SOTO (EXCUSED)

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Kenneth Dean at 6:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Rita Nelsen, Commission Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

M/S (SAUCEDO/RILEY) TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2020 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comments

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Monthly Statistical Reports for February and March 2020.

M/S (RILEY/BINNEY) TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2020 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. **Recreation & Community Services** – Nick Gonzalez, Recreation & Community Services Director, narrated a PowerPoint presentation on department highlights of program activities that occurred in February and March 2020.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

1. **COVID-19 Department Impacts** – Nicholas Gonzalez, Recreation & Community Services Director reported we closed all our facilities until further notice on March 17. This included all our community centers, parks, playgrounds, fitness equipment, courts and all fields. Nicholas Gonzalez informed the Commission that we rotated all our staff into telecommuting status which is completely different from what we are all accustomed to. Although facilities are closed, we are still managing with full and part time staff at each community center, Monday through Friday until 6 PM. We are working closely with our part time staff to make sure we are giving them at least an average amount of hours that they have been working in the past six months. We are putting out a lot of great content in partnership with the Library and Museum on social media through the Community Life & Culture Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. We have challenged our staff to be creative by offering virtual programming since our community centers are closed during this time. Our Senior Center has been focusing on enhancing the quality of life of our seniors which is very important. We want our Ontario seniors to know they are not alone in this. Our team has acted quickly in putting together the senior meals program and the senior newsletter which is published bi-weekly. We have also activated a senior hotline, Monday through Friday from 8 AM – 6 PM. We are serving over 1,500 meals each week through the senior meals program. We continue to partner with FSA (Family Services Association) each Wednesday for congregate meals. Additionally, our team at the De Anza Community & Teen Center partnered with our Human Resources Department and created posters that have positive messages that say “Keep up the Good Work” and “Stay Strong”. They put them up at every city facility, fire station and Police Department. It’s uplifting that we are showing positive messaging throughout all city departments. We have recently opened some of our green spaces for passive use only. Restrooms, playgrounds, courts and sports fields are all still closed. We are also ensuring the community observes responsible social distancing and is wearing a mask or face covering in our parks. We sent some staff out over this past weekend to survey parks. Whispering Lakes Golf Course also opened on Saturday and are following similar guidelines. Golfing is by reservation only. Walking or single riders in carts and masks are always to be used by all players. The driving range and putting greens are closed. As the Stay at Home Order is still in effect until May 15, we know that large gatherings are not going to be able to take place for some time. All of our events, programs, classes are cancelled through May 31. We are currently working on what all our summer programming will look like including aquatics. We have several contingency plans we are working on with all our departments and making sure we are abiding by all city protocols. We look forward to opening our facilities as soon as we receive authorization. Our staff want to be out there and serve the community, it’s very different for us to see our parks and playgrounds with fencing up, but we are fortunate that we have the creativity of our staff in the virtual programs we offer as we plan ahead for the future.
2. **Update on Recreation and Parks Master Plan** – Nicholas Gonzalez, Recreation & Community Services Director updated the Commission stating as we have embarked on the Recreation & Parks Master Plan. We are surveying all of our parks and community centers. We are currently developing different types of surveys with the consultant and

will start pushing that out to the community in the next few weeks. A lot of this will come from stakeholder engagement such as yourselves and our staff. Our consultant has created an interactive GIS story map to capture some comments and suggestions from the community. As more information comes on this entire project, you will be informed about what the next steps are going to be. Additionally, the consultant will include everything in our parks and put together a comprehensive list of all equipment, playgrounds and the condition of the parks including a full park analysis.

REMINDERS:

1. State of the City is still scheduled for June 23, 2020 but if things change, all parties will be notified.

COMMENTS:

VALENCIA: “Thank you for participating in this manner tonight. I want to give a special shout-out to the Recreation Department and all our staff. I was able to see them in action, and it meant a lot. At the time when the COVID-19 issue became official in Southern California, I was participating in the C.P.R.S. Convention in Long Beach. I witnessed our staff leave the convention in the manner that they did to go out there without skipping a beat. It speaks about who we have as our staff and our Commissioners. We are all in this together and I just love being part of this organization. Thank you all!”

BINNEY: “I wanted to say it’s very nice to see that the City of Ontario’s Recreation Department is offering so much to the community and offering as much as we can during this time. It’s nice to see the alliances between the city and the businesses for the kids. The events at Big Al’s and John’s Incredible Pizza for the O.Y.A. L. participants is wonderful. I had a chance to view the senior lunch pick up, it was so well organized. It was extremely safe and kudos to staff. I also want to say kudos to all the Commissioners here and the Recreation Department, you’re doing a great job for the community. It’s time for us to unite and work together.”

SAUCEDO: “I’d like to echo what Marty Binney said, because of the circumstances we’re in. Who would have thought that all the creative programs and things that have developed in such a positive light even though there has been sadness due to loved ones having succumbed to this ugly virus that is out there. Our prayers and thoughts are with those families. I’d really like to take my hat off to the staff that have stepped up and gone and above and beyond what people can do and show their care for our seniors and for one another. I’d like to thank Nick and the rest of the staff who put this meeting together for us, we really appreciate it and look forward to when this is over and we can see everyone once again person.”

OVITT: “I certainly echo that. One thing I would mention is the students not being able to go to school and parents having to take on the burden for educating

them as well as providing them opportunities something to do while at home. Our staff is doing a great job in providing those opportunities for the young people to do something positive though it be virtual connection. Chaffey College is in the same situation and our professors were given two weeks to have some training done so they could provide the kind of curriculum they need to in a virtual setting. I don't know if the staff at the city has had that kind of training, but they really stepped up and are providing something special."

NELSEN: "It's so nice to be with you all tonight, I miss you! Thank you to Council Member, Ruben Valencia for joining us. Thank you, Nick, for the wonderful job you're doing and to all your staff. Thank you for the notebooks we received. It's a great idea. Ken Dean, if you don't mind, Bill Robertson who owned Bill & Wags passed away several weeks ago. He used to give us his flatbed truck for the parade and has done so much for the Ontario community. If we can, please adjourn this meeting in honor of Bill Robertson, he was a wonderful man and strong member of our community."

CAMARENA: "I would just like to say how nice it is to see all of your wonderful faces; I miss you so much. I've been stuck here at home doing my on-line homework. Working on projects around the house for over a month of isolation. Thank you to all those that are working on fighting this coronavirus."

RILEY: "I echo everyone and thank Nick and his staff in coordinating the meeting in this unusual fashion. Maybe next time I'll get the hang of a Zoom meeting. Thank you for the nice binder that showed up at my front door. My husband and I have been walking around the neighborhoods and it's nice to see our neighbors. I thank everyone and hopefully, in June or July, we'll get together in person."

DEAN: "I just want to say thanks to everyone for making this work tonight. This has been nice. I'm excited that you're all well and that your families are equally as well. Thank you to Nick for all the information and Ann for all your help as always. Everyone stay well and safe!"

DUE TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY, THE NEXT REGULAR RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 18, 2020 AT 6:00 PM. OBSERVING THE SAFER AT HOME ORDERS, THE MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM. INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COMMISSION AND THE PUBLIC WILL BE POSTED WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

M/S (BINNEY/OVITT) ADJOURNED THE MEETING IN HONOR OF BILL ROBERTSON, OWNER OF BILL AND WAGS TOWING.


CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 7:00 PM



Ann Huisman, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Kenneth Dean, Chairperson