

**CITY OF ONTARIO
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 24, 2020
MINUTES**

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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 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 January 2020.

**M/S (TRINIDAD/SAUCEDO) TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT
FOR NOVEMBER AND JANUARY 2020 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. **Recreation & Community Services** – Nick Gonzalez Recreation & Community Services Director, narrated a Power Point presentation on department highlights of program activities that occurred in January 2020.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. **2019 Annual 5K Reindeer Run Report** – Kathy Hickey, Recreation and Community Services Manager reported that this year, we were excited to partner with the Ontario Convention Center in relocating the 2020 5K Reindeer run to the downtown area on Euclid Avenue and combine our event with the annual Christmas On Euclid event. We had an over all increase in attendance with 2,825 registered participants. 23 mascots (6

more than last year) from a variety of local schools and businesses participated in the much-loved Mascot Run prior to the race. There were 157 volunteers which involving the Ontario community and local organizations. This event really brings the community together in helping raise money for the Y.E.S. (Youth Empowerment Scholarship Program) and Ontario-Montclair's Promise Scholar Program. Kia tickets were sold raising \$10,300 which benefits both programs. We are still working on the financials for this event as we were waiting on some invoices to still come in. This year, some special awards were presented, Christmas Spirit Award, Holiday Hound and a shout out to the Library who won the City Spirit Award once again! They had the most registered runners out of all city departments. Kathy shared a photo of two brothers, Daren and Dusty who grew up in the Ontario area. Dusty reached out to us because his brother Daren was a participant last year in the 5K Reindeer Run and since then, had a stroke. Dusty got a team together and he pushed Daren in a wheelchair through the entire route. Kathy shared photos of Daren who was proudly wearing his medal. Marcy Callejo, Community Development Senior Administrative Assistant is a personal childhood friend of theirs and she sent us an email letting us know how much it meant to him that he was able to participate this year. His goal for next year is to walk across that finish line. We couldn't do this race without our sponsor donations. We sold out on our sponsorship packets totaling \$38,200. \$6700.00 in "in kind" donations as well. We really appreciate the community businesses and organizations coming out and supporting this event.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Great Park Presentation** – Rudy Zeledon, Assistant Planning Director and Jamie Richardson, Senior Landscape Planner shared a conceptual master plan of Great Park for South Ontario. The Planning Department kicked off the planning process in January of this year. Rudy shared a brief background how the process was started. He shared concept drawings and plans. The Great Park extends from Haven Avenue to Campus Avenue between Edison and Eucalyptus. It is 3.5 miles, 340 acres. We are very excited about this project. We have a team made of department and agency heads along with all of you and the Planning Commission who will be part of the process as we go forward. The Great Park will be have major amenities for the city and a key organizational element in new development. It will have recreational usage, cultural and sports amenities, gardens, ponds, water oasis and performance venues. Adjacent residents and commercial properties will be able to take advantage of this park and all that is has to offer. Rudy and Jamie shared printed maps and park plans. Rudy identified the amenities within the park and reviewed development phases as the project moves forward. Jamie went into detail regarding the choices of landscaping in relation to the Inland Valley which will define the Great Park by giving the community a feeling of "getting away" from the city through the walking trails throughout. There will be heavily edge canopies with trees which will help create that feel. Meadows and natural spaces will be for passive and active uses. There will be areas of "hidden gems" to create smaller gardens throughout the park including discovery and educational spaces. The park will include Recreation, Library and Museum programming along with residential usages. The city will hold workshops with residents over the next couple of months beginning in late April. We anticipate the Master Plan will be complete in 8 months. Phase 1 between Haven and Archibald will begin in late 2021. There was open discussion and some suggestions from the Commission such as fishing, a skate park,

bicycle trails and security concerns. These items/suggestions will all be included in the community workshops that will be held and open for more discussion as we progress. There are endless opportunities. Safety is a major component in this project and Ontario PD is also involved and at the planning table. Rudy stated that the Recreation and Parks Commission will be notified of all upcoming community workshops.

REMINDERS:

1. State of the city will be held on March 24, 2020 please let Ann Huisman know if you'll be attending.
2. You will receive notification of all Community Workshop's and the Recreation and Parks Master Plan meetings. More information will be coming your way soon.

COMMENTS:

VALENCIA: "The City Council had a special meeting this past Saturday regarding the city being sued and to be forced to split into districts. Ontario is one of the last cities in the region that have an *At Large Council*. We have an expert attorney who is working on this new challenge for us. This challenge has affected Councils and School Districts throughout the State of California in the name of the *Voters Right Act*. Other local cities have fought the lawsuits and spent millions of dollars only to lose in court. We will be holding another meeting this Thursday in the Council Chambers and you are welcome to come and share your opinion. Also, I'd like to share with you an opportunity to get involved and show your support by participating in the "Walk for Autism" for the first time in the Inland Empire. MGR is a company that manages many commercial buildings in the City of Ontario and will be supporting this event on May 16 and I invite you to join me. If you'd like more information, please contact me. Their website is "Autism Speaks", please take the time to read up on them. On another note, I am excited too about the Great Park plans! I want you all to know how often I am stopped by community members while I am out and about who tell me what a great job the staff in the Recreation and Community Services Department are doing!"

SAUCEDO: "I'd like to express my thanks for all of our city staff for the work they do day in and day out. Congratulations to Nick, I wasn't here last month but want to welcome you on board! You're doing an outstanding job! I too am excited for the Great Park. As I know there will be signs throughout the park regarding safety, I'd like to suggest that you consider installing emergency polls throughout the park. Similar to what the local colleges have in their parking lots. They have a panic button with a phone where a person can call for assistance if they do not feel safe. The park will be open morning, noon and night so please consider incorporating something like this into your plans."

NELSEN: “It is good to be back after being sick last month. I want to put it out there that sometimes we don’t realize just how sick we can be. If you have trouble breathing, don’t take a chance, get medical help immediately. Pneumonia can kick in very quickly. Congratulations Nick on your promotion! I remember when you first started out and you came to speak to the Ontario Kiwanis Club. I was so impressed with the job you did at the Museum events and the Arts Festival. The Grand Park is going to be such a viable asset to the City of Ontario and all its residents. Thank you to Ruben for all your hard work and dedication to the city. I see you everywhere! Rudy and Jamie, I loved the presentation tonight!

OVITT: “It’s very exciting to hear the plans for the Great Park. Thank you for including the Ontario Chaffey Community Showband in the upcoming events slide and, in the Ontario Living Magazine. We have a great group and all their events are free. We have approximately 65 performers who play in the band and soloists. We change the theme of the concerts throughout the year. Hopefully, you’ll get a change to attend soon!”

TRINIDAD: “Thank you for all of your hard work! Sometimes it can be difficult to meet our needs. You did a great job with the 5K Reindeer Run. I hope in the future, we can somehow incorporate a bike ride prior to the run. I know we have a lot of cyclists in this region. As far as districting goes, back in 2006 I remember there was talk about it. I was opposed to it then and still am. I will try to attend the meeting on Thursday to voice my opinion. My heart has always been here in Ontario. I want to try and make it a better future for my children. I’m not about tailoring to be like the bigger cities and I’d like to say I at least tried to keep that from happening. On another note, we have had a spike in the flu this season. Stay healthy and make sure you’re not around those that are sick. Also, please keep in the back of your mind, be prepared for the Corona Virus.”

BINNEY: “What an awesome presentation on the Great Park! I am very enthusiastic and looking forward to this project. Ruben, regarding what Rita said about seeing you all over the community, thank you for keeping us informed! We all really appreciate it!”

CAMARENA: “I would like to join in on the Autism Walk. Regarding Ontario Great Park, I am very excited! I was emotional and speechless during the presentation! I can see myself taking my kids there in years to come!”

SOTO: “I am also very cited about the Great Park. I was looking over the layout of the park and I’m excited for the gardens. I’m into landscaping and having little museum and discovery walks here and there, it will be awesome! Congratulations to Nick on your promotion!”

RILEY: “I feel the same as everyone else does about the Great Park. Congratulations on another awesome Ontario Living Magazine. Mine is full of yellow post-it stickers of interests! My husband and I were driving towards Munoz Park last

Friday and we noticed a heavy amount of homeless gathering near the building. I realize the building is going to be demolished soon and I hope that resolves the problem. I'd like to brag about the Soroptimists! Please buy the Kia raffle tickets again from us for the next 5K. Because of our sales, in our club alone, we will be presenting a young lady who will be entering Chaffey College a \$1700 scholarship which will be used to purchase her books at the college bookstore. A lot of good comes from the Reindeer Run! Many students benefit from our walking and sponsorships and selling the raffle tickets. I will have them next year!"

DEAN: "Thank you for all of the presentations! My favorite part about the Great Park is the water retention factor!"

M/S (BINNEY/RILEY) 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: 6:50 PM



Ann Huisman, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Kenneth Dean, Chairperson