

City of Hawthorne
Parks & Recreation – Fine Arts Commission
January 5, 2021

LET THE RECORD SHOW PURSANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2 THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED ON THE CITY COUNCEL CHAMBERS BULLETIN BOARD ON DECEMBER 30, 2020.

The Parks & Recreation – Fine Arts Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Huhn @ 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Roll Call:

Present: Commissioners Azuoma, Balboa, Marquez and Chairman Huhn.

Also Present: Von Norris, Director of Community Services and Kywana Bowie, Recreation Supervisor.

The flag salute was led by Commissioner Balboa.

Commissioner Balboa made a motion to approve minutes of December 1, 2020. Seconded by Chairman Huhn.

Written Communications:

- A. The Commission reviewed City Council Minutes of December 8, 2021.

Parks & Recreation Foundation:

Chairman Huhn mentioned that there was no updates new updates since the Parks & Recreation Foundation meetings have been suspended until March 2021.

Oral Communication:

Hawthorne City Manager, Erick Lee, made an introduction to the Parks & Recreation – Fine Arts Commissioners.

Director’s Report:

Jim Thorpe Park (Prop. 68 Per Capita Program) – We are currently working on a Per Capita Grant to upgrade the playground at Jim Thorpe Park. We are also looking at adding a Fitness Zone and a shade structure underneath the picnic tables. The amount of the grant is \$231,000.00. The application will be submitted by the end of the month.

Covid 19 updates - These are the current updates as it relates to our Department.

Betty Ainsworth Sports Center

-Closed for classes and sports

-Only open for COVID testing (**testing will continue until march 31st with the possibility of being extended until June**)

Senior Center

-Pool table and computer room closed (**had to close because current guidelines prohibits people from different households from gathering**)

Aquatic Center

-Open for lap swimming by reservation only.

Parks

-baseball fields are closed

-playgrounds are closed

Futsal courts, basketball courts, and fitness stations/zones are open for use among members of the same household only. People must wear face coverings and maintain 6 ft. physical distance at all times and cannot gather with anyone who they do not live with.

Sports Center Dance Room Floor – The Dance Room floor has been completed by Roy’s Flooring. The Community Services Department would like to thank the Parks & Recreation Foundation for their generous donation. The floor looks beautiful. (Images shown to the Commission)

Department Changes

New Responsibilities – The Recreation & Community Services Department has been renamed to Community Services Department. The City feels that most of our duties pertain to Community Services which includes Recreation as well as other functions.

Community Services will also oversee Hawthorne Cable Television moving forward.

City website - We have also been given the responsibility of overseeing the city’s website. Currently we are in the process of redesigning the website to make it more user friendly. We will be hiring a Web Coordinator to help us maintain the new website.

Commissioner’s discussion action items:

Commissioner Azuoma mentioned he loves the name change. It covers everything the department does. Commissioner Azuoma as asked if the city is considering changing the name of the Commission to Community Services Commission.

Chairman Huhn agreed that this could be something to add to next months agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Balboa wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also mentioned that the movie night was great. She really enjoyed the movie. Commissioner Balboa asked all of the commissioners if the time works for everyone. All commissioners agreed that it does.

Commissioner Marquez mentioned that she is really excited about the renovation being done at Jim Thorpe Park and at the Memorial Center. Commissioner Marquez expressed some interest with regards to the Trash Can Art. She feels the city should assist the artist with purchasing the material.

Commissioner Marquez quote: “ Commissioner Marquez thanked the department for their ongoing work, new department name that is more encompassing to their work and is eager to hear about the developments at Jim Thorpe. She asked if the commission read her email stating she had a work conflict and containing her remarks regarding the trash can art, as a follow-up to her request 11/02/2020 for a staff report regarding what other cities invest in art beautification and trash abatement. She mentioned that Long Beach and other cities not only invest in murals and other art programming but trash abatement, like trash can art. She hopes that we can use

our experience with our muralist who said providing their time and materials was a strain pre-pandemic, and after 10 months of a pandemic, maybe we should consider financial strain. She hopes residents will commit to the act of love to bring more art to Hawthorne”

Director Norris asked the commission to wait until after the first quarter to evaluate the program and table the discussion until then.

Commissioner Marquez mentioned that the City of Long Beach has a budget to pay artist to do city projects. She feels that we as a city should be paying artist to help beautify our city. She is disappointed that we are not doing that.

Commissioner Azuoma mentioned that the commission and the City Council agreed with the guidelines which mentions the artist being responsible for their material. Commissioner Azuoma asked Commissioner Marquez why didn't she say something before the guidelines were approved? He also mentioned that we should just move forward and evaluate after first quarter.

Chairman Huhn agreed with Commissioner Azuoma.

Chairman Huhn thanked Von for everything the Department is doing. He mentioned that Von has kept the Department open and repurposed staff during these difficult times. As a commissioner he is happy to see the changes. He was also glad to hear about the upgrades the department is doing.

Commissioner Balboa added that what the department has done during Covid is amazing. With regards to the Trashcan Art Program let's wait and evaluate the program after the first quarter.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Huhn @ 3:45 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 2, 2021 via Zoom.

Submitted by,
Kywana Bowie