

**IRWINDALE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5050 N. IRWINDALE AVENUE
IRWINDALE, CALIFORNIA 91706**

**Thursday, May 9, 2024
6:00 PM**

The Irwindale **Parks & Recreation Commission** met in Special Session at the above time and place

SPECIAL MEETING - 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Roman led the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Michelle Duran, Justin Kelly, Carmen Roman, Vice Chair Belen Zepeda, Chair Paula Fraijo

Also Present: Christopher Hofford, Chief of Police; Elizabeth Rodriguez, Public Services Director; Priscilla Zepeda, Recreation Manager; Daniel Grijalva, Aquatics Supervisor; Pedro Rodriguez, Public Works Services Supervisor; and Armando Hegdahl, Management Analyst

AB 2449 DISCLOSURES

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Chair Fraijo, seconded by Commissioner Kelly, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was unanimously approved.

ITEM NO. 6.A Minutes of the Meeting Held April 3, 2024

The minutes of the meeting held April 3, 2024, were approved as presented.

SPONTANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

There were no speakers.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 8.A Summer Park Patrol Update - Police Chief Hofford - Verbal Report

Chief Hofford requested that the Commissioners indicate whether they notice any specific areas that needed special attention so that he can address them. He also noted that the Police Department will continue to patrol the park after each Night Swim session. Additionally, officers will walk through the park during the summer concerts, handing out stickers to children, and the Department will add extra patrols whenever necessary.

Chair Fraijo noted that there do not appear to have been any significant issues that arose last

year besides some minor instances of vandalism. She also spoke on the benefits of community based policing where officers can strengthen their relationships with members of the community.

Chief Hofford concurred and noted that events are being organized to introduce Irwindale's newest officers to the community so that they can familiarize themselves with residents and the community.

The commissioners thanked Chief Hofford and the Police Department for maintaining high visibility during the summer and for fostering strong relationships.

ITEM NO. 8.B Walkthrough of Irwindale Park and Jardin de Roca Park

At 6:11 p.m., the Commission departed on a tour of Irwindale Park, where the following items were noted/requested:

- 1) Ensure that the participants of the "Women in Weights" program avoid exercising on the pavers during their class.
- 2) The commissioners requested that taller succulents be planted at the Memorial Garden.
- 3) They also requested that the softball field's grass be watered more frequently.

After their tour of Irwindale Park, they proceeded to tour Jardin de Roca Park, where the following items were noted/requested:

- 1) Replace malfunctioning/damaged fitness equipment parts.
- 2) Install more toilet seat covers at the restrooms and replace the baby-changing station at the west-facing restroom.
- 3) Remove dead vines and/or add new vines and treat wooden trellis with lacquer.
- 4) Report missing perimeter fencing to Code Enforcement for follow-up with the neighboring property management company.
- 5) Push down landscaping edging to avoid tripping hazards.
- 6) Replace missing skate stoppers at park benches.
- 7) Place a sign at the dog waste station.
- 8) Remove graffiti at the lightpoles and skateboarding area.
- 9) Replace missing screws at the base of the south side light pole.
- 10) Repair/fill chipped bricks at the bench area under the southside trellis.

At 7:07 p.m., the Commission returned to the Council Chambers.

Chair Fraijo commended the Public Works Department for the hard work they conduct daily to ensure the parks look wonderful.

Commissioner Roman concurred and noted that the Memorial Garden and the Skate Park are hidden gems. She also noted that the skate ramp were vandalized during last year's walk through but now looks great.

Vice Chair Zepeda thanked Public Works workers for taking pride in their work.

Commissioner Kelly agreed and stated that he has observed the hard work of staff when he

goes out to enjoy the parks.

Commissioner Duran stated that park visitors can tell that the parks are loved by staff and expressed her appreciation of staffers' hard work.

Chair Fraijo noted that the Commission makes many observations and requests for park improvements and appreciated staff's diligence in implementing the improvements, to which Supervisor Rodriguez commended the members of his team and stated that they are up to the challenge of keeping the parks beautiful.

ITEM NO. 8.C Mural in the Game/Teen room in the Dan Diaz Recreation Center

Manager Zepeda presented the staff report.

Chair Fraijo noted that the mural shown in the staff report is in black and gray and asked whether the actual mural will include color, to which Manager Zepeda advised that the concept that the Commission previously approved was in black and gray, but that the actual mural could include color. Chair Fraijo suggested perhaps outlining the images within the mural in color.

Supervisor Rodriguez added that the silhouettes may be mounted on the walls to give them a 3D-type of feel.

Chair Fraijo suggested that the word "Grow" be made in color in order to contrast with the mural's grays. She also suggested requesting input from the Teen Club.

Manager Zepeda stated that staff can seek the Teen Club members' input and present an updated concept with color options at the next meeting. She added that she would also inform the Commission on the dates that the Teen Club will paint the mural.

Vice Chair Zepeda stated that she would also like to participate in painting the mural.

Commissioner Kelly stated that he looks forward to viewing the final product.

Commissioner Duran stated that she would like to view the teens paint their mural.

Chair Fraijo stated that the mural would be something special for the teens that they would remember for the rest of their lives.

ITEM NO. 8.D Irwindale Park Improvements Project Phase IV & V Update - Verbal Report

Director Rodriguez presented the staff report and made a PowerPoint presentation where she outlined the project's progress. She noted that approximately 80% of the work has been completed and that the park is still anticipated to reopen on June 17. She further advised that Phase 4 is pending the completion of the restrooms, the installation of the barbecues, and a few punchlist items, and indicated that the sod has been planted. Phase 5 also has work pending, such as work on the restrooms, the pouring of concrete for the picnic shelters, landscaping, placement of picnic tables, installation of the barbecues, and some punchlist items.

Commissioner Roman stated that the project looks amazing and that the refurbished barbecues look almost new. She was also impressed with the process for the placement of the sod.

Director Rodriguez noted that Supervisor Rodriguez is leading up the project and is meeting with engineering staff as well as the contractor on a weekly basis, and is on site every day to monitor the project's progress.

Vice Chair Zepeda thanked staff for setting up the tours of the project for the commissioners.

Commissioner Kelly expressed his admiration of the improvements made at the park since he first moved to Irwindale nearly two decades ago.

Commissioner Duran expressed her pride in the park and thanked Supervisor Rodriguez and Director Rodriguez for their collaboration in the project.

Chair Fraijo stated that the City is fortunate to have dedicated employees that truly care for the beautification of the parks. She also spoke on the need for ongoing maintenance to ensure that the parks look beautiful for a long time. She then asked whether any trees were removed as part of this project, to which Supervisor Rodriguez confirmed that trees have been removed; however, for every tree removed, two new trees were planted, and noted that at least six new trees have been planted. Chair Fraijo suggested posting a sign warning individuals near the horseshoe pits.

Supervisor Rodriguez thanked his team for their teamwork and suggestions.

RECREATION MANAGER UPDATE

Manager Zepeda presented the following update:

- 1) Staff will present a report on the banners to be hung at the Dan Diaz Recreation Center in the near future.
- 2) Day Camp participants and Teens enjoyed separate trips to AMC Covina to see movies and to Universal Studios.
- 3) The Tots enjoyed a Family Trip to Adventure City. A Family Trip to the Flower Fields in Carlsbad was also held.
- 4) A RockAbilities Petting Zoo also took place last month. Program participants also enjoyed Painting with Friends at Jardin de Roca Park yesterday. She thanked Officer Nunez, who has attended most RockAbilities events.
- 5) Last month, Recreation and Library staff participated in the Covina Valley Unified School District's Health and Wellness Fair at District Field, where RockAbilities participants were invited to participate in the Parents Place Resource Fair in West Covina.
- 6) An iRec CARES Workshop was held on April 13. A second workshop will be scheduled soon.
- 7) She reported on her and Inclusion Specialist Acuna's attendance at a recent CPRS JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Academy.
- 8) The following upcoming trips and events have been scheduled:
Tiny/Teeny Tots trip to the LA County Fair took place today.
The KidZone Brownies and Bingos Mothers Day event is taking place now and is filled to

capacity.

May 11: Moms and Muffins event for Tots, Family Trip to USS Midway and Seaport Village, CPRS District XIII Recreation Leader training

May 17: Dodgers Watch Party at the Memorial Garden

May 18: Recreation Staff Inservice

May 20: Operations in the Dan Diaz Recreation Center will resume (roofing project complete).

May 27: The Dan Diaz Recreation Center will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

June 12: RockAbilities Summer Olympics BBQ

June 13: KidZone Dad's Day event

June 15: Dads and Donuts Tots Program; Adult Fishing Trip

June 20: Mayor's State of the City Address at the Dan Diaz Recreation Center

June 28: Dedication ceremony for the Margaret Diaz Pavilion

June 29: Red, White, and You event

Commissioner Roman thanked staff for all the wonderful programs and activities that the Recreation Department puts on, particularly the RockAbilities activities.

Commissioners Kelly, Duran, and Vice Chair Zepeda thanked staff for their hard work.

Chair Fraijo echoed the commissioners' sentiments and suggested further promoting the RockAbilities program to all members of the public and commended staff for their engagement in these programs. She also thanked Recreation staff for keeping children safe during the time that they enjoyed their programs offsite due to the reroofing of the Dan Diaz Recreation Center.

AQUATICS SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Supervisor Grijalva presented the following update:

- 1) He discussed the repairs / modifications that the commissioners requested at the Aquatics Center during last month's walkthrough.
- 2) Water Safety Week kicks off this Saturday at the Annual Aquatics Center Expo.
- 3) The spring season's second session of Aquafitness began April 22 and will conclude May 30.
- 4) The Senior Splash / Aqua Walk and Lap Swimming sessions are still being offered.
- 5) He commended the Swim Team coaches for helping the members of the Swim Team in their personal growth.
- 6) He then discussed the upcoming summer season and the classes that the Aquatics division will be offering.

Commissioner Roman asked about the availability of the Snack Bar during summer, to which Supervisor Grijalva advised that it will open on June 7 and will run from 12-4 pm, Monday through Friday.

Commissioners Kelly, Duran, and Chair Fraijo commended Supervisor Grijalva and the Aquatics team for their great work.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Supervisor Rodriguez provided the following update:

- 1) Park Maintenance staff has replaced plants at the park and added mulch to the Memorial Garden. They also placed plants at the meandering walkway fronting Jardin de Roca Park and repaired a valve at the park. Staff also conducted weed abatement at the Shark Shack area.
- 2) Building Maintenance staff removed the pool table from the game room, as requested by the Commission. Staff also removed the non-functional machine from the weight room and repaired the damaged drywall above the stage at the Recreation Center. The damaged light fixture along the wall behind the gym was repaired and the light fixtures at the Aquatics Center were cleaned.
- 3) Staff set up canopies for the Senior Center classes held at the Jardin de Roca Park.
- 4) Staff attended a facility maintenance training expo last month.
- 5) Public Works staffers will be honored during the upcoming Public Works Week. Activities will be held and snacks will be offered to the staff members to thank them for their hard work.

Responding to a question by Commissioner Roman, Supervisor Rodriguez advised that the section of the wall behind the stage where people throw basketballs has been reinforced with lumber. Staff is looking into placing signage to discourage individuals from throwing balls at the area. Commissioner Roman also asked about cleanup of tar from the reroofing project, to which Supervisor Rodriguez advised that tar droppings would be cleaned up tomorrow.

Vice Chair Zepeda thanked the Public Works team for conducting requested repairs so quickly.

Commissioner Kelly thanked staff for their diligence and stated that they never cease to amaze.

Responding to a question by Commissioner Duran, Supervisor Rodriguez advised that Public Works Appreciation Week would be held from May 20 through 23.

Chair Fraijo requested that staff prepare a list of items that the commissioners requested during their two walkthroughs of the parks and city facilities and that it be presented at next month's meeting. She also recommended that safety concerns be addressed as soon as possible.

Vice Chair Zepeda thanked staff for conducting repairs expeditiously.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR UPDATE

Director Rodriguez presented the following update:

- 1) Staff is working on a list of repairs requested by the commissioners and will identify which department will conduct the repair.
- 2) After conducting research, staff determined that the object on the ceiling of the Snack Bar that looks like a smoke alarm is actually a motion sensor. Staff will remove the item but does not plan on installing a smoke alarm as one is not needed at that location.
- 3) The 4th Annual Recycling Event is scheduled for June 15 and will be held at the Library parking lot.
- 4) The City Council will be holding a budget workshop on May 29.
- 5) She also provided a brief update on the construction activity at the Veterans Monument.
- 6) The draft Field Trip Policy will be presented to the Commission at its June 5th meeting for review and input.

Vice Chair Zepeda and Commissioners Kelly and Duran thanked Director Rodriguez and her staff for their hard work.

At 8:07 p.m., Chair Fraijo reopened Spontaneous Communications.

Linda Marez requested that staff utilize the 23-seat passenger bus when transporting individuals on field trips to destinations that are over one hour away. She noted that this bus has a smoother ride and includes a restroom.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Roman asked that the "Country Music in the Park" concert be held later in the year so that attendees could dress for cooler weather, to which Director Rodriguez advised that the calendar toward that time of year is already full with events such as the Mariachi Fest and indicated that staff is occupied decorating for the upcoming winter season. Commissioner Roman also requested that "Americana" food be available at the country music event and requested cutouts with cowboys and cowgirls for photographs.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Zepeda, seconded by Chair Fraijo, to place an item on a future agenda to discuss the availability of the 23-passenger bus for trips that are over an hour away. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Fraijo thanked all departments for working well together for the success of the community and wished everyone a happy Mother's Day.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.



Armando Hegdahl, CMC
Management Analyst

Approved as submitted at the meeting held June 5, 2024.