

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

**Wednesday, July 3, 2024
6:00 PM**

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

REGULAR MEETING - 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

INVOCATION

The invocation was conducted.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: Elizabeth Rodriguez, Public Services Director; Daniel Grijalva, Aquatics Supervisor; Pedro Rodriguez, Public Works Services Supervisor; Delfina Osterheim, Recreation Supervisor; and Armando Hegdahl, Management Analyst

AB 2449 DISCLOSURES

There were no AB 2449 disclosures.

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 June 5, 2024

Approved as presented.

SPONTANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

There were no speakers.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 8.A Irwindale Park Improvement Project Update - Verbal Report

Director Rodriguez presented the update and made a PowerPoint presentation. She noted that, though the project is mostly completed, there still remain a few punchlist items that the contractor needs to address.

Commissioner Roman reported issues with restroom fixtures, which Director Rodriguez noted have been repaired.

Commissioner Kelly expressed his gratitude that many city staffers were present on the date of the park reopening and stated that it was nice that the project has been seen through to fruition.

Commissioner Duran noted loose picnic tables near the Margaret Diaz Pavilion as well as brown grass near the horseshoe area and requested that staff make sure that the sprinklers be turned on after 10 pm to avoid wetting those who stay at the park late. Director Rodriguez noted that an irrigation inspection has been scheduled for July 10. Commissioner Duran also noted that park restrooms are not always locked at 10 p.m., to which Director Rodriguez advised that they are typically locked by Police Officers when they are not responding to service calls.

In response to a question by Vice Chair Zepeda, Director Rodriguez noted that the project contractor did not order sufficient light poles and, as such, staff had to strategically place available light poles throughout the park, with priority given to the playground and picnic shelter areas. However, additional light poles have been ordered and staff will look into placing temporary lighting in those areas of the park that need them.

Chair Fraijo noticed dead patches of grass near the playground, to which Supervisor Rodriguez noted that it had been placed on the punchlist items for the contractor. Chair Fraijo then spoke about the need for proper park maintenance in order to keep it looking beautiful and stated that the park reopening should have been pushed to a date when the restrooms would be fully opened and the tree trimming had been completed.

Director Rodriguez noted that additional picnic tables have been backordered and will be installed once they arrive.

Chair Fraijo stated that, although the youth-sized picnic tables were ordered by mistake, they ended up working very well. She also appreciated staff's hard work on the project.

Commissioner Roman questioned why staff did not lock the park restrooms, to which Chair Rodriguez advised that officers would typically lock them due to safety risks to recreation personnel.

Chair Fraijo asked whether the park cameras are active, to which Director Rodriguez advised that they are not, and staff does not currently have an estimated date for when that project would be completed. Additional details may be available at the August meeting.

ITEM NO. 8.B Teen Club Mural Update - Verbal Report

Supervisor Rodriguez presented the update and made a PowerPoint presentation.

Chair Fraijo stated that she preferred the design of option 2 as shown in the PowerPoint. Commissioners Kelly, Roman, and Vice Chair Zepeda, concurred, while Commissioner Duran stated her preference for option 1.

Minor design discussion was held. Consensus was reached that the word "Grow" from option 1 can be implemented with option 2, and that its outline be red with gray coloring on the inside.

Chair Fraijo expressed her hope that the teens would enjoy the project and that they could paint over it in a few years if they would prefer.

Director Rodriguez noted that the colors were chosen to keep consistent with the branding of the city logo.

RECREATION MANAGER UPDATE

Supervisor Osterheim presented the report wherein she outlined the following:

- 1) The adult fishing trip took place on June 15. She thanked the Irwindale Community Foundation for funding the trip.
- 2) The 2024 Mayor's State of the City Address was held at the Dan Diaz Recreation Center.
- 3) The dedication of the Margaret Diaz Pavilion took place on June 28. She thanked all those that attended and recognized Chair Fraijo for the suggestion. She also thanked the Diaz family for sharing Margaret with the community.
- 4) The 3rd Annual Red, White, and You BBQ took place on Saturday. She thanked all donors, volunteers, and patrons, and congratulated the contest winners.
- 5) The City Council, at its meeting of June 26, recognized July as "Parks Make Life Better" month.

The following events and activities have been scheduled:

- 1) July 4 - 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular
- 2) July 8 - Sunset Cinema
- 3) July 10 - RockAbilities Bingo Bash
- 4) July 11 - Kick-off of the Music in the Park concert series. Concerts will be held every Thursday through August 22nd.
- 5) July 19 - Family trip to Chavez Ravine for the Dodgers game.

Responding to a concern from Commissioner Roman, Director Rodriguez advised that the welcome packet for the KidZone program states that participants are not to be using their phones while the program is underway, and that those that do have their phones out will have their phones taken away and returned to the child at the end of the day's program when their parent picks them up. She advised that staff does not keep the phone past the day and noted that this policy has been in place for several years.

Supervisor Osterheim added that pre-warnings are issued to the children before their phones are taken.

Chair Fraijo also noted that parents can call Recreation staff with any message they need to relay to their children. She then asked that the KidZone Policy be presented at the next meeting for discussion.

Commissioner Roman then noted / requested the following items:

- 1) Send a survey to residents to determine whether they prefer to name the activities of July 4 "Red, White, and You" or "4th of July"
- 2) She complained that food vendors only accept digital payments and not cash, as well as long lines for food and the cost for food items.
- 3) She commended staff for the various contests and the softball game, but lamented that she was unable to purchase a hot dog since they had run out.

- 4) She stated her belief that the Red, White, and You BBQ caused local non-profits to lose revenue from the sales of fireworks.
- 5) She requested a new sound system.
- 6) She also requested a detailed spreadsheet of every expenditure involved in the Red, White, and You BBQ and whether it was paid through City funds or funds provided by the Irwindale Community Foundation. She stated her belief that Foundation funds should not be used towards this event.

Commissioner Kelly expressed his pride in the community and the camaraderie of city residents. He thanked all those who contribute to making Irwindale so special.

Chair Fraijo stated that the event has changed much, and stated that non-profit organizations had prepared food in past events, which brought the community together. She suggested that future events be promoted as a community event where residents could bring their own food. She requested to discuss this further at next month's meeting.

Director Rodriguez noted that most of the 300 hot dogs ordered for last year's event were thrown out; as such, staff only ordered 150 this year. She also noted that the flyer for the event stipulated that hot dogs would be available while supplies lasted. Staff will increase the amount of hot dogs for next year's event. She also noted that a great sound system was used at this year's event.

Chair Fraijo wished that the commissioners would have received an invitation to the event.

Rebecca Barbosa asked why the traditional 4th of July event was changed to the Red, White, and You BBQ, to which Chair Fraijo noted that the change was made due to residents living across the street from the park having complained about fireworks usage on July 4th.

Chair Fraijo agreed that a flyer be sent to residents to inquire their preferences regarding 4th of July activities.

Supervisor Osterheim noted that many residents brought their own food to the events and picnics, which caused non-profits to decline the invitation to return due to poor food sales.

Casey Miranda agreed that a survey be sent to residents. He also noted that illegal fireworks had affected safe and sane fireworks sales by non profit organizations.

Responding to a question by Chair Fraijo, Supervisor Osterheim advised that fliers with details regarding whiffle ball and volleyball clinics have been mailed to residents.

Referring to the incident where a child's phone was taken by staff, Chair Fraijo stated that staff needs to offer things to keep children engaged. She also noted that the game room is closed pending the painting of the mural and stated that it should only be closed on the day of the painting; it should remain open at all other times. She stated that staff should quit taking and not replacing things.

Supervisor Osterheim noted that she has a full list of activities for the children to keep them busy from the moment they arrive until they leave, to which Chair Fraijo stated that the activities should not be an extension of school and that they should be things that children look forward to doing. She also stressed that the game room should be open.

Director Rodriguez noted that she is working with staff to clean and reorganize the game room and include it in KidZone programming. She stated that she hopes to provide an update at the August meeting.

Commissioner Roman stated that the room had been used for storage for two years, and that it should be used for games, to which Director Rodriguez acknowledged her concern and asked that the Commission consider the logistics behind each Commission request to add new events and activities as well as improve upon existing programs. She noted that these requests often require additional work, materials, and storage for said materials, and that staff has found it difficult to store all the items for these program changes.

Chair Fraijo suggested renting a container to store program decorations and materials, to which Director Rodriguez stated that the only available space for it would be the park, but that this would create an eyesore. Director Rodriguez expressed optimism that more storage space will be made available after the new Library is built.

Director Rodriguez also noted that the game room will be reopened, though it would probably not include a pool table since the room is not large enough to accommodate the table and meet ADA regulations.

Chair Fraijo asked whether a storage container could be placed at the City Yard, to which Director Rodriguez advised that there is no space available for it.

Commissioner Roman suggested removing chairs and couches from the room and stated that children's lives should not be put on hold due to lack of storage space.

Commissioner Duran complained that her granddaughter had her phone taken by staff and noted that KidZone children are only able to visit the swimming pool once per week.

Chair Fraijo requested that the game room and the summer KidZone schedule be discussed at the next meeting.

Dena Zepeda requested anti-bullying classes and stated that city facilities should be given a spring-cleaning.

Chair Fraijo stated that most cities have Teen Centers but Irwindale cannot seem to have a Teen Room.

Commissioner Kelly suggested that teens be surveyed to determine what they would like to include in the room.

AQUATICS SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Supervisor Grijalva presented the following update:

- 1) Aquatics staff abides by Los Angeles County Air Quality Control. As such, the Aquatics Center is closed when air reaches an unhealthy category. The air quality flagpole located just outside of the Aquatics Facility will reflect whether the facility is open.
- 2) He thanked the Acosta family for their generous donation of over 50 bathing suits to Rosie's Treasures and the Shark Shack.

- 3) The Dive-In Cinema event held June 14 had a great turnout. The activities included free raffles and free popcorn. The next session will be held July 14.
- 4) A "Splash and Play" day was held on June 15. The event featured free raffle prizes.
- 5) Staff had a great time at last weekend's Red, White, and You BBQ. The Aquatics Division offered the splash tower and the Hydro Blast water games in the interactive area.
- 6) Swim lessons are underway for the first session with 85 participants.
- 7) He also provided the schedule for all upcoming pool programs.

As requested by Commissioner Roman, Supervisor Grijalva provided signup details about the Mommy and Me & Splash and Play classes.

Chair Fraijo asked about injuries at the pool during the summer, to which Supervisor Grijalva advised that only minor incidences, such as bee stings and bloody noses, were reported.

Rebecca Barbosa thanked Supervisor Grijalva for the wonderful pool programs and commended the great job performed by the lifeguards.

Dena Zepeda complimented Aquatics staff for the fun programs it offers the community.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Supervisor Rodriguez presented the following update:

- 1) Park Maintenance staff is working on repairs to the master sprinkler valves in front of City Hall.
- 2) Staff is also working on a punchlist of repairs that the park renovation project contractor needs to address.
- 3) A meeting has been scheduled with the landscape architect for July 10 to catch up on pending adjustments so that the contractor could perform the needed repairs.
- 4) Staff is working on all needed arrangements for tomorrow's 4th of July Fireworks Show, such as meeting with the Fire Marshall and setting up traffic control to close certain streets.
- 5) Building Maintenance staff repaired the Aquatics Center locker room door and are addressing other items on a punchlist.
- 6) Leaking valves at the park urinals and other issues with the toilets were repaired.
- 7) Vandalism at the restrooms on the east side of the park was removed.
- 8) Staff assisted with setting up for the Red, White, and You BBQ. He also noted that the softball game was enjoyed by all in attendance and thanked the members of the Police Department for their attendance.

Commissioner Roman asked whether the cameras are functioning at the Senior Center, to which Supervisor Rodriguez confirmed that they are.

Vice Chair Zepeda noted a wobbly park bench and requested that it be addressed.

Commissioner Duran thanked staff for the wonderful Red, White, and You BBQ and thanked staff for their friendliness and keeping the parks clean.

Chair Fraijo noted that wobbly picnic tables could potentially cause an injury and requested that safety concerns be addressed immediately. She also reported ongoing issues with toilets being clogged with seat liners, to which Director Rodriguez advised that staff will continue to monitor the concern in order to address the issue appropriately. Chair Fraijo noted that some

issues are caused by transients, to which Supervisor Rodriguez stated that staff tries to monitor these individuals in an effort to mitigate problems.

Responding to a question by Chair Fraijo, Director Rodriguez advised that individuals that observe suspicious behavior at the park can call the Police to report the incidents.

Dena Zepeda asked whether maintenance crews could perform janitorial work at the parks on weekends, to which Director Rodriguez indicated that a custodial company has been contracted to perform the weekend work, and that they end their shift at about 2:00 p.m. Janitorial services are also administered in various city department offices.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR UPDATE

Director Rodriguez presented the following report:

- 1) The draft Field Trip Policy will be presented to the Council for consideration at its second meeting in July.
- 2) Two additional concrete picnic tables have been ordered for the southside of the park. Tables were also ordered for the picnic shelter.
- 3) She provided additional details about tomorrow night's 4th of July Fireworks Show. She mentioned the possibility of having drone shows in the future rather than fireworks shows.
- 4) The Irwindale Educational Foundation's Casino Night will be held on July 19.
- 5) The Irwindale Police Officers' Association will hold a golf tournament on July 26.
- 6) Applications are being accepted for the 2024 Young Citizen of the Year competition.

Chair Fraijo stated that residents will have a hard time getting away from traditional fireworks shows. She also stated that residents should have been notified about changes to this year's fireworks show, to which Director Rodriguez advised that full details were made available in the citywide mailer.

Director Rodriguez provided additional details about tomorrow's fireworks show and noted that it will be smaller in comparison to past shows due to the unavailability of a portion of the typical firework fallout zone. She added that staff is looking into the feasibility of using other sites within the city to launch fireworks.

Commissioner Roman suggested potentially launching fireworks at the Santa Fe Dam or the Irwindale Speedway and asked whether Mt. Sac students could assist in launching them.

Chair Fraijo also stated that staff should have arranged to play patriotic music on an fm station so that residents could listen to music while watching the fireworks show.

Director Rodriguez advised that a 4th of July notification group has been formed where members will be alerted to any incidents that arise relating to the fireworks show. She added that officers will also be patrolling the streets to enforce their "zero tolerance" policy regarding illegal fireworks.

Responding to a question by Commissioner Roman, Director Rodriguez noted that a small portion of Allen Drive will have parking prohibitions due to the potential fallout of fireworks.

Dena Zepeda stated her opinion that the 4th of July festivities are being taken away from residents.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONERS

A motion was made by Chair Fraijo, seconded by Commissioner Duran, to request that an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss and provide recommendations for future Red, White, and You festivities. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Chair Fraijo, seconded by Commissioner Roman, to request that an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss the KidZone policy, including its cell phone component and the program curriculum for middle school students. The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Roman stated that she would also like to see an itemized list of all costs incurred in the Red, White, and You BBQ, and whether the expense was paid through city funds or funds provided by the Irwindale Community Foundation.

Commissioner Kelly asked that staff survey teens to determine what they would like to have included in the game room.

Chair Fraijo wished everyone a safe and sane 4th of July and encouraged all to feel gratitude for what they have.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. in recognition of June having been declared "Parks Make Life Better" month.



Armando Hegdahl, CMC
Management Analyst

Approved as submitted at the meeting held August 7, 2024.