

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

SEPTEMBER 4, 2024
THURSDAY
6:00 P.M.

The Irwindale **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION** met in regular session at the above time and place.

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

Also present: 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

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

ITEM NO. 6A MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AUGUST 7, 2024
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The minutes of the meeting held August 7, 2024, were approved as presented.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

SPONTANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

DENA ZEPEDA Dena Zepeda thanked Recreation staff for sending out the survey to residents to inquire about their interest in the Red, White, and You BBQ, and suggested that "the 4th of July shouldn't be taken away from vets and soldiers." She stated her opinion that the items sold by vendors at the BBQ were too expensive and wished for events that were more exclusive to residents.

LINDA MAREZ Linda Marez stated that she enjoyed both the Red, White, and You BBQ as well as the 4th of July activities. She also stated that everyone can choose whether they'll purchase the items being sold at the events.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 8A REVISE FACILITY & OPEN SPACE RENTAL POLICY FOR THE
REVISE FACILITY & OPEN SPACE RENTAL DAN DIAZ RECREATION CENTER, IRWINDALE AQUATICS CENTER, AND IRWINDALE PARKS

POLICY FOR THE
DAN DIAZ RECREATION
CENTER, IRWINDALE
AQUATICS CENTER,
AND IRWINDALE PARKS

DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ Director Rodriguez presented the staff report.

CHAIR FRAIJO Chair Fraijo requested replacing "Picnic Shelter" and "Picnic Trellis" under the policy's "List of Facilities for Rent" to "Picnic Area East of the Turnabout" and "Picnic Trellis North of Irwindale Plaza", to which Director Rodriguez stated that these areas could be renamed to "Picnic Area 4" and "Picnic Area 5".

Chair Fraijo also suggested replacing the phrase under "Pets and Service Animals" to read "All dogs *shall* be led by a leash or chain not more than 6 feet long and under the full control of its owner or custodian." Chair Fraijo also suggested that city employees be required to provide proof of employment when registering for trips or events, similar to how residents are required to provide proof of residency, to which Director Rodriguez stated that she would need to check with Human Resources since part-time staff are not issued employee cards.

COMMISSIONER ROMAN Commissioner Roman concurred with Chair Fraijo and asked whether Commissioners and Councilmembers are considered employees or residents, to which Director Rodriguez stated that they are considered residents and would need to present their Resident ID cards when registering for events and activities.

Commissioner Roman suggested that picnic area/shelter fees listed in the report apply only to non-profit organizations located in surrounding communities to avoid having any other non-profit organization from renting the facilities due to their low cost, to which Director Rodriguez advised that the fees listed specify that they are for businesses and non-profit organizations located within Irwindale.

Commissioner Roman then suggested that tables be listed as available for rentals, to which Director Rodriguez advised that the policy specifically indicates that tables cannot be rented and that they are available on a first come, first served basis.

Responding to a comment from Commissioner Roman, Director Rodriguez advised that staff could remove the term "long-term" from the policy and replace it with a phrase similar to "any rentals that require approval" and noted that fees are to be paid upon application approval.

- MOTION** A motion was made by Chair Fraijo, seconded by Commissioner Kelly, to recommend approval to the City Council of the revisions to the Facility & Open Space Rental Policy for the Dan Diaz Recreation Center, Irwindale Aquatics Center, and Irwindale Parks, as discussed during tonight's meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.
- ITEM NO. 8B**
MUSIC IN THE PARK
BANDS – VERBAL **MUSIC IN THE PARK BANDS – VERBAL**
- DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ** Director Rodriguez advised that the Council has requested to select bands that got people to dance.
- CHAIR FRAIJO** Chair Fraijo noted that the Council received feedback from people that did not like some of the bands that recently performed and did not dance.
- COMMISSIONER ROMAN** Commissioner Roman suggested that the Commission be involved in selecting bands. She stated that the commissioners could go watch bands either live or online and offered her opinion that a recent Gloria Estefan cover band did not get people dancing.
- DENA ZEPEDA** Dena Zepeda noted that there are quite a few Irwindale residents that can perform by singing or rapping and suggested that they be invited to perform.
- CHAIR FRAIJO** Chair Fraijo noted that many of the individuals dancing at the concerts are not Irwindale residents. She stated that bands that have previously been requested by residents may not always be available and indicated that she liked the idea of having local artists perform.
- VICE CHAIR ZEPEDA** Vice Chair Zepeda stated her preference for Commissioners to be more involved in the selection of bands.
- COMMISSIONER KELLY** Commissioner Kelly suggested possibly selecting bands that play music from the 50's and 60's.
- COMMISSIONER DURAN** Commissioner Duran agreed that Irwindale artists be invited to perform, to which Vice Chair Zepeda suggested possibly holding a talent show.
- LINDA MAREZ** Linda Marez stated that the bands originally selected by staff were great and brought lots of people to the park. Eventually, the Commission requested that new bands be invited, which led to diminished crowds. She stated her belief that some performers, such as rappers, would not be well-received in Irwindale and suggested that bands be selected by taking into consideration the musical tastes of the older crowd that generally attend the park concerts.

CHAIR FRAIJO

Chair Fraijo stated that the free concerts serve to expose attendees to different genres of music. She stated that staff does a wonderful job in selecting the bands that perform at the concerts and noted that changes in band selections are due to requests. However, if Commission input is needed, she stated that the Commission would like to participate.

RECREATION
MANAGER UPDATE

RECREATION
MANAGER ZEPEDA

Recreation Manager Zepeda provided the following update:

- 1) A total of six trips were held in August: 1 for the Teen Club, 2 beach trips, 1 for Day Camp, 1 for KidZone, and 1 teen outing.
- 2) Staff also provided eight special events: 1 Sunset Cinema, 4 Music in the Park concerts, 1 Family Splash Day, 1 iRecCares Workshop on Active Shooter Training, and 1 End of Summer RockAbilities Luau.
- 3) She thanked the Irwindale Community Foundation for their donation to the RockAbilities program as well as United Rock for sponsoring the taco cart and for bringing a large team to assist with the event.
- 4) Staff offered Summer Splash, an afternoon with water slides and water games, in order to allow the Aquatics Division staff to prepare for their Community Luau.
- 5) Registration for fall classes such as Fitness, Dance, and specialty classes will be offered soon. A new "Pokemon Go Together" interactive game will also be offered.
- 6) She thanked all those that assisted with the Music in the Park concerts in any form.
- 7) The following events have been scheduled:
MariachiFest kickoff – September 4, with concerts to take place every Thursday in September
Family Trip to Dodgers vs. Rockies – September 21
Adult Fishing Trip – September 28
- 8) The divider curtain in the Dan Diaz Recreation Center will be installed later this month.
- 9) Staff is working on a survey for teens to provide input as to what they would prefer to have in the Game/Teen Room. The results will be reported to the Commission at its October meeting.
- 10) The Red, White, and You survey will conclude this Saturday, with the results to be reported to the Commission at its October meeting.
- 11) Staff has scheduled a trip to an NFL game at the end of December.

Manager Zepeda also requested clarification as to the Commission's preference regarding food availability at MariachiFest.

BRIEF DISCUSSION	Brief discussion was held where it was determined that the Commission's goal was to offer a variety of food and drinks sold by vendors, non-profit groups, and City groups, such as the Teen Club, Kindness Krew, and the Senior Center.
CHAIR FRAIJO	Chair Fraijo commended staff for their hard work in setting up and tearing down for events and for searching for and securing vendors and musical performers.
DENA ZEPEDA	Dena Zepeda commended staff for the wonderful Music in the Park concerts. She suggested that non-residents be charged more when renting City facilities and stated her opinion that there could have been more resident attendance at Summer Splash if flyers had been sent out earlier.
CHAIR FRAIJO	Chair Fraijo asked about implementing anti-bullying discussions to the after-school curriculum, to which Manager Zepeda noted that the topic will be addressed during the October Story Walk for participants of KidZone.
COMMISSIONER ROMAN	Responding to a question by Commissioner Roman, Manager Zepeda advised that there are currently three on the KidZone waiting list. She noted that, now that the Attendance Policy is in effect, staff will monitor attendance levels to determine whether those on the waiting list could be invited to participate.
CHAIR FRAIJO	Chair Fraijo asked what would prohibit the three on the waiting list to participate, to which Manager Zepeda spoke on space and staffing limitations, and briefly touched on the needs of program participants. Chair Fraijo suggested that the Council hire more staff, to which Manager Zepeda advised that recruitment efforts are currently underway.
COMMISSIONER ROMAN	Commissioner Roman spoke on the requirements of children with special needs, to which Manager Zepeda spoke on the efforts of Luana Acuna, the City's Inclusion Specialist, and requested that the Commissioners send concerned parents to speak with staff to ensure that the needs of their children are being met.
CHAIR FRAIJO	Chair Fraijo stated that all children with special needs should be able to participate in City programs and again suggested that the Council consider hiring more staff.
COMMISSIONER DURAN	Commissioner Duran suggested that staff approach the Council and inform them that additional staffing is needed.

LINDA MAREZ Linda Marez stated her belief that programs must cap the number of participants and stressed the need for program standards and for parents to be held accountable to ensure that the child that they enroll in programs actually attend them.

DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ Director Rodriguez stated that this topic would need to be placed on a future agenda for further discussion, if that is the desire of the Commission.

AQUATICS
SUPERVISOR
UPDATE

SUPERVISOR GRIJALVA Supervisor Grijalva presented the following update:

- 1) The current heat and unhealthy air quality issues recently have required staff to close the pool.
- 2) The Family Luau was held on August 11 and the Community Luau was held on August 17. He thanked the performers and the Irwindale Community Foundation for their support.
- 3) The late summer / early fall program began on August 19.
- 4) He provided the schedules for the Mindful Waters, Senior Splash / Aqua Walk & Lap Swimming, Aqua Fitness, late summer Aqua Stand Up, and Swim Team programs

COMMISSIONER KELLY Responding to a question by Commissioner Kelly, Supervisor Grijalva advised that staff monitors air quality and that various factors are considered before deciding to close the pool due to inclement weather.

PUBLIC WORKS
SUPERVISOR UPDATE

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR RODRIGUEZ Public Works Supervisor Rodriguez presented the following update:

- 1) Park Maintenance staff have completed approximately 75% of the trellis replacement project at the Little Park.
- 2) The main line break at the north side of the softball field and the valve at the west side of the field have both been repaired.
- 3) Staff is also aerating grass.
- 4) Staff walked with the contractor to follow up on the punch list of pending items from the park improvement project that need completion.
- 5) Building Maintenance staff installed a new television at the Tiny Tots room; the one at the Cardio Room will be replaced tomorrow.
- 6) Approximately 95% of the electrical work has been completed in

order to prepare for the installation of a safety project at the gym floor.

- 7) Staff has prepared the plaza for the MariachiFest concert tomorrow.
- 8) Staff attended training for a new service-request system.
- 9) He thanked all staff for their hard work during the hot summer weeks.

COMMISSIONER
DURAN

Commissioner Duran thanked staff for providing for brighter lighting at the Jardin de Roca Park, to which Supervisor Rodriguez advised that LED lights are now being used and that the City Hall parking lot lighting will also be switched to LED soon.

CHAIR FRAIJO

Chair Fraijo asked about the lawn at the park, to which Supervisor Rodriguez advised that the project contractor needs to maintain the lawn for a certain amount of time before the project could be considered complete. He added that the contractor would also need to secure the concrete benches to prevent them from wobbling and address the rest of the items on the punch list.

Chair Fraijo also asked about keeping employees hydrated, to which Supervisor Rodriguez indicated that they are provided water and electrolyte solutions to keep them hydrated.

DENA ZEPEDA

Dena Zepeda thanked staff for keeping the parks beautiful.

PUBLIC SERVICES
DIRECTOR UPDATE

DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ Director Rodriguez presented the following update:

- 1) Staff is working hard on preparing for the Emergency Preparedness Fair scheduled for this Saturday.
- 2) A Fall Bulky-Item Pickup and E-Waste Disposal event has been scheduled for October 11.

COMMISSIONER KELLY Commissioner Kelly congratulated Albert Sarinana on his recent retirement.

CHAIR FRAIJO

Chair Fraijo noted that the City of Duarte also held an Emergency Preparedness event recently and stated that it is good to encourage the youth to aspire toward careers in public service.

FUTURE AGENDA
ITEMS REQUESTED
BY COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONER
ROMAN

Commissioner Roman asked about providing lighting that illuminates certain areas of the horseshoe pits, to which Director Rodriguez advised that staff is looking into the request.

Commissioner Roman also asked about the availability of parking near the Library, to which Chair Fraijo noted that Library issues do not fall under the purview of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Roman also asked about repainting the curb near the gym, to which Director Rodriguez indicated that she would need to follow up on this request with staff.

MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Roman, seconded by Chair Fraijo, to add an item to next month's agenda to discuss the Recreation Department's program waiting list. The motion was unanimously approved.

MOTION

A motion was made by Chair Fraijo, seconded by Commissioner Roman, to add an item to the next month's agenda to discuss the possibility of providing a higher-quality stage that can spotlight performers and provide lighting for the area where attendees dance. The motion was unanimously approved.

CHAIR FRAIJO

Chair Fraijo thanked all departments for their hard work in keeping parks beautiful and for offering programs, trips, and activities for people of all backgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.



Armando Hegdahl, CMC
Management Analyst

Approved as presented at the meeting held October 2, 2024.