

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
May 20, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

El Salvador Recreation Center
1825 W. Civic Center Drive
Santa Ana, CA
5:39 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. Orea

ROLL CALL

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS
MEMBERS/STUDENT REPS PRESENT**
Tish Leon, Max Madrid, Ken Nguyen, David
Orea, Julie Stroud, Wendy Tobiska

STAFF PRESENT:

Gerardo Mouet, Executive Director
Ron Ono, Administrative Services Manager
Jenny Rios, Recreation Superintendent
Mike Lopez, Parks Superintendent
Athena Martinez, Board Secretary

PRESENTATIONS

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – JUNE, 2009

Kevin Eaton was present to accept this award

SPECIAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY – MAY 2009

Steve Carpenter was present to accept this award on behalf of Rebuilding Together Orange County.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: W. Tobiska **SECOND:** K. Nguyen
VOTE: **AYES:** Leon, Nguyen, Orea, Stroud, Tobiska (5)
 NOES: None (0)
ABSENT: (*at voting*) Acosta, Hills, Madrid (3)

1. MINUTES

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held on April 22, 2009.

2. ABSENCES

Frank Acosta Jerry Hills

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ****

BUSINESS CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

1. HECTOR GODINEZ HIGH SCHOOL HOMERUN FENCE

Public Comments: Jesus Nieto – Pacific Baseball

- Appreciate the fact this item is on the agenda.
- Has brought this issue to the attention of CoFU in the past.
- Not only will someone be injured running through the bushes to catch a ball, but this would lead directly onto the road, which is very busy on weekends.
- The homerun fence would not need to be completely closed, the main problem is on the east side of the field, but all around would be great.
- One player has already been hit by a car; their foot was caught under the wheel. Not badly injured, only badly bruised.

Discussion ensued regarding the fence being “stacked” or “staggered” so as not to completely close off the fields or limit public access.

Motion to recommend the installation of a stacked or staggered homerun fence on the two Hector Godinez baseball fields.

MOTION: K. Nguyen **SECOND:** W. Tobiska
VOTE: **AYES:** Leon, Nguyen, Orea, Tobiska (4)
 NOES: Stroud (1)
ABSENT: (at voting) Acosta, Hills, Madrid (3)

2. INSTALLATION OF T-MOBILE CELL TOWER AT ROSITA PARK

Board was advised that T-Mobile has refused to install a block wall at Rosita Park as part of their agreement to install a cell tower at this park. While conducting presentations to the Riverview Neighborhood Association on this project, the association had approved the cell tower installation under the condition that a block wall was built.

Public Comments: Martha Sanchez, resident neighboring Rosita Park

- Has been asking for this block wall since 1996 due to the lewd activity and noise that occurs in the parking lot that butts up against the back yards of residents along the park’s edge.
- In the past, has been told that the City would build the wall if the residents could pay a portion of the cost.
- Residents are also concerned about health issues regarding cell towers.
- A private homeowner received a bid to do the work at a cost of \$50,000-60,000, so why did T-Mobile get another quote that came in higher?
- Could the cost of the wall be split between T-Mobile, the City and the homeowners?

M. Madrid arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding opposition of the cell tower installation.

Motion to recommend to City Council to approve a lease agreement with Omnipoint Communications (T-Mobile) for cellular equipment building and a monosports lighting monopole cell tower at Rosita Park

MOTION: J. Stroud **SECOND:** No second, motion died
VOTE: AYES:
 NOES:
ABSENT: (*at voting*) Acosta, Hills

Motion to deny recommendation to City Council to approve a lease agreement with Omnipoint Communications (T-Mobile) for cellular equipment building and a monosports lighting monopole cell tower at Rosita Park

MOTION: W. Tobiska **SECOND:** M. Madrid
VOTE: AYES: Leon, Madrid, Nguyen, Orea, Tobiska (5)
 NOES: Stroud (1)
ABSENT: (*at voting*) Acosta, Hills (2)

3. THE GRAIN PROJECT

Item tabled to June meeting.

4. NOMINATIONS FOR SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD TO THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OF SANTA ANA

Motion to nominate Darlene Glenn of Mother's of Floral Park for her efforts toward the successful playground build at Fisher Park.

MOTION: K. Nguyen **SECOND:** J. Stroud
VOTE: AYES: Leon, Madrid, Nguyen, Orea, Stroud, Tobiska (6)
 NOES: None (0)
ABSENT: (*at voting*) Acosta, Hills (2)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendars for June 2009 reviewed and discussed. Note there will not be a Juneteenth event this year due to budget issues.

STATUS/UPDATES

1. COMMITTEE ON FIELD USE (CoFU) – Met today. Budget and staff cuts presented to the committee. Leagues discussed possibly adopting parks to provide maintenance assistance, etc. Violations reviewed and discussed.
2. COMMUNITY CONTACT REPORTS AND UPDATES – Reviewed.
3. PENDING ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS
 - Zoo presentation
 - Friends of Santa Ana Zoo presentation

COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Made during New Business Calendar.

STAFF/CONSULTANT COMMENTS

G. Mouet

- Landscape contract to take on remaining 14 park sites denied at May 18th council meeting, no park maintenance lay-off rescinded. As of July 1, those 14 sites will not be maintained.

R. Ono

- Very busy month with the relocation of staff. All done and settled.
- Fisher Park playground build went smoothly. Great job by all. Cost savings of approximately \$200,000 thanks to efforts of Darlene Glenn and the Mother's of Floral Park.

J. Rios

- Still living out of boxes and working out technical issues. The Southwest Senior Center is very loud, and staff is making adjustments to their new locations.
- Gearing up for a very busy summer. All full time staff layed-off effective July 1 and accepting part-time positions for the summer will be placed on emergency appointment.
- All staff that received a lay-off notice are still doing their best and what they must to make summer a success.

M. Lopez

- Was very shocked about the failure of the landscape contract.
- Some good news was received - five general maintenance workers were advised that their lay-off notices were rescinded.

BOARD/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

M. Madrid

- Inquired if staff utilizes the services of the Orange County Conservation Corps. Staff responded that had in the past, and revisiting their services as well as other non-profit agencies.

K. Nguyen

- How will the City be affected with the failure of the State's recent special elections? Staff responded that is unknown at this time, but the Agency has already been cut to the limit, no more to give.

W. Tobiska

- The loss of all the jobs and program coordinators has really hit home and is a very hard and sad thing to take in.

- OCHSA will be performing at El Salvador Center on May 27th.
- Would like to suggest a thespian student as a Special Service to the Community Award recipient.

J. Stroud

- Will be without internet until next week.
- If you begin to have problems in the parks that will not be serviced effective July 1, do not call staff. Call your Mayor and councilmember.

D. Orea

- Remains hopeful that something can be done during this budget situation.

T. Leon

- Suggested that Commissioners contribute something monthly to purchase snacks for meetings.
- Encouraged everyone to attend Sunsets at the Zoo, lots of fun and is a great family event.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, July 22, 2009 on the second floor of the red barn in the Crean Family Farm of the Santa Ana Zoo, located at 1801 E. Chestnut Avenue, Santa Ana, CA, 92701.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:42 P.M.

Athena Martinez
Recording Secretary