

**CITY OF ONTARIO
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
OCTOBER 26, 2020
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: DEAN, RILEY, NELSEN, OVITT, BINNEY, SAUCEDO, BRAVO AND ESCOBOSA

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: GONZALEZ, HUISMAN, HICKEY, MICHALAK, VALENCIA

MEMBERS ABSENT: TRINIDAD (EXCUSED)

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Kenneth Dean at 6:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Rita Nelsen Commissioner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

M/S (RILEY/BINNEY) TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comments

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Monthly Statistical Reports for September 2020.

M/S (SAUCEDO/OVITT) TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. **Recreation & Community Services** – Nicholas Gonzalez, Recreation & Community Services Director, narrated a PowerPoint presentation on department highlights of program activities that occurred in September 2020.

A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Commission Secretary.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Ontario Recreation & Parks Master Plan Update** – Nicholas Gonzalez, Recreation & Community Services Director updated the Commission on the recent community workshops held a few weeks ago. The Master Plan has not been updated for over 20 years. Its purpose is to provide a clear set of goals for infrastructure and program improvements. Short, mid and long-term recommendations such as a Capital

Improvement Plan, Financial Strategy Plan and prioritization are all part of the proposed recommendations. This project kicked off in February 2020. Our consultant, KTUA visited all our city parks and community centers. We have held several Stakeholder meetings and workshops and created a dedicated website to the Master Plan with interactive maps. Surveys were mailed out to 5,000 households. We are currently in the preliminary recommendations phase. Due to the coronavirus, our meetings have had to be shifted to on-line. Comments we have received from the community have found to be mostly from the west/central areas of Ontario. The focus of those comments is about amenities, access, safety, maintenance, new programming and even suggestions of using some of the empty and undersized lots for recreational purposes. Focus has also been on walking and biking trails as well as playgrounds and aquatic facilities. We continue to gather data from the 5,000 residents we surveyed, and we have added an “open link” for those that wish to participate in the survey on the Recreation & Parks Master Plan website.

NEW BUSINESS

1. No New Business

COMMENTS:

VALENCIA: “I always have people asking me about skate parks for Ontario. Will this be part of the Recreation & Parks Master Plan?”

GONZALEZ: “We held a skate park focus group meeting a few weeks ago. We invited members of the community including youth and teens as well. We are taking into consideration all the feedback we received from the Recreation & Parks Master Plan Survey. Skate parks and splash pads are some of the top list items for the community. We are excited we have a foundation from the community wanting to be part of this planning process.”

VALENCIA: “We’re coming up to a year since the coronavirus hit us. To our staff and our Commission, we are all in this together and everyone has answered the call in my opinion. All departments have learned to adapt to this time of business not being as usual. I noticed as I was driving around today assessing the damage from the windstorm, that our staff is out there working over-time as we speak trying to help the community return to some normalcy. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.”

NELSEN: “I think it’s fantastic that you’ve managed to keep so many things going in the department with programming and virtual activities. You have all become so flexible in making things happen! I am so glad you extended the aquatics program into October. Thank you to Darrell for taking a hands-on approach to this important life saving program. I love that the O.Y.A.L. participants experienced a virtual visit from the Fire Department. It is wonderful to see the playgrounds being used once again too. I visited

the Anthony Munoz Park to see the development. They are doing awesome work! This is going to be beautiful! Ontario keeps moving!”

OVITT: “I participated in the Recreation & Parks Master Plan virtual meeting two weeks ago. It was very well planned! There are a lot of exciting things taking place. We are very fortunate here in the City of Ontario. This is an old city as you know, and now, we are trying to bridge the gap to meet the community’s needs. I plan on stopping by Anthony Munoz Park soon for a view! We appreciate Nicks leadership and the staff coming up with programs that didn’t exist before to keep people engaged and participating!”

BINNEY: “I think that programs in the parks and in the local community centers that extend out to the interest of the people that live in those communities is a good thing. In the future, we are going to find that seniors will want more exercise programs closer to their homes.”

SAUCEDO: “Thank you Nick for the good and informative presentations. I have enjoyed the variety of activities we are offering. We are not sitting still, we are adapting and moving forward. When my wife and I walked past James Bryant Park, we noticed that the playground equipment was open and being used by a lot of people. The dog park is very busy as well, almost to capacity. I miss seeing you all in person, hopefully we can meet face to face again soon!”

ESCOBOSA: “I have a younger brother and we are both so happy that the parks and playgrounds are open again! It gets us out! Being part of T.A.C. is helping me a lot to take my mind off not being in school with my friends. Thank you all!”

BRAVO: “The PowerPoint presentation was great. I agree with Abril about the playgrounds. My whole family is very happy about it!”


RILEY: “I will miss the costume contests this year, especially the city staff department contest. They are always so creative!”


DEAN: “The Recreation & Parks Master Plan looks awesome! I agree with Gary Ovitt, please go by the Anthony Munoz Community Center and see the progress! Drive up to 5th street and see it from a distance too, it’s very impressive!”

**NEXT RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
NOVEMBER 23, 2020 AT 6:00 PM:**

M/S (BINNEY/RILEY) TO ADJOURN.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:00 PM


Ann Huisman, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

Kenneth Dean, Chairperson