

**CITY OF ONTARIO
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
February 25, 2019
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: DEAN, NELSEN, RILEY, BINNEY, SAUCEDO,
OVITT, TRINIDAD, ZENDEJAS, MEDINA

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: DOREY, HICKEY, GONZALEZ, PONCE, PEREZ,
ESCAMILLA, HUISMAN, MAYOR PRO TEM
VALENCIA

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting called to order by Commission Chair, Kenneth Dean at 5:58 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Larry Trinidad, Commission Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

M/S (RILEY/SAUCEDO) TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 2019 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Monthly Statistical Reports for January 2019.

M/S (TRINIDAD/BINNEY) TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2019 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. **Recreation and Community Services** – Kathy Hickey, Acting Recreation and Community Services Director narrated a Power Point presentation on department highlights of center activities that occurred in January 2019.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **John Galvin Park Playground Equipment Update** - Adrian Escamilla, Parks and Maintenance Manager shared a Power Point Presentation on replacement of the playground equipment at John Galvin Park. The project began with C.D.B.G. funding to replace the existing playground for two separate playgrounds for age groups 2-5 and 5-

12. The equipment was installed in 1999 and its lifecycle was beginning to expire. Funding was received by the City along with bids from three playground manufacturers. *Great Western Recreation* was awarded the project. Their design was more innovative than the other companies. Construction began in September 2018. Shade structures and ADA swings were installed along with an Expression Swing (small child secured on one side, the other side is for the adult who faces the child) on the north playground. The projects were completed in November 2018.

COMMENTS:

BINNEY: “When will the Dog Park at James Bryant Park be open?”

PEREZ: “It is not officially open yet. A soft opening should take place in approximately three weeks. We will be scheduling a grand opening soon.”

2. **O.Y.A.L. Update** – Nick Gonzalez, Community Life and Culture Officer

Nick provided an update on how the Ontario Youth Activities League (OYAL) was established with a non-profit in 2017 with a board in 2018. The board’s role is to oversee the non-profit, share ideas and assist with fundraising. He went on to describe the programmatic elements that will be coordinated through the Recreation and Community Services Department. The pilot program will focus on mentorship, excursions and sports for at risk youth as well as exposing them to other City programs and services, like the Police Explorers and TAC. As the program builds out, we will add more activities such as academic support. The emphasis will be on social, cultural, recreation and education. We want to make sure the kids have positive role models to give them the support they need to help them grow and become positive leaders within their community including making healthy and good life choices. During the first year, we will look into using City staff for mentors as they have already completed the finger printing and background check process.

Nick reviewed the OYAL Kickoff Event at the Ontario Fury Soccer Clinic held at the Citizens Business Bank Arena on February 17th in a Power Point Presentation. There were nearly 100 youth participants. After the two-hour soccer clinic, each participant and their parents or guardians were invited to stay for the game following the clinic and were provided a meal. Staff will implement a pre and post survey to capture the program effectiveness at the end of the pilot.

COMMENTS:

OVITT: “I hope you work with all of the local school districts in Ontario and involve teachers.”

GONZALEZ: “We will be working with all of the school districts and have had some preliminary conversations with them.”

SAUCEDO: “What is the age group of the children?”

GONZALEZ: “We will be focusing on the ages of 10-16.”

SAUCEDO: “As we know the Police and Fire Department have successful Explorer programs with a lot of participants. Have there been discussions to utilize other departments and have some type of program for kids who might aspire to work in Public Works, Engineer, Planner or Building Inspector?”

HICKEY: “I think that’s a great idea and something we can take back and discuss.”

GONZALEZ: or “Some of the members from City staff work in Emergency Management Planning. We hope as the cohorts are being exposed to these personnel they might grow an interest in these types of professional positions as well.”

TRINIDAD: “What is the definition of *At-Risk*?”

GONZALEZ: “Children who don’t necessarily have access to our programming or funding, transportation or family support.”

TRINIDAD: “How much time would be expected for each mentor to give to each cohort?”

GONZALEZ: “We will be planning several programs per year. It could be one meeting per month before they go on the excursion and then the actual excursion itself. It would depend on what the excursion is. It could be a two-hour soccer clinic or a five-hour excursion to an offsite location. Essentially, about 10 hours per month.”

NEW BUSINESS:

3. **Introduction of New Staff Member** – Kathy Hickey, Acting Director Recreation and Community Services introduced Christopher Ponce new Senior Supervisor at Westwind Community Center to the Commission. Christopher shared that he is looking forward to giving back and being part of our strong program services. He also stated he has strong connections with the community, as members of his family are educators in the Ontario Montclair School District.
4. **Reminders** – Kathy Hickey, Acting Director Recreation and Community Services
 - a. State of the City, March 20, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
 - b. 2019 Annual Recreation and Community Services Volunteer Banquet, April 22 6:00 PM at the Ontario Convention Center.

COMMENTS:

MAYOR PRO

TEM VALENCIA: “Thank you to my colleagues for assigning me to this esteem position. Once I heard it was all of you, I jumped at the opportunity. I want to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication back to the community.”

I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I also want to thank the staff that we have in the City. They are unsung heroes. I was at the kickoff event for the Ontario Youth Activities League. Our staff did an amazing job with these kids in the whole program. We had Police and Fire staff there as well to mentor and interact with the kids. One of our officers from Ontario Police had a small trial with a professional soccer league. There is a lot of local talent that we can tap into. I look forward to that program taking off. I have been a Deputy Sheriff for twenty-nine years in the City of Industry. Their program is called *Industry Youth Activities League*. You could see the transition from when I started. This program has made such a difference in the community, especially in the parks, it chased out the gangs. Our staff is putting our good foot forward, so we are proactive, not reactive. We will not let our gangs take over. I spoke with every parent who attended along with his or her child on that day. Each one complimented the staff's involvement. I did not receive one negative comment. They are happy that Ontario is doing this. Thank you again for everything you do, I appreciate it."

SAUCEDO: "I would like to welcome Christopher Ponce to the Recreation and Community Services Staff. It is exciting to get involved in what we do here in Ontario. They are a great group of people. They are caring individuals who really invest themselves. The return you are seeing already is great and I think even more so with the O.Y.A.L. program. I am looking forward to what the future holds."

RILEY: "I would like to congratulate Helen McAlary on the birth of her second baby, Thomas. I wanted to comment on the *G.I.R.L.S.* program and I am glad it is expanding at a third site. I am looking forward to the Volunteer Banquet which is always so much fun."

BINNEY: "Welcome Christopher! Mayor pro Tem, we look forward to working with you. I had a chance to attend the Community Forum at De Anza. What a positive experience that was. It is wonderful to see how the local community embrace that park and invests on focusing on the health and safety of their children. I plan to go to another one at the Dorothy A. Quesada Community Center tomorrow. I have visited John Galvin Park, regularly. It is amazing how the extra patrol that Ontario Police Department has been doing has made such a difference. The park is clean and beautiful. I'm very supportive of the O.Y.A.L. and the opportunities that it will offer our young *At-Risk* youth in the City."

OVITT: "I appreciate the new swing set and the youth playground at John Galvin Park. I look forward to my granddaughter playing on it. She lives very close. Christopher, it is great to have you onboard. Such a great City and so many people working hard for the youth. Ruben, thank you and the Council for your involvement and for you being here. It is a great City to live in. The State of the City is on March 20. Kathy you're doing a great job too!"

TRINIDAD: “Christopher, glad you’re onboard with the Recreation Department. I grew up as a teenager going to Westwind. My children participate in so many activities there; it is dear and close to my heart. I look forward to talking with you and getting to know you more. Thank you for the new equipment at John Galvin Park. I look forward to the Volunteer Banquet as a highlight for everyone celebrating their years of service.”

ZENDEJAS: “I’m excited we have a full time Supervisor at Westwind. Also, the O.Y.A.L. I wish they had a program like that when I was at middle school age. It will open doors to give kids an opportunity they might not have ever had. I’m excited to see everyone at the State of the City!”

MEDINA: “Welcome aboard Mayor pro Tem Valencia and Christopher! Both Brittany and I attended the *Amazing Race* it was my first time and the program was very creative. I appreciate the staff and their dedication to the youth, especially with T.A.C. They helped me with my resume building! The new equipment at John Galvin Park looks amazing. I was very impressed with the O.Y.A.L. program. It is true how teens exposed to these opportunities will help shape and grow them.”

NELSEN: “Kathy, you did a great job tonight! I do not have enough adjectives about Adrian Escamilla. I love your presentation! The new life you have brought into the John Galvin Park with the new equipment is so awesome. Welcome Christopher! Thank you, Mayor pro Tem Valencia for joining our Commission. It is good to have you and we look forward to your comments and suggestions. I value you becoming a great leader. The College and Career Fair on April 10 is so necessary for our young community members. Also, helping the teens with resume building. Nick, I loved the O.Y.A.L. presentation, mentorship is so important to these young people. The Police and Fire Department involvement will be so valuable to this program too. I love all that you’re doing, we are the best!”

DEAN: “Mayor pro Tem, thank you for accepting this position. We sincerely value your position and working with us. Nick and Adrian thank you for your well-represented and exciting programs. It is so cool to see what the City is doing. Christopher, you are the *Behind the Scenes Guy* that I have heard about for a long time. I’m excited as to what you’re going to accomplish for us as you work for the City.”

M/S (BINNEY/NELSEN) MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF BILL ALEXANDER. THE NEXT RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON MARCH 25, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER.

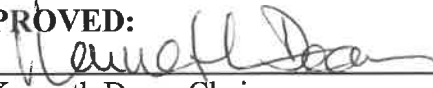
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 7:10 PM



Ann Huisman, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Kenneth Dean, Chairperson