

**CITY OF ONTARIO
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
JUNE 22, 2020
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: DEAN, RILEY, NELSEN, OVITT, BINNEY, SAUCEDO,
TRINIDAD, CAMARENA, SOTO

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: MCALARY, GONZALEZ, HUISMAN, HICKEY,
SMITH, CHACON, ESCAMILLA

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair,
Kenneth Dean at 6:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Jennifer Camarena, Student Representative

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

M/S (BINNE/TRINIDAD) TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR MAY 2020 CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comments

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Monthly Statistical Reports for May 2020.

M/S (RILEY/NELSEN) TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT FOR MAY
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 May 2020.

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

2. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Student Representative Presentations and Selection** – Nicholas Gonzalez, Recreation & Community Services Director introduced Abril Escobosa from Ontario High School and Emily Bravo from Montclair High School as the two candidates for the 2020-2021 Student Representative positions. Both candidates are Ontario residents. Each candidate presented information regarding their goals and plans and

how they feel they can best represent the youth of Ontario through their role as a Student Commissioner.

- a. The results of the Commission selection are as follows: Emily Bravo – Student Representative and Abril Escobosa – Alternate Student Representative.
- b. Commission Chair, Ken Dean congratulated them and stated that what they will contribute to the Commission is very important and that they do make a difference in the community and for Ontario’s youth.

The new Student Representatives will be appointed at the July 7, 2020 City Council meeting along with the outgoing Student Representatives who will be acknowledged and thanked by the City Council Members.

3. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Veterans Park Shade Structure Presentation** – Adrian Escamilla, Parks & Maintenance Manager reported several projects that his department will be leading. A shade structure will be installed at Veterans Memorial Park over the existing Greenfields outdoor fitness equipment. This project should be completed by the end of August 2020.
2. **Veterans Parks Fitness Rig** – A new fitness rig will be installed at Veterans Memorial Park that is similar to the fitness rig at De Anza Park. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the local community to have access to additional fitness equipment on their own but also for the Recreation & Community Services Department to create programming opportunities.
3. **T.C.C. Grant (Transformative Climate Community Programs)** – Phase 1 is planting 100 trees at Bon View, John Galvin, De Anza and Veterans Park and the Mission Boulevard median. They will be replacing vacated areas in these parks and along Mission Boulevard. In the effort to reduce greenhouse gases but also it will bring in beautiful perennials and create more shade, oxygen, and habitat for wildlife. Phase 2 will be in collaboration with Cal Trans as we will be planting 255 trees as part of the downtown Euclid Avenue revitalization project.

COMMENTS:

BINNEY: “I just wanted to add a suggestion to your upcoming plans to perhaps look into opportunities to add historical elements to our fun and educational activities.”

GONZALEZ: “We currently do have a lot of historical educational programming at our centers throughout the year, but we can always go back and look to see if we can add additional programming.”

TRINIDAD: “Thank you to Emily and Abril for presenting tonight. I admire your courage and preparation. Congratulations to you both, you did a great job!”

- SAUCEDO:** “Thank you Emily and Abril, our new Student Representatives. You both are so inspiring. When we all grew up, we did not have these types of opportunities. We are proud and we thank you. You are our future!”
- NELSEN:** “In response to Marty Binney’s comment, as a reminder the city annually celebrates the lives of Ontario’s founding members at Bellevue Memorial Cemetery in the fall. I also would like to thank the two new Student Representatives who presented tonight. I wish Jennifer Camarena and Julissa Soto all the best in their future endeavors. We look forward to you returning for visits to our meetings!”
- RILEY:** “I wanted to mention that I was scanning through the reports that we review each month prior to our meetings. I was so impressed with the number of daily lunches that are provided for our Seniors. 6,348 in one month and the daily drive through meal pick up of 1,400 for the month! I had the pleasure of presenting the Ontario/Montclair Soroptimist *Violet Richardson Award* to Kristy Garcia a couple of weeks ago at the De Anza Community & Teen Center. She was so surprised when myself, Nick, Stacy, Kathy and other staff members were there to present the award and congratulate her on her accomplishments. This will help her to continue with her college education. I thank the outgoing Student Representatives for their dedicated service, I hate to see you go. I’m glad to be back here at the meeting in person and not in my dining room!”
- DEAN:** “I received a phone call from my oldest sister that her oldest granddaughter recently got a job in the Recreation Department in Tampa, Florida. I filled her in on your departments recent programming and accomplishments and what you have all done over the past years. It is wonderful how these young people have come back after they have finished college and get hired on with positions in the city and advance as their skills and experience grow. Thank you to our outgoing Student Representatives, you will be missed and congratulations to our new incoming Student Representatives!”
- CAMARENA:** “I will miss you all so much. I am sad that the coronavirus caused us to have our meetings through the internet. I am very excited to watch and participate in the development of the Great Park in South Ontario. You all have really impacted me and my experience with the Commission has helped me improve my communication skills. Thank you for everything!”
- SOTO:** “It’s so nice to see everyone here in person together. I am excited to see the future projects that the Recreation and Parks Departments have for the community. I am happy to see that even with these hard times the community is staying together with organized and well-presented online activities and using social media to encourage teens to help make this community better and stick together! I am going to miss you all. I will be

coming to future meetings as my younger brother is planning to apply next year for Student Representative.

NEXT RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JULY 27, 2020 AT 6:00 PM:

M/S (BINNEY/TRINIDAD) TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT: 7:15 PM



Ann Huisman, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Kenneth Dean, Chairperson