

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

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

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: DOREY, HICKEY, GONZALEZ, MUNOZ, PEREZ,
SIMPSON, HAES, POLICE OFFICER MATTHEW
ZICK, DOBBS, HUISMAN, WAPNER, MAYOR PRO
TEM VALENCIA

MEMBERS ABSENT: SAUCEDO, MEDINA (excused)

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting called to order by Commission Chair, Kenneth
Dean at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Marty Binney, Commission Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**M/S (OVITT/RILEY) TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2019 CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comments

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Monthly Statistical Reports for February 2019.

**M/S (BINNEY/TRINIDAD) TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT
FOR FEBRUARY 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 February 2019.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Y.E.S. Update** – Christina Munoz, Senior Supervisor reviewed the 2018 and upcoming
2019 Y.E.S. Program. She reported that 124 children were each awarded \$100 in
scholarship funds. These funds could be used for any classes or program that our

department offers. Martial arts and swim lessons are the most popular. Christina reviewed the 2018 financial overview with the Commission. She stated that we no longer receive funding from San Manuel. Milestones since the program began; 880 children have received scholarship awards since 2014. Lifeguards and instructor guards can recuperate most of the cost of their training classes if they receive a Y.E.S. Scholarship. The program has now met qualifications for a 501(C) 3 Non-profit number. We hope this will enable us to seek funding with a little more ease than in the past.

COMMENTS:

ZENDEJAS: “Is the scholarship fund available year-round?”

MUNOZ: “It is, but at certain points during the year, we stop the funding for accumulatively one month in order to take time to balance out the funding and get a clear picture of what we have so we can move forward.”

TRINIDAD: “How many lifeguards have we put through the Y.E.S. program?”

HICKEY: “I can get those numbers for you. The student has to commit to being hired with the City of Ontario and we don’t refund if they don’t pass or get hired.”

TRINIDAD: “Do you think we’ll ever be able to receive funding from San Manuel again?”

MUNOZ: “San Manuel took a different direction this last year in who they fund. They’re focusing more on educational based programs for now. It doesn’t mean the door is closed and we will most likely approach them again.”

BINNEY: “Is it possible to receive funding from other organizations?”

MUNOZ: “I will be trying that this year. Now that we have the non-profit number, many more doors will be opening for us.”

NELSEN: “When you show them your balance and what you’ve raised over the years and the participation of the community, I think they’ll be very impressed with us.” I would love to donate towards helping a family whenever funding becomes low, just give me a call.”

2. **Park Safety Update** – Police Officer Matthew Zick, C.O.P.S. Unit stated he reported to the Commission about seven months ago regarding James Bryant Park. Officer Zick provided statistical information pertaining service calls for the park comparing this time last year verses current service calls so far this year. The numbers have substantially decreased due to the addition of the camera system that was added to the park and minimalizing landscaping changes. He also reported the calls have decreased substantially for Munoz Park between January 2018 and March 2019 due to the removal of the horseshoe pits, barbecue’s and locking the restrooms. Police have not received any complaints from the nearby residents. They changed the environment that attracted the causes of the service calls which in turn has caused the negative activity to substantially

decrease. Now that we have the cameras installed at James Bryant Park, we can view at the Police Station and monitor from a cell phone.

BINNEY: “I’ve spent a lot of time at Munoz Park, John Galvin and James Bryant Park. I have seen you do observation patrol. I cannot tell you how much difference it has made. What you’re doing has made all the difference in the world. Thank you for what you’re doing.”

DEAN: “About three months ago I was at Munoz at approximately 3:00 PM. There were no children around or families. There were approximately twelve homeless people and two women who were feeding them. Today, I was there at the same time and there were six different families doing family oriented independent activities and no homeless individuals. If that isn’t a complete turnaround I don’t know what is.”

BINNEY: “Is there any kind of ordinance regarding feeding people at the parks?”

ZICK: “Unfortunately there is not. Most of the people feeding the homeless are churches. Their goal is the same as the city has, to help as many people as they can and get them off the streets and help them become productive members of society. We always strongly suggest they move the feedings to Mercy House.”

TRINIDAD: “Are you able to track the calls for the new Non-Smoking Ordinance?”

ZICK: “It’s not effective until September. There will be a one-year grace period. We use that time to promote and educate the public on the ordinance before it goes into effect. Once it’s enforceable, and we issue citations. I will be able to give you an idea of how many are issued once that grace period is over.”

TRINIDAD: “Westwind Park along where the softball fields are, the curb parking is clearly marked red, yet people still park there. Children run through and it can become very dangerous. How many calls are you getting on that issue?”

ZICK: “I can look into it and get back to you.”

NEW BUSINESS:

3. **James R. Bryant Dog Park** – Roberto Perez, Assistant Parks and Maintenance Director introduced Tito Haes, our new Public Works Executive Director. Mr. Perez announced the official grand opening of the James. R Bryant Dog park on April 27, 2019 at 10:00 AM. He thanked the Community Life and Culture Agency for their assistance in putting the festive day into place. Mr. Perez shared a presentation of the plans and photos of the new dog park and its amenities.
4. **Ontario Arts and Culture Awards Event** – Shelly Dobbs, Vice President Museum Associates Board of Directors announced the upcoming Arts and Culture Awards fundraiser to be held on April 25, 2019. They are honoring three people in our community who have been contributors of promoting fine arts not only in Ontario but in the region and the state. We are honoring Randal Lewis and his family, a local

artist and muralist, Tony Sheets and the Maloof Foundation. They are very deserving of the honors and have promoted fine arts in our region for many years. The event will be in the Museum courtyard. The *Ontario Open* will be exhibited in the front gallery and you can see the most recent exhibit of our local artists including children. The evening dinner will be provided by “Gourmet-Gourmet.” Ontario Museum has worked hard with our community in helping fund different partnerships including our local schools. We have a spring and summer camp. We do many outreaches around the community and region. You are all cordially invited to join us for our dinner and ceremony. If you have a business or as a private person and you’d like to help us promote fine arts within the community, we would welcome you with open arms as a sponsor. *Fine Arts* is one of the ingredients that brings people into the community and keeps them here.

5. **Reminders** – Kathy Hickey, Acting Director Recreation and Community Services

- a. 2019 Volunteer Banquet will be held in lieu of our April Commission Meeting on April 22, 2019. This year’s theme is “Camping”.

COMMENTS:

MAYOR PRO

TEM VALENCIA: “Just bringing up a couple of things. Lighting in parks, I’m very glad you brought it up. We had an issue at Homer Briggs Park. A lot of cars would park there and spend the night at the horse corral. We would have people calling to complain about needles and other things that shouldn’t go on in a park or were left out there. Since our staff have added L.E.D. lighting, we do not have that issue anymore. Thank you for bringing that up, it has really made a big difference. Also, I would like to invite you all to participate in an event tomorrow evening that benefits *Relay for Life at Yeast and Flour* on Euclid Avenue. Twenty percent of the proceeds raised will go to *Relay for Life*. I’d like to congratulate Tito and welcome him. At the last City Council meeting, we had some kids approach the Council who I’ve seen skateboarding in our parking lot near City Hall. One of the kids wanted to talk about the lack of a skate parks in our city. They stated they have to go to the surrounding cities for skate parks. Their parents are concerned due to their travels to other cities and that they’re far from their homes. When the kids finished talking, I witnessed Tito making contact with them in the lobby. When I saw the kids in the parking lot, they came up to me and shared that how happy they were that someone actually cared enough to approach them and give them his business card. This team is a well-oiled machine and I want to congratulate all of you for the hard work you do. On another note, our Police Department came in first place in the *Baker to Vegas Run*. It was a 120- mile relay! Whenever you see one of our Peace Officers, please make sure to congratulate them!”

RILEY: No Comment

- BINNEY:** “During the reconstruction of the Munoz facility, will you continue to do soccer activities there?”
- HICKEY:** “I don’t believe construction will interfere with the field reservations by our athletic groups.”
- BINNEY:** “I had the opportunity to attend the community forum for the De Anza and Dorothy A. Quesada facilities. It’s nice to see these people from the community making a difference and use the opportunity to get some of their questions and concerns addressed. Thank you Officer Zick for your hard work and dedication to helping make our parks safer.”
- OVITT:** “It’s wonderful to hear about the wonderful positive things that are happening in our city, especially the new dog park. I went to the elementary school that was on the property where James Bryant Park is now. Shelly, it’s good to have you here and talk about the upcoming fund raiser at the Museum. We have really turned the corner in a lot of positive things in Ontario. It’s wonderful to see that and hopefully you have a successful fund raiser. I’m very pleased to see what’s going on and am looking forward to the Volunteer Banquet.”
- TRINIDAD:** “We talked about increasing the number of our swim classes in our program last year. Have we been able to do that?”
- HICKEY:** “I will have to check on that Larry. It may be that the capacity for this year is about the same but we will be excited when Munoz gets rebuilt so we can do that. I will look and compare to last year.”
- ZENDEJAS:** “I’d like to thank all the speakers for updating us on everything happening in the city. I’ve been to dog parks in other cities and have noticed they offer dog bags in the parkways. Is the City of Ontario offering them?”
- PEREZ:** “Yes, the city will be providing them at all of our dog parks.”
- NELSEN:** “Thank the City of Ontario and Ann for planning our transportation and arrangements to attend the C.P.R.S. Conference in Sacramento. The Convention Center in Sacramento is going to be re-modeled and will take up the next two years. The conference will be held in Long Beach during that time. Robert, Adrian, Julie, when I went to the exhibitors at the conference, so many of them thanked us by allowing them to be part of our parks and development. Thank you Officer Zick for making a positive difference in taking care of the safety at James Bryant Park. What a blessing! It’s nice to meet our new Public Works Director! Welcome! Thank you, Shelly for your presentation for the Arts and Culture Awards Dinner and sharing with us about the museum.”

DEAN: “Thanks to all of the speakers. Officer Matt Zick, thank you for all that you do. It’s such an amazing turnaround, it really was such a short time. Shelly, good luck on your endeavor.”

M/S (RILEY/BINNEY) MOTION TO CANCEL THE APRIL 20, 2019 RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING DUE TO THE ANNUAL VOLUNTEER BANQUET.

THE NEXT RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON MAY 20, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER.

M/S (NELSEN/BINNEY MEETING ADJOURNED.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 7:12 PM



Ann Huisman, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Kenneth Dean, Chairperson