

**CITY OF FONTANA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2008**

The City of Fontana Parks and Recreation Commission and Staff met for a workshop at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2008, in the City Hall Executive Conference Room, 8353 Sierra Avenue, Fontana, California prior to the regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to review the agenda. The workshop was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Commissioner Baker, with Chairperson Tahan arriving at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Hall, Echandi, Thomas, Tigner, and Wibert present.

The regular meeting of the City of Fontana Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, August 13, 2008, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 8353 Sierra Avenue, Fontana, California. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Tahan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Wibert, and an Invocation given by Commissioner Thomas.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairperson Tahan, Commissioners Baker, Echandi, Hall, Thomas, Tigner and Wibert.

Absent: None

Present: Community Services Director Garth Nelson; Community Services Managers Kyla Brown, and Frances Hernandez; Parks and Landscape Division – Public Works Manager Dan West; Parks and Landscape Supervisor Luis Villalobos, Community Services Supervisor Michael Wright; Aquatic Supervisor Rafael Gonzalez; Community Services Coordinator II Dolores Benson.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS:

- Chairperson Tahan introduced new employees of the City of Fontana joining the Community Services Department as follows:
- - Mariana Rodriguez, Community Services Supervisor – Smart Kids Program.
 - Jennifer Bridges, Community Services Coordinator II – Aquatics Jessie Turner Health and Fitness Center.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:

COURTNEY HODNICK

Courtney Hodnick has worked for the Community Services Department as a Community Services Coordinator I. Ms. Hodnick has been responsible for coordinating Cultural Art programming, including quarterly Artists Showcases and Family Art Days; special events including Art in the Park and Music Under the Stars; and development of the Art Depot into a art-focused neighborhood center and gallery. In addition, she has assisted with research and development of library programming and event components for several new facilities planned for opening in 2008. Ms. Hodnick is the key City liaison for the Art Association and the Downtown Cultural and Historical Alliance groups.

Ms. Hodnick has been selected for Employee of the Month for her outstanding departmental support in several key City events in the last few months. A few noteworthy events include Variety Nights, Cultural Arts Mixer, Concerts in the Park, Music under the Stars and Artist in Nature Camp. Courtney has lead by example on how to be a team player in the Community Services Department. With her contributions she has enhanced these events for our community.

ELENA CISNEROS

Elena Cisneros has worked in the Aquatics Department for six years as a Lifeguard, Water Safety Instructor, Assistant Pool Manager and now Manager for the past two years at Don Day. She has also had experience as a Community Services Assistant for the Don Day Community Center.

Elena has been selected for Employee of the Month for her exceptional leadership as a Pool Manager at Don Day pool. She takes her role as a Pool Manager very seriously but makes the environment enjoyable to work in, in-order to keep her staff motivated. She is reliable, organized and a great mentor. She is always one to put in new ideas towards programs to make them more successful for the coming years. Elena's great character and charisma has helped build her staff into a successful team, in-turn making Don Day a safe and fun place for the residents of Fontana.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no written communications.

Rebecca Peck, Fontana Art Association, gave an update of the Art Association's activities.

Mike Dickson, 12888 Crestfield Court, Etiwanda, 91739, informed the Commission of his involvement with Hillside Aquatics, the new pool usage and his work with the City of Fontana training individuals in aquatics.

City Clerk, Toni Lewis, spoke on problem the Fontana Historical Society is having at the Pepper Street location with water being stolen. Ms. Lewis requested assistance from anyone who may know how to resolve this problem.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- A. Approve minutes of the July 9, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.
- B. Accept Staff Reports:
Community Services Department – Garth Nelson, Community Services Director
Parks & Landscape Division – Dan West, Public Works Manager.

Motion made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Echandi to accept the staff report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PARK DEVELOPMENT UPDATE ORAL REPORT - LUIS VILLALOBOS.

Supervisor Villalobos updated the Parks and Recreation Commission on the following parks and facilities development: Village Park Snack Bar and Restroom Facility completion, San Sevaine Park Basketball Court lights, Sierra Avenue and I-10 landscape installation construction has begun; Fernandez Park estimated completion schedule for December 2008, and Fontana Park Program completion scheduled for December 2008.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tigner, seconded by Commissioner Baker to accept the staff report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE – MICHAEL WRIGHT

Supervisor Wright recapped the events in July: the 4th of July Spectacular, Variety Nights, Artist Showcase and Family Art Day, Family Fun Nights, Summer Concert Series, Dive-In Movie Nights, Cruise Night, CAP Resource Fair. A review of events for August and the beginning of September are: Dive-In Movies due to its popularity an additional night has been added as Saturday Night Re-Runs, Summer Concert Series, Family Fun Night, Race Weekends, Cruise Night and Kids Count Fair.

No motion was made.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Tahan introduced and welcomed the new Community Service Director, Garth Nelson to Mr. Nelson’s first Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

OPERATION SPLASH REPORT – RAFAEL GONZALEZ

Rafael Gonzalez informed the Parks and Recreation Commission of receiving a Community Benefit Charitable Grant from Kaiser Permanente/Fontana in the amount of \$50,000 to provide residents the opportunity to educate their family on water safety and to provide a healthy activity enriched program alternative. The City of Fontana Community Services Department, and Aquatic Programs has blended well with Kaiser's Community Outreach goals and objectives of increasing physical activity among youth, seniors and adults city wide. Also, Operation Slash has successfully offered 252 scholarships for a two-week session to children throughout Fontana's three swimming pools. The goal is to provide up to 500 scholarships for free swim lessons by the end of the summer to youth, adult and senior participants. By June 2009, the City of Fontana will have served 1,000 participants of all ages. This will fulfill the Operation Splash goals in providing water safety to various community residents.

Motion made by Commissioner Wilbert, seconded by Commissioner Hall to accept the staff report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

HEALTHY FONTANA PROGRAM UPDATE – DOLORES BENSON

Dolores Benson distributed the first print edition of "Let's Get Cookin', a Recipe Guide to Healthy Eating" cookbook on sale for \$5.00 to the public. Healthy Fontana partnered with PONY Baseball to offer healthy options in the snack bar and provide nutritional information for parents and athletes; and partnered with Tokay Elementary School to assist them in establishing a walking club, and creating walking clubs for residents nearby the New Heritage Neighborhood Center. In addition, Healthy Fontana promotes cooking classes, health fairs, boot camps, CAP Resource Fair, Shady Trail events, a Senior Health Fair and other events. Also, Healthy Fontana has received various media attention in numerous newspapers, and CNN/Time Warner special feature segments. Healthy Fontana has attended various health related workshops and a Land Use Planning and Health Conference. Healthy Fontana has been asked to participate in the Development Advisory Board (DAB). Future events for Healthy Fontana will include an interactive follow-up lecture to the "Building Healthy Livable Hometowns" workshop; attendees will include the City of Fontana planners, DAB and Randall Lewis, and is developing a map of biking and walking trails of the City of Fontana. Healthy Fontana is the proud recipient of the 2008 Helen Putman Award for Excellence Health and Wellness Program. The announcement of the award will be made in September at the California League of Cities Annual Conference.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Hall to accept the staff report as presented. Motion was carried unanimously.

PARK TOURS ORAL REPORT – FRANCES HERNANDEZ

Frances Hernandez offered a several dates for the Commission to take a tour of the Fontana Park. The Commission agreed to Saturday, September 6, 2008 at 9 a.m. as the tour time and date.

SMART KIDS UPDATE – FRANCES HERNANDEZ

Frances Hernandez reviewed and discussed the SMART KIDS program. This will be the third year of collaboration with the Fontana Unified School District (FUSD) and the Boys & Girls Club of Fontana for an Educational, Enrichment Program. In February 2007 with the help of the After School Education and Safety Grant, provided by the Department of Education, the City of Fontana partnered with several local agencies to create an after school program that highlights educational literacy, physical fitness, cultural & recreational enrichment and health and wellness. The SMART KIDS program is at maximum enrollment and has incorporated the Boys & Girls Club Project Learn elements at all SMART KIDS Program sites. There are 26 after school sites and nearly 2,000 students participating in the program. FUSD has 13 elementary schools and three middle schools participating supported by the grant and two that are fee-based to include Etiwanda with two-grant funded fee-based elementary school sites.

Effective July 1, 2008, FUSD requested the City to provide services to an additional 11 school sites, eight elementary and three middle school sites. The additional sites will generate additional grant funding in the amount of \$1,260,000; for a grand total of grant funding in the amount of \$2,812,500 for FUSD only, and with the inclusion of Colton Unified three grant sites and new additional dollars for FUSD, the total grant funds is \$3,084,069. Thanks to the dedicated staff and the program structure, students are participating in a high quality program. The coming school year will implement new education elements such as: Cultural Arts, field trips, community guest speakers and working with organizations like the County of San Bernardino Healthy Communities and the City's own Healthy Fontana Power Play Program for Kids.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Echandi to accept the staff report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS:

Director Nelson stated it has been a busy, very active and successful summer and predicts the fall will be as successful and dynamic as our other programs.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Manager Kyla Brown informed the Commission of a news television community program that is 10 minutes long with half of the program in Spanish and the other half in English. The program will include the events and activities of the previous week. Upcoming is a senior talent show and will be held at the Steel Workers auditorium on September 13, 2008. Tickets are available for the "Best of Broadway" currently running on the weekends.

Manager Frances Hernandez stated this is the last week for Dive-in Movies which has been expanded to reruns on Saturdays because of public demand. Invite everyone to come out on Friday and Saturday. Tibal is at all parks and come and see our little tots enjoying themselves. POP Warner and soccer games are also taking place.

Reminder to buy the new cook book for \$5.00, it's a good way to start getting healthy and provides ideas for cooking with new recipes.

Manager Dan West welcomed and congratulated Garth Nelson on behalf of the Public Works Department. He and Mr. Nelson spent time together touring the parks and discussing future events. A clarification to Luis Villalobos report on Fontana Park, the contractors are scheduled to complete their work in September with the landscaping and other activities to be ready in October.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Baker welcomed Garth Nelson and stated he is happy he is on board. Congratulations to the new Employees of the Month.

Commissioner Hall welcomed Garth Nelson. One comment was received from a resident who commented that he took his child to a movie event and appreciated the growth and quality of the activities the City is providing. The City is being recognized for its efforts and residents are taking advantage of our opportunities.

Commissioner Thomas congratulated Kyla Brown, Frances Hernandez and Michael Wright on their promotions; he was absent when the promotions were announced. A special welcome and congratulations to Garth Nelson and looking forward to meeting and working with him. Congratulations to the Employees of the Month, they are appreciated and recognize all of the work they do. Congratulations to the Healthy Program and Dolores for all the work done on the program and on receiving the Helen Putman award this is something to be proud of.

Commissioner Tigner welcomed Garth Nelson to the team and congratulations.

Commissioner Wibert welcomed Garth Nelson and stated he will have a great time working with the commission and looking forward to working with him. Thank you to the wonderful Community Service and Public Works staff. Thank you to the Mayor and City Council, without their support the Commission could not do the work that they do. Thank you to the Fontana Police and Fire Departments for keeping us safe. A special thanks to the school police for keeping our students and every one safe. The summer is especially hot for our troops overseas, pray that they remain safe and return safe to us.

Commissioner Echandi stated there are many programs and events to attend and tries to attend as many as possible. The number of family participation is doubled. Thank you to all for the work done for the families. The response and feedback received is positive. A lot of families are out in the community and we are serving them with providing free activities.

Commissioner Tahan congratulated all of those who went out to the National Night Out on August 5th. The children had a chance to see the police at work, it was a great event. Congratulations to staff on all the great programs available, it is always good to have many programs for the community to attend. Welcome to Garth Nelson, had a chance to speak with him over the last two weeks and look forward to working with him. Announced that this will be his last term as Park and Recreation Commissioner, he decided to run for the County Board of Education that represents Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, Chino, Mountain View and other communities. On Sunday, August 17, 2008, there will be an ice

cream social at the Fontana Women's Club from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., come and enjoy yourself and make your own sundae.

ADJOURNMENT:

By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m., to the park tour on September 6, 2008 at 9 a.m., and then the next regular Parks and Recreation Commission workshop on September 10, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Executive Conference Room, prior to the next regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Library Conference Room, 16860 Valencia Ave., Fontana, CA

Orvene Steenbock
Commission Secretary

Michael Tahan
Chairperson