



City of Needles, California Staff Report

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☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION Regular X Special

Meeting Date: August 19, 2024

Title: Approve minutes of February and March 2024

Background: See attached

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Critical Timeline: N/A

Environmental: N/A

Recommendation: Approve minutes from February and March 2024

Submitted By: Jennifer Valenzuela, Recreation Service Manager

City Management Review: _____ Date: _____

Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled: <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
Agenda Item:			

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

The Regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission held on the 21st day of February 2024, was called to order at 4:02 p.m. with CHAIR PLETCHER presiding and the following COMMISSIONERS present:

VICE CHAIR LONG, COMMISSIONERS MELVIN, WILLIS, TORRES AND LONGACRE

ROLL CALL: City Clerk, Dale Jones, administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Commissioner Longacre

EX ABSNCS: None

ABSENCES: COMMISSIONER RENFRO

CORSPNDN: None

INTRODCTN: City Manager, Patrick Martinez, Councilman Joanne Pogue, Mayor Jan Jernigan, Project Manager Kathy Raasch, Golf Pro Jarrod DeLeon, City Clerk Dale Jones, Recreation Coordinator Chanler Hartwick and Utility Manager Rainie Torrance

PBLC APRN: None

REG ITEMS:

- 1) Prior to any discussion, COMMISSIONER MELVIN MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIS to appoint current CHAIR CASEY PLETCHER to remain in his current position as Chair. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIR PLETCHER, VICE CHAIR LONG, COMMISSIONERS MELVIN, WILLIS, TORRES and LONGACRE

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER RENFRO

- 2) After the motion for Chair, COMMISSIONER MELVIN MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIS to appoint current VICE CHAIR LORIE LONG to remain in her current position Vice Chair. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIR PLETCHER, VICE CHAIR LONG, COMMISSIONERS MELVIN, WILLIS, TORRES and LONGACRE

NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER RENFRO

- 3) Recreation Service Manager, Jennifer Valenzuela, discussed the letters submitted by the youth basketball coaches requesting to be the 2024 All-Star coaches for each of our 5 divisions. She explained her recommendations and the basis of her decision. After Commission reviewed the letters, CHAIR PLETCHER MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LONGACRE, to accept the recommendations for the 2024 All-Star coaches submitted by Recreation Service Manager. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIR PLETCHER, VICE CHAIR LONG, COMMISSIONERS
MELVIN, WILLIS, TORRES and LONGACRE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER RENFRO

- 4) City Manager, Patrick Martinez, discussed the information only staff report regarding the funding from general fund to not exceed \$15,000 for repairs to get the pool operational for the upcoming season. He shared that staff completed an assessment and it was determined that said repairs are needed prior to opening. COMMISSIONER MELVIN asked if we will continue to look for funding opportunities to do a complete renovation of the center. Patrick went on to explain the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program and the implementation of projects. CHAIR PLETCHER stated he is happy to hear that the city is continuing pursuing additional funding for the aquatic center.
- 5) Utility Manager, Rainie Torrance, shared that members of the community have donated to support purchasing a bronze plaque for our Nikki Bunch Field and a bench at our 3 Pete's field in memory. The bench will be placed next to shade and will be installed after completion of the renovation projects at Duke Watkins Park. COMMISSIONER LONGACRE asked if the City was able to contact the families and get their approval for these memorial items being installed. Patrick stated that the previous City Manager, Rick Daniels, reached out to both families and got their support. COMMISSIONER MELVIN was thankful as we would never want to upset the families without asking their approval.
- 6) Kathy Raasch, Project Manager, provided an update on the park improvements at Duke Watkins Park. A power point was presented of the status of the projects. COMMISSIONER LONGACRE shared his concerns for the expression/art wall and if there would be cameras to hinder graffiti or vandalism. Patrick said he will make sure there is a camera viewing the wall. COMMISSIONER LONGACRE asked if the signs were going to go back up at the skate park. Recreation Manager, Jennifer, shared that she has 2 new signs in her office and will get them to the Parks Dept. to re-install. COMMISSIONER LONGACRE asked Kathy about the rules for the pump track. Kathy shared she is researching other cities rules for their tracks and splash pad and also asking the designer if they have basic rules and will be bringing them back in the future for the Commission to review and send recommendation to Council. A discussion was had about helmets and knee pads being a requirement for liability purpose and safety for

users and this could be something we reach out to our local credit union for a donation.

- 7) City Manager, Patrick, reported City Council approved the naming of the new walking trail at Jack Smith Park after Marilyn Hohstadt Mathews. She has big a big advocate for nature, walking and trails in Needles. He shared there will be exercise equipment installed along the trail for users and there was \$13,500 left over so they were able to pour concrete under all the equipment areas. There is 2- ADA accessible areas for compliance. He shared there will be a dedication and a permanent sign on a future date.
- 8) Project Manager, Kathy, gave an update on the improvements project at the Marina Park first beach park (Bob Belt Park). COMMISSIONER LONGACRE stated he was proud to see that projects he endorsed and supported while on City Council are finally getting accomplished. COMMISSIONER MELVIN shared that Bob Belt is the grandfather of her two oldest children, Counciler Tona Belt and her son Tom Belt.

COMMISSION REQUESTS: COMMISSIONER LONGACRE inquired when would the benches and shade would be installed at the skate park. City Manager, Patrick, informed all that they are going to be installed along with the current improvements to the park.

MGR RPT: All was covered in the reports for all departments.

ADJOURNMENT: CHAIR PLETCHER declared the regular meeting of the Recreation & Parks Commission held on the 21st day of February 2024, adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Chairman

Secretary

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

MARCH 18, 2024

The Regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission held on the 18th day of March 2024, was called to order at 4:06 p.m. with CHAIR PLETCHER presiding and the following COMMISSIONERS present:

ROLL CALL: COMMISSIONERS: VICE CHAIR LONG, COMMISSIONERS MELVIN, WILLIS, TORRES AND LONGACRE

EX ABSNCS: None

ABSENCES: COMMISSIONER RENFRO

CORSPNDN: Statements pertaining to Regular Item # 1(copies in packet except one complaint handed in at meeting and shared with Commissioners at meeting)

INTRODCTN: City Manager, Patrick Martinez, Councilman Pouge

PBLC APRN: None

REG ITEMS:

- 1) City Manager, Patrick Martinez, shared with the Commission the complaint that was filed against Coach Dyrell Jones for the incident that occurred on October 19, 2023, at a youth flag football game. He went over the protocol that is established in our Youth Sports Handbook and their responsibilities for addressing such matters. He shared that there was a meeting with the said coach on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, per handbook procedure, to address the complaint and to offer his side of the story. He informed the Commission the reason that this hearing was delayed was due to the city being notified by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department that the incident was referred to the County District Attorney and was pending review. On February 12, 2024, the case was rejected for lack of sufficient evidence. Patrick stated that they were given copies of the witness statements included in the packet from parents, staff and other coaches regarding the incident. A complaint letter was handed in at the meeting by Mr. Jones to the Recreation Service Manager, Jennifer Valenzuela. Mr. Jones stated to Jennifer Valenzuela, that he would like the letter read out loud if things go sideways. Since the letter was not provide prior to the meeting and not included in the packet, it was passed to all Commissioners who had the opportunity to read prior to any motions made. Mr. Jones came to the podium and was asked questions by the Chairs and Commissioners. CHAIR PLETCHER asked Mr. Jones if he thought his actions played a huge part in the situation escalating to his detainment by the Sheriff's department and what he thinks he could have done differently. Mr. Jones acknowledged he should have either left the facility and/or left the field and called the Recreation Service Manager himself

to discuss the situation and feels he would have gotten resolution in doing so and the situation would have not resulted in his detainment. Mr. Jones stated that he felt like his actions were perceived wrong by staff, coaches and parents and all he was doing was trying to protect his players from being hurt in the game. COMMISSIONER WILLIS asked Mr. Jones if he would ever behave this way again and Mr. Jones said no. COMMISSIONER LONGACRE asked Mr. Jones to give a history of his coaching years and if his children played in our leagues, to which Mr. Jones stated he has coached for 6 years, and all of his children currently play in all of our leagues. COMMISSIONER LONGACRE then asked Mr. Jones how many games he missed coaching his children by being placed on suspension until this hearing. Mr. Jones stated that he was coaching flag football and soccer at the time of the incident and missed out on at least 6 flag football games and 5 soccer games. He also shared that he would have put in to be a coach for our youth basketball league as he has done in the past and would have coached possibly two teams with 8 to 10 games each. Recreation Manager, Jennifer Valenzuela, confirmed his statement to be true that Mr. Jones had coached teams for our league in youth basketball and was also the All-Star coach of one team for the prior season. VICE CHAIR LONG then asked about possible probation for such an act in the future. There was no comment to her suggestion. Mr. Jones stated that he understands the code of conduct now and policies and procedures in the handbook and that this will never happen again. CHAIR PLETCHER stated that due to the hearing process delay and his suspension that Mr. Jones had been penalized for his actions by missing half of the football and soccer season and the entire season of youth basketball and he felt that he did his suspension with no other issues and hoped he learned a valuable lesson. CHAIR PLETCHER MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIS to allow Mr. Jones to return to coaching in our youth sports leagues. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	CHAIR PLETCHER, VICE CHAIR LONG, COMMISSIONERS MELVIN, WILLIS and LONGACRE
NOES:	COMMISSIONER TORRES
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONER RENFRO

- 2) City Manager Patrick Martinez discussed the managers report and included the financials for Recreation, Aquatics, Jack Smith Park and Golf for February 2024. He shared that well #12 will be irrigating the golf course in a few days. The golf stats are slow due to the rain and shared that there are up and coming golf tournaments already on the schedule for the next few months. He informed the commission that there is going to be a Resource fair on March 20th and a community clean-up scheduled for April 20th.

COMMISSION REQUESTS: COMMISSIONER LONGACRE asked if we could investigate the grant for Duke Watkins Park and see how we could possibly get an artist to come paint a mural on the new art wall at the park. He stated he is going to speak with a gentleman named Kyle and get the names of the artist that painted a mural in Blythe

Ca., and if they can also touch up the bowls at the current skate park that has some undesirable art and graffiti in them.

MGR RPT: All was covered in the reports for all departments.

ADJOURNMENT: CHAIR PLETCHER declared the regular meeting of the Recreation & Parks Commission held on the 18th day of March 2024, adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Chairman

Secretary