

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF STANTON
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, February 24, 2020**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The members of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission of the City of Stanton met in regular session in the City Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m., Chairperson Warren presiding.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Councilmember Alyce Van.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Warren, Vice Chair Berlin, Commissioner Heitman Commissioner Himes
Commissioner Normand and Commissioner Phan.

Excused: Commissioner Henry.

Also present: Community Services Director, Zenia Bobadilla

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

5A. COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- **February Program Update**

On February 21st from 6:30-9:00 p.m. the Family Resource Center held Kids Night Out with over 40 kids registered. Kids enjoyed a themed night of games, arts and crafts and staff always enjoys connecting with the families. This was a free program and pre-registration was required.

- **Easter Egg Hunt**

On Saturday, April 11th from 9:00-11:00 a.m. the City will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt at Stanton Central Park. This year the pancake breakfast will be hosted by the Youth Assistance Foundation and our partners will share services and programs by means of a Resource Fair. This is a special year for Hilda Laufer, the City's Easter

Bunny, as it is her 20th Anniversary volunteering as the Easter Bunny. All egg hunts will begin at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

Discussion followed

- **Women of Distinction**

This is the 2nd year for the Women of Distinction Program with nominations officially closing on February 20th. If there are any last minute nominations, they can still be accepted before the committee meets the first week in March. The City did receive 15-20 applications with good feedback from the public in every category. The committee will make the selections and honor the women at the March 24th City Council meeting.

Discussion followed

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. Review of Potential Modifications to Stanton

Director Bobadilla reviewed with the Commission an issue that arose through the Public Safety and Public Works Department at the City Council meeting in November 2019. Director Bobadilla presented the report in brief.

Stanton Park is located south of City Hall and has become heavily utilized by people for illegal activities. These actions are causing multiple City departments, including Code Enforcement, Sheriff's, and Public Works to spend an inordinate amount of time at the park. On November 26, 2019, staff proposed a variety of physical changes to the park to deter these activities to the Stanton City Council. The City Council recommended that the modifications be discussed with the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission:

1. Receive and file the staff's report: and
2. Provide staff with a recommendation to address any of the proposed improvements to Stanton Park.

Stanton Park is located on property owned by Southern California Edison and leased by the City. The park has five picnic shelters, four pieces of exercise equipment, a playground, a bathroom, and two large electrical towers. The park is heavily used by walkers, children, the Boys and Girls Club and other groups in the City.

The park is adjacent to a flood control channel, Beach Boulevard, and the Union Pacific

railroad tracks. Each of these provides access into the park, although a new fence installed at the west end of the park will reduce access from the railroad.

Staff has observed that much of the illegal activities are being conducted in the two picnic shelters nearest to Beach Boulevard. These shelters cannot be used by the general public as they are often filled with trash, alcohol bottles, and debris. Each morning the Public Works crew spends 45 minutes cleaning up these two shelters. The demonstration garden makes it difficult for vehicular access by City personnel so patrolling these two shelters is more difficult than the other three. After discussion regarding different alternatives with the Sheriff's and Code Enforcement Departments, it seems prudent to remove these structures that are no longer used by the public. Staff could do the removals at no cost to the city. This area may be suitable for eventual parking for the Norm Ross Sports Complex project.

The attached exhibits provide two options for fencing. The first exhibit would install wrought iron fencing across the park in a north-south direction and would meet westerly property line of City Hall. This would preclude access to the west end of the park during the night and would have a gate that would be open during the day. The estimated cost of this fence is \$30,000.

The second option would be fence the park in its entirety as shown in the second exhibit. This is a much more expensive option and we estimate the cost would be close to \$200,000.

Both options do not replace the fencing along the flood control channel. Although this fencing is an enhanced chain link, it can still be cut more easily than the proposed fencing materials. If this fence were to be replaced there would be significant additional costs, roughly an additional \$200,000 for option #1 and \$400,000 for option #2. It is possible that staff could convince the County to replace this fencing if the City were to proceed with either of the fencing options.

Staff has contacted Southern California Edison to confirm that fencing is allowed, and they have confirmed that it is allowed so long as they have access to the gates.

The Fiscal impact would be the removal of the shelters would be at no cost to the City. There is sufficient funding in the Park-In-Lieu account to accommodate any of the fencing options.

Discussion followed

After the discussion, the Commissioners made several recommendations. Director Bobadilla will forward all recommendations regarding Stanton Park Modifications to the City Manager and she will report back to the Commission all Council discussions at a later date.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Normand commented on the City possibly utilizing the railroad tracks between Stanton Park and Stanton Central Park as a bike path or walk way.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commission adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

s/ Zenia Bobadilla, Community Services Director
