

**The TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 5, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hinkle called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission of the Town of Apple Valley to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken with the following members present: Chairman Michael Hinkle, Vice-Chairperson Raghada Khoury, Commissioners Michael Martin, Donald Tatera and Richard Turnbull.

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Martin

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

William Fumage of Apple Valley, thanked the Commission for moving forward on the BMX bike park.

Art Bishop of the Apple Valley Fire Protection District discussed the recent Annual Fireman's Muster held at the Lenny Brewster Sports Center and thanked the Park and Recreation Department for their support with the event.

1. Approval of Minutes for Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Turnbull to approve the minutes for the meeting of June 3, 2010. Motion carried by a 4-0-1-0 vote. Vice-Chairperson Khoury abstained.

2. Approval of Parks and Recreation Division Monthly Report

Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Khoury to approve the monthly report for May and June 2010. Motion carried by a 5-0-0-0 vote.

3. Healthy Apple Valley Coalition

Ralph Wright, Parks and Recreation Manager discussed a grant that was awarded by the County of San Bernardino for the Town's Healthy Apple Valley Coalition.

Lena Quinonez, Healthy Apple Valley Coordinator, updated the Commission the progress of the Coalition.

Commissioner Martin asked how long the grant funding is available for. Mr. Wright stated that funding is available until the end of the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Ms. Quinonez stated that the department would continue to implement the healthy living programs even if the grant funding is no longer available.

Commissioner Tatera commended Ms. Quinonez for her efforts and asked how the program was being promoted through the local businesses. Ms. Quinonez stated the program is being advertised in the Recreation Activities Guide and that committee members will be visiting local businesses in order to help distribute information about the program.

4. Update and Review of Park and Recreation Master Plan

I. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

Cindy Mendoza of MIG, Inc, updated the Commission on the planning process of the Master Plan. She discussed the results of the public involvement process including stakeholder interviews, focus group meetings, questionnaires (online and paper) and community intercept events.

Commissioner Tatera suggested putting together an overlay of the word cloud from the youth and adult questionnaires.

Commissioner Turnbull inquired about an ID system to enter the park or a required safety course for patrons using the skate park. Ms. Mendoza did not recommend an ID system or safety course because of the cost and it is not feasible to implement or manage.

Commissioner Tatera asked how Apple Valley compared to other cities in terms of responses to the questionnaires. Ms. Mendoza stated that Apple Valley had a great response and exceeded the target expectation of questionnaires received.

Chairman Hinkle discussed concerns with the questionnaire responses and whether or not they represent all segments of the community.

II. DISCUSSION

Discussion ensued about quantifying the usage of parks and prioritizing the needs of the community.

William Furamge of Apple Valley, suggested converting the PAL Teen Center at James Woody Park to a police sub-station. He also suggested putting a BMX bike park at Civic Center Park since it is close to the police station which would encourage patrons to wear helmets.

Josh Richling of Apple Valley, discussed the word cloud from the youth and adult questionnaires. He also asked if the pool being ranked as a top priority amongst the community was correlated with the time of the year the questionnaires were done. Ms. Mendoza stated that the top ranking interests of the community do vary seasonally so they try to ask questions to eliminate seasonality and also focus their analysis to outweigh some of those differences.

Mr. Richling asked if the scheduled completion date of the Master Plan has any effect on the BMX park. Mr. Wright stated that those are two separate projects. The design plans are almost complete and the project can proceed once funding is available.

Mr. Richling discussed the possibility of using a 10,000 square foot facility for BMX use until the park is built. He asked if it was feasible for the Town to help contribute towards the annual insurance costs of approximately \$1,000. Commissioner Martin stated that the Commission is not allowed to be involved in any financial decisions and that request would have to be addressed through the Town Council.

Shane Papp of the High Desert Youth Soccer League, expressed appreciation for the Town's efforts to provide soccer fields and discussed the need for more parks and improvements to existing parks.

III. EXISTING RECREATION RESOURCES

Ms. Mendoza discussed the evaluation of the Town's existing parks, facilities and amenities, recreation programs and maintenance costs.

IV. DISCUSSION

Discussion ensued on the golf course being considered a park. The Commission also discussed what other cities would be comparable in evaluating Apple Valley's parks and recreation system.

V. NEXT STEPS

Ms. Mendoza discussed the upcoming parks and recreation needs assessment report and asked if the Commission would be available to meet in September to review. It was the consensus of the Commission to meet on September 9th.

5. Discussion on Civic Center Park Improvements

Mr. Wright updated the Commission on potential improvements for Civic Center Park including a restroom, dog park and playground. He also presented possible designs for the playground area and restroom.

The Commission discussed the playground design, restroom location and making Civic Center Park a destination park.

6. Discussion on Horsemen's Center Improvements

Agenda Item #8 was combined with Item #6 for discussion.

Mr. Wright discussed recent problems with the soil conditions of the Rodeo and Show Arenas at Horsemen's Center. He stated that staff purchased a tiller and installed an automatic irrigation system for the arenas in order to improve the soil conditions.

Mr. Wright also discussed the proposed picnic shelter installation at the park using the old shelters from Corwin Park, Mendel Park or Thunderbird Park.

Chairman Hinkle recommended proceeding with the proposed shelter installation at Horsemen's Center. It was the consensus of the Commission to do so.

7. Discussion on Park Uses and Proper Uses of Parks

Mr. Wright informed the Commission of the increase in requests for day use rentals of the parks. He recommended adopting a policy that establishes which parks have acceptable day use areas and what restrictions on rentals should be included and if closing parks for certain events is acceptable.

Chairman Hinkle stated that it would not be appropriate to have only one policy that encompasses the use of all parks since they are all so different.

Discussion ensued about displacing other passive uses of the parks for exclusive use events and deciding what is acceptable for exclusive use and day use of parks.

The Commission recommended that staff come back with a policy that addresses hosting public commercial events in Town parks.

8. Discussion on Use of Removed Shelter Structures

Agenda Item #8 was combined with Item #6 for discussion.

PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Wright stated that the Fall 2010 Recreation Activities Guide was mailed to all Apple Valley residents recently and distributed copies to the Commission.

Mr. Wright distributed and discussed the proposed site plan for the BMX bike park. He also discussed the Movie Night in the Park event on July 30 which had approximately 200 people in attendance.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Martin commended staff on the upswing in participation numbers on certain programs that are finally starting to gain momentum.

Commissioner Turnbull commended Ms. Quinonez for her efforts with the Healthy Apple Valley program.

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice-Chairperson Khoury, seconded by Commissioner Tatera and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

TOWN CLERK