



CITY *of* CALABASAS

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS, RECREATION & EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING OF
THE CITY OF CALABASAS, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

OPENING MATTERS

CALL TO ORDER/ROLLCALL:

Commissioners Present: Chair Williams
 Vice Chair Elginer
 Commissioner Klein
 Commissioner McQuillan
 Commissioner Meyer

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Ghaffari
 Student Member Wiesner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Meyer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Vice Chair Elginer moved, seconded by Commissioner McQuillan.

Motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Meyer moved, seconded by Commissioner McQuillan, to approve the July 10, 2023 minutes.

Motion carried unanimously 5- 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTIONS:

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - PUBLIC COMMENT

Roza Besser asked the Commission to encourage the City Council to continue forward progress on the Wild Walnut Park project.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM NEEDS ASSESSMENT OUTREACH RESULTS

PROS consultant Mike Svetz presented the Community Services Program Needs Assessment Outreach Results.

1. Commissioner Meyer expressed the importance of programming in the community. She stressed that the most important thing is to focus on the next steps forward.

She addressed the fact that there are many classes that are full and the need to have classes to accommodate the number of people wanting to participate. She felt the opening of the Calabasas Community Center would assist in meeting these needs.

Commissioner Meyer also communicated the seniors desire for equipment specific to the needs and abilities of seniors.

Commissioner McQuillan was concerned that there wasn't enough focus on children. Commissioner McQuillan visited the pre - school and spoke to parents. She said there is a need for both parents and children for programming and to think about the contribution the pre - school makes to working families.

Commissioner Klein was interested in the Tennis and Swim Center needing a re - investment plan. Mr. Svetz explained it was less about doing something different and more about the infrastructure. Mr. Svetz referenced the Calabasas Community Center and the roof failure.

Commissioner Klein wanted to know how to get more specific on what the needs were. Mr. Svetz explained a large reason the study was done was to understand how the community center should re-open and what it would offer. It was to create an operational business plan. He said that with the other facilities it was more about starting to add value and address programming needs.

Director Green explained the report provided a framework but as far as specific programming was considered, Director Green and her colleagues would be working on that area.

Commissioner Meyer mentioned Creekside Park and the ability to have volleyball, softball and basketball. She would also like to think about middle-school girls and their participation going into high-school, while looking at programming.

Vice Chair Elginer asked if the same approach for the Calabasas Community Center would be used for the Senior Center to increase utilization. Mr. Svetz responded that the Senior Center programs were successful, just not as successful as they used to be. He said that there were other things being considered in regards to the Senior Center, such as membership and how the facility was marketed.

Vice Chair Elginer discussed the methodology in the surveys with Mr. Svetz.

Chair Williams asked for clarification on the Program, Participation & Quality section regarding the top three methods of communication preferred. Mr. Svetz clarified the percentages of each method.

Chair Williams wanted to make sure City Council knew that the Commission wanted the Council to spend more on city parks.

Vice Chair Elginer addressed unmet needs and asked if there was convergence or divergence between the surveys. Mr. Svetz responded that they were very similar.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

2. ARTS COUNCIL

None

3. STUDENT REPORT

None

4. SENIOR CENTER

Commissioner Meyer gave a positive review of the Caribbean Bash. She also brought up the 4th of July, Pumpkin Festival and holiday festivals where there is food offered.

Commissioner Meyer highlighted the Premier Brochure and mentioned a few of the programs that are popular. She specifically mentioned several classes, including eight excursions. She pointed out that they have 103 programs at the Senior Center.

She announced the meeting of the Steering Committee was on Wednesday, September 6, 3:00pm – 5:00pm and encouraged everyone to attend.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Green thanked the staff for all of the summer events, which she listed. She also thanked the public for attending.

The first Calabasas Community Foundation meeting is scheduled for September 6 at

6:00pm.

5. WILD WALNUT PARK

The construction plans were finalized and the grant agreement executed. There will be a bid opening on September 13 at 2:00pm for the general contractor. It is scheduled to be presented to the City Council on December 27 to award the contract. The bid is online to see the plans and playground equipment.

6. BRANDON'S VILLAGE

The equipment has been ordered and the project is due to be completed in the summer of 2024.

7. CALABASAS COMMUNITY CENTER

Director Green said that the roof project was almost completed.

A contract was awarded to a general contractor on August 23 by the Agoura Hills. City Council for the painting and flooring. The work will begin in the next few weeks.

Director Green said that it is scheduled to re – open in early 2024.

8. FREEDOM PARK

Director Green explained that the park needed to be ADA accessible and has spoken to an architect to generate plans. Once the plans are received, it will go out to bid to get new playground equipment and construct a ramp.

Commissioner Meyer asked if the park would be open to the public to which Director Green replied that it was.

9. DE ANZA SPORT COURT

City Council approved the replacement of the dasher board system which will take place in November with the project scheduled to be completed at the end of the year.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Elginer thanked Director Green for the information on the parks. She also thanked the media department for the updates on the social media sites.

Chair Williams also thanked the media department for their work and encouraged everyone to visit the city's social media sites.

Director Green discussed the ADA ramp and the entrance to Freedom Park with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Meyer clarified the hours of the park and the access to the general public with Director Green.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

None

ADJOURN TO MONDAY, OCTOBER 9