



CITY *of* CALABASAS

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS, RECREATION & EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING OF
THE CITY OF CALABASAS, CALIFORNIA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

OPENING MATTERS

CALL TO ORDER/ROLLCALL:

Commissioners Present: Chair Williams
Vice Chair Elginer
Commissioner Klein
Commissioner McQuillan
Commissioner Meyer
Student Member Wiesner

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Ghaffari

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Meyer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Vice Chair Elginer moved, seconded by Commissioner McQuillan.

The motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice Chair Elginer moved, seconded by Commissioner McQuillan, to approve the August 31, 2023 minutes.

Commissioner Meyer wanted to add the word “exercise” to a sentence in the Senior Center Report portion of the minutes.

The amended minutes were approved unanimously 5 – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTIONS:

Chair Williams wanted to make clear that Commissioners have to ask hard questions and streamline the process for City Council. Due to the Brown Act, discussion or questions on any documents received in advance must wait to be addressed at the open meeting. She explained that some of the meetings will run longer than others due to this obligation.

Commissioner Meyer added that a benefit of having a Commission is that the questions brought up at the Commission meetings can help staff craft their presentations and responses, already knowing some of the questions that may be raised by City Council.

Vice Chair Elginer urged everyone to be mindful of such things as traffic patterns, and utilization of sidewalks due to Halloween the following day.

Chair Williams brought up the Pumpkin Festival, explaining that staff work all year to put on the event. She asked Director Green to thank her team for a wonderfully done event.

Commissioner Klein mentioned his tour of the facilities and how much he enjoyed it. He also praised tour guides Director Green and Recreation Manager Jeff Campbell. He went through all of the facilities he toured and expressed how good it was to see so many things going on.

Commissioner McQuillan reiterated what Commissioner Klein said regarding the tour. She thought it was great to see the relationship between the staff and how great they all worked together. She was impressed with everything that is going on simultaneously and thanked the staff for all of their work.

Commissioner Meyer went to the second meeting of the Calabaras Community Foundation and relayed that the Foundation saw their role as creating new programs or expanding existing ones. She looks forward to seeing what the Foundation can accomplish for the city.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Director Green gave a background of the Freedom Park Project and explained that they are moving forward with replacing the playground equipment with a budget of \$175,000. Proposals from PD Play and Great Western Recreation were received with four different designs.

Director Green presented the four playground options to the Commission. The Commission viewed and expressed opinions and concerns on each playground design.

The Commissioners preferred PD Play's Option 1.

The Commissioners voted 4 – 1 to recommend PD Play's Option 1 to the City Council.

YES

Vice Chair Elginer
Commissioner Klein
Commissioner McQuillan
Commissioner Meyer

NO

Chair Williams

CONTINUED BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

2. STUDENT REPORT

Student Member Wiesner did not have anything to report.

3. ARTS COUNCIL

Director Green said she had met with Commissioner Ghaffari earlier that day about doing a community art show in conjunction with a Calabasas Community Foundation fundraiser, possibly having it at the community center in the spring. Commissioner Elginer suggested May, which would coincide with the date the Fine Arts Festival used to take place. Director Green relayed that Commissioner Ghaffari proposed the same timeline.

4. SENIOR CENTER

Commissioner Meyer shared that there are a few classes still open, such as “Hot Topics” and two one day events, The “Holiday Classic Concert” on Thursday, November 30 and the lecture “Shakespeare in A Different Light”. She shared that one of the most successful interest clubs at the Senior Center is Caring Calabasas, who recently partnered with the Caruso Cares Charitable Foundation making stuffed bears to go to children of deployed soldiers.

Commissioner Meyer listed several more similar events.

She announced that a new catalog will be coming out mid - late November for classes to be held January – May and Senior Center members can sign up December 1, residents on December 6, and non-residents on December 11.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Director Green thanked the city-wide team for helping make the Pumpkin Festival a success. She thanked the community and Commission for their support. Director Green reported that the attendance was approximately 6,000 people. She thanked Recreation Manager Jeff Campbell, who was in attendance.

The Community Center roof and painting are completed. The flooring is nearing completion. Director Green presented at City Council to allocate operational funding to complete projects that couldn’t get done with the Federal Earmark grant. There will be new equipment, supplies, A/V system, and security systems. They are recruiting for part – time jobs, so Director Green encouraged people to apply.

Vice Chair Elginer said that it would be good for groups or non-profits that would want to hold meetings there. She asked what the rental fees would be and if it would be the same amount of money as other facilities such as Founders Hall. Director Green said that they will not be the same and that she was going to Council on November 8 to approve the fee schedule. She said that the plan is to get rentals and memberships before the Community Center re-opens. Commissioner Meyer asked if the Senior Center would be helping with programming. Director Green relayed that they will try to bring some of the high-performing classes from the Senior Center to the Community Center.

Wild Walnut Park - The pre-construction meeting for Wild Walnut Park is on Thursday and there will be a groundbreaking event in the next couple of weeks.

Freedom Park - Director Green is going to bid to add an ADA ramp to the entry in the next couple of weeks.

De Anza Sport Court – The dasherboards are on order and construction should be taking place at the end of the month or early next month to be completed late this year to early next year.

Tennis & Swim Center – The pool project will be started on Wednesday. The pool will be closed until February.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Elginer praised the staff and team for managing all of the projects simultaneously. Chair Williams and Commissioner McQuillan agreed.

Commissioner Klein commented on the staff being like family and thought it was great to see the relationship between everyone. He also mentioned staff resurfacing the tennis courts in house at the Tennis & Swim Center and how much money it is saving.

Commissioner Meyer also agreed that there is more work going on than there has been in a long time.

Director Green thanked the Commissioners for the recognition and expressed the team's excitement that there will be a new park system next year.

Director Green mentioned that although the agenda says that the meeting will adjourn to January 8, there will be a special meeting held tentatively on December 12. This meeting is being held for PROS consultant Mike Svetz to present the Programming Needs Assessment final report in advance of it being presented to City Council on January 10.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

None

Vice Chair Elginer moved to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner McQuillan.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

ADJOURN to Tuesday, December 12, 2023