

**Minutes
CITY OF UNION CITY
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, January 11, 2012
7:00 PM
Council Chambers
34009 Alvarado-Niles Rd.
Union City, California**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Caroline Abellar, Dave Acosta, Glenn Nate, Steven Nichols, Ian Palavi, Bert Padua and Vice Chairperson Daniel Rivera
Excused: Chairperson William Boylan
Staff in attendance: Director Tony Acosta, Manager Jill Stavosky and Secretary Johanna De Leon

III. ROTATION OF CHAIR

Per the Park and Recreation Commission Rotation of Offices, Commissioner Rivera became Chairperson, and Commissioner Abellar became Vice Chairperson.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 11, 2012

Commissioner Acosta made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abellar, to approve the January 11, 2012 minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

V. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (3 Minute Limit)

Rebecca Venable, from the New Haven Schools Foundation, invited the Park and Recreation Commissioners to “An Evening in Monte Carlo: A Benefit for the Schools of New Haven Unified,” on February 4 at the Union City Sports Center; the event will include food from Federico’s Tapas and Wine Bar, cocktails, casino tables, and prizes, and 50% of the tax-deductible proceeds will support the school’s co-curricular programs.

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Email from Commissioner Abellar regarding Scholarship Fundraiser Ideas.
(For minutes of action taken, see Item 8e on page 3).

VII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Leisure Services Report

Manager Stavosky reported on past and upcoming events: January 11 – Winners of the Recycled Art Contest received awards at last night’s City Council Meeting, and the artwork is currently exhibited in the City Hall lobby; February 1 – Annual Photo Contest winners’ work will be exhibited first at Paddy’s Coffee House, then in the City Hall lobby and the Union City Sports Center; March 1 – City Hall and the Community Centers will begin accepting applications for part-time summer employment; March 11 – 5K/10K

Annual Fun Run will begin at 9:30 a.m. in honor of the 5th Anniversary of the Union City Sports Center, more details at www.unioncity.org, in the Leisure Services Activity Guide, or please call (510) 675-5805; April 7 – Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Kennedy Park, for more information please call (510) 675-5276.

B. Public Works Report – None

C. City Council Items Related to Park & Recreation

- **10th Street Community Center Interim Use -**
- **Measure WW Project Recommendations and Budget**

Director Acosta reported that the outside doors were replaced and other minor repairs will be done to make the 10th Street Community Center, which houses the Boxing, Project Literacy, and Parks and Playgrounds programs, safer to use.

Director Acosta reported that the City has \$3.35 million in funds allocated under Measure WW; City Council has determined the projects it has approved and is preparing its first submittal to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD); the projects include improvement projects at various parks, fencing, tennis court renovation, and restroom replacement; staff will meet with Public Works in two weeks to finalize cost allocations, submit floor plans, determine environmental impact, and standardize the projects; remaining funds may be used for the Decoto Teen Center project; deadline is at end of March and the grant program runs through 2018; the park projects are expected to be completed within a year and a half, and although the Teen Center project is not ready for submittal this year, it is expected to be ready for submittal next year or by 2014.

VIII. COMMISSION MATTERS

A. Decoto Teen Center Task Force Report

Director Acosta reported that on December 14, 2011, about 40 Logan High School students toured Kennedy Center and the Teen Center, organized by Leisure Services Supervisor Chris Valuckas and Coordinator Ariel Leary; the tour was followed by a meeting, at which the students prioritized their ideas and visions for the Decoto Teen Center; the next meeting of the Task Force will be January 23 at 6 p.m. at Logan High School.

B. Lacrosse Youth Sports Program

Commissioner Nichols and the Sports Advisory Committee have expressed interest in starting a Lacrosse Youth Sports Program; he is researching the cost of starting a sports clinic, finding equipment, and looking for someone who might be interested in running the program or coaching; it will cost about \$200-\$300 to outfit one player in basic lacrosse gear including eye protection, helmets, and sticks; Fremont has a co-ed league players must pay to participate in, which includes youth and teens, and he is trying to contact the Northern California Chapter of the U.S. Lacrosse team; Commissioner Nichols commented that lacrosse is an spring sport alternative to football, and keeps youth constantly moving and running

Manager Stavosky suggested the alternative of bringing in an external camp program that will provide coaching, instruction, and equipment.

C. Field Usage Guidelines

Commissioner Nichols stated that Coordinator Maynard Estrellado is doing a survey on how much neighboring cities are charging to use fields; Union City remains the least expensive in the area, but is considering raising the rates to be competitive with nearby cities and possibly changing the Field Usage Guidelines to keep our fields in better condition.

Director Acosta stated that the economic downturn has stopped major construction projects in Union City and other surrounding cities; there is currently no budget allocation in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for the replacement of fields, but the condition of the fields will begin to deteriorate in about 2-3 years, so the City will have to look at financing the renovation of the fields - shutting down the fields is not an option.

D. Tennis Program

Commissioner Nate reported that there is a strong Tennis community in Union City, and there is an unofficial Tennis Club that would like the opportunity to collaborate with the City on events, and would like to find out what forums are possible for them to participate in; they would like to eventually be recognized as an official club by the City.

Manager Stavosky stated that Public Works and Leisure Services staff will meet in the upcoming weeks to discuss Tennis Courts, and will invite Tennis Club members to participate.

E. Scholarship Fundraiser Ideas

Commissioner Abellar sent email correspondence with Scholarship Fundraiser ideas, and suggested that the most cost-effective ways fundraiser ideas may be to have a 5K/10K race, Dog Race, or Performing Arts Showcase.

Commissioner Acosta suggested including an Improvisational (“Improv”) Arts segment, as it is popular among high school students; Logan High School does “Comedy Sports.”

Commissioner Abellar stated that the Performing Arts Showcase could include various genres including: comedy, “improv”, dancing, acting, spoken word, singing, etc., in conjunction with Commissioner Nichols’ suggestion of a Silent Auction to sell paintings, photography, and other donated art, to be held possibly at the Union City Sports Center or the Ruggieri Senior Center; another idea was a Dog Race at the Dog Park, with weight categories, race lanes for dogs to run to their owners, booths, and donated prizes from local businesses for both dogs and owners; the scholarship goal would be at least \$1000.

Chairperson Rivera stated that the money for the scholarship would be accumulated over time, and the scholarship would be awarded when the amount reached \$1000.

F. Bocce Ball in Union City - None

Continue to next meeting.

G. Sports Center Report

Manager Stavosky reported that the operating figure per hour for Union City Sports Center is \$120/per hour, not including utilities and janitorial costs.

Commissioner Nate commented that the Sports Center is not open late enough for people who work late hours.

Manager Stavosky stated that the Sports Center surveys members on issues such as this one when memberships are renewed and at the Fun Run; people are still signing up for more short-term memberships than long-term ones.

H. Sports Advisory Committee

Commissioner Nichols reported that all user groups met in December for a year-end meeting to discuss any field problems and to suggest any changes they would like to see; Grounds Supervisor Nelson Kirk gave a report from Public Works; the committee is organizing a carnival for user groups to advertise their organizations and hold early sign-ups.

Commissioner Nichols suggested inviting the Tennis organizations to the next Sports Advisory Committee meeting to introduce them to other groups, and to give them an opportunity to announce sign-ups and tournaments.

I. Adult Sport Leagues – None

IX. ITEM(S) REFERRED BY COUNCIL

Director Acosta reported that Redevelopment Agencies in California are in their final stages, and that the public can expect a search for funding to take the place of the Redevelopment funds that support over 30 City staff positions, including some Leisure Services/Youth and Family Services positions; City Council will be looking at ways to maintain the positions for the remainder of this fiscal year and hope to find the funds to keep them financed for the next fiscal year.

X. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (5 Minute Limit) – None

XI. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Seabreeze Park Cricket Pitch Presentation, Football Field for Union City Colts

XII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Director Acosta announced that on January 28 – the Union City Lions Club Crab Feed will be held at the Ruggieri Senior Center, \$40/per person or \$75/per couple, no host bar, music, raffle prizes; please contact the Lions Club or Director Acosta if you would like tickets.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Acosta made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abellar, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 8, 2012.