

Minutes
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
Thursday, August 27, 2020

A Special meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Stephen Penner, Chairperson, in the Council Chambers at the Reedley City Hall, 845 G. Street, Reedley, California 93654.

1. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
 - A. Commissioners Present: Stephen Penner, Chairperson; Tom Brandt, Vice Chairperson; Angelina Rodriguez; Shirley Ito (arrived at 4:45); Maria Rodriguez; Darren Minami
 - B. Commissioners Absent: none
 - C. Youth Representatives: Present – Emily Medina Delgado; Adeline Villarreal
 - D. Staff Present: Sarah Reid, Community Services Director; Kayla Cheney, Administrative Assistant;
 - E. Others Present: Nicole Zieba, Jerry Isaak, Scott Weishaar, Sofia Cano, Portirio Rios Jr., Chinayera Black Hardaman, Justin Watson, Joe Garza
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Minutes of July 25, 2020 be approved, it was moved by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Brandt. The motion carried.
3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION – None.
4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None.
5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion Regarding Reedley River Park Safety –

City Manager Nicole Zieba stated the Community Services Commission is able to provide a venue for our citizens to come and speak about the issues we are having with River Safety and then decide if this is something the Commission wants to move forward with. Zieba mentioned River Safety has been an issue since Reedley has been around. This is not an easily solved issue. However, if the Commission feels the City Council should consider a recommendation, then that's what we want to hear. Zieba emphasized again that River Safety is a complex issue. As soon as she heard the news of the drowning herself and Reid went down to the river to make sure the signage was up and clear. The signs were up and are in English and Spanish. To make sure the danger is clear new larger signs went up.

Fire Chief Jerry Isaak stated the river has had this issue of drowning forever, since the community has been here. Fresno County Sheriff Sergeant Scott Weishaar stated his experience with water is that it is unpredictable. Weishaar shared during his 2008-2013 career he investigated three drownings over the years, all three victims had life-jackets on. They were doing

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everything they should have been doing. Reid opened the mic up for public comment.

Reedley resident Porfirio Rios Jr. spoke and would like to see more than one safety option for the Reedley River Parks. He suggested a Donut or a ring with a rope, so a residents can assist, people react instantly, even a buoy, to throw out to the individual drowning, Rios emphasized there needs to be items to provide some resources for these citizens who are in danger.

Reedley Resident Sofia Cano stated a few things for consideration such as an outreach and educational program. She would like to see this in the school system. Cano mentioned she attended the KCUSD school system, yet she can't recall there being a program which teaches students the danger of the river that flows through the community of Reedley. Cano mentioned she is an interpreter, not a language interpreter but an information interpreter. She stated there is a way to make interpreted signs. Not many people read signs, and some may not know how to read. However, there is a way to make these signs stand out which will grab the attention of the viewer, such as by putting images on the signs rather than words.

Reid mentioned many residents reached out to her asking how they can help, giving different ideas and even mentioning they would like to donate. Reid shared she searched the internet for something similar to our river here in Reedley, and the situation we have. There is a white-water river park in Colorado. Reid reached out and they actually have a live camera where you are able to view the river and see the individuals in the water. However, their river situation is different than Reedley. On the live camera it is obvious individuals were able to clearly walk across the river. In comparison to Reedley, you are unable to gracefully walk across the river considering the drops which are misleading and the fast pace water flow. Reid stated she would like a recommendation to work on interpreter signage, which is eye catching for those coming from out of town. Commissioner A. Rodriguez asked if visitors are given any type of pamphlet when they enter the park given the danger of the river. Reid mentioned there is not a brochure handed out. Commissioner A. Rodriguez mentioned there are many people who come from out of town, this may give those individuals an extra warning other than the signs. Reid shared pictures of the additional signs with the Commission that were recently installed at the River. These signs are larger and brighter.

Zieba stated Cano's proposal was very impressive. She would like to see a recommendation from the Commission for interpreter signs and work with Cano. Although there are signs at the beach, these signs are not eye catching and need to be more educational. Zieba stated she would like to see an area at the beach, a small cornered off area for children. The river is not the City's jurisdiction. Something of this sort would need to have an engineer to look at

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since it would need to be anchored in. Zieba would like to hear thoughts on a life-jacket program, however there is a chance these life-jacket may walk away, which wouldn't mean we wouldn't consider this suggestion or do so.

We just have to be careful that we do not create liability for the City.

Commissioner Penner stated he was intrigued in the interpreter signage. He likes the idea of images, rather than having to read these signs. Cano mentioned individuals do not read signs, they're too busy trying to get into the park and finding a parking spot not focused on reading the signs.

Commissioner Penner also stated he is interested in seeing some kind of buoy with a rope.

Commissioner M. Rodriguez stated the interpreter signs are a great idea considering there are some who do not know how to read. Secondly there are some who are visual learners. Commissioner Brandt states he too agrees, he likes the interpreter signs. Commissioner Penner would like to see volunteers out at Reedley Beach who are willing to provide information to Reedley Beach guests, to inform them of the danger. Commissioner A. Rodriguez mentioned the biggest thing is to try different solutions, and although they may not all work, a few will. Commissioner Brandt talked on life-jackets mentioning that although this may sound like a great idea, it may open the City to legal exposure. Considering this item would be supplied by the City of Reedley, if a resident or park guest does not place this item on correctly, this would fall back on the City, the life-jacket has too many flaws. Commissioner Brandt likes the idea of a buoy.

Zieba mentioned if we move forward with interpreter signages, she would like something which states "life-jacket recommended". Commissioner Minami too likes the interpreter sign idea, he stated the life-jacket issues seem to have flaws. He also mentioned a loud speaker in the park making safety announcements. Youth Representative Medina, too agrees she likes the idea of interpreter signages, and possibly placing these in areas where individuals will actually see these signs. Youth Representative Medina also mentioned she does not remember a time in school where she was educated on river safety and the danger that comes with the river. Rios stated he would like to see volunteers out at the River especially during Labor Day when the river is busy, and weather is hot. Zieba emphasizes explorers can be out at the River for the weekend.

Chinayera Black Hardaman Chief Executive Officer for the Sierra Kings Health Care District which is a community-based grant maker. There is a fund set aside such as for emergency needs. They are not a huge funder, but they are apart of Reedley. Hardaman mention whichever approach the City takes with this safety concern, that Reedley keeps Sierra Kings Health in mind to be a partner.

Cano mentioned she would like to see interpreter volunteers out at the river, an idea would be to have this as a High School volunteer program. Reid mentioned she would want to put forth a standard and training program for

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the volunteers before letting them loose in the park. Commissioner Penner summarized that there were a lot of suggestions from buoys, life-jackets, interpreter signage and student volunteers. No one wants to see or hear of another drowning. "The City's greatest asset is also one of the City's greatest curse" says Commissioner Penner. If these recommendations are approved this proposal will then be presented to City Council. Commissioner Penner emphasized he would like to give priority to education/volunteer programs, pamphlets, interpreter signage, Life-jackets and buoys. It was moved by Commissioner A. Rodriguez seconded by Commissioner Brandt. Motion carried.

B. Proposition 68 Per Capita Grand Funds –

Reid mentioned she gave the Commissioners till July 27th by 5:00pm to submit recommendations for Proposition 68 Per Capita funding. There is a total of \$194,131.00 designated for the City of Reedley. These projects must be identified specifically. This will be presented to City Council at the second meeting in September with the project list and a resolution. The resolution is due the 1st of December. If a project is over 60 thousand dollars, there must be a formal bidding process. Commissioner Penner stated the priority of the four projects would be Trimble Parks playground, Citizens Park playground resurfacing and shade structure replacement. Citizens Park workout resurfacing if there is remaining money. It was moved by Commissioner Ito, seconded by Commissioner M. Rodriguez. The motion carried.

C. Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Round 4 Camacho Park Rehabilitation Project –

Reid stated there is an opportunity to resubmit an application for round four funding, which has more money available this time around. Reid mentioned she called the California State Parks Department after the project was not funded. The State informed Reid that Reedley was not as needy as other communities across the state. Secondly, the environmental piece needs to upgrade the irrigation or show how conservation they will be advanced and achieved, Reid has been working with Public Works on this concern. Employment or volunteer opportunities was also mentioned, possibly doing murals on the cement hall. Overall, there needs to be something that brings more attention to this park. Commissioner Brandt commented residents enjoy fitness clusters. Commissioner A. Rodriguez mentioned many residents utilize the fitness clusters at Citizens Park of all ages. Commissioner Ito likes the idea of murals, fitness clusters and smart Irrigation System. Reid emphasized this grant does not require a match which is very rare. The proposal was put in for 2.4 million. Reid suggested to the Commission that this project is too practical

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and there is an opportunity to do more. No recommendation is needed at this time, however when the conceptional is received, this will be presented to the Commission.

6. YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

- A. Emily Medina Delgado – Reported that going back to school virtually has been a challenge to adapt to. Delgado mentioned she volunteered in the Summer Day Camp program through the City of Reedley for a week. She also volunteered at a drive-thru distribution through Fresno Center. This distribution gave back to over 200 families.
- B. Adeline Villarreal – reported that school started and Villarreal has been very occupied with school and filling out college scholarships and applications. In student council they are trying to get students involved, they are planning to do a virtual spirit week.

7. STAFF REPORT

- A. Sarah Reid, Community Services Director –
The programs this summer went very well. The swim lessons were fantastic. There was one incident, however staff stuck to the Covid safety plan and it all worked out. Parents were very excited about the swim lessons. The camp this summer went well with 12 kids and 2 leaders. Currently staff is focusing on small groups, this is easier to control the dynamic and allowed with current guidelines. There is usually a leisure guide projected for 6 months which is not practical during this time since things are changing so often, so currently staff is creating a flier for every two months. Cheney is working on creating a page on the City website with the upcoming fliers that is easy for parents to access and gather information from in one easy location. The race this year is going to be virtual, this is a fundraiser for the Parkway. Sponsorship is higher this year than last year. Reid stated every time the county rolls new guidelines, staff is on it. The Community Services Department (CSD) is progressively opening things up when allowed. Jodi Botello Senior Coordinator cooking class has taken off. She has been featured on channel 24, 47 and 30 as well as the Reedley Rotary. CSD department is offering what is safe, what can be managed and is allowed under the state and county guidelines.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Commissioner A. Rodriguez expressed her gratitude to the CSD department for the staffs work on Facebook as well as the virtual Fiesta Run. Commissioner Ito expressed her appreciation to Reid and staff. Commissioner M. Rodriguez is excited to see what is in the works of Camacho Park. Commissioner Rodriguez also appreciates the doggie bags when she is out walking her two dogs.

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9. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla Cheney, Administrative Assistant

Stephen Penner, Chairperson

Sarah Reid, Community Services Director