

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

CALL TO ORDER by Vice Chair Alberg at 7:00pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Commissioner Kraemer

ROLL CALL Commissioners present: Chair Alberg, Vice Chair Abel, Commissioner Silver, Commissioner Kraemer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action Motion: **Move to approve the agenda of the January 13, 2009
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Commission meeting.**

Move: Silver 2nd Abel Vote: 4-0-0-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

**2. MINUTES OF PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2009**

Recommendation: **Approve minutes as presented.**

3. RECREATION REPORT

Recommendation: **Move to receive and file the Recreation report for
January, 2009**

4. MUSEUM REPORT

Recommendation: **Move to receive and file the Museum report for
January, 2009**

5. YOUTH COMMISSION REPORT

Recommendation: **Move to receive and file the Youth Commission report for
January, 2009**

All items listed on the consent calendar are considered to be routine or non-controversial matters. The items listed on the consent calendar may be enacted by one motion and a second. There will be no separate discussion of the consent calendar items unless a member of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission or Town Staff requests discussion on specific consent calendar items at the beginning of the meeting.

Action Motion: **Move to adopt Consent Agenda items 2-5.**

Move: Abel 2nd: Kraemer Vote: 4-0-0-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley: Informed the Commission that the Town of Yucca Valley had declined the purchase of the Sky Drive-In property, and a press release was being prepared regarding that matter.

STAFF REPORTS

6. Periodic Agency Report – Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert

Director Schooler introduced Susie Eckert, Chief Professional Officer of the Boys and Girls Club of the Hi Desert. Ms. Eckert spoke about the daily hours and operations of the Club, fees charged and scholarships, educational and recreational programs, staff to participant ratio (1:15), the Teen Center project. She spoke about the involvement of the Youth Commission and area teens in the development of the new teen center. Ms. Eckert answered Commissioners' questions and noted appreciation for the support and partnership of the Town.

7. Recreation Fee Policy Draft

Director Schooler reviewed the written staff report, noting that the Town Manager had requested a review of the resident/non-resident fee issue in charging fees for recreational programs. He stated that with the limited number of recreational facilities, high levels of registration for some programs, and a challenging economy, it is expedient to review this issue at this time. Further rationale for the review is that public agencies and facilities are supported by residents' property taxes, while non-residents' taxes provide no such support.

Participant fees allow the agency to recover at least some of the cost of providing programs and events. Fee structures are typically established with consideration to agency policy, local market conditions, fees charged by nearby agencies for similar activities, and the planned recovery of some or all of program costs.

Schooler reviewed the past and current local philosophy and practice of establishing fees for various categories of the Town's recreation programs, as well as for sponsorships of teams and events. To date, the guidelines have been vague but workable.

Staff has recently surveyed 12 cities, looking for information regarding the assessment of non-resident fees for recreational programs. Seven of the surveyed cities charge differently for non-

residents for at least some of their programs. Although the cities were unable to share a formal policy, the non-resident fees were typically \$10 higher than resident registration fees. Some cities also provide a priority registration period for residents.

Schooler presented several items for Commission discussion, framed as staff recommendations regarding policy for assessing recreation fees locally (adult sports leagues, senior and adult trips, aquatics programs, enrichment classes, youth sports leagues, youth programs, and sponsorships). He invited commission discussion regarding the recommendations.

Public Comment: Margo Sturges of Yucca Valley commented that the report does not have sufficient information regarding fiscal impact and that neither Tri Valley Little League nor MBYSA were contacted to attend the meeting. (Chair Alberg explained that the fee discussion does not affect fees charged by other agencies.) Ms. Sturges expressed concern that non-resident children might be ostracized and that non-resident families support local businesses.

Public Comment: Susie Eckert of Rimrock noted that there are not many options for those that live outside of Town limits.

Commissioner Silver requested clarification regarding family discounts currently included in the Town's fee structure, and questioned why those might be eliminated. She suggested scholarships for families that could not afford fees. Director Schooler discussed some of the problems experienced in the past with regard to scholarships, and explained how such requests are received and reviewed. Commissioner Silver suggested that incorporating non-resident fees could require more staff to administer the program, and that staff should be sympathetic to the financial limitations of the public.

Vice Chair Abel stated that the recreational fees charged currently and in the past have been relatively low, but consideration should be given to whether fee changes will make a difference to the organization, i.e., adding a non-resident fee to a low-participation activity would not make as much sense as doing so in high-participation activities. He prefers an approach that raises fees to appropriate levels, then provide a resident discount in certain programs to those who provide proof of residency. He was concerned about the logistics of proving residency for such programs as adult sports leagues and the staff burden of requiring proof of residency for drop in swim programs. He questioned the limit of 2 sponsors for summer concerts.

Commissioner Kraemer asked for clarification of how sponsor fees apply to adult softball leagues. She also inquired about the financial outcome of the senior trip program, using the current formula. She supports a priority registration period and resident discount for Town residents. She also asked for details about the percentage breakdown of the enrichment classes. She supports family discounts for youth sports programs, resident priority in registering for day camp programs, and resident discounts instead of non-resident fees. She shared her experience with regard to scholarships and as a sponsor of Town events. She expressed overall support for the recommendations.

Chair Alberg objects to the 100-mile radius recommendation as a basis for adult softball league fees; would prefer closer like-sized cities as for benchmarking. He expressed agreement that scholarships can get out of hand and should be handled carefully (maybe charge only for uniforms in hardship cases). He asked about the cost of imprinting sponsor names on team shirts. He questioned the fees for fun runs and inquired about non-resident fees for those events.

Commissioner Silver suggested that priority registration could be a problem for senior trips. **Commissioner Abel** suggested not including a priority registration period for trips because the impact would be negligible.

Director Schooler suggested continuing the item until the March meeting so staff could have a chance to digest the input and incorporate the key elements of the discussion into a Commission recommendation.

Action: Motion: **Move to continue the Recreation Fee Policy discussion to the next regular Commission meeting.**

Move: Kraemer

2nd Silver

Vote: 4-0-0-0

8. Community Development Block Grant discussion

Director Schooler updated the commission on the community Development Block Grant process. The Town did receive the eligible proposals back from the County. He noted that the Commission's project recommendation had been forwarded to the Council. The proposed project is the renovation of the Community Center playground area with the inclusion of a splash park/spray ground. The Town Council would be asked for a formal funding recommendation on Thursday, February 12th.

Director Schooler mentioned there are approximately \$600,000 in requests and only \$125,000 available. The allocation is down about 8% this year. No action required.

STAFF INFORMATION ITEMS

Director Schooler stated that staff has received training on the new Mobile Stage. It will be set up before an upcoming council meeting so council members can see the stage. Yucca Valley High School's softball team is using Machris Park for their practices and games.

Director Schooler reminded the commission that starting in March the meetings are at 4 pm. Town Council is planning to change their meeting day to the second and fourth Tuesdays starting in April.

Director Schooler provided the commissioners the final draft of the Parks Master Plan and a copy of the current Park Use Ordinance.

The Commission will be reviewing the Park Use Ordinance at the March meeting. The last time that it was reviewed was 2005. One current issue of concern is people conducting business on Town property.

The museum has Family Fun Day planned for Saturday from 10-4pm.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

1. Chair Alberg: Chair Alberg read a thank you letter to the commission from the Hearts of Yucca Valley. He thanked Director Schooler for the final addition of the Parks Master Plan.

2. Commissioner Silver: Commissioner Silver thanked staff for their hard work.

3. Commissioner Kraemer: Commissioner Kraemer thanked Director Schooler for the information. Commissioner Kraemer gave some clarification on the Boys and Girls Club and encouraged partnerships.

4. Vice Chair Abel: Commissioner Abel mentioned that the attendance at the Healthy Hearts race was low and maybe we need look at another way to registrar early for the races. He encouraged all the commissioners to participant in the Grubstake Run in May.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission will be on Tuesday, March 10th at 4:00 p.m. in the Joshua Tree Room of the Yucca Valley Community Center.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Alberg adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Randall, PRCC Secretary
Community Services Department