# MINUTES
# LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
# SPECIAL MEETING OF
# AUGUST 28, 2007

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of La Puente was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 15900 East Main Street, La Puente, California, on August 28, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.

## CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Perez called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

## ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Lujan, Storing, Perez
Council Members absent: Chavez (arrived at 5:34 p.m.), Solis

Staff Members present: City Manager Cowley, Assistant City Manager Yamachika, Acting City Clerk Giron; Acting Community Services Director Bistarkey

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Charlie Aguirre, La Puente Valley Water Board Member

## ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ken Medeiros addressed Council regarding applications and qualification for Parks and Recreation Commission.

## NEW BUSINESS

A-1 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Mayor Perez confirmed the attendance of the Parks and Recreation Commission applicants Roger Clark, Jennifer Gonzalez, Evelyn Herrera, Vincent House, Wendy Meza, Anthony Monges, Mike Salas, and Allison Young for five (5) seats on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Roger Clark gave a brief background on himself indicating that he has lived in the City of La Puente for twenty-eight (28) years. He worked for Santa Fe Springs, is currently retired and is a volunteer with the Sheriff's Department. His interests include camping and bike riding. The issues he would like to address at the park include completing the community center, the nature education center, the elimination of graffiti and improving the management of the league programs. He indicated that his family visits the park frequently and that his grandchildren play in the little league. Mr. Clark suggested a

separate play area for the smaller children and increasing the maintenance of the park restrooms.

Jennifer Gonzalez provided a brief background on herself. Ms. Gonzalez indicated that she graduated from La Puente High School and is a nursing major student at Cal State Los Angeles. Her involvement in sports included varsity softball, La Puente softball league, and she was named in the La Puente High School tennis hall of fame. She said that she had experience and familiarization of various sports including addressing issues with limited equipment, funding and planning practices. Some of the issues at the park that could be improved are fairness for all sports, introducing a variety of sports for adults, improving the restroom facilities, and opening the community center. She felt the community center was a good place for high school students to spend time after school. Ms. Gonzalez stated that she is constantly at the park for city events and family gatherings.

Evelyn Herrera provided Council with a copy of her resume and gave a brief background on herself. She has been a resident of La Puente for twenty (20) years and has been involved in many youth sports activities in the City including high school sports. Her family has been going to the La Puente Park for many years. Ms. Herrera is currently employed with Congresswoman Grace Napolitano. She has learned a lot about municipal government and commissions and feels that she possesses the skills and determination to make changes. She indicated that she was a team mom for a La Puente Little League team and has experience working with managers and the little league president. She felt that the park needs more resources to expand the variety of sports, equality within the La Puente youth leagues, and the opening of the community center. She pointed out that to her the most important issue to address is acquiring land for additional recreation for the City's growing population and providing more services for people to become involved in the community. She has observed that when she visits the park most of the space is taken up by sport activities and not much space is left for families to enjoy the park.

Vincent House gave a brief background on himself indicating that he has been a resident of La Puente for forty-six (46) years and served on various committees and organizations. He is currently the president of the La Puente Valley County Water District. He feels that the Commission should be able to resolve differences regarding the park use and he would like to help with that. Mr. House pointed out the unclean facilities at the park. He also spoke about the possibility of exchanging land with the City of Industry for more park space. He stated that the first thing the Commission needs to do is get together to design a plan that will establish what it wants to do and expressed that he would like to be part of that. He recently visited the park and noticed that it is now in better shape. However, the park needs more patrolling because he has noticed empty alcoholic containers. Mr. House informed Council that he was involved with the installation of the first set of playground equipment at the park. He is semi-retired and has time to attend Commission meetings. If he is chosen to serve on the Commission he will work hard and diligently to improve the park and recreation activities to benefit the youth and citizens of this community.

Wendy Meza provided Council with a brief background on herself and indicated she has lived in the City of La Puente for over twenty (20) years. She would like to serve on the Commission because she enjoys participating in community organizations, has heard a lot of complaints about the little league management, and would like to be a positive role model for her son. She has always been involved with organizations that provide community services and has time to be part of the Commission. Ms. Meza felt that the restrooms and barbeque grills need to be improved. Lastly, she noted that she has visited the park to attend the concerts.

Anthony Monges provided Council with a brief background of himself indicating that he has lived in La Puente for sixty-seven (67) years and was involved with the Little League for twenty-six (26) years. He has also coached in the Pony League and has been involved with football and basketball sports. Mr. Monges worked for the La Puente-Hacienda Unified School District for twenty-eight (28) years. Currently, he is working at the Pomona Fairplex as a security guard and has been employed there for five (5) years. The issue that he would like to address is increasing the park space for the City's growing population by using land along Hacienda Boulevard. His strengths are his familiarization with kids in La Puente and willingness to help with the Commission. Mr. Monges would like to see the completion of the park project. He also indicated that the would have time to serve on the Commission and serve as the Chair if appointed.

Mike Salas addressed Council with a brief background on himself indicating that he has twenty (20) years of experience working for the City of Baldwin Park with parks and recreation. His experience includes serving as a liaison for sport leagues, boxing tournaments, seasonal celebrations, and organizing programs and activities. Mr. Salas suggested ideas to establish a sports liaison or committee that talks to the different youth programs in La Puente and submit an application for CDBG funds for a childcare subsidy program. The last time he was at the park was when they had the adult basketball program. He indicated that he would have time to attend the Commission meetings and would not have a problem being appointed as the Chair of the Commission. He said that a facelift would help at the park. What motivated him to apply for the Commission was the challenge for the commission to assemble for the first time and bring in ideas that would improve the community. He said that his roll as a Commissioner is to be a representative and ambassador of the City, extend the voice of the Council, and make sure that things are set in a manner that benefit the City of La Puente.

Allison Young provided Council with a brief background on herself. She indicated that she grew up in Modesto and after college moved to Los Angeles. She has lived in La Puente for two (2) years and is interested in what is going on in the City. She works as a staff accountant for various companies. She stated she is detail oriented, and has the ability to listen and problem solve. She has a degree in recreation and has been involved with several sport organizations and a group home. She was motivated to apply for the Commission because she noticed that there were no classes available through the city. The last time she visited the park was with her step-son. She would like to see more parks in City, the opening of the community center, and a new schedule of classes. If

appointed as a Commissioner she is available to attend Commission meetings and is capable of being the Chair of the Commission if appointed.

Mayor Perez thanked all the applicants for participating in the interview process for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Perez adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Approved this 12th day of August, 2008.

Diana Giron, Acting City Clerk

Louis R. Perez, Mayor