

**MINUTES OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS**

**REGULAR MEETING – WEDNESDAY, October 7, 2015**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Commission met in a Regular Session at 7:04 p.m., Wednesday, October 7, 2015, in the Council Chambers, 3191 Katella Ave., Vice Chair Wilson presiding.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commission Members: Bell, Carvajal, Decker, Jempsa, Wilson

**Absent:** Commission Members: Jorge

**Present:** Staff: Corey Lakin, Recreation & Community Svcs. Dir.  
Ron Noda, Recreation Manager  
Emily Gingras, Recreation Coordinator  
Megan Shimada, Recreation Coordinator  
Trini Zenovka, Department Secretary

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chair Wilson lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Vice Chair Wilson opened Oral Communications. There being no one present wishing to speak, Vice Chair closed Oral Communications.

**5. MINUTES**

Motion/Second: Carvajal/Decker as revised

Unanimously Carried: The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission approved the minutes of the regular meeting of September 2, 2015.

**6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW RECREATION PERSONNEL**

Emily Gingras, Recreation Coordinator  
Megan Shimada, Recreation Coordinator

**7. STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Preview of 2015 Trunk or Treat Featuring the Treasure Hunt**

The Los Alamitos Recreation and Community Services Department will be hosting its annual Trunk or Treat featuring the Treasure Hunt at Little Cottonwood Park on Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 5:00-8:00 pm. The event will feature the popular costume contest, arts and crafts, a spooky photo area, carnival game booths, age-

appropriate treasure hunt areas, inflatables, trick-or-treating from trunks, food trucks, and activities for the entire family.

An estimate of 1,500 people will attend the 4th annual Trunk or Treat event at Little Cottonwood Park. The event will have three age-divided treasure hunt areas, carnival game booths, arts and crafts, a costume contest, and photo area. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Commissioners are invited and encouraged to participate in this year's event. Commissioners' tasks will include being the emcee for the event, judging the costume contest, and judging and awarding the prizes to the best trunk winner. Commissioners who are interested in attending this year's Trunk or Treat event are encouraged to contact Ron Noda at the Recreation and Community Services Department.

**B. Photography Contest**

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Commissioner Michael Bell requested staff to provide a preliminary budget to bring back the City's Photography Contest that was eliminated from the budget in 2011. He advised staff that he had a potential sponsor for the show who was interested in sponsoring a cultural arts program in the City. After Commissioner Bell introduced the idea at the September 2 Commission meeting, Commissioner Pete Carvajal asked staff to bring the idea back at a future Commission meeting to discuss whether to advise the City Council to fund the program or seek a sponsor for the event.

The photography contest is not currently budgeted in the 2015-2016 City Budget. The estimated expenditures for reinstating the Photography Contest is approximately \$2,300. However, if a new sponsor who is only interested in sponsoring a photography contest or another cultural arts-type exhibition is found, this would allow the Department to expand its offerings to the Community through a new event, at no additional expense to the City.

Commissioner Carvajal recommended for the City to sponsor a Cultural Arts Exhibit instead of seeking for sponsors. The commissioner was a judge in some of the previous contests and believes the decline in this event was losing artistic quality in photography with digital vs. 35mm film. Recommended a Cultural Arts Exhibit/Show instead of Photography Contest by partnering up with the school district and have an elementary, junior high and high school division to consist of painting, drawing, writing and filming. We will want to improve and impact cultural arts in our community. We may want to consider something similar to the Laguna Festival of the Arts and by offering a mini Los Alamitos Festival of the Arts by displaying different arts and make this a community event.

Commissioner Bell would like to pursue a three day cultural arts event with the support of the Commission.

Commissioner Carvajal would like to generate a motion and vote on how we would like to pursue and open it up to the schools and impact the youth to pursue passion for the arts. I love the idea and thought of Los Alamitos Weekend of the Arts branding.

Motion: For staff and interested commissioners put together a proposal for a weekend of the arts and bring to the commission for discussion and put together a proposal that we can take to City Council.

Commissioner Decker recommended that this Cultural Arts event may also be open to adults in the community. Recommend for participants not to pay an entry fee, if feasible and would like to see art displayed at local businesses in our community where people are already going.

Vice Chair Wilson was very pleased and said that there are many opportunities where different type of art can be display in local business throughout the city. Every city has to start somewhere.

Second: For subcommittee to work with city staff so that we can move forward with a proposal. Vice Chair Wilson also recommends the winners' art be displayed in City buildings throughout the year.

**C. Movie Screening of *Fear No Fruit***

Council Member Warren Kusumoto attended the first public screening of *Fear No Fruit* and thought the movie was a terrific documentary about a Los Alamitos business and Rossmoor resident, Frieda Rapoport Caplan. Frieda is an original homeowner and current resident of Rossmoor, and her daughters moved their family business from Los Angeles to Los Alamitos in 1994. Frieda still works every day at Frieda's, one of the most successful women-owned businesses in the country.

The Los Alamitos and surrounding communities are invited to the Los Alamitos Community Center for the movie screening of *Fear No Fruit*, scheduled for Thursday, October 15 starting at 5:30pm with a potluck. Prizes will be awarded to the best dish involving a product that Frieda's sells. At 6:30pm, the movie will begin and at the conclusion of the movie, a Q & A will take place with Frieda Rapoport Caplan (founder), Karen Caplan (CEO & President), and Jackie Caplan Wiggins (COO & Vice President). We are very excited to host this event at the Los Alamitos Community Center, we to see you enjoy the movie, along with city dignitaries and local produce business owners.

**7. ITEMS FROM THE RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

On October 19, 2015 City Council will be presenting our Los Alamitos Volunteer Program (LAVP) participants with certificates and four special awards and dedicated service. Dinner will be served at 5:00PM at the Los Alamitos Community Center, commissioners are invited to join us in thanking our youth and their families for volunteering and dedicated service to our programs and community events.

Please calendar Winter Wonderland for Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 4-7:30 p.m., this is great event for the entire family.

Race on the Base registration is currently taking place, if you have not registered we encouraged you to do so.

**8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Bell wanted to report that his son is signed up for Race on the Base and will be available for Trunk or Treat event.

Commissioner Carvajal, since our last meeting AYSO season kicked off successfully and have seen an increase in the 5-U division numbers. Super excited with the hired new staff and the arts subcommittee.

Commissioner Decker recently enrolled into the Deep Water Aerobics class and loves it. It is great.

Vice Chair Wilson, was contacted by Congressman Travis Allen's office for a Cal Optima meeting that was taking place on Friday, October 9, 2015, that room fees are not waived for government programs even if it benefits the city, by policy the city has to charge. Is there any interest in bringing an agenda item in waving fees for government entities that benefit the City of Los Alamitos for future item of discussion, approved and brought forward to City Council.

Vice Chair Wilson, Commissioner Decker and Commissioner Bell mentioned that they were not successful with last month's challenge of getting someone to submit for our commission vacancy. Commissioner Carvajal was able to speak with resident Elliott Singer and staff should expect a call for his submittal.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Josh Wilson, Vice Chair

Attest:



Corey Lakin, Director  
Recreation & Community Services Department