

City of San Diego  
Parks and Recreation Department  
San Ysidro Community Recreation Group  
Meeting Minutes  
**October 9, 2023**

**“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”**

**Meeting Held at:**

San Ysidro Community Activity Center  
179 Diza Road  
San Ysidro, CA 92173

**Mailing Address is:**

179 Diza Road  
San Ysidro, CA 92173

**Members Present:**

Martin Ortega  
Consuelo Delgadillo  
Rosa Ruesga

**City Staff:**

Francisco Castruita, Area Manager  
Robert Lara, Recreation Center Director  
Belinda Fimbres, Recreation Center Director  
Mari Jo Ricanor Recreation Center Director  
Gerardo Ramirez, Council District 8

**Members Absent:**

David Guerrero  
Felipe Muro  
Ricky Duran

**Guests Present:**

German Ruesga

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Martin Ortega called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Introductions were made around the table for those in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 12, 2023, MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** It was moved /seconded (R. Ruesga/C. Delgadillo) to accept the minutes as presented with the following corrections: The motion carried with 2 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention.

**FORMAL REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

None

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE:**

None

**COMMUNICATIONS:** (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable)

None

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO MAYOR’S REPORT:**

None

**COUNCIL DISTRICT 8 REPORT:**

- An update on the 299 E San Ysidro Blvd property:  
Property has been demolished and debris has been removed. The entire property is now fenced and secured to prevent any squatter from coming back to the property.

- Low Cost Vet Clinic Services are taking place behind La Mirada Elementary School on October 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- A
- Beyer Park: Moving forward in development. Ground-breaking date to be determined. Completion date: May 2024.
- Coral Gate Neighborhood Park: New Playground completion is tentative June 2024
- Cypress corridor is being developed with grant funding to turn into a 'Culture Corridor'. Funding will bring in enhancements to the area.
- Through grant funding, housing units will be developed on land across from Howard Lane Neighborhood Park.
- On November 9, AT&T is working with the City on a revitalizing project which includes painting an athletic court in the area as part of a Bi-National relationship.
- Staff is working on a community clean up event along the San Ysidro Blvd to remove an overgrowth of weeds.
- 'Open House' is scheduled at the SD Fire Station along San Ysidro Blvd on October 14. The public is welcome.
- A Community Dumpster event to offload unwanted items not including hazmat materials takes place on October 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT:**

None

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Martin thanked the City for finally handling the vacant property next along San Ysidro Boulevard at the corner of the onramp of 805 North. He noticed that demolition took place and has been cleared, a fence has been installed to prevent trespassing and the property has been cleared of any homeless camps and debris.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Robert Lara will email the most recent financial RCF Budget to Actuals report to everyone.

**BOARDMEMBER COMMENT:**

None

**SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS:**

None

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS:**

Consuelo Delgado of 'Helping Hands Working Together' reported the following:

- Casa Familiar put on a 'Fiesta Mexicana' event on September 22. There was food, entertainment, DJ, Loteria, Horses on display and singers performed. There were 500 in attendance. Hearts and Hands organization sold food. Proceeds of sales were to purchase canned food items from the San Diego Food Bank for the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel food distribution that is held every first Tuesday of the month.
- Gave an update of their organization's food distribution numbers serving at locations at Mount Carmel Church, Las Americas Outlets, and the Community Center on San Ysidro Boulevard.

**PARKS & RECREATION STAFF REPORT:**

Area Manager Francisco Castruita reported the following:

- Thanked staff for their great work during the summer months.
- Staff continues to get a high volume of 'Get it Done' requests from the public regarding graffiti and park lights not working. Staff is working diligently to address and resolve these issues.
- Staff and Public Works division are working on park light repairs and replacement at Vista Pacifica Neighborhood Park. Due to recent storms, some park lights were knocked down at Howard Lane Neighborhood Park and they too are also in the process of being repaired.

- Casa Familiar ended their ‘Migrant Assistance Program’ on October 6. Maintenance staff resumed irrigation and fertilizing the area. Staff hopes to see results from turf growth in the next two to three weeks.
- Staff still encounter private vehicles parking overnight at Vista Terrace Neighborhood Park and the San Ysidro Senior Citizen Center parking lots. Overnight parking is illegal in City parking lots. Staff has contacted San Diego Police and is working with them on resolving this issue.

Recreation Center Director Mari Jo Ricanor reported the following for Cesar Chavez Community Center:

- Staff ran Summer Camp and Nature Camp in June and July.
- The free Summer Lunch and Snack program ran from June to July serving youth meals while on school break.
- Teen Nite was held Fridays from June 30 to August 18. Average attendance from ranged from 50 to 80 teens.
- 12 and under Futsal League took place in the gym on Fridays. Cesar Chavez team advanced post season to win City wide Championship first place. 15 and under Girls softball was held Mondays. Cesar Chavez team advanced to the Citywide championship and took second place.
- Movies in the Park was held on July 21. There were 300 in attendance.
- Staff is currently coaching Flag Football and Volleyball.
- Staff is currently running a Coed Adult softball league on Thursday evenings at Larsen Field.
- Halloween Carnival will take place outside on October 26 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Toys for Tots registration will start in mid-October. Staff will update everyone on progress at next meeting.
- Annual Haunted Trails took place on September 21 in Balboa Park. A charter bus took teens from Cesar Chavez, SYCAC and the SY Teen Center to the event.
- Cesar Chavez currently have 2 park ambassadors and 2 paid interns working at Cesar Chavez.

Recreation Center Director Belinda Fimbres reported the following for San Ysidro Teen Center and Senior Center:

- On July 27, Seniors celebrated Independence Day by decorating the building red, white, and blue colors and a dinner consisted of hamburgers, fries, and fruit bowl
- On September 7, Seniors celebrated Fiestas Patrias by holding an event in the patio with a potluck and decorations of Fiestas Patrias colors, followed by Seniors singing Karaoke. The Seniors presented an honorable award to David Guerrero and his wife for being the longest standing members of the San Ysidro Senior Club.
- On September 28, Seniors celebrated birthdays that fell on the month of September with a dinner for the celebrants.
- A Halloween Costume contest for the Seniors took place on October 26. Staff gave out 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards for most original, scariest, and most creative. An award prize basket was given to the winners.
- Teens went to Haunted Trails at Balboa Park on September 21.
- The Park Ambassador Program took place at the Teen Center on September 13. It is a 9-week program for individuals that are seeking future careers with Parks and Recreation or other City Departments. Field Trips, guest speakers, and assisting in various special events around the City were part of the experience. The group will also be trained CPR/1<sup>st</sup> Aid/AED certified. Graduation will be on November 15 at Balboa Park. Currently, the Teen Center has 8 park ambassadors in the program.
- SYTC ‘Movies after Dark’ took place on October 25 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- SYTC Coloring Contest was held from October 16 to October 27. Prizes of Halloween themed mugs were given to winners.
- On October 27, staff held a DIY ‘Scary Shirt’ art activity on October 27 from 4:00 to -5:30 p.m.
- On Halloween, Teens participated in cupcake making and decorating.
- Staff is currently coaching a 16 and under Flag Football team and a 17 and under Coed Volleyball team.
- A ‘Dias de los Muertos’ and ‘Pan de los Muertos’ event was held on November 2.
- SY Teen Center staff is assisting SYCAC in taking Toys for Tots registration. Last date of registration is November 9.

Recreation Center Director Robert Lara reported the following for San Ysidro Community Activity Center:

- SYCAC had a total of 5 teams and 55 participants playing Futsal and Softball.
- The SYCAC summer camp was a huge success. There were 103 participants registered in 6 weeks of staff led camp. A total of \$3,850 was generated from camp registrations.

- We have 3 student interns and 1 Recreation Aide participating in the Parks Ambassador Program being held at the San Ysidro Teen Center.
- Fall Festival is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25 in the gymnasium. Activities for the event will start at 5:30 p.m.
- Turkey Bingo event is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15 in the game room. Games will start at 5:30 p.m.
- Staff will be hosting the Economic Development Department’s Community Forum on Thursday, October 12 from 6:00 p.m. to– 7:30 p.m. The City is requesting the community’s assistance determining how best to spend Federal funds to invest in San Diego communities.
- Staff will be attending a Toys for Tots meeting this week. We will share the information we receive so we can start registering the youth in our community.
- All City of San Diego facilities will be closed on Friday, November 10 in observance of Veterans Day.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- FY 2024 RCF Budgets (Cesar Chavez CC, San Ysidro CAC, and San Ysidro TC)  
Staff from each site presented their budget plan to everyone and reported expenditures for the 2024 year.  
Staff answered any questions regarding their RCF budget and were to report a final document for approval at next month’s meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

None

**WORKSHOP ITEMS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Martin Ortega adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Monday November 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.  
San Ysidro Community Activity Center  
179 Diza Road, San Ysidro, CA 92173  
(619) 424-0472

Submitted By:

Reviewed By:

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mari Jo Ricanor  
Recreation Center Director

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Francisco Castruita  
Area Manager

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Martin Ortega  
Chairperson