

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

OCTOBER 2, 2006 – 6:00 P.M.

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CITY COUNCIL. AUDIO CASSETTE TAPES OF THE ACTUAL MEETING ARE AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Nury Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

Council: Mayor Nury Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem Julie Ruelas, Councilmembers Steven Veres, Maribel De La Torre, and Dr. José Hernández

City Treasurer: Margarita Solis

Staff: City Administrator José E. Pulido, City Attorney Michael Estrada, and City Clerk Elena G. Chávez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Martinez led the pledge.

INVOCATION

Mayor Martinez called for a moment of silence.

PRESENTATIONS

A) NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY – OCTOBER 15, 2006

Mayor Martinez presented the certificate to Hector Cabrera, member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee.

B) WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY – OCTOBER 15, 2006

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Mayor Martinez presented the certificate to resident Era Trice who thanked the City Council.

C) **SMALL BUSINESS AWARD – OCTOBER**
SAN FERNANDO ACUPUNCTURE – DR. GERARDO CUDICH, L.AC.

Mayor Martinez presented the Small Business Award to Dr. Gerardo Cudich, L.Ac. and he thanked the City Council for the recognition.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Martinez, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Patty Lopez, 432 N. Brand Blvd., said that there was concern that parents were not allowed to use the park and said that families are suffering because the park remains unfinished.

Mayor Martinez requested that Public Works Director Ron Ruiz meet with Mrs. Lopez and stated that staff needs to report back and provide the latest update on the pool project.

Steven Lopez, 319 Park Ave., #A, said that it is not fair that they are being kicked out of the park.

Maria Murillo, 238 Jessie St., #9, said that it's a public park and no one should be removed.

Tom Ross, 218 So. Brand Blvd. (business), 13834 Kismet St., Sylmar (home) gave an update regarding the San Fernando Mall Association's semi-annual report and talked about their events.

Ruben Sandoval Jr., 1623 Coronel St., said that a petition was signed by parents wanting to know why they are not allowed to use the Cesar Chávez Park and asked that the City Council look into this.

Again, Mayor Martinez requested that Mr. Ruiz meet with the parents.

Esmeralda Lopez, 319 Park Ave., #A, said that schools officials have told her that her children need more physical activity yet they were not allowed to play in the park.

Alma Rosa Lopez, 319 Park Ave., #A, said that she's been scolded regarding her children being heavy and why do they need permission to play at the park?

José Luis Lopez, 317 Park Ave., #B, reported that he is the organizer of the group (20 children), they practice soccer, were told that they had to reserve the park and asked where to get a permit.

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Mayor Martinez explained that he should speak to the person in charge of the parks Acting Director of Recreation & Community Services Ron Ruiz.

Arlene Chávez, 319 Park Ave., #A, said that they have been trying to play soccer and keep getting kicked out and they want to be allowed to use the park.

Anahi Lemus, 536 N. Workman St., representing the parents at the community Charter Middle School, said that they are requesting a stop sign on Eighth St. (between Brand Blvd. and Maclay St.) and asked what the parents need to do to volunteer as crossing guards.

Mayor Martinez asked that she speak with Mr. Ruiz regarding the stop sign request and to speak to Chief Anthony Alba regarding traffic rules and the crossing guard program.

Maria Estrada, 318 N. Workman St., said that she was also representing the parents at the Charter Middle School and reiterated Mrs. Lemus' comments.

Richard Cruz, 1228 Knox St., said that fixing the sidewalk in front of his house (Item No. 7 on the agenda) will not solve the problem. He said that huge tree roots are lifting the sidewalk and damaging sewer lines.

Juana Cuiriz, Recreation and Community Services Commission Chair, reported that there are rules in place for liability reasons and to protect the children. She stated that groups that cannot pay the fee may apply for a waiver. She said it was a matter of miscommunication and we need to work together because the parks are accessible to everyone.

Brenda Esqueda, 148 N. Huntington St., said that she came to the meeting to listen but did not understand most of it because it was in Spanish and requested that if one language is translated, then the other should be also.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Martinez, to approve the Consent Calendar items. The motion carried unanimously.

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:
 - A) APRIL 24, 2006 – SPECIAL MEETING
 - B) AUGUST 14, 2006 – SPECIAL MEETING
 - C) SEPTEMBER 18, 2006 – SPECIAL MEETING
- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 06-101
- 3) CITY OF LOS ANGELES INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FOR 5KM MISSION RUN/WALK

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NEW BUSINESS

- 4) CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MTA) GOVERNANCE COUNCIL SAN FERNANDO VALLEY EASTERN SERVICE SECTOR

Motion by Mayor Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to appoint the Mayor to serve on the Metropolitan Authority (MTA) Governance Council San Fernando Valley Eastern Service Sector. The motion carried unanimously.

- 5) ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR PROJECT AREAS NO. 1, NO. 2, NO. 3, AND NO. 4 TO EXTEND CERTAIN TIME LIMITS

City Attorney Estrada presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Martinez, to introduce for first reading, in title only, and waive further reading of “An Ordinance Of The City Of San Fernando Amending Certain Time Limits In The Redevelopment Plans For Redevelopment Project Area No. 1, Redevelopment Project Area No. 2, Redevelopment Project Area No. 3, And Redevelopment Project Area No. 4 Pursuant To Health And Safety Code Sections 33333.2(D) and 33333.6(E)(2)(D)”. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

- 6) LETTER FROM RITMO LATINO

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas said she placed this on the agenda to address the concerns of the owner of Ritmo Latino in regards to the removal of the sign and asked if we could work with him regarding alternatives.

At this time (7:21 p.m.), Councilmember De La Torre asked to be excused to leave the meeting.

Staff responded that they have conveyed and explained that the sign illegally placed over a year ago must come down. Staff has been fully deployed in other time critical activities but will be following up with the business owner.

- 7) 1300 KNOX STREET SIDEWALK REPAIR

Mayor Martinez said she brought this up because a resident had a bad fall and there have been other accidents on that sidewalk.

Public Works Director Ron Ruiz responded to questions regarding the conditions of the trees and said that the list of requests to deal with trees is extensive. He reported that the City Council approved a substantial increase in funds devoted to sidewalks for this new fiscal year which he hopes will make a significant improvement. In the meantime, some sidewalks have had asphalt patching to help temporarily remedy the situation and avoid tripping hazards

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Councilmember Veres said that waiting so long for sidewalk repair is unacceptable and asked that staff bring forward a proposal stating what needs to be done to make things happen sooner.

Mayor Martinez agreed that by the next meeting or so staff put together a timeline to fast track tree and sidewalk repairs including requested allocated amounts to get this done.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Hernández: 1) asked whether Councilmembers that overuse their cell phone will reimburse the City and Ms. Quijano reported that there were billing discrepancies that staff is looking into; and 2) said he was bothered by the misinformation regarding the swimming pool and asked that information be disseminated to better inform the public.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas: 1) received a message from a church member at St. Ferdinand regarding reserving Las Palmas Park and asked that staff make certain that they follow up when there are requests to use park facilities; 2) said that families should be able to use park space on the days it's not reserved or utilized; and 3) said that youth have mentioned to her that the surface on the skate park is very rough and asked if that could be looked into.

Mayor Martinez: 1) reported that there was a serious incident that occurred at the middle school and said that we need to work with the campus police to resolve the issue; 2) mentioned a letter she received from the San Fernando Elementary School Principal expressing concern about the unavailability of the Animal Control Officer (staff will follow up); 3) reported that MSNBC featured a clip on rubberized asphalt in the City; and 4) invited everyone to the Menudo Festival.

Councilmember Veres: 1) reported on a recent incident involving two pit bulls at San Fernando Elementary School; and 2) requested to adjourn the meeting in memory of long-time resident Rodolfo Mendez.

Councilmember Hernández requested that the meeting also adjourn in memory of Esperanza Chacon.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Ruiz: 1) invited everyone to the Menudo Festival this weekend; 2) reported that the pool bid packet went out today and copies are available; and 3) invited everyone to the 5km Mission Run/Walk on Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT (8:02 PM)

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Martinez, to adjourn the meeting in memory of Rodolfo Mendez and Esperanza Chacon. The motion carried unanimously.