

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



**Meeting Minutes
City Council B Session**

No in-person access to this meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

2:00 PM

Videoconference

ROLL CALL

The City Council convened in a Regular Meeting. City Clerk Tina J. Flores took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

1. Briefing on San Antonio Parks and Recreation Summer Programming. [David W. McCary, CPM, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation]

Parks and Recreation Assistant Manager Sara Sharp stated that the Summer Youth Program (SYP) was an eight-week program which ran from June to August. She noted that it served ages from six to 14 and would be offered at 21 park sites and nine school sites. She reported that the components of the program included art, math, science, reading and fitness. She added that COVID-19 precautions would be implemented. She reviewed a map with the park sites and school sites and reviewed the list of participating school districts.

Ms. Sharp reported that the department was hiring for the SYP. She noted that applicants must be 18 years and over and various positions would be available such as supervisors, site staff and instructors. She added that more information was available on the City's job website.

Ms. Sharp stated that the Summer Food Program was held in conjunction with the SYP and was

provided through a grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture. She indicated that the grant provided meals for up to 6,000 per day and a grab and go method was utilized last year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. She stated that there was so much need in 2020, that as a department, staff came together to contribute their efforts. She noted that through the efforts, the department won an Administrative Excellence Award through the Texas Recreation and Parks Society. She reported that the grab and go method would be utilized in 2021 as well as meals served at the SYP sites. She added that the meals were designated as Por Vida Healthy by Metro Health.

Ms. Sharp reported that other recreation programming included Community Center programming, fitness and kickball. She noted that nature-based programming included:

- Starting Out Wild (ages 18 months to 3 years)
- Growing Up Wild (ages 4 to 6)
- Grab-and-Go activity bags
- Guided hikes

Ms. Sharp stated that the opening of pools would be contingent on it being able to be done safely. She noted that pool openings would be staggered so six pools would open on May 8, 2021; six pools would open on June 5, 2021; and the six final pools would open on July 2, 2021. She indicated that all pools would have modified weekday hours and all pools would be open on weekends. She reported that individuals would have to register for two-hour time slots to limit capacity and COVID-19 precautions would be implemented.

Ms. Sharp noted that the department was now hiring lifeguards ages 16 and up who must pass the Red Cross Certification and recruitment clinics would be held at the Natatorium. She added that these jobs would be posted to the City's job website.

Ms. Sharp stated that Aqua Zumba classes would be held and information would be provided to the City Council regarding the start date. She noted that five splash pads would open at Benavides, Elmendorf Lake, Pearsall and Yanaguana Gardens parks. She indicated that free group swim lessons would be held through Learn to Swim SA and the pools offering the lessons would include Elmendorf, Normoil, San Pedro, Southside Lions, Lincoln, Kennedy, Woodlawn, Cassiano and Garza pools.

Parks and Recreation Director Homer Garcia reported that Park Ambassadors such as trail stewards and trail watch volunteers would provide proactive engagement, "Observe and Report" monitoring, safety awareness, trail etiquette and would render aid if needed. He stated that the Dog Park Ambassadors would: 1) Encourage safe use of dog park amenities; 2) Explain dog park rules and uses to pet owners; and 3) Provide City-approved information (ACS). He played a video which highlighted the Dog Park Ambassador Program.

Councilmember Courage stated that he recognized the value of helping children find meaningful and significant ways to occupy them in the summer. He asked if the Northeast Independent School District was going to have sites at some of their schools. Ms. Sharp stated that due to the fact that students may have fallen behind, the schools may be using their facilities in the summer

for student instruction. Councilmember Courage suggested that the City partner with neighborhood associations for use of their pools. He encouraged staff to reach out to the northeast community.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan expressed concern that youth were unable to connect to the program on the northeast side. Mr. Garcia stated that for the 21 sites, staff focused on the need based approach and utilization of the large centers. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked of the fees associated with the program. Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Nikki Ramos stated that the fee was \$25 for the entire summer and \$15 for each additional child with a cap of \$55.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked of the number of children served versus the number of children served prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Ms. Ramos stated that this year there would be fewer children served than before the COVID-19 Pandemic due to the reduced number of sites and social distancing requirements.

Councilmember Sandoval asked why the hourly wage for summer employees was lower than the minimum hourly rate of \$15 adopted by the City Council. Ms. Ramos stated that the minimum hourly rate of \$15 was for full and part-time employees and not for temporary employees which were those employed in the summer.

Councilmember Perry expressed concern regarding the lack of facilities in the SYP on the northeast side. He asked if there was a plan to add facilities on the northeast side. Mr. Garcia stated that staff was working with the Northeast Independent School District and they had agreed to make their recreational spaces and amenities available to the public while school was not in session. He added that having a presence in school buildings would be up to the school district.

Councilmember Viagran encouraged staff to reach out to history, culture and heritage organizations to include them in the programming. She asked why Concepcion Park was closed. Mr. Garcia stated that staff focused on the pool size when selecting the sites and Concepcion Park had a smaller pool which would limit the number of participants.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if specific pool hours would be dedicated for youth with different abilities. Mr. Garcia stated that staff could evaluate designating specific times for those youth while everyone else was taking a break.

Councilmember Treviño encouraged staff to work with the neighborhood associations to provide information on the available jobs. He asked if the Dellview pool would be open. Mr. Garcia stated that it was not scheduled to open. Councilmember Treviño suggested that it be opened as it was located in the northern of Council District 1 and could provide resources for Council Districts 8 and 9 and possibly Council District 10.

Councilmember Viagran suggested that vaccine sites be set up in City parks.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that he looked forward to the opening of summer programs and City Parks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 3:34 pm to discuss the following items:

- A.** Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B.** The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- C.** Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D.** Legal issues related to litigation involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E.** Legal issues relating to COVID-19 preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- F.** Legal update and analysis on CPS/SAWS litigation and investigations related to the Winter Storm pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- G.** Discuss legal options pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- H.** Legal advice regarding election laws and open meeting procedures pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.
- I.** Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of public officers or employees and discuss related legal issue pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (personnel matters) and Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 3:49 pm and announced that no action was taken. He stated that Executive Session Items not addressed today would be carried over to the City Council meeting on April 29, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 3:49 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG

Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES

City Clerk