

MINUTES

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF POMONA

**ADMINISTRATION BOARD ROOM
2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL
505 SOUTH GAREY AVENUE**

**THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008
5:30 P.M.**

5:30 P.M. REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Community Services Manager, Ilona Arends announced that David Guerra's term in the Parks and Recreation Commission has ended. Since Mr. Guerra had been serving as the Chairperson, Commissioners would be asked to select a new Chairperson at the end of this meeting. In a temporary role, Commissioner Carlos Goytia was selected by Commissioners present to Chair this meeting. Commissioner Goytia called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the Administration Board Room.

ROLL CALL:	Present:	Araceli (Sally) Santiago, Commissioner, 1 st District Carlos Goytia, Commissioner, 2 nd District Elia Coronado, Commissioner, 3 rd District Candace Barry, Commissioner, 4 th District Joseph M. Mladinov, Commissioner, 5 th District Denise Tisdell, Commissioner, 6 th District
	Vacant:	Mayor's appointee
	Staff:	Robert Carson, Community Services Manager Ilona Arends, Community Services Manager Roberto Curiel, Recreation Coordinator Lupe Lopez, Administrative Assistant III David King, Deputy City Attorney
	Guests:	Edward J. Samaniego Bernard Roberts Alfonso Thomas Villanueva Charles Santiago Tilley Mr. J. Gonzales Barbara A. Burke Lorraine Evelyn Flores Joey Fuentez, Jr. Emily Cerda Juan Lopez Brenda Cerda Muñoz Monique Desiree Muñoz Carla Ippoliti Henry Muñoz

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Denise Tisdell noted the Roll Call in the minutes listed three of the Commissioners under the incorrect Districts and needed amending.

Commissioner Carlos Goytia mentioned that the minutes omitted several of his comments from the last meeting, and inquired about a possible revision to the minutes. David King, Deputy City Attorney, informed the Commission that generally the minutes are a brief summation of what goes on at the meeting and not necessarily include everything that is mentioned. He added that unless Commissioner Goytia felt a particular issue of importance needed inclusion, the minutes could be approved as is, or, the Commission could vote to defer approval of the minutes to the next Agenda. After discussion, Commissioner Goytia stated he would reiterate any issue at the present meeting or at a future meeting that he considered important. He made a motion to approve the minutes with an amendment to the Roll Call.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CARLOS GOYTIA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CANDACE BARRY, CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT (6-0) APPROVING THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2008, WITH AN AMENDMENT TO THE ROLL CALL ITEM.

PUBLIC COMMENT / OTHER

The Commission received a petition signed by approximately 1800 citizens of Pomona to re-name Madison Park to Tony Cerda Park.

Days prior to the meeting, Edward J. Samaniego submitted an information packet to each member of the Commission indicating achievements by Tony Cerda, Sr. In the packet are newspaper articles of Mr. Cerda with world champion boxers and well-known fighters trained by him. Other articles included are of Mr. Cerda with prominent people in the community. An article regarding President James Madison was also in the packet.

Community Services Manager, Robert Carson informed guest speakers of the official (3) three-minute time limit for each speaker.

- 1) **Alfonso Villanueva** is a resident in the City of Claremont, a graduate from Stanford University and a retired police officer. He stated his interest to protect the community from gang activity and supports re-naming the park because Mr. Cerda is well known, respected and symbolic to the community of South Pomona.
- 2) **Charles Santiago Tilley** resides in the City of La Puente and is a veteran from the Vietnam War. He commented that Tony Cerda, Sr. is a reputable person and many people in the community benefited because of his efforts. When Mr. Tilley was a youth, Mr. Cerda helped turn him away from gangs.
- 3) **Bernard Roberts** has been a Pomona resident for 30 years and loves the City. He currently serves as a California police officer and for nineteen years, as a correction counselor with the California Youth Authority (CYA). Mr. Roberts was a boxer for Tony Cerda, Sr. and under his direction, observed that Mr. Cerda did much to benefit the community.

- 4) **Barbara A. Burke** is a professor at Cal Poly Pomona. She worked with Tony Cerda, Sr. for approximately eight years and found that he is a professional, a great leader and cares deeply for the people in the community. Because of Mr. Cerda's involvement with Cal Poly, the school received grants from the California Wellness Foundation to improve access to health care for Pomona residents.
- 5) **Lorraine Evelyn Flores** stated she is a resident of Pomona and a former student of Garey High School. Mr. Cerda coached students from Garey High School and influenced them to keep away from gangs.
- 6) **Joey Fuentes, Jr.** has been a resident of Pomona for 75 years. In the 1970s, he worked with the City of Pomona in the Parks and Recreation Department. The City established Madison Park but was just a liaison; behind the scenes was Tony Cerda, Sr. supported by Cal Poly Pomona and members of the community. The State of California presented awards to the City for the parks' uniqueness and design.
- 7) **Edward J. Samaniego** was born and raised in Pomona and currently resides in the City of Chino. His father knew Mr. Cerda personally, was a World War I veteran and a Korean War veteran, highly decorated with "Medals of Honor", and won the "Purple Heart". He referred to an article about President James Madison and stated that his intention is not to smear anyone's name, and quoted comments in the article revealing how President Madison was a slave owner and one of the few leaders who refused to give up their slaves after the rest of the country was changing. He stressed that for over 50 years, Tony Cerda, Sr. positively influenced the City of Pomona and his achievements continue to benefit the community. On behalf of the community, Mr. Samaniego appealed to the Parks and Recreation Commission to cast their vote to submit the recommendation to the City Council so the City Council can make a final decision, either to re-name or not to re-name Madison Park to Tony Cerda Park.
- 8) **Mr. J. Gonzales** is a resident of Pomona and a twenty-five year Marine Corps veteran and worked an additional twenty-two years with another government agency. He is currently involved in community programs headed by Mr. Cerda. He researched Mr. Cerda's background and found only positive information. Mr. Gonzales expressed that re-naming of the park is meaningful to the Pomona community.

APPLICATION TO RE-NAME A CITY FACILITY/ MADISON PARK

The Commissioners proceeded to discuss this matter. Staff was asked about the pertinent dates regarding this park. Ilona Arends provided information on the naming of Madison Park. The park was originally named Madison Park in the late 1950s or early 1960s, re-named Sharkie Park in 1973 and changed back to Madison Park in 1988. In 2005, the City Council adopted the Policy for Naming of Park and Recreation Facilities. It has been a City Council decision to name many of Pomona's parks after United States presidents.

Commissioner Mladinov stated that the City re-established the park from Sharkie Park back to Madison Park because of the negative connotation with the gang.

Commissioner Tisdell quoted the guest speakers saying that their objective is not to smear anyone's name however; they provided the article with information on President Madison. She asked, hypothetically, what might happen years from now if someone were to come forward with negative information about Mr. Cerda - would we be re-naming the park again. Mr. Samaniego responded that the reason they provided information about President Madison is the restrictions in the Policy to re-name the

park. If in the future negative information was given on another person or politician, they would go through the same channels; there are no favorites in the process.

Ilona Arends stated that as it was mentioned in the past, if the park re-naming does not happen, the Commission is very receptive to naming another type of amenity after Mr. Cerda such as a community center, picnic area, ball field or another amenity of that nature. Everyone recognizes what Mr. Cerda has done in the community for many years, and he is certainly worthy of an honor.

Commissioner Mladinov stated his decision not to recommend the re-naming of the park and his opposition to vote against the Policy as adopted by the City Council. He commented, it is clear what the City Council's goals were when they adopted the Policy in 2005, and it was implemented for a reason. If a precedent is set now, they might as well go to each one of the parks and decide which one should be re-named next. He added that no one should judge an individual from 200 years ago, by today's standards. He asked if there has been another park re-named since the Policy was adopted in 2005. Robert Carson replied that there has not and that this very issue was brought before the Commission in previous months.

Commissioner Goytia questioned if guests at the meeting had considered the option to naming a City amenity or facility after Mr. Cerda or, if they were adamant about naming only the park. Alfonso Villanueva reiterated his concern about gang violence and added that the City needs to focus on that particular problem. He expressed that if Madison Park is re-named to Tony Cerda Park, gangs will not graffiti it because the community in South Pomona has a lot of respect for Mr. Cerda and his name serves as a symbol to the community. Barbara A. Burke added that Mr. Cerda is representative of the land he helped build. Commissioner Goytia stated that the Commission is responsive to name an amenity after Mr. Cerda, however, if the community is adamant about re-naming the entire park, the Commission could move to postpone the vote and study the issue in depth.

Commissioner Tisdell stated that generally, parks are named after people for their specific contributions to a particular area. She did not know of President Madison's contributions to Pomona. She knows the contributions by Mr. Cerda to the community. She quoted statements in the City Policy and stated that City Council could consider its revision. She asked the Commissioners to consider, as she was, that President Madison had no connection to the City of Pomona and asked if it was an arbitrary issue to name parks after presidents. She is considering speaking to her District Councilmember regarding a change to the Policy.

Commissioner Elia Coronado stated she agrees with the Policy. She added that the issue of re-naming the park should be researched substantially, not taken as hearsay.

Commissioner Sally Santiago stated her agreement with Commissioner Tisdell about referring the re-naming of the park to the Council for their consideration.

Commissioner Barry stated she would like to study the issue further. In addition, she is considering speaking with her District Councilmember. She agrees that parks should be named after people who have contributed to the City. She does not know of contributions to Pomona by President Madison. Kids do look up to what people have contributed to the City and take pride in it. She would like to investigate the history and the reason the City named parks after presidents.

Robert Carson commented that no one could disagree with the value of service Tony Cerda, Sr. provided to the City of Pomona. No one disagrees to name a park amenity after him. He added that President James Madison was the fourth President and one of the signers of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. During those times, the men did not feel they would live beyond the signing of the documents. Had President Madison not signed the Constitution, the City of Pomona might not exist. These men

could not be honored enough for the work they did in those times, which involved risking their lives and going against the British Government to form this free country. President Madison was a very important man, and the children of the community need to find out who he was. They should, as well, ask why a soccer field or community center is named after Tony Cerda, Sr. and what he did. This park is named to honor the office of the President of the United States. There are negative aspects that could be discussed about any man, but the intent is to honor the Office of the President.

Commissioner Mladinov stated that, if the decision to vote is postponed, he could bring a book to the next meeting on the history of the people who signed the declaration and how their families were harmed or killed.

Commissioner Goytia commented that as an individual of Native American ancestry, no one is questioning President Madison's contribution to the country. The conflict is that Native Americans were in America before President Madison. He commented that no parks in Pomona were named after famous Native Americans. These were great names in history as well. He asked where the recognition is for these individuals. The issue is close to his heart because his ancestors were mistreated in order to build this country. He does value his freedom and speaks as an individual about what his people did in this country. He respects the institution of this government but it is a democracy for the people by the people, and if the people want change, the Commissioners should consider the wants and needs of the community. If the community is asking for change, the issue should be closely examined.

Commissioner Barry commented that in the United States there might be numerous parks named Madison Park. Commissioner Goytia asked that the Commission research and weigh all the options about re-naming the park and for this reason asked Mr. Samaniego if he was adamant about re-naming the entire park versus naming another amenity or City facility after Mr. Cerda. Mr. Samaniego replied that he is adamant about re-naming the park because Mr. Cerda is concerned about the land and the earth.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CARLOS GOYTIA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DENISE TISDELL, CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE (5-1) TO POSTPONE THE ACTION ITEM: VOTE ON RECOMMENDATION FOR CITY COUNCIL FOR APPLICATION TO RE-NAME A CITY FACILITY / MADISON PARK UNTIL THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING.

RECREATION PROGRAMS UPDATE

Roberto Curiel, Recreation Coordinator gave a brief update.

A. CAMPOUT TRIPS

Two trips are scheduled to the Discovery Science Center in the City of Santa Ana. The first trip is Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10 and is exclusive for boys. The second trip is Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31 and is exclusive for girls. On each of the trips, a bus will pick up youth from different recreation sites.

B. CLEANUP PROJECT

A Citywide cleanup project is scheduled for Saturday, May 10. Youth from the recreation sites will participate in the project in South Pomona in collaboration with the Youth Activity Council and Teen Council. Following the cleanup project, teens will be transported to Fairplex for lunch and a recognition ceremony.

C. **KNOTT'S BERRY FARM - INDIAN TRAILS**

On Tuesday, May 27, an educational trip for youth from the recreation sites is scheduled to Knott's Berry Farm-Indian Trails. It is the day after Memorial Day and a PUSD pupil free day.

D. **TEEN DANCE UPDATE**

A teen dance was held at the La Casita Teen Center on Friday, April 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for youth ages 10-13. Prizes were awarded and everyone enjoyed the dance.

PARK PROJECTS UPDATE

Robert Carson gave a brief update.

A. **CELLULAR TOWER AT RALPH WELCH PARK**

By mid June, the installation of the cellular tower at Ralph Welch Park should be completed. The vault and electronics are in place and the installation of the antenna will follow. The landscaping surrounding the tower will soon follow.

B. **CELLULAR TOWER AT PHILADELPHIA PARK**

T-Mobile excavated the area for the vault and is ready to place it in the ground. The electronics and communication devices will be installed within the next week or so. The project is scheduled for completion by mid June.

C. **CELLULAR TOWER AT TED GREENE PARK**

The City is currently negotiating with T-Mobile for a cellular tower at Ted Greene Park.

D. **VETERANS PARK**

The grand opening ceremony of Veterans Park is Saturday, June 28 at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited. Refreshments will be provided. During the ceremony, rules of the park will be strictly enforced.

E. **GANESHA PARK TRAILS PROJECT**

The City received eighteen proposals by design consultants. Four of the consultants were selected as finalists to make a presentation about their proposal and for a question and answer session. One consultant was selected to design the master plan of the trails project. The consultants are very knowledgeable, experienced with trails, and provided a good deal of historical information about the park. The timeline for completion of the planning phase of the project is the end of 2008. Once the master plan is completed, the City will contact the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to request funding for construction of the project.

F. **PROPOSAL FOR TWO NEW PARKS**

The City is completing two grant applications, due May 23, to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to acquire and develop two new parks in Pomona.

1. The lot at the southwest corner of Orange Grove Avenue and Park Avenue is proposed for a new park. Western University owns the extreme northeast corner of the lot. At some point in the future, the City is hoping to swap Centennial Park for the Western University lot and establish a community center at the new park. The park will feature a walking trail, butterfly garden, bird garden and a citrus garden. The center of the park would feature a boulder climbing system, picnic areas, and possibly a pavilion.
2. A new four-acre park is proposed for South White Avenue between Eleventh Street and West Tenth Street at (1041 South White Avenue). The park may include a large turf area,

nature garden, picnic areas, basketballs court, restrooms, walking trail and five or six exercise stations along the trail. All areas of the park would have lighting.

REVIEW OF ATHLETIC SPORTS FIELDS RULES AND REGULATIONS MANUAL

A draft of the proposed 'Athletic Sports Fields Rules and Regulations' manual was included in Commissioner packets for review. The manual includes not only rules and regulations for field use, but also establishes new rental fees for sports facilities, including the new Veterans Park. The City has had a good deal of interest from groups wishing to rent Veterans Park, so the establishment of rental fees is most important at this time. The rental rates for other sports fields have not been updated for over 15 years, so this all inclusive new manual will take care of all sports field issues at one time.

Commissioners proceeded with a discussion of Veterans Park. The park has four soccer fields with artificial turf. Use of the fields is by permit only. The park is gated and will be locked when no activities are at the park. Water is the only drink permitted on the fields. Food and drinks are permitted only at the concession picnic area. Prohibited at the park are any sharp objects that may damage the turf. Staff will be on duty at the park at all times the park is open.

Ilona Arends stated that the draft of the operational costs is subject to revision. The anticipated costs of the park include a full-time park worker and an hourly assistant. A full-time park worker will be on a 9/80 work schedule and will be off every other Friday. A part-time assistant will work on the Fridays and weekends when the regular worker is off. During the time that the park is open, two recreation leaders will supervise the park. One of the recreation leaders will be stationed at the gate to assure that unwanted objects are not brought into the park. The other staff person will work in the office. The City

will run the concession stand. Other operational costs are gas, electricity, custodial supplies, general maintenance and repairs. Under controllable expense category is overnight security that will patrol the park from 11 p.m. until 6 a.m. The park will have two staff cellular phones, one in the concession stand and the other in the office.

The City will require the department to raise yearly revenues of approximately \$200,000 at Veterans Park. The projected revenues are \$150,000 from the snack bar and \$50,000 from field rentals. This will require that the City allow outside rental groups to host tournaments for at least one rental per month.

The fee scale for user groups is broken up into three groups. Group "A" is leagues from Pomona that have regular usage of the fields, with all Pomona kids. Group "B" is composed of 90 percent Pomona residents. Group "C" is an outside group that rents the facility. Ilona Arends reviewed the fee structure. Also included was a sample sheet which gave projected total costs for hosting a tournament, and an informal survey sheet of what other cities are charging for artificial turf. The proposed Pomona rates are in line with what other cities are charging. Next week the proposed Policy will be reviewed by the Youth Sports Council for a final recommendation before it is reviewed by the City Council in June.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JOSEPH MLADINOV, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CANDACE BARRY, CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT (6-0) TO APPROVE THE ACTION ITEM: COMMISSION TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATION TO THE YOUTH SPORTS COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED ATHLETIC SPORTS FIELDS RULES AND REGULATIONS POLICY.

STAFF COMMENTS

Iona Arends distributed badges to the Commissioners. A badge is ordered for Commissioner Mladinov. She announced that t-shirts were approved for the commissioners and they selected blue as their choice of color.

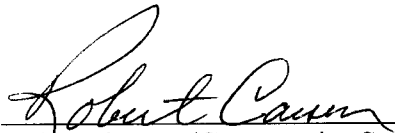
David King, City Deputy Attorney, thanked the Commission for inviting him to the meeting. He reminded the Commission that, as a legislative body and under the Brown Act, they are prohibited from speaking about issues discussed during the quorum at the meeting with anyone that is part of the decision making process. The Brown Act states that it is a violation and there are penalties involved. Commissioners could to speak with their Councilperson about the issues because they are not part of this body.

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON

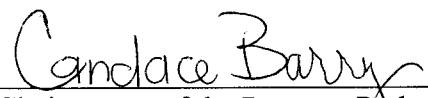
A brief discussion was held regarding a new chairperson. The two Commissioners being considered were Commissioners Barry and Goytia. Commissioner Mladinov nominated Commissioner Candace Barry as the new Chairperson for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Commissioner Goytia seconded the motion. Vote 6-0. Commissioner Carlos Goytia will serve as the Vice Chairperson for the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of the Pomona Parks and Recreation Commission was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Board Room, 505 S. Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.


Robert Carson/Community Services Mgr.

ATTEST:


Chairperson of the Pomona Parks and
Recreation Commission