

City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

Regular Meeting Minutes

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



*Chair Chris Lang
Vice Chair Julian Ibañez Mandujano
Commissioner Alexandra Oliva
Commissioner Vince Carpio
Commissioner Anthony Guzman
Commissioner Donna Otero
Commissioner Audrey Olmos-Govea*

VISION STATEMENT

*Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful
community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of
arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.*

Thursday, October 17, 2024

6:00 PM

Garfield Park Neighborhood Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Ibañez-Mandujano called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Ibañez-Mandujano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Chris Lang via teleconference
Vice Chair Julian Ibañez-Mandujano
Commissioner Alexandra Oliva
Commissioner Vince Carpio
Commissioner Anthony Guzman
Commissioner Donna Otero

Absent: Commissioner Audrey Olmos-Govea

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Roberto Curiel, Recreation Supervisor
Jocelyn Ayala, Public Arts Coordinator

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Otero announced that one of the Historic Society buildings began to burn down, but the fire was put out quickly. If anyone would like to help with cleanup, volunteers are needed.

Commissioner Guzman asked if he could bring an item for future consideration regarding park lighting and field rentals.

Vice Chair Ibañez-Mandujano asked if staff could provide a report of parks that have lights at the next the meeting. Staff said they could provide information during staff communications.

Commissioner Carpio agreed with Commissioner Guzman about the importance of having field lights, and suggested schools supplementing space to increase city programming.

Commissioner Oliva thanked the organizers of the Kids Festival and the Kindness Carnival. She attended both events and said it was awesome to see the space activated. She spoke of Memorial Park and said that she has noticed an increase of negative activity around the park, such as break-ins in the neighborhood. She asked if the park ambassadors are visiting Memorial Park.

Chair Lang noted that the parks and facilities master plan was addressed at the last City Council meeting. On Tuesday, October 15th, he said that Pomona Beautiful and the HEART Team attended to numerous encampments in the hills of Ganesha Park. He said he learned that the pilot park ambassador program has ended, and asked if staff could report out the program's findings at the following meeting.

Vice Chair Ibañez-Mandujano asked if staff can provide a status update on the parks and facilities master plan. He said it should be the focus of the Commission.

VII. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

Call for Art 2022-23: Request for Approval of Artwork Relocation at MLK Jr. Park

Public Arts Coordinator Jocelyn Ayala presented information on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park art project. The project was selected through a Call for Art process in 2022. The project's timeline was pushed back because of the size of the art piece. Now, the piece is complete and the sections need to be put together. She anticipates the project will be complete by March 2025. Ms. Ayala provided details, measurements, and renderings of the mosaic. She spoke of the original location, but said that the wall was too thin to hold up the piece. As the Parks and Recreation Commission approves locations for art in parks, she proposed three alternate locations for the Commission to consider the stand-alone structure. Option 1 is 10 feet in front of the original location. Option 2 is to the right of Option 1 and Option 3 is alongside the wall behind the elementary school.

Commissioner Carpio asked where the new playground would be located, will the art piece have lighting, and will the piece be protected from weather and watering. Ms. Ayala responded that the new playground will be placed at the existing location. She said that solar panels would be installed for lighting. There will be an awning over the piece and staff will work with

Public Works regarding irrigation. Commissioner said he would like to see the piece at a more visible location and if a sitting or reflection area could be added, as this would be good for lectures. He asked what the installation budget is. Ms. Ayala responded that staff is working with the artist to determine the cost of installation and it is near \$100,000. She stated that placing the piece in front of the park could be a potential liability or safety concern because of the proximity to the street and it does not offer much room for youth or students to congregate in front of the piece. Also, Pomona Police stated that if the piece was placed in the front of the park, it would limit visibility when patrolling.

Vice Chair Ibañez-Mandujano said he agreed with Commissioner Carpio in that Option 2 would obstruct the view of the piece because of the trees. He thinks the piece should be placed at a more visible location near the playground or along the walkway.

Commissioner Oliva asked what is the open field used for. Vice Chair Ibañez-Mandujano said the field is mostly used for soccer and there are no lights. She stated she would be in support of the proposed location if there was an intention of building an amphitheater space for educational purposes and understands that it would cut into the space of the open field. She agrees that the piece should be placed at a more visible location. She recognizes that staff have considered other locations, but thinks the piece is significant and should be placed somewhere more visible.

Commissioner Otero said she would like to see it displayed in a respectful way because it is amazing. She would like more art like this installed for students and school fieldtrips and placing the art by the trees does not do it justice.

Vice Chair Ibañez-Mandujano said he would like a better location considered. He said he thinks something should be created for protection, and could the artist be invited into these conversations.

Ms. Ayala said the artist prefers Option 1, but is open to the other two options, as long as we address the oak trees. Staff have discussed about making it a welcoming and teaching space.

Commissioner Oliva made a motion to recommend Location/Option 1, as recommended by the artist with the caveat that there is intentionality behind the landscaping/artscaping to honor the piece for educational purposes. Commissioner Otero made a second to the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- Staff responded to the Commission's questions about field lighting and informed that Philadelphia Park, Washington Park, and Palomares Park have lights for soccer fields. Ralph Welch Park, Washington Park, Ted Greene Park, Montvue Park, and Palomares Park have lights for baseball/softball fields.
- The fall/winter recreation guide has been mailed to Pomona households and will be distributed at community centers, City Hall, and Library.
- The Haunted House event will be October 25th and 26th. Volunteers are in need for family friendly and haunted house.
- Outdoor & Active's flag football and basketball are wrapping up. There was a slight

decline in participation due to heat advisory warnings and the fires.

- Community Services tabled at the Children’s Festival and Kindness Carnival.
- After School Recreation Program participants and their families will have the opportunity to see *The Little Mermaid* tomorrow at Lewis Playhouse in Rancho Cucamonga. The Inland Valley Repertoire Theatre donated forty tickets.
- Community Services sponsored a few youth to participate in the Pomona 5K.
- Renovations for Memorial Park Community Center may take up to a year to complete.
- The Park Ambassador Program ended. Staff will meet with Just Us 4 Youth and then go to City Council for direction.

The Commission reopened Public Comment. Lashara Carlisle asked how the art piece will be protected. Ms. Ayala stated there will be a protective coating for graffiti, including a maintenance plan.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Ibañez-Mandujano adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Willie White Community Center, 3065 Battram St., Pomona, CA 91767.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Monica Belloso
Management Analyst

Chris Lang
Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission