

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF  
THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**CITY OF POMONA  
TELECONFERENCE VIA “ZOOM”**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020  
6:00 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Pavón called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**II. FLAG SALUTE**

Chair Pavón led the flag salute.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Chair Pavón asked City staff to conduct roll call for Commissioners.

<b>Present:</b>	Ion Puschila, Commissioner	Mayoral Appointee (arrived at 6:11 p.m.)
	Melissa Ayala, Commissioner	District 1
	Fabián Pavón, Chairperson	District 2
	Noel Mendez-Zamudio, Commissioner	District 3 (arrived at 6:13 p.m.)
	Jeff Sanchez, Vice Chairperson	District 4
	Cynthia Marino, Commissioner	District 5
	Remington Cordova, Commissioner	District 6

**Staff:** Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director  
Michael Sledd, Parks and Facilities Manager  
Shandy Dittman, Senior Management Analyst  
Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Ayala made a motion to approve the October 15, 2020 minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Sanchez, passing with a 6-0-0-0 vote.

**V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

[Commissioner Puschila enters the meeting at 6:11 p.m.]

Commissioner Puschila stated that he, Commissioner Ayala and Commissioner Cordova visited the lawn bowling facility and spoke with members to talk about things needed at the facility.

Commissioner Marino stated that she and Councilmember Lustro visited District 5 parks with Mr. Sledd and Mr. Osoff to select areas for art.

Vice Chair Sanchez announced the little free library was installed at Centennial Park.

Commissioner Ayala thanked the public for attending and wished everyone a safe Thanksgiving. She stated that she spoke with community members at the lawn bowling facility and was happy to see that

many seniors were keeping active. She said she was made aware of the repairs needed at the lawn bowling facility and was advised of items that may have been left behind by staff, behind the Palomares Adobe, that are now being used by the homeless. She also said the side fence has a hole. Commissioner Ayala stated the little free library at Kiwanis Park was removed and she is working on getting it replaced. She stated she visited Powers Park and it was nice to see people hanging out and asked if staff could look into trimming the trees there.

Commissioner Puschila stated that once repairs are addressed at the lawn bowling facility, the organization will look into working with the Legion to invite wounded Veterans to lawn bowl.

[Commissioner Mendez-Zamudio enters the meeting at 6:13 p.m.]

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Martin Perez asked for an update on the Hamilton Park Restoration Project funded by Proposition 68. He asked for a status update on his request to paint chessboards and checkerboards on tables at Hamilton Park and stated the dA Center for the Arts is allowing him to use their Activate Pomona permit for this project. Mr. Perez asked for a crosswalk with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility to be placed across Hamilton Blvd.

## **VII. OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Proposition 68 Statewide Park and Community Revitalization Program (Round 4)**

Ms. Belloso provided updates related to the Statewide Park Program (SPP). Updates included a new application deadline of March 12, 2021, the park survey will be available through February 28, 2021, and provided information on scheduled and upcoming community outreach meetings.

Senior Management Analyst Shandy Dittman provided an update on the park surveys. She stated that five separate park surveys were created, in both English and Spanish, to supplement virtual meetings. Each survey has a list of park amenities for residents to rate 1 through 5, with one 1 being least important and 5 being most important. Residents also have the opportunity to submit comments and make recommendations for amenities not listed. Ms. Dittman stated several responses have been received for each park.

ChairPavón opened up Public Comments for this item.

No public comments were received on this item.

Commissioner Puschila stated it all looks awesome.

ChairPavón stated the soccer leagues have expressed a need for a concession stand at Tony Cerda Park.

ChairPavón asked if hydration stations could be incorporated into park designs.

## **VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION**

### **Public Works**

Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director stated that a landscape designer for Hamilton Park, is now under contract with the City and will be working with the community to obtain input for a park design. Mr.

Guerrero announced that Mr. Sledd has accepted a position as Assistant Director of Public Works with the City of Glendora and his last day will be Wednesday, November 25, 2020.

Mr. Sledd thanked everyone and stated that during his time here with the City, he has worked with an excellent team and staff members that have demonstrated a high level of commitment to making Pomona a better place. He will miss everyone and stated he will provide his new contact information to the City, in the case his input is needed.

Mr. Sledd informed that staff is presenting new landscaping contract to City Council. He stated the new contract will have a higher level of service.

ChairPavón thanked Mr. Sledd for his time with the City.

### **Community Services**

Ms. Belloso provided the following Community Services updates:

- Last month, the Spooky Treats and Eats food/candy drive at Fairplex was successful. Approximately, 815 cars passed through, over 3,000 people were served, and 4,000 bags of candy were passed out.
- This year, Community Services will be hosting a Holiday at the Park, a festive drive-through event that will take place on December 19, 2020 at Washington Park, in the east parking lot off San Antonio Avenue. The event will be free and open to the public from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Staff is working on operating a virtual community center and is looking for partners to provide classes.
- Fitness Fridays has been moved and will now be Move It Mondays.
- As a reminder, the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2020 due to the holidays.

Ms. Belloso provided the following updates requested by Chair and Commissioners:

- In August, during Staff Communications, Mike Osoff stated there were no updates, as the park is currently closed and the sale process has been paused during this time. Due to COVID-19, the sale of Veterans Park had become lower in priority, as the City shifted efforts to actively monitor the pandemic and work closely and diligently with public health agencies to coordinate a response to COVID-19. The City and prospective buyer still desire to sell, per the previously approved agreements, but a path to obtain Federal approval to lift the deed restriction has not yet been achieved. Staff will continue to monitor the sale process and keep the Parks and Recreation Commission informed.
- Staff received direction from the Commission to create and operate a Parks and Recreation social media platform. The request is pending approval and staff is continuing to follow up.
- As Hamilton Park will be undergoing construction soon, staff is recommending that all new projects be placed on hold until the landscape designer has finalized a park design with the

community's input. To date, a landscape designer has been selected. Further, the City is in the process of establishing a new application process for placing art in parks.

- Measure A funds were unable to be used until Prop A funds were all used. Therefore, Prop A funding was used to pave the parking lot at Washington Park. Due to COVID-19, the County offices were closed and affected the paperwork to be processed. At the moment, staff is waiting for paperwork to be recorded/process at the County level.
- The Commission requested information on how to draft an ordinance. After speaking to the City Clerks Office, it was determined that this type of action exceeds the purview of the Parks and Recreation Commission, as Commissions do not draft ordinances.
- The Commission asked for a presentation on treatment centers and halfway housing in proximity to parks. After careful review and consideration, this item was determined to be out of the purview and discretion of the Parks and Recreation Commission. This is considered to be a Planning/Zoning issue and direction would be given from City Council.

Chair Pavón asked for updates on approved recommendations, such as revising restroom hours, adding signage of restroom hours outside restrooms and creating the ad-hoc committee.

Mr. Sledd stated he would be providing a framework for the ad-hoc committee.

Mr. Guerrero stated that a City Council Sub-Committee recently discussed playground signs during COVID-19 and the sub-committee agreed to open restrooms to pre-COVID hours. However, with the increase of cases, it is being discussed whether to open restrooms again. Mr. Guerrero stated the Commission's recommendation to increase restroom hours has not been forgotten, but the City must prioritize the public's safety.

Mr. Guerrero stated that the Commission approved a list of projects on how to use Measure A funds when they became available. One of the City Council goals was to create a Parks and Facilities Master Plan and the City is currently working toward selecting a consultant.

Chair Pavón stated that once the pandemic is over he wants to see the recommendations that the Commission approved to be accomplished.

Chair Pavón stated the process for art in public spaces has been approved and if staff are still finalizing parts of it, like choosing spaces for art, then current art projects should be approved case-by-case and presented to the Commission. He understands that Hamilton Park is going to go through construction, but he wants to see a beautification project for Hamilton Park on the next agenda.

Mr. Guerrero stated he will find out the status of Hamilton Park art application.

Commissioner Cordova stated that Chair Pavón is using a tone that is disrespectful to staff.

Commissioner Marino asked if Westmont Park could be considered for grant opportunities.

Mr. Guerrero responded that yes, Westmont Park could be considered for grant opportunities, as long as the park meets grant guidelines and eligibility criteria. Mr. Guerrero stated that even if parks meet criteria, there may be other parks that may be more competitive and stronger in the application process. Westmont Park could be considered for other funding sources, like Measure A.

Vice Chair Sanchez stated that he did not think Chair Pavón had a tone. As the Chair, he is trying to get things done and he was stern and respectful.

Commissioner Marino agreed with Vice Chair Sanchez.

**IX. MATTERS INITIATED BY CITY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Puschila stated that Mr. Osoff is working with the lawn bowling organization.

Commissioner Ayala stated that someone posted a photo of a little library in need of repairs and she thinks it is at Washington Park. She is recommending that Commissioners take part in the responsibility for little libraries in parks in their District, whether it is maintaining or communicating repairs.

Commissioner Marino asked if the City is responsible for trees on private properties. Mr. Sledd stated that the City is not responsible for trees on private properties, only if it were an oak tree.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

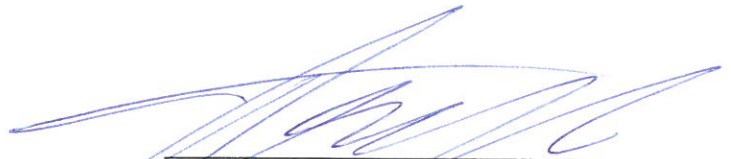
There being no further discussion, Chair Pavón adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

The next regular meeting to the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference.



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Michael Osoff  
Community Services Manager



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Fabián Pavón, Chairperson  
Parks and Recreation Commission

