

# 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.*

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Thursday, January 16, 2025

6:00 PM

Jaycee Park Community Center

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#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lang called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

#### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Lang led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **III. ROLL CALL**

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

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Mark Gluba, Assistant City Manager  
Meg McWade, Public Works Director  
Danny Whaley, Parks and Facilities Manager  
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager  
Monica Belloso, Management Analyst

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jose Jimenez, the Program Director at Active SGV introduced himself and shared upcoming

programs and events that will be happening in Pomona. The City was recently awarded a TCC grant, and as part of the contract, Active SGV will be hosting 60 bike rides and providing equity memberships for e-bike rentals to those who qualify. He is looking forward to working with the Commission.

Francisco Ballardo of the Ted Greene Little League said that he had attended a past Parks and Recreation Commission meeting where he had learned that ARP funding had been allocated to install a new restroom/concession facility and was happy to hear that. Since, he has learned that Ted Greene Park was removed from the park restroom project list. He asked what happened between October 2024 and December 2024 and how was it determined that Kennedy Park was selected instead of Ted Greene Park to get a restroom/concession. He asked what was the criteria that led to that decision and who made that decision.

Sonia Ballardo, a board member on the Ted Green Little League said she attended the January 6, 2025 City Council meeting, along with families in the league. She said they were disappointed with the recent changes to the CIP project list and have been in communication with the District 6 Councilmember. The current building/concession is in a deteriorated state, poses safety hazards, and is not ADA compliant. She said she has voiced her concerns on this matter because the doors do not have locks, there are no waste receptacles in the women's restroom, and there is a large hole in the men's restroom. She said the league's success is dependent on the condition of park facilities, so that families do not feel like they have to go outside Pomona for recreational services. She looks forward to having positive dialogue with council and staff.

## **V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

Vice Chair Ibanez-Mandujano made a motion to place Ted Greene Park restroom/concession as a discussion item, second made by Commissioner Carpio, and carried 5-0. The MLK Park mural is finished and looks amazing. He said he is happy about the construction project at Civic Center Plaza. He said he is happy about the tree diversity in the City and about the new playground at Ralph Welch Park. A resident asked about inclusive programs and asked how they can work with the city.

Commissioner Oliva apologized for missing the last two meetings.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to consider working with Active SGV, second by Vice Chair Ibanez-Mandujano, carried 5-0. He announced that he is collaborating with Community Services to offer Ultimate Frisbee as an adult sports league. The cost is \$20 for residents and \$30 for non-residents for six weeks and begins February 5<sup>th</sup> at Palomares Park.

Chair Lang stated the homeless count has been rescheduled to the end of February because of the fires. A District 1 area commander meeting will be on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Ganesha Park Community Center at 6pm. He thanked the Mayor for making a call to Pomona Police on January 7<sup>th</sup> when the Mayor noticed bbq'ing activity. The police were able to intervene and prevent a fire. On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Chair Lang said he attended the ground breaking ceremony for the stairs rehabilitation and street improvements projects. There were speeches from Congresswoman Norma Torres, Mayor Sandoval, and Councilmembers Nolte and Torres. Norma Torres mentioned the fire in the 1990s that burned 1,200 trees. He asked if staff could comment on this because he had not heard about it before.

## **VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

It was recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the meeting minutes of November 21, 2024. **MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CARPIO, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER IBANEZ-MANDUJANO, CARRIED 5-0.**

## **VII. DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

### **1. Recap on Pilot Park Ambassador Program**

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff led the item and presented an overview of the pilot park ambassador program. He stated that for several years, there has been discussion for a park ranger/ambassador program to help address common issues at parks. Staff consulted with other cities, researched different programs, and submitted proposals for grant opportunities, like Measure A in 2020, which was later rescinded due to the pandemic.

Mr. Osoff provided a timeline, budget, and described the community partnership with Just Us 4 Youth, including the structure, coverage, scheduling, training, and supplies/equipment provided. Once the pilot program concluded, staff met with JU4Y to discuss the strengths, challenges, and recommendations. Mr. Osoff presented three options to the Commission, a 3, 6, and 12-month option, including the total cost for each option. Mr. Osoff reiterated that the program does not have funding at the moment, but staff will work toward identifying funding. Staff is seeking the Commission's input and will seek City Council for guidance and direction.

Commission discussion included comments and questions about if and how data was collected and tracked. Chair Lang stated he had asked Council to provide staff guidance on what information to collect and measure. Shine of JU4Y stated they primarily collected data on the parks visited, frequency, and time of day. Chair Lang suggested measuring the number of calls for service for police, fire, vandalism, maintenance, and graffiti to find out if there was a reduction in calls at the parks the ambassadors frequented. Vice Chair Ibanez-Mandujano recommended tracking the number of people who accepted assistance or went to the homeless shelter. Chair Lang recommended having coverage at night and utilizing volunteers.

Commissioner Oliva stated that activating residents near the parks and expanding what makes a park ambassador could make the program more sustainable. By having them communicate information on resources, would make the program successful. Commissioner Guzman said having signage about ambassador days and hours would make the parks more accessible.

Staff stated the pilot program was intended to provide a learning opportunity with a community partner, and to build on the information provided today.

**Chair Lang made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Commission supports the continuation of a 12-month park ambassador program with measurable objectives included, in order to identify and pursue funding sources, second by Vice Chair Ibanez-Mandujano, carried 5-0.**

## 2. Hope 4 Home Presentation

Housing Stabilization Manager Donyielle Holley provided an overview of the City's homeless shelter and described available resources provided.

## 3. Discuss Commissioner Audrey Olmos-Govea Absences Within a 12-Month Period Per Commission Bylaws

Motion by Chair Lang recommending the removal of Commissioner Olmos-Govea from the Parks and Recreation Commission to City Council due to number of absences, second by Vice Chair Ibanez-Mandujano, carried 5-0.

## VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- The art project at the Ganesha Bandshell is underway; a pine tree had fallen near the bandshell and was removed right of way.
- A new pocket park in Phillips Ranch will be opening soon; Meadow View Park will have a walking path and a demonstration garden. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the greenbelt will be a park.
- An obstacle-style playground at Ralph Welch Park will be opening mid-February.
- The playground project is underway at MLK Park and Jaycee Park.
- At Jaycee Park, the doors of the bathroom and snack bar were replaced, including the fencing around the field, and new nets are up.
- At Ted Greene Park, the playground is being replaced and a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be happening soon.
- At Hamilton Park, one light was hit and the other was pushed down, but they are in the process of being fixed. The soccer area is used very often, making the grass difficult to grow there; staff is looking into alternative surface options.
- The roof at Palomares Park Community Center is complete and the floors are almost done at the Garfield Neighborhood Center.
- The Pomona Go app is a valuable way to communicate and report issues. Please continue to help spread the word and encourage residents to download it.
- Parks California awarded Community Services \$28,000 in grant funding to transport youth to California State Parks and Beaches through December 2025. The funds will pay for drivers and fuel.
- The Tree Lighting Ceremony at Civic Center Plaza went well, with performances from Garey High School and the School of Enterprise's jazz combo. There was hot chocolate, cider, coffee, and cookies. The Holiday at the Plaza had a great turnout with thousands of people going through. The event featured rock climbing, arts and crafts, and ice skating on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- Ultimate Frisbee at Palomares Park is starting and staff is looking to offer adult sports and expand recreational offerings.
- Outdoor & Active has created a nature club that includes hikes and educational workshops. Last month, they went to Joshua Tree. The school district has allowed O&A participants to use some of their indoor facilities for basketball due to the air quality caused by the recent fires.
- A recreation coordinator for special events was just filled and his name is Paul Verdugo.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lang adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Ralph Welch Park, 1000 Buena Vista Street, Pomona, CA 91766.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

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Monica Belloso  
Management Analyst

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Chair/Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation  
Commission