

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**CITY OF POMONA
WASHINGTON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
865 E. GRAND AVENUE
POMONA, CA 91769**

**THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019
6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER Chair Ayala called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE Chair Ayala led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL Chair Ayala asked staff to take roll.

Present:	Ion Puschila	Mayoral Appointee (Arrived at 6:11 p.m.)
	Melissa Ayala, Chair	District 1
	Fabian Pavon, Commissioner	District 2
	Noel Mendez, Commissioner	District 3
	Cynthia Marino, Commissioner	District 5
	Remington Cordova, Commissioner	District 6

Absent:	Jeff Sanchez, Vice Chair	District 4
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Staff present:	Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director
	Michael Osoff, Community Services Manager
	Michael Sledd, Parks and Facilities Manager
	Roberto Curiel, Facility/Sports Rental Supervisor
	Matt Sampson, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
	Adrian Valdez, Recreation Supervisor
	Michael Etheridge, Parks and Landscape Supervisor
	Mary Sinclair, Recreation Coordinator
	Shandy Dittman, Senior Management Analyst
	Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Ayala presented the minutes of June 20, 2019 and gave the Commissioners a few minutes to review. Chair Ayala made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Cordova and was carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Pavon stated he held a leadership workshop for students at Cesar Chavez Park. The workshop focused on issues affecting the community including housing and education. The workshop also provided youth the opportunity to network with local community leaders. Commissioner Pavon

stated he is hosting an “open mic” event at Tony Cerda Park on August 23, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. to help activate the stage; plans to make this a monthly event. In partnership with Just Us 4 Youth, a youth basketball tournament will begin on August 17, 2019 at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Commissioner Pavon recommended reading *Barrio Urbanization*, a book providing a racial perspective on urban planning and neighborhood development.

Commissioner Mendez stated he participated in a Pomona Beautiful event with Mayor Sandoval last Tuesday. He is amazed how the group is developing and commended their efforts in encouraging residents and business owners to take ownership and adopt their own neighborhood or park. He encouraged his fellow Commissioners to become involved and participate in these efforts.

Commissioner Marino reported she attended Movies in the Park at Phillips Ranch Park and Westmont Park. She thanked staff for their efforts in putting these events together; there was a good turnout and it was a lot of fun. Commissioner Marino reported the City Council meeting in July discussed the Phillips Ranch landscaping and lighting maintenance assessment increase; the increase was voted down by 79%. She stated the oversight [Ad Hoc] Committee and staff will need to work together to find creative ways to maintain Phillips Ranch. Commissioner Marino also reported she participated in The Ranch Rescue’s Taco Tuesday fundraising event and recommended replacing the barbeques. Parks and Facilities Manager Michael Sledd responded that Councilmember Lustro spoke to him about this and [Mr. Sledd] is in the process of addressing this issue.

Commissioner Cordova reported he had the opportunity to judge University of La Verne’s summer business REACH program. The program provides high school students from Covina, Pomona, Ontario and Montclair the opportunity to spend two weeks living on campus and take classes in management, economics, accounting, and finance. They create their own businesses applying concepts they have learned in the classroom. There were students from Pomona Unified School District on the winning team. Commissioner Cordova stated he was invited to his first talk group meeting where local elected officials from the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valley gather to hear presentations on state legislations including Senate Bill 592, Senate Bill 50, and Assembly Bill 3232.

Commissioner Puschila arrived to the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 6:11 p.m.

Chair Ayala expressed excitement about summer and all the opportunities to enjoy park-based activities. She stated she saw on social media the mural created by a local Girl Scout was being done at City Hall and went to check it out; she was pleased to see youth participating in creating murals in the City. Chair Ayala stated that Councilmember Preciado invited her to a parklet in Downtown. A parklet uses sidewalks or parking spaces to offer people a place to stop, sit and gather while taking in activities. The parklet at Downtown used several parking spaces and was set up in front of Mi Cafecito using picnic tables and crates; there were also art activities for kids. It was well attended during the Art Walk and she hopes this is continued in other parts of the City. Chair Ayala shared she has been attending several community events to have a better understanding of the community’s issues. She stated she attended the City’s census dialogue meeting. She stressed the importance of the census and its funding, especially for parks, which is based on the census information. She encouraged the public to fill out their forms, volunteer, and help others fill out their forms as well. Chair Ayala stated she attended Freddie Rodriguez’s town hall meeting. The meeting discussed transportation and Caltrans funding opportunities for street repairs. She stated she learned that most grant funds go toward repairing major streets, but there are funding opportunities that focus on smaller, residential streets. She expressed excitement for opportunities to improve the City’s appearance. Chair Ayala shared she participated in a Rapid Responders Training held at the dA Center for the Arts. She also attended a meeting with Councilmember Gonzalez and staff regarding a grant opportunity through Proposition 68 and commended staff and community members working together to improve Hamilton Park.

Chair Ayala asked if there were any other Commissioner announcements. Commissioner Marino announced the Mayor was hosting a music concert at Civic Plaza this Saturday, August 10, 2019.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ayala opened public comment for non-agenda items.

Vincent Carpio thanked staff and community partners for working together to improve conditions at Hamilton Park through a Proposition 68 grant proposal.

Donna M. Otero announced the upcoming event of the 2nd annual Indigenous People's Day. The event will be held on October 12, 2019 at Ganesha Park from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Olga S. Gomez shared that Tony Cerda Park was named after a long time community leader committed to bettering the community and helping youth. Ms. Gomez stated she would like to see amenities and activities at Tony Cerda Park that focus on youth.

Kelly Mendes stated she is speaking on behalf of the Costanoanrumsen Camel Tribe. Ms. Mendes stated that Chief Tony Cerda is a longtime community leader who has dedicated over 30 years to improving the community through positive activities in the parks for youth. Ms. Mendes stated she is here to support Tony Cerda and the park that was named after him.

Tony Cerda stated he supports maintaining the name of Tony Cerda Park which was named after his father who was committed to helping youth in Pomona.

Julia Cortez stated she is in favor of keeping the name of Tony Cerda Park.

VII. OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

1. Parks and Recreation 101

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff stated that Parks and Recreation is comprised of the Public Works' Parks and Facilities and Neighborhood Services' Community Services. The purpose of this presentation is to provide the Commissioners a framework of what each department is responsible for, staff duties and responsibilities, how to contact staff, how to report issues related to parks, facilities, special events and programming, and the Parks and Recreation budget.

Staff from both Parks and Facilities and Community Services introduced themselves, stated their title, shared how long they have worked for the City, and provided a description of their responsibilities and duties. Mr. Osoff stated this information will allow the Commissioners to report issues efficiently to the appropriate department and staff, provide knowledge of the City's policies and procedures to better assist the Commissioners in organizing community events at parks, and be informed of the department's contractors and partnerships. Staff provided an overview of the Parks and Recreation budget, described ways the Commissioners can become involved, volunteer, and the best way to communicate with staff directly. Mr. Osoff emphasized to the Commissioners that staff is supportive of events and organizations that engage parks and the community to provide public value. He asked Commissioners to submit a special event application for any events occurring in a public venue. This will help to prevent conflicts with other permitted events, allow staff to assist in beautifying the park in preparation for the event, and inform affected City departments of the event including Risk and Pomona Police Department to ensure public safety and minimize liability.

2. Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant Opportunities for Washington Park and Hamilton Park.

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff advised the Commissioners that two separate grant applications will be submitted for the Statewide Park Development Program, known as Prop 68 for Washington Park and Hamilton Park by August 5, 2019. Mr. Osoff invited Senior Management Analyst Shandy Dittman to provide an overview of the Hamilton Park application. Ms. Dittman informed the Commissioners that Hamilton Park was selected after carefully considering grant eligibility criteria and the community's existing efforts for improving conditions at Hamilton Park. The Hamilton Park Restoration Project includes new lighting, solar, a new basketball court, a public art piece, drought tolerant landscaping, a rain garden catcher system, new drinking fountain, renovation of existing pathways to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), new fencing around the park, a new gazebo, new barbeques, and new playground equipment. A representative from Miracle provided an overview of options for playground equipment.

Mr. Osoff discussed the process of structuring the Washington Park application to obtain the maximum number of points available and requesting the maximum amount of \$8.5M. Staff hosted five community meetings which comprised of two Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, a youth meeting with After School Recreation Program participants, a meeting with seniors during senior programming, and a general public meeting on the weekend. Staff engaged residents to select and design their recreation features, select practical ideas of where to place recreation features, and provide safety and beautification ideas. Based on community input, staff recommendations, and Council support, the Washington Park Project involves renovating the existing community center to update the main room, remodel the kitchen, remodel and expand the existing indoor restrooms, and paint the interior and exterior of the building. The project also includes construction of an indoor multisport facility attached to the existing community center, installation of new playground equipment, a new outdoor restroom facility, and resurface the south and west parking lots.

Chair Ayala motioned to approve the submittal of two separate Statewide Park Development grant applications for Hamilton Park and Washington Park, seconded by Commissioner Pavon, passed by a 6-0-0 vote.

Chair Ayala opened up Public Comment for Councilmember Victor Preciado.

Councilmember Preciado stated he is pleased to see the public here and wanted to speak on matters that are important to him relating to parks. He stated is pleased to see staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the public engaged and working together to submit two Proposition 68 grant applications. He would like to see a Parks and Facilities Master Plan created to set priorities and provide guidance for the maintenance and operation of all the parks. He would like to find out the process of establishing an Adopt a Park Program. He suggested finding creative ways to provide consistent programming in the parks, utilizing space at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, and the stage at Tony Cerda Park. He proposed finding volunteers and grant funding to provide free programming at parks, and working with Pomona Unified School District (PUSD) for Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. He expressed gratitude toward the Commission for volunteering, serving, and investing in their City.

VII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Community Services

Mr. Osoff stated the After School Recreation Program's youth basketball league is currently in process and going well.

Mr. Osoff asked the Commission if they would like Human Resources Director Linda Matthews to present the process that City Council underwent in setting their priorities and goals. Mr. Osoff stated this may assist the Commission set goals to be in alignment with the goals of the City Council. After discussion, the Commission was in agreement of receiving a presentation by Ms. Matthews.

Mr. Osoff stated the youth summer writing camp is concluding. There will be a writer's showcase featuring written works on Friday, July 19, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at La Casita Teen Center. He hopes to continue the partnership with University of Riverside Inland Area Writing Project.

Public Services

Parks and Facilities Manager Michael Sledd stated he is addressing Councilmember Preciado's request to utilize the stage at Tony Cerda Park. Mr. Sledd is getting pricing for the installation of water and power behind the stage.

Mr. Sledd advised that crown raising and reduction will be completed at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park on the southern live oak trees. This type of tree is known to grow into the ground and then back up providing coverage and opportunities for undesirable behavior. Mr. Sledd stated pruning at Washington Park will be done over the basketball court and the west soccer fields. Lighting and fencing issues are being addressed at Philadelphia Park.

Mr. Sledd stated he is presently working on the tree maintenance plan. He stated that funding for tree maintenance, pruning, and removal comes from different sources. The street tree plan is on a grid pruning schedule, but the trees at the parks are not. Mr. Sledd stated he is in the process of creating a schedule for park trees.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Ayala adjourned the Parks and Recreation meeting at 9:06 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Renacimiento Community Center.



Michael Osoff
Community Services Manager



Melissa Ayala
Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission