

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, November 21, 2024

6:00 PM

Willie White Park Community Center

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 Vince Carpio entered at 6:31 p.m.
Commissioner Anthony Guzman
Commissioner Donna Otero

Absent: Commissioner Audrey Olmos-Govea
Commissioner Alexandra Oliva

STAFF PRESENT

Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Monica Belloso, Management Analyst

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joseph McLellan of Prototypes spoke about a marijuana public smoking campaign and provided data from 2019-2022 collected from a community needs assessment regarding

people's perceptions on the harm from cannabis.

Martin Perez thanked everyone for help in renovating Hamilton Park. He invited everyone to a garden cleanup on Tuesday, November 26th at 10am to help plant winter vegetables. He said he was invited to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan focus group, but could not attend. He expressed interest in staying updated to advocate for more programs and for a community center at Hamilton Park. He said there is a Hamilton Park Art Call for the pedestals at the entrance of the park.

Lilia Onate spoke about the marijuana public smoking campaign and the efforts to combat the increase of marijuana smoking in parks. The goal is to increase activation at parks with positive activities to help deter smoking at parks. Targeted parks, based on survey results, are the parklet at Shaun Diamond Plaza and Washington Park.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Vice Chair Ibanez-Mandujano said the mural at MLK Jr. Park was defaced and was recently retouched. He said he is happy to see that the construction at Civic Center Plaza has begun, and hopes that community centers can be available while the Library is closed.

Commissioner Guzman said he had the third meetup of Ultimate Frisbee at Philadelphia Park and he is working with staff to see about creating a possible league for next year.

Commissioner Otero thanked the City of Pomona and staff for the efforts made in the last four years as she has seen many of things requested come to fruition. This is her last meeting, as her term is up.

Chair Lang announced that it is the last meeting of Mr. Guerrero and he thanked him for his service to the City and for working with the Parks and Recreation Commission. He thanked Vice Chair Ibanez-Mandujano for speaking at the last City Council meeting during Public Comment about the importance of the Parks and Facilities Master Plan being completed. He said the City's email system is changing and the HEART Team's email is qualitylife@pomonaca.gov. He shared that on October 22nd, he gave the Mayor a tour of the hills of Ganesha Park, where multiple encampments have grown during the span of the park ambassador program. He expressed his concern of seeing litter and boxes of firewood at a high-risk fire area. Chair Lang stated he also learned through Facebook that Pomona Police arrested a convicted felon with a firearm at JFK Park, including other incidents at Ganesha Park. He said the parks have issues at night and it was disappointing to see the ambassador program go in a different direction, and hopes to address that when the program's findings are presented.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the meeting minutes of September 19, 2024 and October 17, 2024.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR IBANEZ-MANDUJANO, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER OTERO, CARRIED 5-0.

VII. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1. Pomona's Active Transportation Plan

Public Works Director Rene Guerrero presented the City's Active Transportation Plan. He stated that bicycling and walking are increasingly recognized as important components of the transportation system. In the Pomona General Plan, the City recognized the importance of cycling in reducing traffic, air pollution, and energy consumption, and a means of providing greater transportation options that enhance quality of life. The City has also made great strides in improving the pedestrian environment. The plan is consistent with those sustainability efforts and provides detailed direction on how to continue the City's progress toward a better bicycling and walking environment. The plan does this by proposing a system of bikeways connecting neighborhoods to key activity centers throughout the City and contains detailed recommendations for improving pedestrian safety and comfort at intersections, and for prioritizing the installation of sidewalks where they do not currently exist.

Mr. Guerrero stated the process of creating the ATP in February 2012, was a result of the City receiving a \$40,000 technical assistance contribution from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Healthy Policies Initiative (HPI). The City was able to hire Fehr and Peers, as the consultant, who led the effort in outreach and preparation. At multiple public workshops, stakeholder input was collected via a survey, large maps where the public could provide tangible input, and various discussions with meeting facilitators. Ultimately, the ATP was approved in 2014, and recommends and prioritizes bicycle and pedestrian improvements. More importantly, it should be noted that the ATP does allow additional facilities to be incorporated into the ATP, even after its approval in 2014.

Mr. Guerrero spoke about the projects that have or will implement the bicycle and pedestrian improvements called for in the ATP, such as the Major Street Rehabilitation – 2015 Metro Call. He said the reason it says 2015 in the project name is because in 2015, Metro put out a call for applications for grant money they had available. The City applied for and was successful in getting \$3M, however, that money was not made available until just last year. The project also included funding from Measures M and R, Props A and C, and a one-time bond proceeds. The first phase of this project was the repaving of lengthy segments of Mission Blvd., at a cost of close to \$4M. The second phase was the construction work that began a few weeks ago on Valley Blvd. Along with the repaving of Valley Blvd. from Temple Ave to Humane Way, this project was the first ever Class IV Protected Bikeway along the south side Valley Blvd. A Class IV is not a typical bike lane that is simply a striped lane. This was a large bikeway with two lanes, one in each direction that will be protected by raised barriers. In addition, Orange Grove Ave., McKinley Ave., Park Ave., and San Antonio Ave. will also have a form of pavement rehabilitation and implementation of bike and/or pedestrian facilities.

Mr. Guerrero provided an overview of multi-neighborhood pedestrian and bike improvements, including pavement repairs, bulbouts, minor traffic signal upgrades, flashing lights, roundabouts, and sidewalk improvements at 9th St (Mission to Park), Phillips Blvd. (Hamilton to Reservoir), Franklin Ave. (White to Reservoir), La Verne Ave. (Garey to San Antonio), and roundabouts at 9th/Hamilton, 9th/Gordon, and Franklin/San Antonio. Mr. Guerrero discussed the ATA proposed versus comparison.

Mr. Guerrero responded to Commissioner clarifying questions and as this was a presentation

for information purposes, no vote was taken.

2. Planning for 2025 Agendas

Management Analyst Monica Beloso led the item with an overview of the Commission's 2020/2021 Priorities and Goals. Staff took notes during discussion of potential agenda items, topics, and areas of interest for 2025.

- Parks and Facilities Master Plan
- Measure Y
- How to expand and maintain park space without breaking budgetary restraints through land trusts and conservancies
- Accessibility
- Park restrooms
- Montvue playground
- Ganesha Hills walking trails and wood carvings
- HEART Team, unhoused, and no camping ordinance
- Facility rentals and classes
- Community gardens
- Present past unfunded park proposals to determine if staff is on the right track for resubmittal
- Shovel-ready projects

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- The Civic Center Park Project is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.
- The design for the Ganesha Park stairs and trails project is complete and has been bid out. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony next Monday at 11am at the base of the stairs.
- At the December 16th City Council meeting, there will be several American Rescue Plan (ARP) funded park projects on the agenda for approval or award of contracts. City Council will consider the approval of demolishing the existing restrooms at MLK Park to expand the skate project and the construction of park restrooms at Tony Cerda, Palomares, Washington, Martin Luther King, and Kennedy Parks.
- A new playground has been installed at MLK Park, next will be Jaycee Park and then Washington Park behind the baseball fields.
- California State Parks hosted a focus group with Pomona residents at Washington Park to assist with its five-year plan that establishes grant priorities to address unmet needs for public outdoor recreation.
- The Haunted House event saw over 3,000 visitors over the two-day event.
- The annual Lighting Ceremony will be on December 2, 2024 at Civic Center Plaza at 6:30pm and will have music performances by local high schools, photo opportunities, hot chocolate, and cider.
- Holiday at the Plaza will be December 14, 2024 with family-friendly activities, arts and crafts, music, photo opportunities, a rock-climbing wall, sledding, and ice-skating on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

- At Palomares Park, there was the renaming and unveiling of one of the community rooms named after Belinda Fierro, a City employee who tragically passed away in 2023 after being struck by a drunk driver in Pomona.
- Kennedy Park unveiled its new skate space with an opening ceremony featuring music, prizes, raffles, and giveaways.
- The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be a joint meeting with the Youth Commission due to the holiday schedule and staff liaising both commissions.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lang adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Palomares Park, 499 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona, CA 91767.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Monica Belloso
Management Analyst

Chris Lang
Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission