

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF POMONA**

**RALPH WELCH COMMUNITY CENTER
1000 SOUTH BUENA VISTA STREET, POMONA, CA 91766**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Community Services Manager, Mike Osoff.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Mike Osoff led the Flag Salute.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Chris Brown, Mayor's Appointee
Melissa Ayala, Commissioner, District 1
Bertha Rodriguez, Commissioner, District 2
Joshua Heredia, Commissioner, District 3
Jeff Sanchez, Commissioner, District 4
Hector Quevedo, Commissioner, District 6

Absent: Stephanie Rothman, Commissioner, District 5

Staff: Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Roberto Curiel, Facility/Sports Rentals Supervisor
Meg McWade, Acting Public Works Director
Chris Hentzen, Acting Park & Landscape Manager
Matt Pilarz, Senior Civil Engineer
Laura Lara, Engineering Associate
Jan Cicco, Homeless Services Coordinator
James Gibson, Police Corporal
Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Osoff presented the Minutes from September 15, 2016 and January 19, 2017 to the Commissioners. The September 15, 2016 Minutes required a revote due to requiring a majority vote. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ayala, carried by 6-0-1.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Brown stated he visited Jaycee Park and noticed the restrooms were locked at about 5:00 P.M. Chris Hentzen, Acting Park & Landscape Manager responded that the restrooms at Jaycee Park are closed during the day and opened on weekends due to security reasons.

Commissioner Quevedo introduced himself and stated that there is a running club called “We Run Pomona”. Runners meet every Tuesday night at different parks and run throughout the community.

Commissioner Sanchez expressed concerns such as homelessness and trash, specifically at Ganesha Park. Mike Osoff informed Commissioner Sanchez that the agenda item, Park Safety and Homelessness will address those topics.

VI. OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Osoff advised the Commissioners that Corporal James Gibson must leave early for another engagement, therefore if the Commissioners would like to begin with the agenda item Park Safety and Homelessness, then the Commissioners must make a motion to move up the agenda item.

Commissioner Quevedo motioned to immediately discuss agenda item, Park Safety and Homelessness, seconded by Commissioner Sanchez, carried by 6-0-1.

Park Safety and Homelessness

Corporal James Gibson, Director of Community Programs stated the City’s strategic plan is aggressively addressing homelessness. Corporal Gibson stated the City recently went through a lawsuit that limited the police department’s ability to enforce actions against the homeless population. Recently, the City built storage lockers for transients to store their belongings and this has allowed law enforcement to keep the homeless from setting up camp at the parks during daytime hours. Additionally, the City is in the process of acquiring space located at 1400 East Mission Boulevard for temporary emergency housing. Corporal Gibson stated he will be at a grassroots park clean-up event on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at Kennedy Park. Corporal Gibson stated that until the temporary housing shelter is open, the department will continue to respond to calls and address issues related to the homeless, trash, and public safety.

Corporal Gibson opened the floor for questions.

Commissioner Sanchez commented that the surveillance cameras at Kiwanis Park are spray painted red and there is graffiti. Mike Osoff responded that the City is in the process of ordering new covers and will be meeting with the Public Works, Community Services, and Information Technology departments to address this issue.

Public Participation

Speaker 1 asked that since the homeless cannot be forced to go to the armory, what recourses will the police department have to keep the homeless out of the parks. Corporal Gibson responded that he understands it can be frustrating, but unless a transient is connected to a crime, the department must work within the capacity of the law. Corporal Gibson stated criminal activity tends to occur in areas that are poorly lit and encouraged residents to keep outside lights on, go on walks, or organize a neighborhood watch. Corporal Gibson stated his department helps residents organize neighborhood watches.

Alex Rodriguez, President of Pomona Southwest League at Ralph Welch Park asked if the league observes people drinking or smoking at the park, can the league ask them to leave. Corporal Gibson requested that the league call the police department to handle those situations.

Speaker 2 asked if the Sheriff's Department is helping the Pomona Police Department in conducting sweeps along the railroad tracks. Corporal Gibson responded that there are sheriffs that are assigned to the Metro trains and at times work with the police department to conduct clean ups along the tracks.

Carlos Goytia, President of Pony United stated some of the issues at Kennedy Park are drug paraphilia being left behind. Mr. Goytia asked for more police presence, police involvement and engagement at all parks. Corporal Gibson stated he will be at the clean-up event at Kennedy Park on Saturday, February 18, 2017.

A Way Home: Community Solutions for Pomona's Homeless

Jan Cicco, Homeless Services Coordinator presented on the City's strategic plan on homelessness. Ms. Cicco provided a comprehensive description of the City's goals, strategies, and performance benchmarks. Ms. Cicco advised that a shelter at 1400 Mission Avenue will provide immediate housing and include basic services and amenities, coordinated entry, basic healthcare and mental healthcare services. The shelter will also be ADA compliant.

Commissioner Sanchez questioned the issue of homeless individuals coming from other cities to obtain services. Ms. Cicco explained there will be a Pomona residency requirement to obtain services.

Commissioner Ayala asked if the restrooms and shower facilities will accommodate the transgender community. Ms. Cicco responded that she will have that issue reviewed for possible modifications. Commissioner Ayala also expressed a concern for families and children not being serviced at this shelter. Ms. Cicco stated that there is a year-round homeless shelter for Pomona families, as well as a domestic violence shelter.

Commissioner Rodriguez expressed a concern for the cycle of people getting services and going back on the streets. Ms. Cicco stated that the City participates in the Homeless Management Information System to track participants who receive shelter, funds, and resources.

Meg McWade, Acting Public Works Director stated they have obtained a three-year Cal Recycle park grant of approximately \$500,000 to fund a crew consisting of a solid waste driver and two maintenance workers to conduct park clean ups and enforce the “travel light” message.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – NON AGENDA ITEMS

Brenda Quintana, Pomona expressed a concern that the restrooms at Ted Greene Park are not ADA compliant and is in need of repairs.

Carlos Goytia, Pomona spoke about maintenance issues in District 5. Mr. Goytia stated the grass at the greenbelt appears to be at least two feet high and it looks like debris is left behind when the maintenance is done. Mr. Goytia stated that bags are not changed, trash cans are filled with water, and lightbulbs need to be replaced.

Jose Aldrete, Pomona stated that AYSO membership has been declining. A dog park located at Phillips Ranch by the Fire Station is not a good location because AYSO requires insurance and does not allow dogs at the park. Mr. Aldrete stated there are other locations that would be better for the dog park.

VII. OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

Chair and Vice Chair Voting

Mike Osoff explained the eligibility requirements for Chair and Vice Chair and that they must be on the Commission for at least one year and anyone with less than one year will need a 6/7 vote. Mr. Osoff advised that due to one Commissioner being absent, a unanimous vote would be required. Commissioner Rodriguez and Commissioner Heredia were nominated for Chair. Commissioner Rodriguez and Commissioner Heredia each received three votes and Commissioner Heredia conceded Chair to Commissioner Rodriguez. A unanimous vote of 6-0-1 for Vice Chair went to Commissioner Heredia.

Lighting Fee Reduction for Little League/Pony League Ballfields

Mr. Osoff provided the audience and new Commissioners the background regarding lighting fees for ballfields. Mr. Osoff stated that prior to the economic downturn; there were no fees for ballfield lighting. During the economic downturn, the City sought ways to decrease expenses and increase revenues. The issue of athletic field lighting fees went to the Youth Sports Council for discussion. The Youth Sports Council agreed that a fee of \$10-\$15 per hour would be reasonable and settled on \$12 per hour for lighting fees to recommend to Council. The issue went to Council and Council approved a fee of \$10 per hour.

Mr. Osoff stated that at the September 15, 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commissioners requested that funds from cell towers at the parks be allocated to ballfield lighting fees to offset the cost that leagues pay. A weekly report was sent to Council regarding this matter and no action was taken. Mr. Osoff stated that at the January 19, 2017 Parks and

Recreation Commission meeting, the Commissioners voted to bring the issue of ballfield lighting again due to the new Mayor and three new Councilmembers.

Mr. Osoff informed the Commissioners that the City is currently expecting a budget deficit of \$2.5 million dollars for this fiscal year and hopes that it will drop down to \$1.5 million by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Osoff stated that in October 2010, the City estimated ballfield lighting costs to be around \$100,000 a year and that the \$10 per hour fee does not fully cover the cost of lighting. Roberto Curiel, Facility & Sports Rentals Supervisor stated that the \$10 per hour fee only applies to User Group A, which are community leagues that are 100% Pomona residents. User Group B pays \$30 per hour and User Group C pays \$35 per hour for ballfield lighting.

Several Commissioners expressed that the \$10 per hour fee for ballfield lighting places a financial burden on leagues, coaches, and parents.

Mr. Osoff asked the public to come forward with comments.

Public Participation

Carlos Goytia, Pomona stated he sat on the Parks and Recreation Commission for eight years and was involved with decreasing the ballfield lighting fee to \$10 per hour. Mr. Goytia stated he recalls discussion within the Commission that when the City was in a better financial state, the Commission would recommend to Council to eliminate light fees or find ways to offset the costs. Mr. Goytia stated he understands that nonprofit leagues can find it difficult to raise funds to cover the lighting fees and asked the Commissioners to consider the value that leagues bring to the community and waive ballfield lighting fees.

Chair Rodriguez motioned to recommend to Council to waive ballfield lighting fees for non-profit community based leagues, seconded by Commissioner Quevedo, carried by 6-0-1.

Lincoln Park ADA Improvements

Matt Pilarz, Senior Civil Engineer presented the Lincoln Park American Disability Acts (ADA) Improvements Projects. The presentation discussed various ADA accessibility improvements to Lincoln Park and surrounding street intersections within the Lincoln Park Historic District. Specified improvements included: landscape material treatments, new street lights, new ADA picnic tables, and intersection improvements at Palomares Street, Jefferson Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, and Como Drive. Mr. Pilarz informed the Commissioners that the improvements were in response to recent litigation.

Several Commissioners had questions regarding the costs, funding, and maintenance. Mr. Pilarz informed the Commissioners that the estimated cost of the project is \$725,000 and will be primarily sourced by the general fund. Mr. Pilarz stated that the costs do not include maintenance and that other parks may need to be brought up to code. Mr. Pilarz stated that landscape material will be changed depending on the usage and environment conditions such as tree roots, grass, and amount of rain. Commissioner Heredia asked if the playground will be improved and Mr. Pilarz responded that the playground will not be improved. Mr. Pilarz informed the Commissioners that the bathroom will not be upgraded to be ADA compliant.

Some Commissioners felt that accidents and excessive speed is not a significant concern to justify the addition of medians and bulb-outs. Mr. Pilarz responded that improvements address liability concerns for pedestrian crossing, visibility, and speed. Those concerns are mitigated by narrowing the streets and adding a median and bulb-outs.

Commissioner Quevedo commented that he recognizes and appreciates the improvements and design features take into account the current lawsuit and consider the prevention of future litigation. Commissioner Brown asked how landscaping materials were selected around the homes. Mr. Pilarz responded that based on community comments and meetings, due to the variety of existing surrounding materials around and within the park, it was decided to choose landscaping materials to match adjacent properties.

Mr. Pilarz advised the Commissioners that the proposal is final and that they are seeking approval for recommendation to Council.

At this time, Chair Rodriguez asked the public to come forward with comments.

Public Participation

Deborah A. Clifford, Pomona stated that she has been a resident of Lincoln Park District for over 20 years. Ms. Clifford asked the Commissioners to consider the design details carefully such as removal of trees, curbs, and the streets. Ms. Clifford stated that ADA does not require narrowing the streets. The park is part of the National Registry and the wide streets are a significant feature of the neighborhood. Ms. Clifford stated that speed does occur in the streets, but she has been walking the streets since she retired, and it is not a big enough concern that would require immediate attention. Ms. Clifford asked the Commissioners to carefully consider the changes to the park.

Mickey Gallivan, Pomona stated she has been a resident for 25 years. Ms. Gallivan advised the Commissioners that she is not aware of any accidents or safety issues in the immediate area of the park. Ms. Gallivan stated there are 850 homes affected by this lawsuit and the lawsuit is based on one person who would like to be able to get around and cross the street. Ms. Gallivan stated she thinks that it can sometimes be hard to see traffic coming from Palomares Street, but this can be resolved by the property owner cutting down their shrubs. Ms. Gallivan requested the Commissioners to consider other ways to slow down traffic and speed, like using blinking lights instead of the bulb-outs. Ms. Gallivan asked the Commissioners to consider the beauty of the park and neighborhood.

Dan McIntire, Pomona stated that as President of Pomona Heritage advised the Commissioners that the neighborhood is of a historic nature that requires as few changes as possible. Mr. McIntire stated the Pomona Heritage Board of Directors unanimously support the ADA compliance changes but do not support the bulb-outs or medians. Mr. McIntire advised the Commissioners that he has lived by the park since 1987 and there has never been a safety issue. Mr. McIntire stated that he supports the staff and feels they did a great job, but believes the historical nature was not considered early on in the process. Mr. McIntire asked the Commissioners to continue with the process, but does not see a substantial approval moving forward through the Historical Preservation Commission.

James Gallivan, Pomona advised the Commissioners that he neither supports nor is against the improvements but wanted to let the Commissioners know that it was difficult for Historic Preservation Commission the to vote for the plans because the plan is unknown due to the legal processes.

Chair Rodriguez thanked the public for their comments and proceeded to vote on the agenda item, Lincoln Park Improvements. Commissioner Brown motioned to deny the request upon further research from the Committee or a lesser proposed budget for the project, seconded by Commissioner Heredia, carried by 6-0-1.

County Parks Projects

Matt Pilarz, Senior Civil Engineer gave a presentation on County Grants Parks Projects. Mr. Pilarz informed the Commissioners that in January 2015, the City applied for County grants to provide improvements for several parks. The scope of the projects was put forth as part of the grant proposal and the City's capital improvements projects. The presentation discussed six parks and their improvements: Ganesha Park Tree Grove; Garfield Park ADA ramp; Martin Luther King Park Gazebo; Phillips Paw Dog Park; Angela Chanslor Pocket Park-Esperanza Y Alegria; and Kennedy Park's Field Improvements.

Commissioner Brown asked what the costs are for each park project. Mr. Pilarz responded that the approximate construction costs are: Ganesha Park is \$62,000; Garfield Park is \$45,000; Martin Luther King is \$65,000; Phillips Paw Park is \$302,000, Angela Chanslor is \$265,000 and Kennedy Park is \$294,000. Several Commissioners had questions regarding funding and the grant application process. Mr. Pilarz informed the Commissioners that funds come from a variety of sources and the park projects were chosen based on the application process, discussion with Councilmembers, the community, and various youth leagues.

At this time, Chair Rodriguez opened the floor for public comments.

Public Participation

Carlos Goytia, Pomona requested additional minutes to speak on each park project. Commissioner Ayala motioned to allow Mr. Goytia to speak for a maximum of 10 minutes. Vice Chair Heredia seconded, carried by 6-0-1.

Mr. Goytia stated that he supports the tree grove, but suggests creating a walking path and placing a bridge over the San Jose Creek to connect to the other side. Mr. Goytia stated he feels that more trees will attract homeless and drugs.

Mr. Goytia stated the gazebo at Martin Luther King Park does need repair but feels the skate park needs enhancements, volleyball courts, and a t-ball field.

Mr. Goytia stated he is not opposed to a dog park, but as a resident of Phillips Ranch, he feels that a dog park on the north side is not a good location. Mr. Goytia advised the Commissioners that the kids use that field. Mr. Goytia stated that AYSO membership rates are declining because kids are playing at other cities. Mr. Goytia, stated he feels that improving the field condition or creating a multi-purpose field to have t-ball would be better. Mr. Goytia is concerned with a

variety of issues such as cleanliness, maintenance costs, the health of dogs, and dog abandonment.

Mr. Goytia stated he supports the project at Angela Chanslor Park.

Mr. Goytia stated that Kennedy Park needs lighting and fencing.

Jose Aldrete, Pomona stated that a dog park is not needed. Mr. Aldrete stated he is concerned that too many trees will be removed and the space for the dog park will take away from kids that play sports. Mr. Aldrete expressed to the Commissioners that there are better locations to put a dog park.

Alex Rodriguez, Pomona addressed his concern that the dog park is taking away from the children that play soccer. Mr. Rodriguez informed the Commissioners that if kids don't have a location to play soccer, they will go to other parks to play. Mr. Rodriguez's concern is that soccer players will use the baseball fields to play soccer and this will require more maintenance for the baseball fields. Mr. Rodriguez asked the Commissioners to use the money for Phillips Park to improve the fields for soccer and to go toward lighting fees.

Commissioner Quevedo asked Mr. Pilarz if there is money allocated toward the Ganesha Park Tree Grove funds other than the County grants and what happens to the grant money if a project is not approved. Mr. Pilarz responded that the Ganesha Park Tree Grove is funded by the County grants only. Mr. Pilarz advised the Commissioners that the City Council chose the park projects based on community input. Based on some provisions, the grants could put unused funds toward the other park projects only, except for Ganesha Park because it was a part of the main grant application process.

The Commission decided to vote on each park project individually:

Ganesha Park - Tree Grove Project

Commissioner Quevedo motioned to approve the Ganesha Park Tree Grove project, seconded by Commissioner Ayala, Chair Rodriguez opposing, carried by 5-1-1.

Garfield Park – ADA ramp Project

Commissioner Quevedo motioned to approve the ADA ramp at Garfield Park, seconded by Vice Chair Heredia carried by 6-0-1.

Martin Luther King Park – Gazebo Project

Vice Chair Heredia motioned to approve the Gazebo Project at Martin Luther King Park, seconded by Commissioner Brown, carried by 5-0-1-1.

Phillips Paw Dog Park – Location

Commissioner Brown motioned to deny the Phillips Paw Park project, seconded by Commissioner Ayala, with Commissioner Quevedo approving, carried by 5-1-1.

Angela Chanslor Pocket Park/Esperanza Y Alegria

Commissioner Ayala motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Heredia, with Chair Rodriguez opposing, and Commissioner Quevedo abstaining, carried by 4-1-1-1.

Kennedy Park – Field Improvements project

Chair Rodriguez motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Brown with Vice Chair Heredia abstaining, carried by 5-0-1-1.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Mike Osoff presented the following Community Services updates:

1. The Spring 2017 Recreation Guide is now available online and at community centers.
2. In collaboration with Pomona Unified School District (PUSD) Adult Education Program, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are being offered at Renacimiento Park Community Center, Monday-Thursday from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. There are currently 15 participants and hopes to increase it to 20 participants in the upcoming weeks.
3. CalPoly music students performed at each of the Senior Centers; Washington Park and Palomares Community Center. The CalPoly music students performed a special Valentine's Day performance at Palomares Community Center.
4. On February 11, 2017, teens from La Casita and Philadelphia Park Community Center attended the Black College Expo at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Staff assisted and prepared teens for the Expo. Several teens were accepted to colleges on the spot, two teens were each offered a \$10,000 college scholarship, and one teen was offered a \$40,000 college scholarship.
5. The Easter Egg Hunts will be April 8, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. at Kiwanis Park, Ted Greene Park, Phillips Ranch Park and Washington Park.

Chris Hentzen presented the following Public Works updates:

1. The Native American Dedication Ceremony and Wood Carvings will be April 22, 2017.
2. Opening Day for leagues will be March 11, 2017 and March 25, 2017.
3. Beautification Day will be May 13, 2017.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was adjourned at 10:20 P.M. by Vice Chair Heredia, seconded by Commissioner Brown, carried by 6-0-1.

Next regular meeting: Thursday, March 16, 2017 at Ganesha Park Community Center, 1575 North White Avenue, Pomona, CA 91766.

SUBMITTED BY:

Community Services Manager

Chair