

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF
YOUTH COMMISSION**

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

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

As this was the first regular meeting of the Youth Commission and there being no Chair or Vice Chair selected yet, Community Services Manager Mike Osoff called the Youth Commission meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Osoff led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

City staff conducted roll call for Youth Commissioners.

Present:

Orlando Arias-Pulido, Commissioner	District 1
Victor Tessier, Commissioner	District 2
Javier Rodriguez-Rivera, Commissioner	District 3
Ryan Houston, Commissioner	District 5

Absent:

Appointee

Natalie Alvarado, Commissioner	Mayoral
Mario Portillo, Commissioner	District 4

Vacancy:

Commissioner	District 6
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Staff present:

Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Roberto Curiel, Facilities/Sports Rental Supervisor
Adrian Valdez, Recreation Supervisor
Mary Sinclair, Recreation Coordinator
Aren Yeh, Management Analyst
Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Rodriguez-Rivera spoke about Day One hosting a Youth Advocate meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2020.

Commissioner Arias-Pulido spoke about a park cleanup at John F. Kennedy Park this upcoming weekend at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. He stated everyone is welcomed to participate and meet candidates for the election.

Commissioner Houston spoke on a scholarship opportunity for local youth and provided his email for anyone that wants more information.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Fatima Santoyo, of Gente Organizada Pomona Student's Union spoke on the City's budget for youth funding and programming. Ms. Santoyo stated that Pomona Student's Union would like to partner with the Youth Commission to strengthen youth voices. She extended an invitation to meet with two Youth Commissioners to speak on how to help build a better community for youth.

VII. UNFINISHED AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation: Community Services Division, Youth Programming & Special Events Overview

Mr. Osoff led the presentation and provided an overview of the Community Services Division's events, budget, staffing levels, contracts and agreements. Mr. Osoff stated there are 10 City Departments and the Community Services Divisions falls under the Neighborhood Services Department with Benita DeFrank as the Director. In Community Services, there are seven full-time staff and the part-time staff are limited to working 1,000 hours per year. Parks and Recreation is made up of Public Works, responsible for maintaining facilities and parks, and Community Services is responsible for programs and events.

Mary Sinclair, Recreation Coordinator spoke on the After School Recreation Program stating the program is offered at 13 sites, but currently not opened right now due to COVID-19 restrictions. The program is a drop-in program, it is free and runs from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The center at Kennedy Park primarily serves teens because of the nearby middle school and high school and the Teen Center is located at La Casita at Palomares Park. The program offers homework assistance, art and crafts, science activities, and board games and serves ages 7 to 17. Through the program, Youth Sports offers basketball, flag football, volleyball and soccer which are learning-leagues and mainly non-competitive. Ms. Sinclair stated that staff are currently creating and posting YouTube videos for virtual recreation like DIY Thursdays and Foodie Fridays Live recreation classes for art and crafts are now being offered through Zoom. Ms. Sinclair stated the program also offers a Heroes of Pomona Speech Contest, but because of COVID-19, the speech contest was cancelled this year and transitioned to a program, where participants recorded and wrote about how their Pomona hero made a positive impact on them or the community. Through Tri-City's support, past winners of the speech contest won up to \$1,000.

Adrian Valdez, Recreation Supervisor stated the Senior Program is at two locations and offers a lunch program. Mr. Valdez stated the program is not operating right now, but when it is, it offers seniors a meal, opportunities to socialize and participate in recreation activities, go on fieldtrips, and attend dances and holiday celebrations. Seniors can listen to live music performances and access a monthly book mobile. Right now, daily meals are being home-delivered to over 350 seniors and staff are conducting wellness checks.

Roberto Curiel spoke on facility rentals that can be rented for weddings, anniversaries, quinceaneras or baby showers. Mr. Curiel spoke on soccer and baseball sports fields also available to rent including the pools at Ganesha Park and Washington Park. The City's Special Events include Haunted House, Easter Egg and Holiday at the Plaza including filming for shows and movies.

Ms. Sinclair spoke on the Easter Egg event, which has been held at four parks, offering an egg hunt, crafts, activities, and yard games.

Mr. Valdez spoke on the annual Haunted House that offers a family-friendly side with games, crafts, and a costume contest.

Mr. Curiel spoke on the annual Holiday at the Plaza event held at Shaun Diamond Plaza that coordinates with the Christmas Parade. The event has offered a rock climbing wall, snow sledding, crafts, face painting, and photos with Santa Clause and Mrs. Clause including the Youth Orchestra performing holiday music. The Movies in the Park included a dive-in movie at Ganesha Pool.

Mr. Osoff stated that Day One is a City partner for Movies in the Parks, each contributing staffing, equipment and funding for license movie fees. Mr. Osoff stated last summer, Concerts in the Park offered three concert performances at the Civic Center.

Mr. Curiel stated the Pomona Concert Band has been performing in the City for about 70 years, playing a summer concert series at Ganesha Park bandshell, as well as performing winter and spring concerts.

Mr. Valdez spoke about the Youth Orchestra, a City program that offers youth and young adults the opportunity to connect with local musicians and perform live music at city events and surrounding cities. The orchestra is led by a Pomona Unified School District music teacher, meeting weekly throughout the school year. The program is free to youth interested in performing music, and instruments are available to youth that need one.

Mr. Osoff spoke on contractors and partnerships that work with Community Services to offer additional services and resources, including agreements, policies, and procedures that have been recently formalized. Mr. Osoff advised the Commissioners there are several ways to get involved such as attending City Council meetings, attending other Commission meetings, reading weekly reports, and volunteering at special events and programs.

Aren Yeh, Management Analyst presented the Fiscal Year 2020-21 City budget and general fund expenditures.

General Fund Expenditures	FY 2019-20 Budget	FY 2020-21 Adopted	Variance
Police	\$61,591,527	\$62,439,569	\$848,042
Fire	28,939,944	30,648,902	1,708,958
Public Works	8,232,047	7,166,669	(1,065,378)
Development Services	5,267,811	4,750,141	(517,670)
General Government	5,786,076	4,083,234	(1,702,842)
General Services	2,686,846	4,106,315	1,419,469
Neighborhood Services	3,732,066	3,734,672	2,606
Library	1,069,427	1,087,553	18,126
Total	\$117,305,744	\$118,017,055	\$711,311

Next, Mr. Yeh presented an overview of department youth-related expenses that benefit youth directly and indirectly in Library Services, Neighborhood Services, Police and Public Works. The Housing Division, under Neighborhood Services is mostly funded by grants for homeless services and rental assistance.

Description	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Library Services	976,437	1,069,427	1,367,553
Neighborhood Services	8,638,425	9,874,392	10,932,916
Police Services	886,599	1,058,532	869,030
Public Works	2,788,862	5,783,692	4,781,046
TOTAL	13,290,323	17,786,043	17,950,545

Mr. Yeh explained that Library Services consists of library operations and facility improvements. Neighborhood Services includes youth-related expenses for after school recreation, athletic fields, staffing, pools, youth transportation, and recreation facilities. This also includes expenses for special events like Haunted House, Easter Egg Hunts, Holiday at the Plaza, and funding from California Development Block Grant to provide items like sports programming, art enrichment, and Youth Orchestra. The amount of \$400,000 was recently allocated this year for youth programming. The Section 8 expenses are for households with children, and Healthy Homes Program for children under age 6.

Description	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Afterschool Recreation	735,814	935,753	970,757
Athletic Fields	540,687	578,388	540,687
Community Services Administration	914,088	1,043,692	1,113,191
Ganesha and Washington Pools	250,483	282,379	219,086
Prop A – Youth Trip Transportation*	4,906	3,959	4,500
Recreation Facilities - Custodial	504,922	563,786	567,972
Special Events	186,214	176,205	170,185
CDBG Youth Services (Community Organizations)*	47,088	45,125	23,250
CDBG Youth Services (City)*	105,363	81,370	80,840
CDBG Youth Programming (City/Community Orgs)*	-	-	400,000
Section 8 – Households with Children	5,048,859	5,735,955	6,392,448
Healthy Homes Program (Children under 6)*	300,000	427,780	450,000
TOTAL	8,638,425	9,874,392	10,932,916

Mr. Yeh then described the Police youth-related expenses below.

Description	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Every 15 Minutes (Drunk Driving Prevention)	1,000	1,000	1,000
Great Campout	15,000	15,000	15,000
National Night Out	3,500	3,500	3,500
Santa Cop	7,000	7,000	7,000
Red Ribbon Week	400	400	400
Halloween Safety	300	300	300
Cops 4 Kids	16,885	16,885	16,885
Explorer Program	10,000	10,000	10,000
School Crossing Guard Contract	231,392	242,200	133,431
School Resource Officers	434,222	593,363	666,059
Car Seat Program	153,000	154,000	-
Cadet Program	13,900	14,884	15,455
TOTAL	886,599	1,058,532	869,030

Mr. Yeh provided a breakdown of Public Works youth-related expenses below.

Description	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Park Facility Maintenance	687,211	734,188	617,287
Park Landscape Maintenance	2,101,652	2,146,333	2,262,576
Hamilton Park Renovation	-	-	1,500,000
Phil and Nell Soto Park Construction	-	2,873,248	-
Park Light Pole Replacements	-	29,923	-
Pedestrian and Bicycle Lane Improvements	-	-	401,183
TOTAL	2,788,86	5,783,692	4,781,046

Mr. Yeh concluded the overview of youth-related budget and expenses.

Before allowing the Commissioners discussion, Mr. Osoff opened up Public Comment for this agenda item. There being no submitted written public comments, Mr. Osoff asked public attendees if they would like to speak on the item, or if they preferred that staff answer questions submitted in the Q&A section.

City staff read out loud two questions submitted in the Q&A section, both asking about what will happen to unused funds due to many programs and events being cancelled due to the pandemic.

Mr. Osoff responded that some of the budget has already been modified to account for cancellations, but with many COVID-19-related expenses, it is not expected there will be a surplus of funds. Mr. Osoff stated the following agenda item will discuss alternatives for the annual Haunted House.

Mr. Osoff asked if the Commissioners had further questions or comments regarding the presentation.

Commissioner Houston asked if the presentation could be forwarded to the Commission. Ms. Belloso replied that she will forward the presentation to the Commission.

2. Fall Special Events

Mr. Osoff led the discussion of upcoming fall special events stating that COVID-19 has affected the ability to plan events as previously done with considerations of how the public's needs and safety guidelines can be met.

Mr. Valdez spoke on how the City's Haunted House is unable to happen this year due to COVID-19. Therefore, staff is considering other ways to hold a Halloween event that is safe for everyone. Some ideas were doing a drive-thru haunted house that could have visuals and props, interactions with actors, and giving away goodies. Other ideas included having a virtual event, or hosting a virtual escape room, a virtual costume contest, or chalk art event.

Mr. Osoff asked the Commission on what type of events would engage youth and families to participate in.

Commissioner Houston stated he liked the idea of a drive-thru haunted house and then suggested showing a drive-in scary movie after.

Commissioner Arias-Pulido stated he attended a similar event and liked that idea.

Mr. Osoff asked the Commission for movie recommendations.

The Commission suggested The Nightmare Before Christmas, Haunted House, Caroline, Hocus Pocus, and Hotel Transylvania.

Commissioner Arias-Pulido suggested hosting a Friday family-friendly event and a scary Saturday event.

Commissioner Tessier asked if two movies could be shown on the same night, with the first movie being family-friendly and the second movie being scary.

Mr. Valdez responded there could be some challenges with doing two movies on the same night, like ending too late.

Commissioner Houston asked if a goodie bag with popcorn and candy could be given out. Mr. Osoff stated that could be considered as long as it can be done safely.

Commissioner Rodriguez-Rivera asked if there could be a table area where youth could pick up coloring pages and Halloween-related activities. Mr. Osoff stated a goodie bag could include those activities.

Commissioner Tessier asked what facility would be used to host this event. Mr. Osoff stated outdoors at Washington Park would likely be an option for this event.

Mr. Valdez stated that identifying a space that could allow the number of cars and equipment needed, including the size of the screen would need to be considered.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Osoff thanked the Commission for their input and advised them to submit additional ideas and questions to Mr. Valdez.

3. Chair and Vice Chair Selection

Mr. Osoff informed the Commission that they could select a Chair and Vice Chair during this meeting, or since not all Commissioners are present, the Commission could move the Chair and Vice Chair Selection to the following meeting.

After Commissioner discussion, Commissioner Arias-Pulido made a motion to postpone the Chair and Vice Chair Selection to the following meeting, seconded by Commissioner Houston, and passing with a unanimous vote of Commissioners present (4-0-2-0).

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Osoff stated that staff is planning to submit applications for grant funding to Proposition 68's Statewide Park Program.

Mr. Curiel shared that youth sports leagues are currently unable to play games at this time, but leagues can submit a plan that follow health department guidelines on how to resume practices safely. Plans are reviewed and approved by staff.

Ms. Belloso informed the Commission that staff recently submitted a grant application to increase youth access to natural and cultural resources, through Proposition 64's Youth Community Access Program.

Mr. Osoff stated that custodial is maintaining and cleaning community centers while they are closed during this time.

Mr. Valdez spoke about the collaboration with Project Horseshoe Farm, an organization led by graduate students interested in improving community health and education.

IV. MATTERS INITIATED BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

None at this time.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Osoff adjourned the meeting at 7:53p.m.

The next regular meeting to the Youth Commission will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Michael Osoff, Community Services Manager

Youth Commission Chairperson