

Regular Meeting Minutes

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



*Chair Fabian Pavon
Vice-Chair Cynthia Marino
Commissioner Juanita Preciado-Becerra
Commissioner Noel Mendez-Zamudio
Commissioner Vince Carpio
Commissioner Donna Otero
Commissioner Ion Puschila*

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, June 17, 2021

6:00 PM

Teleconference via Zoom

6:00 P.M. Teleconference Meeting via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pavon called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pavon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Fabian Pavon
Vice Chair Cynthia Marino
Commissioner Juanita Preciado-Becerra
Commissioner Noel Mendez-Zamudio
Commissioner Vince Carpio
Commissioner Donna Otero

Absent: Commissioner Ion Puschila

STAFF PRESENT

Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director
Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Danny Whaley, Parks and Facilities Manager

Ata Khan, Planning Manager
Roberto Curiel, Facilities/Sports Rental Supervisor
Salina Gutierrez, Recreation Coordinator

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Vice Chair Marino reported that the drinking fountain at the dog park was leaking; she called the non-emergency phone number and they came right away. She did a couple of park walkthroughs and advised staff of issues. The garden at Tony Cerda Park was run over and she helped Chair Pavon put it back together.

Commissioner Otero stated that Cherokee Federal from Fairplex reached out to her about recreation opportunities for youth. She connected them to a local nonprofit and she believes they will be working together to create art projects. She attended a City Council meeting. She attended a mini fiesta at Hamilton Park. She shared a concern about a private Facebook group called Pomona Parks Evaluation and asked if this was a violation of the Brown Act.

Commissioner Carpio reported that the parks in District 4 are looking good. He said he is seeing more activities for younger kids than for older kids. He attended the mini fiesta at Hamilton Park and said it was good to see the community come together to have a good time at the park. He is looking forward for the release of the recreation guide to share with constituents.

Commissioner Preciado-Becerra stated that she and staff toured Cesar Chavez Park for an upcoming Beautification Day project. She stated she would be meeting with Blue Sky LA to discuss air quality initiatives related to the Los Angeles summer Olympics. She said she was happy to hear that the mini fiesta was a big success.

Chair Pavon stated that Latino/Latino Roundtable is hosting a book drive for Latin literature and bilingual children's books for the little free library at Cesar Chavez Park, and planning Danza Azteca workshops at Tony Cerda Park and Cesar Chavez Park. He is working with Pomona's poet laureate and Just Us 4 Youth on how to bring more programs at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. He said he is having conversations with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to see how they can work with the City of Pomona to increase awareness of programming offered. He stated he conducted park walkthroughs at Phillips Ranch with Vice Chair Marino and noted the leak and that it was addressed right away. He said there was a missing trashcan at Tony Cerda Park and City staff replaced it immediately.

PUBLIC COMMENT

M. Joyce asked about the time line for the roof replacement at Willie White Community Center. She said she reported missing letters on the building. The free community library has been well stocked, but needs someone to repair the door because it is having issues closing. She spoke on concerns about gopher holes and asked when the community center will be opened.

Martin Perez provided Hamilton Park updates:

- On the weekend of June 12, 2021, the fiesta was attended by many residents surrounding Hamilton Park.
- There were about 58 parents and children who enjoyed hotdogs, painting, a piñata, raspadas, and musical chairs. He thanked all who provided donations for the event.
- Mr. Perez asked when the second preliminary design meeting would be held.
- The community opposes a name change for Hamilton Park.
- The need for organized programming was highly evident at the fiesta. He asked to be included in programs, transportation, excursions, entertainment, and movies.
- The little library has been decorated by an artist from the da Center for the Arts.
- The painted trashcans are in process. Designs from the children include forests, ocean, and old Mexico.

UNFINISHED OR NEW BUSINESS

1. Activate Pomona Process

Planning Manager Ata Khan provided a presentation of the Activate Pomona Program.

Activate Pomona Status

- Launched July 2020
- City Council extended the Governor's executive order declaring COVID-19 emergency.
- Still accepting applications

Temporary Art Permit

- New "Temporary Art Permit" launched as of June 4, 2021
- A \$25 fee made payable to the Planning Division
- Enables a 48-hour review of temporary art projects citywide
- Proposals are routed to Cultural Arts Commission for 48-hour review. Any questions would bring the permit up to the Commission review.

Martin Perez asked if adopting a tree well could be considered an art project. Mr. Khan responded that tree planting or landscaping is outside the realm of the public art fund, but if it has a creative component, it could be considered.

Commissioner Carpio asked if there are guidelines for what is considered art. Mr. Khan responded there are content regulations. For example, content that insinuates violence or is culturally or ethnically inappropriate will be flagged.

Chair Pavon stated that the Activate Pomona application does not have an option to place art in parks. Mr. Khan responded that there is now an approved list for art in parks and an option can be added to the application.

This was a discussion item only. There was no action taken.

2. Special Events Process

Facilities/Sports Rental Supervisor Roberto Curiel and Recreation Coordinator Salina Gutierrez provided an overview of the special events process prior to the pandemic, such as time lines, required forms and documents, and the approval process for a permitted special event.

M. Joyce asked when the park could be used for the Cultural Festival. She asked about stage rentals and vendors. Ms. Joyce asked if staff have maps of the parks so that applicants can use that for a site map.

Dee Dee Manzanara Ibarra stated she is interested in having a community event and if she would need a special event permit for a clothing giveaway with information vendors.

Jacqueline Elizade asked if she needs a permit to host a reading event at the Civic Center Plaza.

Staff responded to questions asked during Public Comment.

Vice Chair Marino asked if a permit would be needed for a chili cook-off and if there are plans for concerts. Mr. Osoff responded that a special event permit would be required for cook-offs.

Commissioner Preciado-Becerra asked if organizations use the same application as individuals, the approval process of reoccurring events, and if park amenities are considered when approving an event. Staff responded that one application is used for both organizations and individuals and stated the process for event series. Mr. Osoff responded that amenities are considered for events such as space, storage, and restrooms.

Commissioner Otero asked if a park cleanup is considered an event. She asked if there is a charge for the special event permit or just a charge for gazebos and pavilions. Ms. Gutierrez responded there is no charge for a special event permit, but there are rental fees for gazebos.

Commissioner Carpio asked if permits are reviewed and if fines are imposed for noncompliance. Staff responded that the City is working to improve communication and increase presence in the parks to deter unpermitted events.

Chair Pavon asked where the special event application is available and if the application could be an online form. Staff responded that the application is available on the City website and is looking into incorporating an online feature with new recreation software. It was reiterated that special events have complex components that do require staff evaluation.

Chair Pavon recommended having a Frequency Asked Questions or a toolkit for applicants.

This was a discussion item only. There was no action taken.

3. Free Community Libraries – Proposed Monitoring

Mr. Osoff proposed that Commissioners monitor the free community libraries within their districts, for maintenance, on a monthly basis. Mr. Osoff recommended that if Commissioners find issues, to take a photo and forward it to Mr. Curiel, who will inform the steward to address issues.

M. Joyce stated she is excited about having a free community library at Willie White Park and would like to add another steward to the agreement. M. Joyce stated the door has been having issues staying closed and asked if she is responsible for the door repair.

Margaret Aichele, of The dA Center for the Arts stated they could be a resource for repairs, maintenance, paint, books, and artists for free community libraries.

Commissioner Carpio stated he supports the idea of Commissioners monitoring little libraries within their district.

Commissioner Preciado-Becerra stated monitoring the libraries is a good idea and suggested monitoring other items at the parks, such as graffiti.

Chair Pavon asked if all the libraries have a steward. Mr. Osoff stated yes, all the libraries have a steward and an agreement must be signed before the library is installed.

MOTION BY CHAIR PAVON, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR MARINO, CARRIED 6-0, to accept the proposed monitoring of little free libraries.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Public Works Director Rene Guerrero provided responses to questions asked during Public Comment and provided department updates:

Mr. Guerrero stated he will get back to Ms. M Joyce regarding the time line for the roof repairs at Willie White Park, and will look into the missing letters. The landscape contractor, Merchants Landscape is actively addressing the gopher issues at all parks, including Willie White Park.

Mr. Guerrero stated that staff is considering hosting the second preliminary design meeting for Hamilton Park in late May or early June.

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff reported that a project officer from the California Department of Parks and Recreation would be conducting site visits at five parks that the City submitted Statewide Park Program grant applications.

The recreation guide will be mailed to Pomona residents and is currently available online.

Mr. Osoff shared his screen and highlighted summer programming and events listed in the guide.

Staff met with Pomona Unified [School District] to discuss ways to address learning loss and socio-emotional learning. The City, in partnership with YMCA Camp Oakes, will be providing youth the opportunity to experience a 1-week overnight camp in Big Bear.

Community Service is providing a variety of 1-2 specialty camps with numerous local partners.

City Council approved the 2021-22 budget, which included the addition of two Recreation Coordinator positions. One will focus on building partnerships to increase classes at parks and community centers, funded through Proposition 64, and the other will focus on senior programs.

Ms. DeFrank reported that City Council approved the contract for a grant writer.

Vice Chair Marino asked if the agenda item about playground surfacing could be placed for the following meeting.

Chair Pavon noted that "Matters Initiated by City Commissioners" was not listed on the agenda. Staff stated it was an oversight, but since it is a standing item, the Commission may continue to discuss, if desired.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavon adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m. to the next regular meeting on July 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Mike Osoff
Community Services Manager

Fabian Pavon
Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission