

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, August 19, 2021

6:00 PM

Teleconference via Zoom

6:00 P.M. Teleconference Meeting via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pavon called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pavon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Fabian Pavon (District 2)
Vice Chair Cynthia Marino (District 5) *Arrived at 6:26 p.m.*
Commissioner Juanita Preciado-Becerra (District 1)
Commissioner Noel Mendez-Zamudio (District 3) *Arrived at 6:20 p.m.*
Commissioner Vince Carpio (District 4)
Commissioner Donna Otero (District 6)
Commissioner Ion Puschila (Mayoral Appointee)

Staff Present: Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director
Linda Matthews, Human Resources/Risk Management Director
Danny Whaley, Parks and Facilities Manager
Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Irene Aguirre submitted a written comment on her appreciation for all the events, sports, beautification projects, and movies that are taking place in the parks.

Martin Perez spoke on Hamilton Park updates:

- On August 5, 2021, a preliminary community design meeting was held. He states that the exchange of ideas with the understanding of the community's needs was appreciated. A request was made for the bathroom to be placed away from a neighbor's front window and to keep the basketball court away from the 100-year-old tree. A request was made for a storage area inside the bathroom.
- This week, a community member, Alejandra Delgado started a soccer team. She is seeking players, ages 11-13 years old. A call to action motivated donations of soccer balls and water.
- A request was made for park ambassadors to be included in the routine oversight of activities in the park.
- The Hamilton Park community is not interested in a park name change.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.

It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2021 and May 20, 2021.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PUSCHILA, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CARPIO, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2021 and May 20, 2021, with a correction in the May meeting minutes to change the name of the public speaker from Danny to David.

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1. Presentation of the City Council Priorities and Goals, as of June 21, 2021.

Human Resources/Risk Management Director Linda Matthews provided an overview and description of the newly updated City Council Priorities and Goals for the purpose of the Parks and Recreation updating their own priorities and goals. Ms. Matthews indicated there are now five Priorities, in which "Increased Opportunity and Housing Stability" was added. Ms. Matthews explained that each Priority has Goals and each Goal has specific Steps to reach those Goals. In all, there are five (5) Priorities, 17 Goals and 68 Steps.

Ms. Matthews highlighted the Priorities, Goals, and Steps that fall under the purview of the Parks and Recreation Commission:

- **Priority 1: Fiscal and Operational Responsibility**
 - **Goal B:** Improving efficiency and effectiveness of City services to businesses and residents.
 - **Step 2:** Improve response time to customers who submit requests

through PomonaGo by making operational improvements by June 2021.

- **Step 3:** Evaluate purchasing and implementing a Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) system to improving efficiency and communication to residents by June 2021.

- **Priority 4: Safe and Clean Community**

- **Goal M:** Improve safety and cleanliness at parks and public spaces.
 - **Step 1:** Continue to try to secure funding to establish a Park Ranger program by July 2022.
 - **Step 2:** Evaluate and monitor landscape service contractors approved February 1, 2021 with the goal of enhancing maintenance of parks and medians. Evaluate funding for additional staff to monitor contracts by June 2021.
 - **Step 3:** Re-open community centers as public health orders allow, collaborating with community organizations to increase service level to seniors, families, and youth.
 - **Step 4:** As part of the Park and Facilities Master Plan process, provide community input opportunities on the expansion of park and recreation activities and programming.
 - **Step 5:** Work with grant writing consultant to increase funding levels in identified areas of programmatic need for seniors, families, and youth.
- **Goal O:** Improve Parks facilities in the following general order of priority: 1) ensuring that existing amenities are functioning; 2) rehabilitating bathrooms and other park facilities; 3) adding trees; 4) improving ADA accessibility of all park facilities and equipment; 5) adding new bathrooms; and 6) adding additional recreation and playground equipment. (Public Works)
 - **Step 1:** Complete roof repairs and replacement for John F. Kennedy, Willie White Park, and Westmont by June 2022.
 - **Step 2:** Complete environmental review of Library roof by September 2021 to determine scope, cost, and timing of roof replacement and related repairs.
 - **Step 3:** Continue to look for opportunities to fund roof and facility repairs and replacements for the following facilities:
 1. Garfield Park Community Center
 2. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park restrooms
 3. Palomares Park Community Center
 4. Phillips Ranch Park restrooms
 5. City Yard Office Building
 - **Step 4:** Identify 2 to 3 park restroom buildings for replacement, as funds allow, and complete replacement by November 2021.
 - **Step 5:** Complete Parks and Master Plan by December 2021 to help identify current and future needs.
 - **Step 6:** Complete final design for improvements to Hamilton Park funded by \$1.5M of Prop 68 Grant Funds by September 2021.
 - **Step 7:** Obtain Prop 68 funding for improvements to Garfield,

- Memorial, Tony Cerda, Washington, and Philadelphia Parks, subject to approval of grant applications submitted in March 2021.
- **Step 8:** Complete planting of by December 2021 of the proposed Tree Planting Plan for planting of approximately 75 new trees per District funded by a \$400,000 County grant that provides for the planting, establishment and maintenance of trees.
 - **Step 9:** Continue to identify grant opportunities and partnerships for the continued planting and maintenance of new trees citywide.
 - **Goal Q:** Complete projects to enhance ADA path of travel and accessibility of programs
 - **Step 2:** Complete associated ADA path of travel improvements consistent with Volume 2 of the ADA Transition Plan, subject to availability of funding.

Commissioner Carpio asked if milestone dates would be established and reported to the City Council or during a special meeting. Ms. Matthews responded that many of the Goals do have milestone dates and others are ongoing. The plan is to report updates to the City Council periodically.

Commissioner Puschila asked for consideration to expand the library budget to create satellite libraries at parks and community centers.

[Commissioner Mendez Zamudio arrived at 6:20 p.m. and Vice Chair Marino arrived at 6:26 p.m.]

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

2. Overview of Outdoor Equity Grants Program through the California Department of Parks and Recreation

Staff member Monica Belloso presented a grant opportunity, the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, funded through the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Ms. Belloso provided a description of the grant guidelines, eligibility, amount available, application process, and application timeline. Staff selected Ralph Welch Park Community Center as the Community Home Base for the grant application.

Public Comment

Martin Perez asked if Hamilton Park could be considered as the community home base for the proposal. Ms. Belloso responded that staff evaluated all of the City's 28 parks and determined that a park with a community center was preferred to a park without a community center, to conduct program activities. Reasons included inclement weather, access to restrooms, adequate parking, transportation logistics, and award timeline.

MOTION BY CHAIR PAVON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER PUSCHILA, CARRIED 7-0, to move forward with the application submittal of the Outdoor Equity Grants Program.

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Otero stated she attended two City Council meetings. She attended two Movies in the Park and said it was awesome to see many families there having dinner and enjoying the summer evening. She helped replenish books for free community libraries at Ted Greene Park, Tony Cerda Park (appears that it is still being neglected), Hamilton Park, and Washington Park, where she threw away books that were inappropriate for children. She stated she helped with the August 7, 2021 backpack giveaway event at Palomares Park and said that about 3,000 backpacks were given away to youth in need.

Commissioner Carpio stated the window is shattered on the free community library at the former Sharkey Park [Tony Cerda Park] and needs immediate repairs. He said he attended the Hamilton Park community meeting and thanked staff for doing a wonderful job presenting the park design. He stated the lights at Jaycee Park are still not working and asked staff to replace lights there to help eliminate dark areas in the park. He said the new maintenance contractor is doing a great job at keeping the parks looking great, but the east side at Washington Park needs attention. He stated he attended the last Movie of the Park and said it was a tremendous success and thanked staff for doing that. He said he took about 50 recreation guides to the Hamilton Park community meeting; some residents said they had not seen it and he recommended that staff look into their distribution methods. He stated he is supporting the grassroots soccer team at Hamilton Park and asked others to help support those efforts as well. He said he spoke with a church group at Garfield Park that was not aware that the City does not condone organizations bringing food to the homeless in parks. He stated that Hope for Home offers many homeless services and resources. Commissioner Carpio asked for clarification for placing art on concrete benches, concrete trashcans and light posts. Staff provided the list of approved specified concrete trashcans and concrete benches to place art.

Vice Chair Marino stated that she attended the Phillips Ranch Ad Hoc Committee meeting, where residents spoke about improving outreach methods to increase resident engagement. She stated she noticed trash left behind, at Ganesha Park, due to the homeless and birthday parties. She asked if someone could be responsible for verifying rentals and cleanup. She thanked Chair Pavon and Commissioner Preciado-Becerra for the [Cesar Chavez Park] cleanup event. She asked if bathroom renovations could be considered at Westmont Park.

Commissioner Preciado-Becerra stated the cleanup was at Cesar Chavez Park and was happy to hear that funding was secured for a center and bathrooms; she commended the dA Center for the Arts for their involvement and donations. She stated she attended the Hamilton Park preliminary design meeting, and was happy to see many residents in attendance and see all the new features the park will have. She asked that safety and logistics be considered due to the park being located off a main, busy street. She thanked [Community Life] Commissioner Lidia for replenishing the free community libraries in District 1.

Commissioner Puschila stated he is happy to hear about art in parks. He stated that two gang members were recently killed near Hamilton Park and asked that people not refer to

Hamilton Park as Cherryville and Tony Cerda Park as Sharkey Park. He participated in the cleanup at Cesar Chavez Park and commended all the people in general who volunteer to clean up parks.

Chair Pavon stated he was able to replenish books for the free community libraries at Powers Park, Tony Cerda Park, Memorial Park, [Pomona Unified School District] PUSD's Kellogg Park, Cesar Chavez Park, and Centennial Park, due to The Latino/Latina Roundtable collecting over 500 books for the Cesar Chavez free community library book drive. The Latino/Latina Roundtable is looking to extend their Danza Azteca classes through the end of the year and may be adding different types of classes as well. He commended Commissioner Preciado-Becerra for her efforts in the Cesar Chavez Park cleanup event, including Council Member Nolte, [Three Valleys Municipal] Water Director Carlos Goytia, the dA Center for the Arts, community members, and Community Life Commissioner Manzanares. Just Us 4 Youth retouched the trashcans at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. and placed the little library back after being damaged. He stated he went on a bike ride with Mayor Sandoval, Council Member Preciado, and City staff, to tour the parks and evaluate connectivity. During the park bike tour, officials and skateboarders discussed the need for a larger skate park. He stated the lights are not working at Garfield Park and Hamilton Park. Just Us 4 Youth is planning to paint trashcans at Powers Park, and thanked Community Life Commissioner Brian Mundy for putting together the free community library there and Cesar Hernandez, for being a steward of the park.

Chair Pavon stated it would be beneficial if staff could provide a presentation on how money is spent on parks and how much it cost to maintain the parks.

MOTION BY CHAIR PAVON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER PUSCHILA, CARRIED 7-0, for staff to present a budget presentation for parks and maintenance.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Public Works Director Rene Guerrero stated the August 5, 2021 Hamilton Park preliminary design meeting was well attended and residents appeared happy with the new features, as the construction plans are about 75%-80% complete. Mr. Guerrero addressed the concern of the restroom location and advised the consultant to provide a new location further away from the nearest home. A community survey went out to obtain input to either build one full basketball court or two half basketball courts; the survey will available for another week.

Mr. Guerrero stated that a City Council Special Study Session meeting discussed funding for the American Recovery Plan. One of the suggestions was to allocate \$15M toward the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list, and of that amount, that \$2.5M go toward building new restrooms in parks without a restroom, or renovating existing restrooms. This item may be on the September 20, 2021 City Council meeting agenda.

Mr. Guerrero stated the proposed presentation on parks maintenance budget could be presented in a few months to the Commission.

Ms. Belloso reported the following Community Services updates:

- Summer programming has concluded with a variety of specialty camps.
- Seventy-four youth were sent to a weeklong overnight camp at Camp Oakes in Big Bear, CA.
- Staff is working with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation to invite Pomona residents to become more involved in County parks and activities, such as Camping at Bonelli, hiking trails, and visiting nature centers.
- In-person After School Recreation programming opened this past week. Locations are Garfield Neighborhood Center, Westmont Park, Kiwanis Park, Ralph Welch Park, La Casita for ages 14-17 years old, and Philadelphia Park will open on August 30, 2021 due to the air conditioning unit being replaced. Locations are in each District.
- Veterans Park reopened on August 3, 2021 with limited capacity and times.
- The Community Services' Instagram account currently has 652 follower; the goal is to have 1,000 followers by the end of the year.
- Job offers have been made to three full-time Recreation Coordinator positions. The Afterschool Recreation Program Coordinator will begin on September 13, 2021 and the other two (Proposition 64 and Seniors) will begin in September or October.
- Community input meetings for the Outdoor Equity Grant Program will be held Wednesday, August 25, 2021 and Saturday, August 28, 2021.

Parks and Facilities Manager Danny Whaley provided the following updates:

- The vandalism at Lincoln Park and Willie White Park, which was the theft of park letters, has now been fixed by staff.
- There are 198 open tasks for park-related items for Facilities, a six-man crew.
- Clean & Green Pomona was awarded \$28,500 in grant funding through the California Releaf Treecovery Grant Program, to plant 165 trees throughout Montvue Park, Philadelphia Park, Ganesha Park, and Washington Park. The project will begin in October.
- At Kiwanis Park, City staff replaced two park benches that were damaged by a vehicle that drove through the park.
- He has been advocating for the purchase of a bucket truck for City staff. This would make the process of fixing lights more effective and efficient, as the rental of a lift would be eliminated.
- Asked the Commission to research and let him know what they think about Exeloo, a self-cleaning restroom, as an option for restroom renovations.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavon adjourned the meeting at [7:54 p.m.] to the next regular meeting on September 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Mike Osoff
Community Services Manager

Fabian Pavon
Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission