

City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

Regular Meeting Minutes

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



*Chair Donna Otero
Vice-Chair Cynthia Marino
Commissioner Chris Lang
Commissioner Julian Ibañez Mandujano
Commissioner Javier Rodriguez-Rivera
Commissioner Vince Carpio
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, September 21, 2023

6:00 PM

Philadelphia Park Community Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Marino led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Donna Otero
Vice Chair Cynthia Marino
Commissioner Chris Lang
Commissioner Julian Ibañez-Mandujano
Commissioner Javier Rodriguez-Rivera
Commissioner Ion Puschila
Absent: Commissioner Vince Carpio

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Roberto Curiel, Recreation Supervisor
Monica Belloso, Management Analyst
Jordan Sanchez, Recreation Coordinator
Stephanie Lobo, Recreation Coordinator

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Martin Perez was everyone for the Hamilton Park grand reopening. He asked if recreational

programming and activities could be conducted out of Hamilton Park, like Movies in the Park. Mr. Perez asked if Hamilton Park could submit for an 'All Cities Park' award. He asked if the vacant property next door could be purchased by the City to expand green space or build a parking lot.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Lang thanked Public Works crew for cleaning up the fallen trees and remnants of Hurricane Hilary. He stated he attended the September 7th community meeting for the proposed Casillas Bike Park. It was well-attended with 70 people, representing both sides. In April, when the project was brought to the Commission, he would have liked for the Parks and Facilities Master Plan to have been completed, so that public input could be incorporated when considering potential bike park locations. A concerned resident spoke of a possible requirement regarding projects within a number of feet for residents who live there, and asked staff if this applied to this location or other potential locations for the bike park. On September 28, 2023, there will be Neighborhood Watch meeting at 6pm at Ganesha Park.

Commissioner Ibañez-Mandujano stated that Tony Cerda Park and garden has been kept up by the community. At Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, there will a benefit event to raise money to revamp the skate park.

Commissioner Rodriguez-Rivera was excited to share his experience at the Los Tigres concert. He said it was beautiful to see so many people enjoying the concert, especially those going to the concert right after work. He shared that he has been getting involved with the Pomona Assistance League Center, which provides affordable or free dental care for residents of all ages. He shared a concern that Washington Park Community Center may be short \$100,000 for renovations, and asked if funding would be located to ensure that renovations could be completed. Commissioner Rodriguez-Rivera expressed concern with the City acquiring the green belt because it may mean that other parks could get funding taken away. While he supports City Council discussing the item, he pointed out that Philadelphia Park has had a broken slide for six months. He asked how the City could take on the greenbelt, when other City parks need funding.

Commissioner Puschila stated he is happy with the parks and thanked staff for doing a good job.

Chair Otero thanked the City for all the hard work. The Los Tigres del Norte concert was awesome and well organized. Everyone was having a great time and Pomona wants to see more things like that. She said she does not like seeing illegal dumping, and while items are being quickly picked up, she says people keep leaving items. She said she even caught her neighbor leaving a dresser in the alley. She invited everyone to Indigenous Peoples Day at Ganesha Park from 11am – 7pm on October 8, 2023. She says people are complaining about Phil and Nell Soto Park looking overgrown. She warned residents to be careful about signing petitions.

Vice Chair Marino shared that the Los Tigres concert was a success. She said she attended a Phillips Ranch cleanup and pulled lot weeds; there will be another cleanup next month. She said she attended the Council meeting that spoke about the Phillips Ranch riparian greenbelt and gave a description of the discussion item. She said Councilmembers Preciado and

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER PUSCHILA, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR MARINO, CARRIED 6-0, to reduce group classification residency rates for Group A and Group B

Commissioner Rodriguez-Rivera commented that it would be inconsistent for him to say that Phillips Ranch residents need to pay their amended fees for their maintenance costs, but little leagues do not need to pay the adjusted cost of keeping the lights on. While he supports this, he said that maybe it would be good idea for it to be consistent to pay for the increased cost of lighting.

No Public Comment.

C. Discussion of City Facility Rental Fees

During the September 21, 2023 meeting, the Commission requested to discuss waiving or reducing City facility rental fees to community members that conduct free classes to the community. Commissioner Ibañez-Mandujano led the discussion and the Commissioners had the opportunity to discuss and ask questions to staff. Staff stated there is a class proposal application process, which could pay instructors to conduct free classes to the community, but not many applications have been received. Staff stated community members may submit a Finding of Public Benefit to City Council to assist with costs, as long as there is a benefit to the community. Costs include City staff, custodial, incidentals, and lighting.

No Public Comment.

No vote taken. This was a Discussion item.

D. Outdoor Equity Grants Program Funding Opportunity and Proposed Project

Management Analyst Monica Belloso provided an overview of the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, including grant eligibility, criteria, and guidelines. Ms. Belloso stated the City had submitted an application in round one, but the project was not funded. Staff provided a description of the project and asked for feedback to resubmit an application with the community home base at the City Library. The Commission asked if staff could provide a report listing the criteria of potential locations throughout the City.

Public Comment

Martin Perez stated he supports the Outdoor Equity Grant project and proposed Hamilton Park as the community home base.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER PUSCHILA, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR MARINO, CARRIED 6-0, to submit an Outdoor Equity Grant application with the City Library at Civic Center Plaza, as the community home base.

VII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- The Parks and Facilities Master Plan is being finalized.
- The fall recreation guide is available online and will be mailed to Pomona households in

1-1.5 weeks.

- Staff is meeting to discuss park activities, which includes Karaoke in the Park.
- The Historic Society and staff are working on a new agreement.
- Staff submitted a pre-checklist to the County to use Measure A funding for the replacement of the lawn bowling shade structures. It was approved to submit a complete application.
- The Library renovations are completed and recreation staff will be relocating soon.
- Staff will be hosting an Inclusion Symposium on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 to kick off Inclusive Pomona's training, workshops, and parent meetings.
- Be wary of people going door-to-door claiming to be the City asking for money. Please call the City to verify.
- Belinda Fierro, a City employee recently passed away due to injuries sustained in a car accident. She was a wonderful person and will be missed by many. She worked in Public Works and had worked in Community Services.
- Staff submitted a Community Resiliency Center proposal through the California Strategic Growth Council requesting funds to renovate Washington Park Community Center to become an emergency shelter site and provide year round programming to build community capacity.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Marino adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Garfield Park Neighborhood Center, 563 N. Mountainview Avenue, Pomona 91767.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:



Mike Osoff
Community Services Manager



Donna Otero
Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission