

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018 6:00 PM

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Heredia called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Chair Heredia led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

III. ROLL CALL

Present:	Chris Brown, Mayoral Appointee	
	Melissa Ayala, Vice Chair	District 1
	Lauren DeMott, Commissioner	District 2
	Joshua Heredia, Chair	District 3
	Jeff Sanchez, Commissioner	District 4
	Remington Cordova, Commissioner	District 5

Absent:	Hector Quevedo, Commissioner	District 6
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Staff:	Meg McWade, Public Works Director
	Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Heredia presented the unofficial minutes of January 18, 2018. **Vice Chair Ayala made a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Brown and carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (6-0-1-0).**

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner DeMott stated she attended the State of the City on February 3, 2018 and said it was a great event with a good turnout; Mayor Sandoval talked about many important issues. She said she visited Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and saw abandoned shopping carts, trash and

homeless setting up camp. She also visited Philips Ranch Park and said it was nice to see many people utilizing the playground and park.

Commissioner Chris Brown stated he also saw the Mayor's speech and it was very nice. He has been in communication with the Fairplex C-TEC program and looks forward to hearing about the status of a potential partnership.

Commissioner Sanchez stated he also attended the State of the City and it was a great turnout.

Vice Chair Ayala stated she attended the State of the City and described it as a wonderful event. She stated a resident approached her about placing a monument or something similar to represent veterans at Veteran's Park, like at Memorial Park. She stated a resident told her there are vines causing damage to a mural on a building behind Cesar Chavez Park, near the train tracks. Vice Chair Ayala suggested [Public Works] speak to the property owner to remove the vines. She stated that she has been sharing information about the City's Youth Employment Program with students at Pomona Unified School District.

Commissioner Cordova stated he also went to the State of the City. He stated that he and Councilwoman Escobar are proud to announce their partnership with Pomona's Health Promoters; they will provide trainings and health classes in District 5. Commissioner Cordova gave recognition to a group of Lincoln Park residents who meet weekly to bleach clean amenities and equipment at Lincoln Park. Commission Cordova stated a resident, when unable to sleep, patrols Garfield Park in her golf cart, picks up trash and "shoos" people away. Commission Cordova proposed Parks and Recreation awarding certificates to residents who volunteer their time and help with the parks.

Chair Heredia stated that last Saturday, a tree fell and brought down a light at Washington Park and it was fixed quickly. Chair Heredia asked if the lightbulb can be replaced near the basketball court at Washington Park and the lightbulb near the tennis court at Westmont Park too.

Commissioner Brown stated he saw phone booths and old newspaper dispensers at Indian Hill Boulevard between Holt Avenue and Kingsley Avenue.

Commissioner Sanchez stated there are two phone booths with wires hanging out; the phone booths are located at Garey Avenue and Holt Avenue.

Commissioner Cordova said the payphone at the Shell gas station is on private property; he is working with the owner to have it removed.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Alfredo Camacho-Gonzalez of Healthy in Pomona and a Community Life Commissioner stated one of the [Community Life Commission] goals is to increase communication among the City's Commissions to address issues, such as homelessness. Mr. Camacho-Gonzalez stated he is the Chair of Healthy in Pomona (HIP) which is comprised of local health providers whose goal is to increase the quality of life in Pomona and address key issues such as community engagement, accessibility to parks, public spaces, park safety, exercise and family activities. Mr. Camacho-Gonzalez invited the Commissioners to HIP's next meeting.

Mr. Camacho-Gonzalez announced HIP's partnership with Run in Pomona. Their goal is to increase park safety and fitness. The running club meets every Tuesday at 7:20 p.m. at various park locations; they run between three to four miles and all levels are welcomed.

Mr. Camacho-Gonzalez advised that Day One is a non-profit organization with an emphasis on policy; advised this grant cycle is focused on "place making" and "safe routes to parks". He is overseeing the Safe Routes to Parks Project and will be bringing suggestions to the Commission.

Andrew Quinones, a Cultural Arts Commissioner stated the City's Commissions share the common goal of improving the City and proposed having an annual strategic planning session with all the Commissions. He advised the Commissioners to take initiative and speak to their Councilmembers about putting this together.

VII. OLD BUSINESS AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

1. Chair and Vice Chair Selection for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Staff member Monica Belloso informed the Commissioners that in order to be selected as Chair or Vice Chair, they must have served in the Commission for at least one year. If a Commissioner with less than one year in the Commission would like to be selected as Chair or Vice Chair, a 6/7 vote is required.

Ms. Belloso informed the Commission that Commissioners Cordova and DeMott have been in the Commission for less than a year, and would require a 6/7 vote if they wanted to become Chair or Vice Chair. Commissioner Cordova stated he has been in the Commission since February of last year.

After discussion, **Commission Brown made a motion to nominate Commissioner Cordova for Chair, but with no second, the motion died.**

Chair Heredia made a motion to select Vice Chair Ayala for Chair, seconded by Commissioner Sanchez; with a vote of (3-1-1-2), the motion did not carry.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to select Commissioner Cordova for Chair, seconded by Commissioner Cordova; with a vote of (2-1-1-3), the motion did not carry.

Vice Chair Ayala motioned for Commission Cordova for Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Sanchez.

Commissioner Cordova conceded. **Commissioner Cordova made a motion to select Vice Chair Ayala for Chair, seconded by Chair Heredia, and carried by a (5-1-1-0) vote.**

Chair Heredia made a motion to select Commissioner Cordova for Vice Chair, seconded by Vice Chair Ayala, and carried by a 5-1-1-0 vote.

2. Proposal to Remove Kennedy Park Murals

Cultural Arts Commissioner Andres Quinones presented to the Commissioners a proposal to remove two murals at John F. Kennedy Park and allocate \$10,000 to paint new murals. Mr. Quinones stated he was the artist of the "Stunning in Pomona" piece at John F. Kennedy Park. In

2007, Parks and Recreation held a contest where the winners were teamed up with the artist to create a mural. The Cultural Art Commission's guidelines are that murals must be up for at least five years; Mr. Quinones stated the mural has been up for 10 years. He stated he approves the suggestion that the murals should be removed and replaced with a "Kennedy-themed" mural on the front of the building and a "community-themed" or a "pony league themed" mural behind the building. As the artist, Mr. Quinones asked if a photo of his piece be taken and placed inside the community center.

Mr. Quinones stated he recommends that murals should be changed every five years so that a new group of youth can apply their talents, creativity and abilities onto buildings. Mr. Quinones stated that 'community mural projects' at parks bring in youth and their families together to experience art in different ways. Mr. Quinones recommended that the Commissioners allocate funds from the public art fee fund to pay for the new murals.

Commissioner Sanchez asked Mr. Quinones if he painted the other mural. Mr. Quinones responded he did not paint the Kennedy mural; Carlos Goytia initiated that piece. Mr. Quinones stated that since it is John F. Kennedy Park, there should be a Kennedy mural on the front of the building.

Commissioner Cordova asked what the current conditions are of the murals and how much would it cost to do only one mural. Mr. Quinones stated the "Stunning in Pomona" piece is in good condition; the other one is peeling off and worsening. Mr. Quinone stated one mural would probably cost around \$2,500 to \$5,000 and suggested holding a beautification day for the removal of the murals.

Vice Chair Ayala asked Mr. Quinones if the \$10,000 has been approved through the Commission [Cultural Arts Commission]. Mr. Quinones stated it has not been approved by the Cultural Arts Commission; the first step in this process was going through the Citizen Advisory Committee, then the Commissions, and last is City Council for approval. Mr. Quinones stated the request and funding are there, but an artist or artist team needs to be identified.

Commissioner Cordova asked if any funds will be coming out of the Parks and Recreation budget. Mr. Quinones stated funds will be allocated from the public art fund.

Commissioner Cordova made a motion to remove only the John F. Kennedy mural.

The Commissioners discussed the motion.

Commissioner Brown seconded the motion to remove only the John F. Kennedy mural; with a (3-3-1-0) vote, the motion did not carry.

The Commissioners discussed another motion.

Chair Heredia made a motion to remove both murals at John F. Kennedy Park, with the condition that the Cultural Arts Commission fund the project and there be a plan in place prior to the removal of the murals, seconded by Vice Chair Ayala, and carried with a (5-1-1-0) vote.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Public Works Updates

Public Works Director Meg McWade reported the following updates:

1. Applications for the Phillips Ranch Assessment District Ad Hoc Committee are being accepted again. The Committee will review the service levels and assessment amounts within the district and make recommendations to City Council.
2. Park and Facilities Manager Michael Sledd completed an assessment of repair needs at Casa Primera and Palomares Adobe.
3. A meeting was held with Pomona Police Chief Olivieri to discuss plans of a potential ranger program to increase security at parks; the program would be funded through a portion of Measure A funds.
4. A meeting was held with Councilmember Gonzalez about Kennedy Park to discuss locations for dog waste stations, little free libraries, and the upcoming ballfield lighting ceremony scheduled for March 9, 2018.
5. In process of drafting a Joint Use Agreement with Pomona Unified School District regarding Phillips Ranch Park and Decker Elementary.
6. A meeting was held with Tracy Walters at Ganesha Park to discuss a potential beautification day project for trail cleanup; a Pomona Placemaking goal is to create an arboretum.
7. There will be a ballfield lighting test at Kennedy Park on February 20, 2018.
8. There will be a Beautification Day meeting to discuss potential projects at Focus Church on February 21, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.
9. There will be a community meeting at Westmont Park (District 5) on February 22, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.
10. Mr. Sledd has revised the Tree Planting Plan; it will go before the Historic Preservation Commission and the Planning Commission for review.

Community Services Updates

Ms. Belloso provided the following Community Services updates:

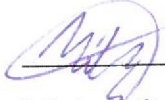
1. Basketball season concluded. There were 99 participants with two divisions; ages 7-10 and ages 11-13. Six afterschool sites participated; Philadelphia, Washington, Garfield, Phillips Ranch, Kellogg and Kennedy. Philadelphia won both lower and upper divisions and basketball trophies will be given.
2. Community Services' Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at four parks; Jaycee Park, Kennedy Park, Philadelphia Park, and Westmont Park. Volunteers are still needed.
3. CicLaVia will be Sunday, April 22, 2018. It is a free open streets event promoting a car-free day and will include the cities of San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, and Claremont. Palomares Park will be a hub.
4. The agreement for Palm Lake is being finalized.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Heredia adjourned the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 7:21 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Ganesha Park Community Center, 1575 N. White Ave., Pomona, CA 91768.

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Osoff", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Osoff
Community Services Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Ayala", written over a horizontal line.

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission