

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**CITY OF POMONA
WASHINGTON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
865 E. GRAND AVENUE
POMONA, CA 91766**

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018 6:00 PM

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ayala called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Chair Ayala led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

III. ROLL CALL

Chair Ayala asked staff to call roll.

Present:	Melissa Ayala, Chair	District 1
	Lauren DeMott, Commissioner	District 2
	Jeff Sanchez, Commissioner	District 4
	Remington Cordova, Commissioner	District 5
	Jessica Gonzalez, Commissioner	District 6
Absent:	Joshua Heredia, Commissioner	District 3
Vacant:	Commissioner	Mayoral Appointee
Late:	None	
Early Departure:	None	
Staff:	Meg McWade, Public Works Director	
	Michael Osoff, Community Services Manager	
	Michael Sledd, Parks and Facilities Manager	
	Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II	
	Aren Yeh, Management Analyst	

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Chair Ayala stated she saw the orchestra at Ganesha Park; was pleased to see they had a great turnout. Chair Ayala stated she attended a community meeting for Hamilton Park and heard their

concerns. She said she visited Hamilton Park and will wait to discuss further until after their presentation.

Commissioner DeMott stated she attended Movies in the Park at County Crossings Park to see The Incredibles. It had a great turnout; there were lots of kids. She said she is planning to attend the next Movie in the Park at Philadelphia Park to see Coco. Ms. DeMott stated she visited Phillips Ranch Park and did not see anything wrong with it.

Commissioner DeMott stated she attended Assembly member Freddie Rodriguez's meeting at Mi Cafecito; they discussed the new homeless center scheduled to open in the fall.

Commissioner DeMott stated prior to the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, she walked around Washington Park. She said she found a razor blade on a table and asked an employee for gloves to remove it. She stated many water fountains are not working by the field; she said she observed trash and empty beer bottles in the parking lot and uneven pavement due to the tree roots. Commissioner DeMott said she spoke to a woman who runs the food stand who voiced her concern for safety and requested a privacy curtain in the restroom.

Commissioner Cordova stated he and Vice Chair Brown visited Westmont Park and observed drug sales and homeless camping. He stated residents emailed him photos of people coming in from the pedestrian bridge over the 71 freeway. Commissioner Cordova recommends placing a gate there to keep outsiders from coming in.

Commissioner Cordova stated he previously suggested changing the name of Calle Las Palmas in honor of fallen Police Officer Gregory Casillas. He and Councilmember Escobar propose changing the street name to Calle Las Casillas.

Commissioner Cordova stated he observed the lower monuments on North Ranch Road have not been landscaped. He stated there are illegal bus benches on Foothill Ave./Towne Ave. and on the border of Pomona and La Verne by the 99¢ store.

Commissioner Sanchez expressed concern for Westmont Park. He commended the community members for coming together for Hamilton Park.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

At this time, there were no speakers for public comment.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Ayala presented the unofficial minutes of June 21, 2018. Chair Ayala made a motion to approve the unofficial minutes of June 21, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Cordova. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

VII. OLD BUSINESS AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

1. Vice Chair Selection

Chair Ayala reported there is a vacancy for Vice Chair; asked if anyone had interest in serving as Vice Chair. Commissioner DeMott and Commissioner Remington expressed interest.

Chair Ayala made a motion to select Commissioner Cordova for Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. The vote was carried by a vote of 5-0-0-0.

2. Hamilton Park Community Engagement Presentation

Cherryville Park Committee leaders Martin Perez and Vince Carpio presented a Hamilton Park community report of issues caused by neglect, homelessness, gang activity, drugs, and blight to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Perez displayed a photo slideshow of Hamilton Park during his presentation. Mr. Perez asked the Commission to provide the Cherryville Park Committee updates and join them in improving the conditions of the park.

Mr. Perez reported health and safety concerns at Hamilton Park that prevent citizens from visiting the park:

- Human feces and urine caused by a homeless encampment at adjacent lot
- Pest infestations, flies and stench
- Exposed electrical wires near handball court
- Inadequate lighting
- Peeling and chipped paint on walls; possible lead and risk to children
- The City removed two rows of the block wall; stated the blocks are in the yard of the property owner.
- A broken fence by handball court; this is used by homeless to access the park.
- Tripping hazards on blacktop patching
- Syringes in sand area; possible glass and other hazards
- Non-functioning lighting
- Fifty percent of designated play area is covered in weeds and dirt; grass is not growing or getting watered
- Basketball court lines are no longer visible
- Overgrown oak tree limbs rendering the handball court useless

Mr. Perez read a list of community requests:

- Restrooms
- A community center
- A gazebo with lights and electrical outlets
- Six barbeque grills
- Cellular power stations
- Playground equipment
- Purchase of the adjacent vacant lot north of the park for expansion
- Additional trash cans
- Benches
- Horseshoe pits
- Soccer field lines and goal nets
- Murals, music, and cultural programming
- Dog waste stations

- A splash pad
- Swing sets
- Health and wellness fitness equipment

Mr. Perez reported that the Committee will host scheduled community activities that will begin in July beginning with the first neighborhood park beautification day every third Saturday of the month. Mr. Perez invited the Commissioners and public on July 21, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to participate; there will be hotdogs and water. Mr. Perez stated there will also be Horse Shoe classes every other Wednesday; “Cars & Donuts” every third Saturday; and Soccer Basics for children.

Mr. Perez reported that once the hazards have been addressed, the community desires activities such as:

- Reading and tutoring for children
- Introduction to sculpting
- Introduction to folkloric dances
- Introduction to music basics and instruments
- Movie nights in the park
- Concerts in the park
- Handball classes and 2 on 2 tournaments
- Basketball tournaments
- Murals
- Health and exercise classes for senior adults; classes for diabetes, high blood pressure, weight and nutrition
- Health fairs and health educational exhibits

Cherryville Park Committee leader Vince Carpio gave a brief history of Hamilton Park and provided a description of past recognitions given for community members’ efforts in reducing gang activity and promoting positivity in the park. Mr. Carpio passed around a certificate of national recognition to the Commissioners and staff.

Mr. Carpio reported the Public Works 2017-18 budget for capital improvement projects and provided citizen accounts of the inability to take their children to the park because of the lack of playground equipment. Mr. Carpio stated a citizen reported not visiting the park in three years because of a needle found on the basketball court. Mr. Carpio stated to the Commissioners that Hamilton Park cannot be used in its current condition and asked for the Commission’s help to restore it and prioritize the park. Mr. Carpio stated that a Proposition A/Measure A poll evaluation showed that Hamilton Park was least prioritized for funds.

Staff responded that many projects have not been funded or have specific funding requirements. Commissioner Sanchez stated he appreciates the public for speaking about Hamilton Park; looks forward to working together.

Mr. Osoff thanked the community for championing their parks and encouraged the use of the parks for positive activities to deter bad activity. Mr. Osoff advised the Committee to contact

City staff when they see an issue, so it can be addressed quickly or the police department if they see illegal activity. Mr. Osoff stated this creates data and helps with allocating resources.

With no further discussion, Chair Ayala moved onto the next agenda item.

3. The Parks and Recreation 2018-19 Budget

Management Analyst Aren Yeh presented the Parks and Recreation 2018-19 budget to the Commission. Mr. Yeh provided a categorical overview of the City's General Fund by City Departments. Mr. Yeh explained the Parks and Recreation budget of \$6,071,696 is comprised of The Public Works Department and Community Services, a division of The Neighborhood Services Department.

Mr. Yeh stated Parks and Recreation saw a budget increase of \$642,448 from the previous fiscal year; however, there were also increases for a security contract, staff hourly wages and benefits, self-insurance, and the landscape maintenance contract.

Mr. Yeh stated that activity program supplies for After School and Senior Program, as well as Special Events such as Holiday at the Plaza, Haunted House and Easter Egg Hunts will total approximately \$41,500 in expenses.

Mr. Yeh stated that contracted services for landscape maintenance, tree maintenance, weed abatement, summer aquatics program, and security are \$1,470,564. Additionally, Mr. Yeh stated that expenses for utilities, such as gas, electricity, and water were budgeted for approximately \$797,750.

Mr. Yeh provided the Commissioners a budget breakdown for other costs that include general maintenance and repairs, telephone and internet allocation, fleet operations, swimming pool supplies, and computer related acquisitions and miscellaneous expenses. Mr. Yeh stated miscellaneous expenses include pest control, Senior Program dance performers, uniforms, permits/licenses, office supplies, printing/copying, training, and postage.

Mr. Yeh advised where the City's budget can be found on the City website, as well as the Parks and Recreation budget.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Community Services

Community Services Manager Michael Osoff reported the Senior Nutrition Program is funded by Los Angeles County. As required, he, a supervisor and coordinator took a Food Manager's Certification class.

Mr. Osoff asked the Commissioners that have attended Movies in the Park, if they would recommend it to others. Commissioner DeMott responded that she attended a movie event at Country Crossings Park and would recommend it; there were was a big crowd of kids and parents there.

Chair Ayala recommended fun and interactive activities prior to the movie to engage the community.

Mr. Osoff reported that After School Program participants have been enjoying a variety of field trips and activities. Field trips included seeing The Incredibles 2 at El Capitan Theatre, attending a Dodger game, and visiting the City pools.

Mr. Osoff reported that Community Services received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for sports, art, youth employment and youth orchestra.

Mr. Osoff stated Tri-City Mental Health Services awarded a grant and they are looking forward to running the City's first youth speech contest.

Public Works

Parks and Facilities Manager Michael Sledd reported the Phillips Ranch Assessment District AD-HOC Committee meetings are ongoing; the Committee meets to review service levels and assessment amounts within the District and make recommendations to be considered by City Council.

Mr. Sledd reported he met with a resident near Ganesha Park regarding security concerns related to the timing of park closures. Mr. Sledd stated there is currently one guard that locks all the parks; but he is looking into other approaches for locking the parks.

Mr. Sledd stated he helped with the Parks and Landscape Supervisor interviews. He said the position was formally known as the Contracts Coordinator, but the new title and job description reflects more of a working supervisor position. Mr. Sledd stated the candidate has been selected and will introduce them at the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Mr. Sledd reported the review of the tree permit process and policies for oaks in historic districts.

Mr. Sledd reported a meeting with Mayor Sandoval and citizens to increase community gardens and farms in the City. Mr. Sledd stated he looks forward to seeking opportunities for gardens on public and private land, providing input and empowering people to grow their own food.

Mr. Sledd reported a main line break at Washington Pool; it was repaired the same day.

Mr. Sledd provided an update on repairs at the restrooms at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park; the damage was caused by a transient attempting to set up camp inside.

Mr. Sledd advised five lights at Ralph Welch were not functioning; they are in process of troubleshooting to find out why they are not operating.

Mr. Sledd will be doing site visits with the Phillips Ranch contractors to discuss maintenance conditions and requirements.

Mr. Sledd stated they will begin a contract with Inland Valley Volunteer Resource Center with court referral program workers that will work with City staff; this will be a good opportunity to receive extra help.

Public Works Director Meg McWade reported bids came in approximately \$300,000 higher for Phil and Nell Soto Park; plans to move forward may result in reducing work that will have the least impact.

Ms. McWade provided an update on the City Stables. Ms. McWade stated after submitting documentation to the State of California, the State did not allow the tear down of the Stables and is requiring the historic landmark to be protected. Ms. McWade stated an Environmental Impact Report will be required for this project; will cost approximately \$70,000 to \$100,000; they are waiting on a consultant bid for a scope of work.

Mr. Osoff reported the new operator for Palm Lake is working hard to get the golf course ready.

Mr. Osoff reported he is seeking a cover photo for the Fall/Winter Recreation guide; asked the Commission to send in photos to Community Services.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Ayala adjourned the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:03 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Renacimiento Community Center, 2383 Chanslor Street, Pomona, CA 91769.

SUBMITTED BY:



Michael Osoff
Community Services Manager



Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission

