

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

CITY OF POMONA PHILADELPHIA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ayala called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Chair Ayala led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

Chair Ayala asked staff to call roll.

Present:	Melissa Ayala, Chair	District 1
	Lauren DeMott, Commissioner	District 2
	Remington Cordova, Vice Chair	District 5
	Ion Puschila, Mayoral Appointee	

Absent:	Joshua Heredia, Commissioner	District 3
	Jeff Sanchez, Commissioner	District 4
	Jessica Gonzalez, Commissioner	District 6

Staff:	Meg McWade, Public Works Director
	Michael Osoff, Community Services Manager
	Michael Sledd, Parks and Facilities Manager
	Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Ayala presented the draft minutes of August 18, 2018. Chair Ayala made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Puschila, and carried by a vote of 4-0-3-0.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Puschila stated he visited Lincoln Park, saw it was very cultured and was thought out.

Chair Ayala stated she attended a Commander meeting at John F. Kennedy Park last week; she stated it was a good turnout and the public discussed various issues concerning parks. She stated she informed the attendees of the City's Commissions and invited the public to attend this Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. She stated she attended opening day at Los Angeles County Fair and attended an event hosted by Historical Society where they gave tours of The Adobe and shared its history.

Commissioner DeMott said she attended a Commander meeting at Westmont Park. She stated the public asked why the City is investing in new parks instead of maintaining current City parks and facilities. She stated there was an earthquake during the meeting; the police evacuated everyone because they felt the building was unsafe. Commissioner DeMott stated the police officer who led the meeting gave her a tour

of the park and informed her the concerns from the public, such as needles and illegal paraphilia found in the playground woodchips, requests for LED lighting in the parks to deter drug trades, and trimming trees to increase visibility of the bathrooms and community centers during police patrols. Commissioner DeMott stated she attended opening day at the Los Angeles County Fair. She attended a Pomona Placemaking workshop held at American Museum of Ceramic Art (AMOCA); she said it was her first time there and would like to take one of their ceramics classes. She attended the grand opening of We Rock The Spectrum children's gym.

Vice Chair Cordova informed that the police department is acquiring 60 new police cars and asked if Parks and Recreation can request an old squad car to park at park locations on a rotating basis. He informed staff the road southbound Garey Avenue under the 10 freeway needs repairs; requested staff to address potholes.

Vice Chair Cordova asked staff if WCA is operating in District 5. Staff responded they are palm pruning.

Vice Chair Cordova informed staff that v-ditches in Mission Hills/Los Coyotes are clogged with tree debris and that many trees are encroaching on private property; asked for status on the tree grid. Staff stated there is not a grid in Phillips Ranch and trees are pruned as needed or if requests are made based on safety hazards.

Chair Ayala stated that together with Councilmember Gonzalez and members of Latino and Latina Roundtable, they cleaned up Cesar Chavez Park and cut vines that were covered the murals. Chair Ayala stated she is concerned the vines keep growing and covering the murals. Parks and Facilities Manager Michael Sledd stated the contractor is treating the vines with a growth regulator to slow down growth and stated when the contract expires; the contract can specify when vines are trimmed rather than an 'as needed' basis.

Vice Chair Cordova stated that underneath the Doubletree Hotel at the off-ramp and Temple Avenue, Caltrans has been leaving gravel and sand. Staff asked the Commissioner to report this because it may be a storm water violation.

Vice Chair Cordova asked how long can Caltrans leave construction equipment on state property. Staff responded they have asked Cal Poly Pomona to help with discussions with Caltrans to prevent the area from becoming a construction yard for storage.

Vice Chair Cordova asked if the piles of debris can be cleared at the 10 and 57 freeways. Staff stated they will reach out to contact regarding this.

Commissioner Puschila asked staff if they know about Proposition 68. Staff responded yes.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – NON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ayala opened Public Comment for the public to speak on non-agenda items. There were no public speakers during this time.

VII. OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

Tree Planting, Drought Tolerant Vegetation, and Gardening Discussion

Commissioner Puschila informed the Commission of his request for staff to discuss the City's plan for trees planting, drought tolerant vegetation and gardening. Commissioner Puschila invited Parks and Facilities Manager Michael Sledd to speak and gave him the floor.

Tree Planting

Mr. Sledd stated he will present a revised version of the tree palette and planting matrix to the Parks and Recreation Commission at the next meeting, followed by the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Commission, and then to City Council for approval. Mr. Sledd said this is the first step in creating a Street Tree Master Plan with specific goals that will guide the City in its actions and decisions affecting trees within City limits.

Mr. Sledd stated he has been working diligently to add more native species and drought tolerant trees to the plan; viewing proper sizing and pricing, and looking to other areas for commendations. Mr. Sledd stated the revised plan will reflect updating and reduction of specified tree species.

Drought Tolerant Vegetation

Mr. Sledd stated that there are requirements in Planning for development and they aim to adhere to those requirements, such as the replanting at South Garey Avenue medians. There are also water restrictions that Planning and the Water Department can speak more about to the Commission, if requested.

Gardening

Mr. Sledd stated he is not aware of a City Code for gardening, but there is an interest for public gardens and will support finding ideal locations for community gardens in the City.

Commissioner Puschila asked if the City could communicate to the District [Pomona Unified School District] regarding the lot at Garey Avenue and Philadelphia Avenue to propose a community garden that may be used to feed local schools and businesses.

After discussion, the Commission advised City staff would not communicate with the District regarding a community garden at the lot.

Commissioner Puschila asked if staff anticipates resistance to the tree plan from the Planning Commission or the Historic Preservation Commission. Staff responded they do not foresee resistance from the Commissions.

Vice Chair Cordova asked staff to clarify the policy for stump grinding. Staff responded stump grinding procedures vary on factors such as location.

Mr. Sledd concluded his presentation and thanked the Commission. Mr. Sledd advised them to let him know if they had requests for further information.

Vice Chair Cordova asked staff to invite the Historical Preservation Commission's Tree Ordinance subcommittee to do a presentation on what they have worked on. The Commission was in agreement with Vice Chair Cordova's request.

VII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Public Works

Public Works Director Meg McWade invited the Commissioners to the groundbreaking ceremony of Phil and Nell Soto Park on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. Ms. McWade informed the Commission that there was a need for park space; the park was 100% funded by grants for acquisition,

design and construction; and ongoing maintenance will be provided by the City. Ms. McWade stated prices were higher than expected, so the project was scaled back; intends to reach out to the funding agency to assist with remaining funds. Ms. McWade informed the Commission the details regarding the time capsule is needed; may need to come back to the Commission for approval.

Ms. McWade informed that a pre-construction community meeting at Lincoln Park resulted in a phased plan; construction will begin on the east half of the park, followed by the west half of the park and will not impede Halloween festivities.

Mr. Sledd provided the following updates:

1. Attended an EOC Management and Operations session in Claremont.
2. The City's Purchasing Division confirmed that the [City] will be able to use a master agreement from Los Angeles County to help streamline the purchasing process and obtain competitive pricing. Work areas will focus on Phillips Ranch and Ganesha Park to cut flammable brush and remove dead trees.
3. Received estimates for restoring South Garey medians; includes replanting and irrigation.
4. In process of finalizing the Street Tree Master Plan matrix and palette.
5. Reviewing scope of work for new landscape maintenance contract excluding Phillips Ranch. The contract will have significant changes to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
6. Security wands will be purchased to document security patrol times; may also be used for landscape maintenance activities.
7. Evaluating a computerized maintenance management system in conjunction with the Water Department.
8. Will be attending a tree maintenance workshop hosted by WCA.

Community Services

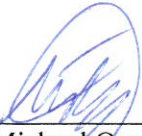
Community Services Manager Mike Osoff presented the following updates:

1. Researching recreation software to gather and track data, assist with activity scheduling and manage facility rentals.
2. The 2018 Fall/Winter recreation guide is completed and will be distributed next week; it is 24 pages filled with City events and resources.
3. After School Recreation flag football has begun.
4. Seniors from Palomares Park and Washington Park went on separate field trips to Los Angeles County Fair.
5. The City's Haunted House event will be October 26 – 27, 2018 and is looking for volunteers for the haunted house and family-friendly area.
6. The Chino Development League is continuing their efforts at Palm lake Golf Course; they planted about 30 palm trees.
7. La Casita is a teen center at Palomares Park with 25 enrollees; they participated in a beach cleanup last weekend.
8. Computers are being distributed to Kennedy Park Community Center; hopes to have five computer labs by the end of the fiscal year 2018/19.

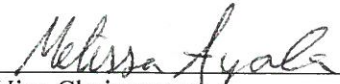
IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Chair Ayala adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Garfield Park Neighborhood Center, 563 N. Mountain Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767.



Michael Osoff
Community Services Manager



Vice Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission

