

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**CITY OF POMONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
505 SOUTH GAREY AVENUE
POMONA, CA 91766**

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018 6:00 PM

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. FLAG SALUTE

Chair Ayala led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

III. ROLL CALL

Chair Ayala called roll.

Present:	Chris Brown,	Mayoral Appointee
	Melissa Ayala, Chair	District 1
	Lauren DeMott, Commissioner	District 2
	Joshua Heredia, Commissioner	District 3
	Jeff Sanchez, Commissioner	District 4
	Remington Cordova, Commissioner	District 5
	Jessica Gonzalez, Commissioner	District 6

Staff:

Meg McWade, Public Works Director
Michael Sledd, Parks and Facilities Manager
Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Ayala presented the unofficial minutes of May 17, 2018. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the unofficial minutes of May 17, 2018, seconded by Commissioner DeMott, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (7-0-0-0).

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner DeMott provided highlights of her trip to Azalea Park in Oregon, which is a volunteer led park. Commissioner DeMott reported the following communication updates:

- Participated in three projects for Pomona's Beautification Day; Cal Poly Pomona, the Rio Rancho Hill Project, and a project with the Miss Pomona Court. Commissioner DeMott extended her thanks to the many who volunteered their time.

Commissioner Heredia reported the following communication updates:

- Volunteered for Pomona Beautification Day Project at Westmont Park.
- Participated in the Memorial Day Services honoring our Veterans at Pomona Cemetery.

Commissioner Sanchez reported the following communication updates:

- Volunteered for various park site projects related to Pomona Beautification Day. Commented on the success of this year's event.

Chair Ayala reported the following communication updates:

- Attended the Children's Festival where she assisted Council Member Gonzales to host a Kite Festival. The event was well attended.
- Attended the Library Foundation Fundraiser for Pomona Library.
- Visited Paw Park. Attendance at the park was busy. Recommended Staff look into closing the gap in the gate in the small dog section of the park.
- Expressed enthusiasm with the progress with the free libraries. Recommended the City magazine that provides city news be offered at the park sites so visitors are aware of the many programs and events in the City.

Commissioner Cordova reported the following communication updates:

- Discussed the trip he took last month with Mrs. Clifford, President of the Pomona Valley Historical Society where they welcomed his Excellency Francisco Javier Vallaure de Acha, Spanish Diplomat and current Spanish Consul General of Spain for the City of Los Angeles, Utah, Arizona and also former Ambassador to Spain, Brazil, Miami, the Netherlands and Angola and is also his former professor at the University of La Verne, a Diplomat to Andorra and one of the founding Andorran Diplomats to the United Nations. His excellency was very impressed with Palomares Adobe and that has now opened up opportunities for more UNLV classes to bring in more revenue and hopefully a partnership with the Spanish Government to set up a sister city for Pomona from the cities that Palomares and Vejar came from and also maybe receive or grants from the Spanish Government for a possible herb garden in front.
- Attended the Graduation for the University of La Verne Enactus Team. That is a business program run through the Business Department of UNLV. It is the 11th straight national win for the UNLV Business Team. Each year they select a city to work in and this year was the City of Pomona and Cambodia. The Team did a lot of outreach with the homeless, including business training and resume help.
- Asked Director McWade to extend his thanks to the Solid Waste crew for going above and beyond and sweeping out the alley ways where several encampments had been removed
- Collaborated with Council Member Escobar to submit snap chat geofilters for his District and District 5. Residents can use the filters to say what makes you proud of Pomona.

- Confirmed the tennis court fence at Ganesha that was previously reported as damaged has been repaired by staff.
- Expressed concern with the process of securing the park facilities that can be secured. Reported while visiting Palomares Park at 9:00 p.m. and found the park open and witnessed five cars parked in the lot after hours.

Commissioner Gonzalez, newly appointed by Council Member Torres, introduced herself to the Commissioners, providing a brief history of her residency in the City.

Commissioner Brown reported the following communication updates:

- Extended his thanks to Michael Sledd for the work the Parks and Facilities Team is doing keeping Willie White and Jaycee Park clean for its many visitors.
- Commented on the success of the Movies in the Park series at our City's parks. The events have been well attended and the children are having a great time.

Commissioner Cordova commented on the reoccurring topic of illegal dumping in the City. Commissioner Cordova was pleased with the increased public participation in reporting illegal dumping.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Long time Pomona resident Martin Perez discussed his concern with the current state of Hamilton Park and the lack of equipment and programs in comparison to other City parks. Mr. Perez also commented on the increased housing in the area, increasing the need of a safe park for the children to play. Mr. Perez requested the Commissioners revisit this issue at a future meeting to review a list of proposed projects, events, and equipment needed for Hamilton Park.

Mr. Henry Gonzalez expressed his concern with the current state of Hamilton Park and how that atmosphere can create negative impacts to the children. He provided a list of items needing repair and the need to address the health issues created by the transients. Mr. Gonzales also remarked on his mission to work with Commissioners and other elected officials who share his vision for Hamilton Park.

Mr. Fernando Samaiego, 60-year resident of the City of Pomona also expressed his concerns on the current state of Hamilton Park. He also feels the park is unsafe and needs the attention of the Commission. Mr. Samaiego commented on his concern the City was not providing each City park equal attention and funding. Mr. Samaiego also inquired on the previously allocated \$10,000 approved by the Commission to fund a horseshoe pit at the park.

Exchange between Commissioner Sanchez and Mr. Samaiego with a call to order by Chair Ayala.

Mrs. DeeDee Manzanarez Ybarra, born and raised in Pomona discussed the many changes to the City since she was a young girl and her commitment to return the City and Hamilton Park to a place every resident can be proud of. Mrs. Ybarra provided ideas the Group has to improve the area and asked the Commissioners to partner with them to improve the park going forward.

Mrs. Margaret Aichele who works at the dA Center for the Arts in Pomona. Mrs. Aichele relayed to the attendees the many art programs they are currently providing the residents at Tony Cerda Park the second Saturday of each month. She went on to discuss their eagerness to expand the programs to other park locations. Mrs. Aichele felt that their programs are being underutilized and is looking to the Group and Commissioners to expand the arts to others in the City.

Pomona resident David Ibarra involved with the Group and the Cherryville Committee listed items needed at the park: restrooms, community center, a gazebo with lights, six barbeque grills, playground equipment, additional trashcans, purchase of the vacant lot for expansion, benches, horseshoe pits, soccer field lines and goal nets, murals, music cultural events, a splash pad, dog waste stations, and workout equipment. Mr. Ibarra stated that with the help of the Commission, the park can be restored.

Pomona resident Roxanne Perez stated when she lived by Hamilton Park, she would drive her children to another park because of the neglect and condition of Hamilton Park. She wants to see the park as it used to be when she was a child. She wants to take her children there.

Mr. Eddie Gonzales spoke to the Commissioners on the many changes at Hamilton Park that he has witnessed. He also felt the park needed the attention of the Commissioners and asked for their commitment to return the park to its original state.

Mr. Vince Carpio voiced his concerns to the Committee on the status of this once nationally recognized park. He provided photos to the Commissioners so they can view examples of what he identifies as state, county and federal health & safety code violations that could force the closure of the park. Photos included the following issues:

- * human feces around park buildings
- * cut/fallen fences
- * unrepaired lamppost exposing wires that is being used by transients to charge cellular phones and other electrical items
- * stripped playground equipment
- * patched basketball courts making it difficult to use the court
- * peeling paint
- * unlabeled electrical boxes
- * live wires next to a water source
- * trees growing in the handball/basketball courts

Mr. Carpio asked the Commissioners to return this item to a future meeting agenda and provide a summary of the funding allotted and future event calendar for Hamilton Park. Mr. Carpio also extended an invitation to the Commissioners who wish to meet with him to attend a future

Community Life Commission meeting or Cultural Arts Commission meetings where he serves as Commissioner.

Mr. Gary Lett expressed his agreement with the prior speakers and the need for the park to be made safer for the residents. An option he felt could improve safety was the hiring of a dedicated police officer or security force to deter gang activity and drug use/sales.

Mr. Paul Sevilla expressed his desire to become more active with the park and his desire to teach the children the notable history of their community.

Mr. Alfred Camacho-Gonzalez, a 30-year Pomona resident and City Commissioner, who attended JFK Park and Hamilton Park as a child commented on the decline of Hamilton Park. He went on to discuss the gaps in services between the two parks and his hope that they soon will be equally funded, safe and accessible to the local children. Mr. Camacho also requested the Commissioners review pedestrian safety as you enter Hamilton Park and surrounding streets so accessing the park is safe for all.

Commissioner Heredia expressed his desire to comment on the public comments received. Commissioner Heredia relayed to his fellow Commissioners and the public the need to call the parks by their given name; not the slang names such as "Sharky Park" or "Cherryville Park" that gangs use to identify these parks. Commissioner Heredia stated turning the parks around is a group effort and requires all its citizens get involved by calling the police when you see gang activity or illegal activity by the homeless. Commissioner Heredia also extended an invitation to join him this weekend at 8:00 a.m. when he is out doing litter cleanup at the park and offered his phone number to anyone who would like to contact him.

Commissioner Heredia excused himself at 6:56 p.m.

Commissioner Sanchez also offered to provide his contact information to those who wanted it to go over any issues.

Commissioner Cordova expressed his concern with the drastic changes he has witnessed at the parks citywide. He explained how certain projects and events are due to grant funding, local business sponsors/donations, and not City funds. Commissioner Cordova pointed out the limitations the City has with the removal of homeless in the parks due to the lawsuit filed against the City. Commissioner Cordova also expressed his thanks to those in attendance and in the community willing to step up.

Commissioner Cordova asked staff to research what happened to the playground equipment at Hamilton Park by the next meeting. Commissioner Cordova stated that some of the items requested at today's meeting were not economically feasible at this time.

Director McWade assured the Commissioners the reported exposed wires and tripping hazards would be assigned to the appropriate staff and resolved. All other issues will be researched and assigned to the appropriate Department for correction.

Chair Ayala thanked the public for their participation at tonight's meeting and the importance of keeping communication between the residents and the Commissioners open. Chair Ayala offered her services to those organizing the Beautification Project at Hamilton Park.

Chair Ayala asked for a follow up to the Commission's award of funds for the purchase of a horseshoe pit and the status of that purchase.

Commissioner Cordova asked Director McWade to clarify the security services being provided at the various parks. Director McWade confirmed they looked into funding for a Park Ranger Program with Measure A grant funding but elected not to move forward due to a lawsuit challenging the Measure. All Cities who received Measure A monies would be forced to return the funds if the lawsuit was successful.

Mr. Sledd, the Parks and Facilities Manager confirmed security services at park locations are overseen by security that performs two shifts, primarily in the evenings; one eight-hour shift and one four-hour shift, seven days a week. Mr. Sledd verified the guards serve mainly as a visual deterrent; they have no authority to detain someone and cannot make arrests. Primary duties are to observe and report. If reported and the Police are unable to come, they can only observe and document the issue. There is no park security to patrol the parks in the day so there is no enforcement in the daytime hours.

Chair Ayala made a motion to the Committee to prepare a presentation and to place this item on the next Agenda in order to revisit the issues raised at today's meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez and carried by a vote of 6-0-0-0.

VII. OLD BUSINESS AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

1. Free Community Library at Kiwanis Park

Mr. Sledd, Parks and Facilities Manager provided a map showing the current proposed site for the library. The site is next to an ADA pathway and on a cul de sac. This location is the safest access for the public and will keep patrons away from vehicle traffic.

Chair Ayala made a motion to approve the Free Community Library, seconded by Commissioner Brown and carried by a 6-0-0-0 vote.

Commissioner DeMott asked staff who would maintain and fund the Kiwanis Park Free Library.

Mr. Sledd relayed that it was his understanding funding would be received through the Councilmember's discretionary funds and would be maintained the Councilmember's son.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Public Works Director Meg McWade reported the following Public Works updates:

- Measure A and Intent for Funding: Pomona will move forward with a separate outreach meeting through the Master Plan Process. The outreach meeting through the County and the selected four agencies that includes Pomona only had eight attendees. Pomona's plan was available but very little feedback was received.

- Urban Greening Grant: the grant will create a Bikeway Trail Project that will connect below the 10 fwy, all the way to the San Jose Creek. It is designed to connect Cal Poly, to develop our active transportation, and to encourage people to get out. It is estimated to be an almost \$10 million project. Pomona, with the assistance of the SGVCOG, submitted an initial application for \$2.6 million through Urban Greening funding. Staff is also seeking funds through the Active Transportation Plan for additional funding up to \$9.4 million. Staff taking item to Council on July 3rd for approval of grant submission.
- Urban Green Grant will also fund Nell Soto Park and the River and Mountain Conservation will start breaking ground in the fall.
- The Stable was on a prior Agenda for discussion. Discussions are continuing with the Planning Division and Historical Preservation Commission. Staff hopes to return with an update and then back to council in July for further instructions.
- Phillips Ranch Assessment District Ad Hoc Committee: several meetings in the last few weeks. Reviewing current contract, service levels and funding options. No increase in assessment tax since early 90's. An increase in the assessment must be voted on and approved by the property owners of Phillips Ranch.
- Homeless Service Center: City applied for grant. The City submitted a grant request of \$3.9 Million; City was awarded \$3.4 Million. Staff looking into other funding options for remaining funding. Kitchen and service plan area is proceeding and plan is to open in August or September.

Parks and Facilities Manager Michael Sledd reported the following Parks & Facilities updates:

- Phone conference with Big Belly Smart City Solutions on smart ways to recycle including interesting ideas on reporting and efficiency. Not a top priority for section at this time.
- Phillips Ranch Assessment District Ad Hoc Committee meeting next week.
- Interviewing for vacant Parks and Landscape Supervisor position. Michael Etheridge currently under filling in the position.
- Annual work plan review of current work plan with West Coast Arborists. Contractor has removed 4,000 dead trees since 2010. Working to prioritize work for high hazard trees. May suspend grid pruning for one year until high hazard trees removed citywide.

Community Services Staff Member, Monica Belloso reported the following:

- Mr. Mike Osoff was unable to attend this meeting; he attended a Serve Safe Manager's training for the Elderly Nutrition Program.
- Community Services received word that they were awarded an \$8,000 grant from Tri-City Mental Health Services which will fund the Youth Speech Contest held through the After School Recreation Program.
- Movies in the Park: Licensing fees, movie rental and purchases totaled \$2,567. Sponsorships were received to off-set costs. Sponsors included the Pomona City Council who donated \$1,565 and the Fairplex contributed \$830 for Moana and Coco. Day One and the City will split the balance.
- The new Summer Recreation Guide was just released. The Commissioners were provided a copy.

- The Ganesha Park pool is open.
- There is a delay in the opening of the Washington Park Pool. There were mechanical issues with the pool's pump that could not be repaired in-house. It is now scheduled to reopen the week of July 10th.
- There was a water main break at Philadelphia Park on June 18th; scheduled to be back on June 19th. The After-School Program was forced to close early due to the issue.
- After-School Summer Programming: Field trips for the Program include a Dodger game, Disney's El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood for the Incredibles II, Movies at the Village, Ganesha Park Pool, Yanks Air Museum, Bowlum Lanes, San Bernardino County Museum, LA Zoo, and John's Incredible Pizza. Other activities include Edible Science which is hands-on science where the kids create edible science experiments as well as Water Wednesdays with water activities to help the kids stay cool.
- Senior Services/Activities: A Cinco de Mayo celebration with over 200 attendees, mariachis and other performances by Cal Poly faculty and students was held as well as a field trip to Olvera Street.
- Social media outreach: Staff is making an effort to get more posts and Instagram stories out to connect the City with the community and showcase all that Community Services does with the After School and Senior Programs.

Chair Ayala made a request for Public Works Staff to a communication with the City's tree contractor after service was completed at her home. Mr. Sledd committed to researching the issue to confirm it was the City's contractor who did the work. If confirmed, Mr. Sledd would discuss the issues with the contractor.

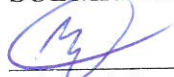
Commissioner Cordova asked if Staff can communicate via letter to the County a need to perform ongoing maintenance at the court house on Mission and other County facilities. The poor maintenance reflects badly on the City. Mr. Sledd agreed to contact the County.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

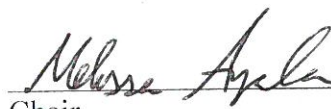
There being no further business, Chair Ayala adjourned the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 7:40 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Washington Park Community Center, 865 E. Grand Avenue, Pomona, CA 91766.

SUBMITTED BY:



Michael Osoff
Community Services Manager



Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission