

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**CITY OF POMONA
GANESHA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
1575 N. WHITE AVENUE
POMONA, CA 91768**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019
6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ayala called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Chair Ayala led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

Roll was taken by staff.

Commissioners present:

Melissa Ayala, Chair	District 1
Fabian Pavon, Commissioner	District 2
Noel Mendez, Commissioner	District 3
Jeff Sanchez, Vice Chair	District 4
Cynthia Marino, Commissioner	District 5
Remington Cordova, Commissioner	District 6
Ion Puschila, Mayoral Appointee	(Arrived at 6:07 p.m.)

Staff present:

Alina Barron, Assistant Planner
Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II
Benita Defrank, Neighborhood Services Director
Rene Guerrero, Interim Public Works Director
Anita Gutierrez, Interim Development Services Director
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Michael Sledd, Parks and Facilities Manager

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Ayala presented the minutes of February 21, 2019 and made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Sanchez and carried by a vote of 7-0-0-0.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commission Pavon stated he emailed staff requesting to know the process for changing a park name; and if bathroom stalls can be placed in the restrooms at Tony Cerda Park. He stated some of the lights are not working at Martin Luther King Jr. Park and there are no designated handicap parking lot lanes there. Commissioner Pavon stated at Martin Luther King Jr. Park, the trees need to be trimmed and he called about having leaves picked up. He stated there are leaves on the basketball court, the sidewalk, and parking lot and asked if a tetherball could be placed on the tetherball court on the weekends.

Commissioner Pavon asked the following questions:

- Can the water fountain be unclogged at Martin Luther King Jr. Park?
- Can the fountain be turned on at Civic Center Plaza?
- Can the broken tiles be fixed at Civic Center Plaza?
- Can plants be placed in the planters at Civic Center Plaza?
- Can the basketball court lines be repainted at Memorial Park?
- Can drought resistant plants replace the existing plants by the Ralph Welch Park sign?
- Can more trees be planted at Ralph Welch Park?
- Can access be provided to a storage room at Martin Luther King Jr. Park for residents to use as a game room?
- Can grass be added on the corner of Phillips Boulevard and Perrin Street?
- What is the process for installing little free libraries at all parks in District 2?

Commissioner Pavon informed the Commission that Councilmember Preciado approved the installation of concrete picnic tables at Tony Cerda Park.

Commissioner Puschila asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission can create an annual smart goal. He asked what the guidelines are for tree removal because there were 13 palm trees that were removed from Ganesha Park.

Commissioner Mendez stated that at Philadelphia Park, light bulbs are needed in the men's restrooms and asked if it can power washed. The basketball court is unlevelled and asked if it can be repaved; the fence is cut on the east side of the park, and lighting is needed in the back of the park. Commissioner Mendez stated that at Washington Park, the men's restroom need light bulbs, and the basketball court middle light is not working. He asked if a tree branch can be trimmed by the basketball court, and the eastside parking lot needs lights.

Vice Chair Jeff Sanchez thanked everyone for coming and announced there will be a community meeting on April 10, 2019 at Montvue Elementary at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to discuss park concerns. He stated he asked for the removal of a phone booth at 450 N. Garey Avenue, and thanked staff for removing newsstands on Mission Avenue and Garey Avenue.

Commissioner Marino shared there is a concern regarding Westmont Park and the homeless, and there will be a District 5 meeting on March 28, 2019.

Commissioner Cordova asked what the status and frequency of the weed spraying contract is for sidewalks and medians. He asked if the City is responsible for the sidewalk and parkway medians north of McKinley on White Avenue. He advised that weeds are growing on the median of Garey Avenue, north of Arrow Highway. Staff responded that depending on the location, the contract could be Amega West and confirmed the City is responsible for the parkway medians north of McKinley on White Avenue.

Commissioner Pavon thanked staff for fixing the bars at the restroom at Martin Luther King Jr. Park and for opening the restrooms on the weekends there.

Chair Ayala shared she met with Councilmember Gonzalez and staff to talk about potential projects and Measure A. She stated she attended a Placemaking meeting about a proposed butterfly garden at Ganesha Park and they are meeting on April 20, 2019 to discuss improvement projects at Civic Center Plaza at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. She attended the State of the City, it was good to see a great turnout and hear about all the good things the Mayor, Councilmembers, and staff are doing to improve the City.

Chair Ayala shared information about the Seymour Center and how it provides the community with services, resources and programs for youth and adults, such as bike lessons. She stated she attended a Compassionate City meeting. She asked if staff can provide the Commissioners with the tree trimming schedule. Chair Ayala expressed concern about the palm trees cut at Ganesha Park. Staff responded that Edison paid to cut the palm trees relating to power lines.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Resident Tara Nilcanjam asked if playground equipment could be made to accommodate children of all sizes; she stated this will help families enjoy outdoor play together.

Resident M. Joyce Bakersmith stated the Willie White Focus Group meeting was canceled for a second time this year due to a leaky roof. The meeting would have had Pomona Police show residents how to look up statistics in their local area and the Housing Department help residents fill out a grant application for lead removal. Ms. Bakersmith stated a meeting last year was canceled due to a mold issue. She proposed borrowing funds from the City's reserve to address issues at Willie White Community Center and other centers with maintenance issues.

Resident Vander Molen asked what the process is for obtaining estimates on roofs; stated the estimates appear very high.

Resident Yesenia Miranda Meza informed the Commission of a proposed project application for Pomona Beautification Day of stenciled drawings on cement trash bins and barbeque pits at Cesar Chavez Park.

VII. OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

1. Cell Tower Leases

Interim Public Works Director Rene Guerrero provided an update to a proposed license agreement with Crown Castle regarding the use of four cell towers located at Jaycee Park, Philadelphia Park, Ralph Welch Park and Washington Park. The license agreement proposes a 31-year agreement with a one-time lump sum of \$3M-5M with an option to expand 500 square feet of the ground level surrounding the cell tower. The proposed lease agreement offers to pay the City 50% of the rent that Crown Castle collects if they lease the ground level space to another telecommunications company. City Council is scheduled to hear the proposed lease agreement at the April 1, 2019 City Council meeting.

Commissioner Puschila asked if the space would need to be replaced elsewhere. Mr. Guerrero responded it has not been part of discussions since the 500 square feet does not impact playgrounds or other utilized space.

2. Proposed Community Mural at Pomona City Hall

Assistant Planner Alina Barron provided a presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission recommending a motion to approve Mural Permit No. 11316-2019 (Mural-11316-2019) to allow the installation of an artist-executed community painted mural.

Ms. Barron stated the mural is known as the vision of the Lila O', the Girl Scout Gold Award project. The dA Center for Arts hosted a series of "wall flower" art workshops and residents were invited to paint a flower petal to add to the community mural. In January 2019, the applicant submitted a request to install the mural on the garden wall at Pomona City Hall located at the southwest block of Garey Avenue and Mission Boulevard. The wall is 4' X 34' and will be executed by muralist, Chris Toovey.

Ms. Barron stated the Cultural Arts Commission and its Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Historical Preservation Commission recommended approval of the community mural. Ms. Barron asked the Parks and Recreation Commission for an approval to allow for placement of public art at a City park, Civic Center Plaza.

Ms. Barron concluded the presentation and advised that the applicant and artist are available for questions.

Chair Ayala opened the floor for Public Comment for the agenda items.

Resident M. Joyce Bakersmith expressed the mural is a great idea and asked why the project is going before the Parks and Recreation Commission; how much is the project going to cost; and why is the mural being placed at this location.

Chair Ayala asked staff to respond.

Ms. Barron responded that the mural project was brought before the Parks and Recreation Commission because Civic Center Plaza is a designated park in the City. She advised this location was chosen because it is a public space that is unutilized and the project is being funded by the dA Center of the Arts and Girl Scouts of America.

Cultural Arts Commissioner Joshua Swodeck stated the mural project location was carefully chosen because it is an underutilized space. This space has now become a common area for residents, visitors and staff to gather.

Resident Ron Vander Molen commends the community and Commissions for their involvement, but would like to see the mural on the other side of Civic Center Plaza so that more people can enjoy it.

There being no further speakers, Chair Ayala closed public comment.

Chair Ayala expressed concern of altering City Hall and would like to see the mural at a location more visible to the public.

Interim Development Services Director Anita Gutierrez advised that City Hall is not a designated historic landmark. She advised there is currently an application pending and the mural's license agreement includes that if the application moves forward or if the art piece becomes a hindrance to the application, the mural will be removed.

After Commissioner discussion, Commissioner Puschila made a motion to approve Mural Permit No. 11316-2019 (Mural-11316-2019) to allow the installation of an artist-executed community painted mural, seconded by Commissioner Mendez and approved by a 5-1-0-1 vote.

Aye: Puschila, Pavon, Mendez, Sanchez, Marino

Nay: Cordova

Abstain: Ayala

VII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff provided the following Community Services updates:

- The spring 2019 recreation guide is currently available at community centers and the City's website.
- A grant application was submitted to fund summer concerts through Los Angeles County Arts Commission.
- The Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Garfield, Kiwanis, Washington, and Ralph Welch.
- The basketball season has concluded. The winner of the tournament for lower division (7-10 yrs.) was Phillips Ranch and upper division (11-13 yrs.) was Philadelphia.
- The Heroes of Pomona Speech Contest regional site competitions begin the week of April 15, 2019. Judges are needed, so please contact Community Services, if interested.

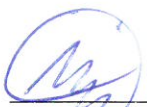
Parks and Facilities Manager Michael Sledd provided the following updates:

- Offered to visit park sites with individual Commissioners to discuss park concerns and maintenance.
- Will provide an organization chart to help Commissioners understand the roles and duties of officials and staff.
- Submitted a request for a Facilities Maintenance Technician to maintain community centers and pools during the summer.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Chair Ayala adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at John F. Kennedy Park Community Center, 1150 Fairplex Drive, CA 91768.



Michael Osoff
Community Services Manager



Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission

