

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**CITY OF POMONA
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
505 S. GAREY AVENUE
POMONA, CA 91766**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019
6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ayala called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Chair Ayala led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

Chair Ayala asked staff to take roll.

Present:

Ion Puschila	Mayoral Appointee
Melissa Ayala, Chair	District 1
Noel Mendez, Commissioner	District 3
Cynthia Marino, Commissioner	District 5
Remington Cordova, Commissioner	District 6

Absent:

Fabian Pavon, Commissioner	District 2
Jeff Sanchez, Vice Chair	District 4

Staff present:

Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II
Rosalia Butler, City Clerk
Rene Guerrero, Interim Public Works Director
Michael Osoff, Community Services Manager
Matt Sampson, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
Michael Sledd, Parks and Facilities Manager

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Ayala presented the minutes of May 16, 2019 and gave the Commission a few minutes to review. **Chair Ayala made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Cordova and was carried by a vote of 5-2-0-0.**

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Marino reported that she attended a community meeting that discussed cannabis. She stated she attended a City Council meeting that discussed the Brown Act.

Chair Ayala welcomed everyone and stated she is excited to report a few things. She stated the [City] library received funding and she looks forward to seeing new projects funded and seeing how students improve academically. Chair Ayala stated she is happy to see the City participate in Pomona Unified

School District's (PUSD) free movie on Tuesdays at the Village at Indian Hill Theaters. She stated she attended the Children's Festival; it had a great turnout and she had fun helping to make kites.

Commissioner Puschila stated he also attended the Children's Festival and it was a fantastic event. He reported there may be a place making event in July at Civic Center Plaza. He stated he attended a Pomona's Promise meeting. He stated that a neighborhood survey revealed that people reported they would like to see parks utilized for hanging out and for more community events.

Commissioner Mendez welcomed everyone. He stated he participated at a "Pomona Beautiful" day at Garfield Park and it was a success. He stated he would like a response regarding items he brought up about Philadelphia Park and Washington Park.

Commissioner Cordova reported that Councilmember Torres hosted a town hall meeting. Councilmember Torres provided a lot of great information and the meeting was well attended. Commissioner Cordova recognized the Willie White Park Focus Group, Andrew Sandersmith and Bruno Price for doing a great job hosting the annual Juneteenth celebration and other multicultural celebrations they host throughout the year.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ayala opened Public Comment for non-agenda items.

Resident Alice R. Gomez stated she visited Memorial Park during Memorial weekend and was appalled to see its condition. She stated she saw graffiti on benches, etchings on the obelisk, broken beer bottles, trash, and masking tape residue over the names on the monument. Ms. Gomez stated she has a personal connection to the park and felt the park should have been in pristine condition during Memorial weekend, to honor those who were killed in war.

[Translated by Chair Ayala] Resident Patricia Soriano stated that in front of her home are bushes that are planted along a block wall. She stated the homeless like to hide in there, and said that one morning she even caught people having sex. In the past, she has reported this to the City, and they [City] will trim the bushes. Ms. Soriano stated she has spoken to Councilmember Garcia about this issue and was told that the wall does not belong to the City. Ms. Soriano stated she found out that the City planted those bushes and made an agreement to maintain the area as a method to deter graffiti on the wall. Ms. Soriano stated she tries to help keep the area clean, but is afraid of potential exposure to diseases. She is seeking the assistance of the Commission and staff to advise her on who to contact to clean the area or remove the bushes.

Interim Public Works Director Rene Guerrero stated that Councilmember Garcia reported this issue to Public Works. Staff will look into options to resolve this matter.

Resident Berenice Diaz stated her family are longtime residents of Pomona and are they invested in Pomona and Washington Park. Ms. Diaz stated she sees many homeless people in the parks. Although she is sympathetic to their situation, she also feels it is difficult for children and families to enjoy the parks. She stated her son's t-ball practice was cancelled due to a situation that involved the homeless and the police. Ms. Diaz stated she found out about this evening's meeting through social media and wanted to tell the Commission that she believes in bettering Pomona's streets and parks for the children.

Commissioner Cordova made a motion for staff to present on the City's hygiene and public sanitation policy for parks and public spaces, seconded by Commissioner Mendez, passed by a 5-0-0 vote.

VII. OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

1. Brown Act Guidelines for Serial Meetings

City Clerk Rosalia Butler provided an overview of a Social Media Policy that was recently approved by City Council on June 17, 2019. Ms. Butler advised the Commission that the Policy establishes guidelines for the use of social media sites by the City of Pomona as a means to disseminate information regarding the City's mission, meeting activities, events and current issues to the general public.

Ms. Butler informed the Commission that City Council received a notice of a Brown Act violation made some of the members of the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Butler stated that the Brown Act requires that all discussion of the business of City Commission be done in properly noticed public meetings. Social media presents new challenges for City officials as it violates the Brown Act if a majority of members of a commission use it to discuss commission business.

Ms. Butler advised the Commission that in order to emphasize compliance, the interim City Attorney recommends that by receipt of this report, the Council admonishes the members of the Historic Perseveration Commission to only discuss commission business during properly noticed meetings, and to refrain from using Nextdoor or any social media to discuss matters within the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction.

2. Measure A Updates – Reprioritizing Park Parks

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff presented Measure A Updates – Reprioritizing Park Projects, a follow up agenda item from the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of May 16, 2019. At the last meeting, the Commission was presented an updated Measure A Priority List recommended by staff. The Commission passed a motion to approve staff's recommendations with the exception of two parks projects at Phillips Ranch Park and Country Crossings Park. The Commission agreed to further discuss possibly allocating funds of \$100,000 toward other park projects.

Staff recommended a motion to apply \$85,000 toward the replacement of two building roofs at Philadelphia Park and \$15,000 toward repairing rubberized surfaces at Phillips Ranch Park and Country Crossings. **Commissioner Puschila made a motion to fix Phillips Ranch Park and one building at Philadelphia Park, seconded by Chair Ayala, and passed by a vote of 5-0-0.**

3. Proposition 68 – Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant Opportunities

Staff member Monica Belloso presented an overview of a Proposition 68 (2018 Bond Act) grant funding opportunity. Ms. Belloso stated the purpose of the program is to create new parks and recreation opportunities in critically underserved communities. Staff carefully examined grant eligibility, project requirements and criteria and determined the City would be eligible to apply if the project site is located within an area that had less than three park acres per 1,000 people or a median household income of less than \$51,026. Ms. Belloso stated that eligible projects must involve development or a combination of acquisition and development to create a new park, expand an existing park, or renovate an existing park. Ms. Belloso provided a list of recreation features that may be funded. Applicants may apply for a grant request of at least \$200,000 and up to \$8,500,000 per project and each park requires its own separate application.

Ms. Belloso advised the Commission that staff from Public Works, Community Services, and Facilities met to identify eligible parks and potential projects. Staff determined that Washington Park and Hamilton

Park met both eligibility criteria and demonstrated a high need for park improvements. Staff informed the Commissioners that grant guidelines encourage applicants to facilitate at least five community-based planning meetings to obtain ideas and input from residents. Staff will facilitate five community meetings between now and the application deadline and will bring forth project details to the Commission at the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Staff asks that the Commission motion to support the submittal of two separate Proposition 68 grant applications for Washington Park and Hamilton Park.

Public Comment for Agenda Items

Resident Juanita Preciado stated she feels an indoor basketball court would be great idea for the community. Ms. Preciado asked if the joint use agreement with Pomona Unified School District could be used to offer access to basketball.

Chair Ayala made a motion for staff to submit two Proposition 68 grant applications for Washington Park and Hamilton Park, seconded by Commissioner Puschila, and passed by a 5-0-0-0 vote.

VII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Osoff provided the following Community Services updates:

- The 2019 summer recreation guide is now out.
- In the guide on page 4 lists the times/dates the 2019 Summer Aquatics Program.
- The Pomona Police Department's Great campout is on June 28-29.
- The 4th annual Movies in the Park event begins July 6, 2019 at Philadelphia Park. This event is in partnership with Day One.
- The Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis funded three summer concerts in the park. Concerts will be at Civic Center in July, August and September. They will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- Community Services is offering a photo contest for the cover of the next recreation guide.
- The next recreation guide will be mailed out to residents.
- Washington Park and Palomares Park will receive new drinking fountains.
- In the City, there was an 11% decrease in the homeless count.

Mr. Guerrero provided the following Public Works updates:

- The Lincoln Park (ADA) Project is almost complete.
- The Phil and Nell Soto park project is progressing and the opening date is scheduled for October 2019.

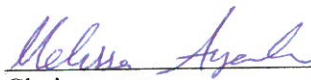
IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Ayala adjourned the Parks and Recreation meeting at 7:41 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Washington Park Community Center.



Michael Osoff
Community Services Manager



Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission