

REGULAR MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**CITY OF POMONA
RALPH WELCH COMMUNITY CENTER
1000 BUENA VISTA STREET
POMONA, CA 91766**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Sanchez called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Vice Chair Sanchez led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Sanchez asked staff to take roll.

Present:

Fabian Pavon, Commissioner	District 2
Noel Mendez-Zamudio, Commissioner	District 3
Jeff Sanchez, Vice Chairperson	District 4
Cynthia Marino, Commissioner	District 5
Remington Cordova, Commissioner	District 6

Absent:

Ion Puschila, Commissioner	Mayoral Appointee
Melissa Ayala, Chairperson	District 1

Staff:

Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II
Shandy Dittman, Senior Management Analyst
Gustavo Gonzalez, Planning Manager
Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Michael Sledd, Parks and Facilities Manager

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes presented at this time.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Marino stated she attended the grand opening of Phil and Nell Soto Park.

Vice Chair Sanchez stated he has no updates at this time.

Commissioner Pavon stated he attended the grand opening of Phil and Nell Soto Park; gave a report on the number of attendees, giveaways, and performers at Project Hope at Tony Cerda Park; a Black History Month celebration will be held at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park on February 29th; there are upcoming Spoken Palabra events at Tony Cerda Park; attended the Activating Parks Workshop hosted by Pomona's

Promise and stated it was productive meeting; a student organization IDEAS reached out to him asking how they can become involved with parks, specifically Hamilton Park.

Commissioner Mendez-Zamudio stated that Pomona Beautiful can now accept donations.

Commissioner Cordova commended staff for the opening of Phil and Nell Soto Park.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Martin Perez asked for an updated status on last week's Pomona's Promise meeting; asked to discuss the possibility of placing a little free library at Hamilton Park; asked to discuss the vacant lot adjacent to Hamilton Park; asked to discuss the non-crosswalk across Hamilton Blvd., asked to discuss if tree planting is possible at Hamilton Park; asked for an updated status on the Proposition 68 application; and asked if staff could speak where and how Measure A funding will be allocated.

VII. OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

1. Historic Sites Tree Protection and Preservation Program Amendment

Planning Manager Gustavo Gonzalez presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission the recommended amendments to the Historic Sites Tree Protection and Preservation Program. Given that the amendments would affect trees in City parks and the public right-of-way within historic districts, he asked for the Commission's input and recommendation that City Council approve the amendments.

Mr. Gonzalez provided a brief background and project description of the Historic Sites Tree Protection and Preservation Program. Mr. Gonzalez stated the program was adopted by resolution on May 1, 2000 to provide a process for preserving and maintaining mature trees within the City's Historic Districts. Recently, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) raised concerns with the loss of the mature within the historic district. In fall of 2019, the HPC formed a Tree Ad Hoc Committee to work with staff to review the current program and make recommendations that would improve the program's ability to minimize the loss of mature trees in the City's Historic Districts. The amendments were presented to HPC on January 15, 2020 and on February 5, 2020, and will go back on March 4, 2020 for further input.

The following recommended amendments would overhaul the current program to address the HPC's concerns:

1. Removing the exemptions section and adding a section that establishes criteria for obtaining a Minor Certificate of Appropriateness to remove character-defining landscaping;
2. Adding a section that establish a process for the replacement of trees with penalties for unpermitted removals.
3. Adding a section that establishes an appeal process.

The recommended amendments also include deregulation of certain aspects of the program to encourage residents to protect and maintain the character-defining landscaping in the City's Historic Districts. These include the following:

1. Reducing the permit required for removal of character-defining landscaping from a Major Certificate of Appropriateness to a Minor Certificate of Appropriateness.

2. Removing the requirement to obtain a Minor Certificate of Appropriateness for tree pruning and trimming, so long as the pruning and trimming is consistent with industry standards.

Mr. Gonzalez stated the goal is to improve the program to protect and preserve the City's urban forestry with the Historic Districts in a manner that replaces trees, disincentives the tree removals and does not endanger lives, or create hazards that could threaten critical infrastructure.

Commissioner Cordova made a motion to approve the recommended amendments to the Historic Sites Tree Protection and Preservation Program, seconded by Commissioner Mendez-Zamudio, and passing with a 5-0-2-0 vote.

2. Review Parks and Recreation Bylaws

Vice Chair Sanchez made a motion to move this item to the next meeting, seconded Commissioner Pavon, passing with a 5-0-2-0 vote.

3. Chair and Vice Chair Selection

Vice Chair Sanchez suggested moving this item to the next meeting when all Commissioners can be present. Commissioner Cordova made a motion to move this item to the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mendez-Zamudio, passing with a 5-0-2-0.

4. Receive and File Parks and Recreation Commission Priorities and Goals

Mr. Osoff advised the Commissioners that they have the opportunity review the final version of their priorities and goals, approve the wording and format. If needed, they can recommended changes.

Vice Chair Sanchez made a motion to move this item to the following meeting, seconded by Commissioner Marino, passing with a 4-1-2-0.

5. Utility Box Art Projects at Tony Cerda Park and Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

Ms. Belloso stated at the previous Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission asked if the Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) could review the art projects and provide input. Ms. Belloso stated she placed this on the January 27, 2020 CAC agenda, where she and Commissioner Pavon attended and presented the details of the utility art projects to the CAC. Ms. Belloso stated the CAC provided their feedback and approval of the utility box art projects.

Vice Chair opened Public Comment for this item.

Hector Campos, the artist for the project stated he supports this project because he likes to draw things that are reflective of his culture and this represents hard work. He sees beauty in these images.

Vice Chair Sanchez made a motion to approve the utility box art projects at Tony Cerda Park and Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, seconded by Commissioner Mendez-Zamudio, passing with a 4-0-2-1 vote.

Presentation on Measure A Competitive Grant Programs

Staff from Public Works and Community Services presented two projects eligible for the Measure A Competitive Grant Program; Youth and Veterans Job Training and Placement and Recreation Access.

Ms. Dittman and Mr. Sledd presented a \$1.4M Park Ranger Program and presented a PowerPoint slideshow with program guidelines and project details.

Ms. Belloso and Mr. Osoff presented a \$1.85M Recreation Access Project that would enhance communication between the City and residents, decrease barriers to recreation, and increase recreation opportunities, locations, and hours. Types of recreation programming would be dependent on community outreach and engagement.

Vice Chair Sanchez made a motion to approve the submittal of both competitive grant applications for Measure A, seconded by Commissioner Pavon, passing with a 5-0-2-0 vote.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Public Works

Mr. Guerrero reported that two Proposition 68 applications were submitted; one for Hamilton Park and Washington Park, and stated he has a good feeling about Hamilton Park.

Mr. Sledd stated that Beautification Day is coming up and are looking for ideas.

Street tree planting will occur at three locations beginning Saturday, February 29, 2020.

A County tree grant will be provide 510 trees to be distributed throughout the six districts at medians, parks, and right of ways.

Community Services

Mr. Osoff reported that three separate grant applications will be submitted to Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture, formally the Arts Commission, for this year's summer concert series. Staff is seeking the community's input on what type of music they would like to hear, as well as engaging the community for what movies they would like to see, as planning for Movies in the Park begins.

Planning for Heart of the Foothills has begun and is on April 19, 2020. It is a free event, similar to the 2018 CicLAvia. Heart of the Foothills is featuring a route connecting San Dimas, La Verne, and Palomares Park.

After School Recreation youth sports participants will be competing in a Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SMAF) competition; the date will be provided soon.

There will be a Census Kickoff on March 12th at Washington Park.

Youth Commission applications are now available on the City's website. Staff asked for help in spreading the word to interested high school students that care about Pomona and want to make a difference.

Commissioner Cordova motioned for a presentation on proximity and concentration laws as they relate to treatment and halfway housing near parks; and how to regulate and enforce park encampments, seconded by Vice Chair Sanchez, passing with a 5-0-2-0 vote.

Commissioner Pavon stated he would like to report Project Hope numbers:

- 402 people registered
- 16 organizations participated
- 400 lunches were served
- 12 lbs. groceries were given away
- 37 haircuts were given
- 300 toys were given
- Blankets and men's, women's and children clothes and shoes were given
- 100 individual care packages were given out

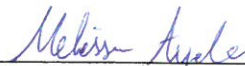
Commissioner Pavon stated that last year, he and Councilmember Preciado approached the owner of a vacant lot located in front of Madison Elementary to help beautify the space. The owner, who also works for the water department, will now be planting trees, provide seating and a walkway for parents to enjoy.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.



Michael Osoff
Community Services Manager



Melissa Ayala, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission

