

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF POMONA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TELECONFERENCE VIA "ZOOM"
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020
6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. FLAG SALUTE

Chair Pavón led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

Chair Pavón asked City staff to take roll for Commissioners.

Present:	Ion Puschila, Commissioner	Mayoral Appointee
	Melissa Ayala, Commissioner	District 1
	Fabián Pavón, Chairperson	District 2
	Noel Mendez-Zamudio, Commissioner	District 3
	Jeff Sanchez, Vice Chairperson	District 4
	Cynthia Marino, Commissioner	District 5

Absent:	Remington Cordova, Commissioner	District 6
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Staff:	Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director
	Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director
	Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
	Michael Sledd, Parks and Facilities Manager
	Shandy Dittman, Senior Management Analyst
	Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Puschila stated he has been watering Centennial Park.

Commissioner Marino asked staff about park name data related to Hamilton Park, the minutes, and about City trees.

Commissioner Ayala spoke on the community's concern about renaming Hamilton Park and will be placing census books inside the free community libraries.

Commissioner Mendez-Zamudio apologized for not attending the last meeting due to a last minute business meeting.

Vice Chair Sanchez stated that he has seen increased gang and transient activity in the parks; asked if the Commissioners see anything like that, he can help out in taking care of that.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Martin Perez, submitted a written public comment on Hamilton Park's history and community and petition to not change the name of Hamilton Park.

Rafael Sandoval, submitted a written public comment on the lack of youth programming in the city.

VII. OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposal to Install a Free Community Library at Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Centennial Park

Parks and Facilities Manager Michael Sledd presented the proposal to install a free community library at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Centennial Park. Mr. Sledd discussed the site meetings that took place at each of the parks with the stewards and staff to review criteria (safety, accessibility, location, lighting, and sustainability) and placement. Mr. Sledd stated that Public Works verified no interference with subsurface infrastructure and that both library structures will meet the approved design guidelines for a free community library.

The site visit for Centennial Park took place on August 5, 2020 with the applicant, Jesus Sanchez of Gente Organizada, to determine if the 'library' could be placed on a pathway in the north area of the park near the nexus with the Western University of Health Sciences.

The site visit for Martin Luther King, Jr. took place on September 2, 2020, with the applicant, Eric Vasquez of Just Us 4 Youth. Staff evaluated the proposed location, in front of the gazebo by the sidewalk immediately adjacent to the wheelchair ramp in the parking lot.

Commissioner Puschila made a motion to approve the installation of a free community library at Centennial Park and Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, seconded by Commissioner Ayala, and passing with a vote of 6-0-1-0.

2. Proposition 68 Statewide Park and Community Revitalization Program Round 4

Senior Management Analyst Shandy Dittman presented an overview of the Statewide Park Program through Proposition 68. Ms. Dittman stated that funding of \$395.3M is available for the fourth and final round of the statewide park program for projects that create a park, expand a park or renovate an existing park. Ms. Dittman provided a description of program eligibility, funding priorities, scoring criteria and timeline.

Mr. Sledd stated Public Works is proposing to submit three separate applications for Tony Cerda Park, Garfield Park, and Memorial Park and described each of the parks' scoring criteria and proposed projects. Mr. Sledd stated that Tony Cerda scored strongly the areas of significant lack of park space and significant poverty. Mr. Sledd also pointed out there is a strong community advocacy, community interest in the park, opportunities for local partnerships, and a high need for renovations due to facility conditions.

Mr. Sledd stated that Garfield Park is going to score the highest in the areas of high poverty and lack of park space. Garfield Park ranks second in those two areas, after Hamilton Park, which was funded in the

last round. Mr. Sledd stated the State confirmed the neighborhood community center across the street can be included in the renovation project.

Mr. Sledd stated that Memorial Park was considered because it would also score high in poverty, median household income, and critical lack of park space, ranking just after Garfield Park. Memorial Park has a history of community interest, there is a high need for renovations including the playground and building, and it honors Veterans.

Mr. Sledd stated that staff is looking for community input for features the public would want to see in the applications.

Chair Pavón opened Public Comment on the agenda item.

Juanita Preciado stated she is part of an environmental advocacy group that conducted density maps for each park, and offered to support the application with its data.

Katie asked staff to consider an all abilities park with the Proposition 68 funding.

Martin Perez asked staff to consider submitting a Proposition 68 application to expand Hamilton Park.

Chair Pavón made a motion to support applications for all three parks, seconded by Commissioner Ayala, and passing with a 6-0-1-0.

3. Art in Parks – Designating Spaces for Public Art

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff stated this agenda item was a result of increasing interest of art in parks and the lengthy process of potentially including other City Commissions for project approvals. To increase efficiency, Mr. Osoff proposed two options for pre-approving designated spaces for art at all parks. The first option could be forming a sub-committee of three Commissioners or less with a staff member to visit all 28 parks and make recommendations for locations to place art. The second option could be that each Commissioner visit the parks within their district, with a staff member from Community Services and Public Works, and make recommendations for art placement. All recommendations would then be presented by staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) to approve and make recommendations for art locations in all parks. Mr. Osoff indicated that Cultural Arts Commission would still be responsible for approving the art content, and by the PRC designating spaces for art, applicants can place art in parks much sooner.

Commissioner Marino made a motion to approve the second option of each Commissioner visiting parks within their district, with two staff members, to designate spaces for art in parks, seconded by Commissioner Puschila, and passing with 6-0-1-0.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Community Services

- Community Services will bring forward additional park projects to apply through Proposition 68.
- Through Proposition 64, a Youth Community Access grant application was just submitted to enhance the City's youth programming through the purchase of three clean-energy vehicles to increase youth access to natural and cultural resources.
- The Youth Commission's first regular meeting will be October 1, 2020.
- Virtual recreation is continuing on YouTube and IGTV.

- Beginning the week of September 28, 2020, Pomona Rec Live will provide live specialty classes.
- Staff is considering alternatives for upcoming fall special events due to the inability to host large gathering events at this time.
- Currently, baseball leagues are not allowed to play, but the County has provided sports leagues guidelines for holding practices and skill-building. Staff is currently reviewing plans submitted by leagues how to safely resume practices under the health department guidelines. Staff has approved one plan, and is currently in the process of approving a second.
- Staff recognized Commissioner Ayala for connecting Community Services with the organization to promote the Census through a Chalk-A-Thon event at Garfield, Washington, and Ralph Welch Parks.

Public Works

- The Hamilton Restoration Project, funded through Proposition 68, is awaiting for a landscape designer to go to City Council to be awarded as a consultant. The design process will include community input through community meetings.

Neighborhood Services

- Through the budget process, the Mayor and Council directed staff to find funding to increase youth programming. At the next City Council meeting, Monday, September 21st, staff will be asking Council for approval to award \$400,000 to youth programming through the California Development Block Grant program.

IV. MATTERS INITIATED BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Chair Pavón asked for a presentation of Measure A funds.

Chair Pavón made a motion to discuss a beatification project at Centennial Park, seconded by Vice Chair Sanchez, and passing with a 6-0-1-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavón adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting to the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference.



Michael Osoff
Community Services Manager



Fabián Pavón, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission