

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF  
THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**CITY OF POMONA  
TELECONFERENCE VIA "ZOOM"**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021  
6:00 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. FLAG SALUTE**

Chair Pavón led the flag salute.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Chair Pavón asked City staff to conduct roll call for Commissioners.

**Present:**

Fabián Pavón, Chairperson	District 2
Cynthia Marino, Vice Chair	District 5
Juanita Preciado-Becerra, Commissioner	District 1
Noel Mendez-Zamudio, Commissioner	District 3
Vincent Carpio, Commissioner	District 4
Donna Otero, Commissioner	District 6
Ion Puschila, Commissioner	Mayoral Appointee

**Staff:**

Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director  
Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director  
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager  
Denise Reyna, Administrative Assistant III

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No minutes at this time.

**V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

Commissioner Preciado-Becerra stated she toured District 1 parks and sent staff a report about general ideas on how to solve residents' concerns.

Commissioner Carpio stated he toured District 4 parks and said he participated in the Proposition 68 community-based planning meetings.

Vice Chair Marino stated she also attended the three Proposition 68 community meetings on Saturday and stated that Shandy did an excellent job presenting projects.

Commissioner Otero stated she attended the southwest Area Commander via Zoom. She stated she completed District 6 park walk-throughs with staff. She attended the community meetings for Tony Cerda and Memorial Park and said residents are asking for the same things: better restrooms and more amenities for youth, like skate parks.

Commissioner Puschila stated he does regular park visits and noted that restrooms are still closed. He stated he continues to take care of Centennial Park.

Chair Pavón stated the little free library at Tony Cerda Park was replaced last Friday. There are four little libraries in District 2 parks and is working toward placing little free libraries at all seven parks in District 2. He stated he also attended the Proposition 68 community meetings. Café con Libros has many books and he is filling the little free libraries with books from there. He did a walk-through of District 1 parks with other City Commissioners. He stated that youth from Just Us 4 Youth have been painting rocks for Tony Cerda Park and participating in small, socially distanced activities like touching up and painting trashcans at Memorial Park and Martin Luther King Jr. Park. He also completed a walk-through of parks in District 2 with staff to choose locations for art. He stated a resident is interested in installing a little free library at Memorial Park soon.

Chair Pavón stated there would be a District 2 City Commissioners 'Meet and Greet' via Zoom on February 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. There will a District 2 Powers Park community meeting next Saturday at 9:30 a.m. He stated he had a meeting with the founder of Growing Roots; they are interested in expanding urban farms and urban gardens in parks. The Empower Program, which helps low-income residents receive utility discounts and other services, are launching an event asking residents to walk, bike, or skate to three parks and take a selfie to enter into raffle to win a prize. Local artists are interested in doing art at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. A commission-approved beautification project at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park will begin March 20, 2021.

Commissioner Puschila stated the Youth Commission has been approved to have their own Instagram account. He stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission should petition to Council that the Commission have their own Facebook and Instagram accounts.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilmember Torres spoke on an e-mail that Chair Pavón sent to him about his [Chair Pavón's] fellow Commissioners. Councilmember Torres stated the e-mail is a public record and Chair Pavón's reply during a public meeting is in violation of the Brown Act.

Jacqueline Elizalde welcomed and congratulated the new Parks and Recreation Commissioners and thanked them for serving their community.

Martin Perez thanked the team for addressing the illegal dumping at Hamilton Park. He stated the community has many ideas to share for Hamilton Park's design meeting. He has collected signatures from community members indicating they do not want a name change for Hamilton Park.

Edward Samaniego spoke on his name change application for Hamilton Park. He stated that Dr. Henry Ramirez is from Pomona and served the White House under the Nixon Administration.

Desiree Munoz spoke about issues at Tony Cerda Park. Ms. Munoz stated the the light posts need securing and would like to see a water station installed there.

Irene Aguirre extended an apology for previous comments or actions; she stated that she has a better understanding of peoples' roles and capacity. She thanked the Commission for serving and looks forward to working with them to address issues at parks.

Charles Martinez spoke on the upcoming construction of Hamilton Park and thanked everyone involved in the project.

## **VII. UNFINISHED OR NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Pavón motioned to change the order of Unfinished or New Business, seconded by Vice Chair Marino, and passing with vote of 7-0.

### **1. Proposal to Install a Free Community Library at Powers Park**

Community Services Mike Osoff led the presentation (Attachment 1) and provided an overview of criteria that is considered when a proposal to install a free community library is received. Staff from Community Services and Public Works met with the applicant, Cesar Hernandez on January 21, 2021 for a site visit to evaluate proposed locations. Public Works verified there would be no interference on water or electric lines for two proposed locations. Location 1 is adjacent to a private property, on the southwest side of park and Location 2, recommended by staff, is near the entrance to the park, near a light pole to help illuminate the library in the evening.

Applicant Cesar Hernandez stated he is interested in becoming the steward for the free community library and resides near Powers Park. He thanked Brian Mundy for donating his time to building the little free library.

Brian Mundy spoke on his building a weather resistant library using materials to extend its life and help prevent theft.

No Public Comments.

Chair Pavón made a motion to approve the installation of a Free Community Library at Powers Park at Location 2, seconded by Commissioner Puschila, and passing with a 7-0-0-0 vote.

### **2. Overview of Proposition 68 – Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Applications.**

Staff presented a PowerPoint slideshow (Attachment 2) of five separate Statewide Park Program (Proposition 68) applications and final project scopes for Washington Park, Philadelphia Park, Tony Cerda Park, Memorial Park, and Garfield Park. The project scopes were derived from community input of several community-based planning meetings.

Chair Pavón stated he attended the Proposition 68 community meetings on Saturday, February 13, 2021 and expressed his dissatisfaction with staff. Chair Pavón stated the meetings were held last minute, were held all in one day, were promoted 4-5 days prior, and when he asked for flyers to hand out, staff did not provide him flyers. Chair Pavón stated that staff could have made efforts to canvas the neighborhoods to increase community participation.

Chair Pavón stated that during the community meetings, residents were unhappy that their neighbors were not present and this was because their neighbors did not know about these meetings. Chair Pavón stated that staff did not have enough support and the meetings felt disorganized. Chair Pavón stated that, after the meetings, he sent an e-mail to staff to discuss how to improve community outreach and engagement, but has not received a response yet. Chair Pavón asked staff to reach out to the Commission to help with community engagement and participation in the future.

Chair Pavón stated that several months ago, he asked staff to speak with the soccer league representatives regarding the application for Tony Cerda Park. He said that residents also asked staff to reach out to the president of the soccer leagues at Tony Cerda Park during the meetings. He appreciates that staff eventually revised the application to not remove soccer fields for a skate park there.

Commissioner Carpio stated he does not agree with a majority of Chair Pavón's comments. He stated he understands the difficulty in obtaining community involvement and commended staff for getting the number of responses and feedback they received. Commissioner Carpio stated that part of the Commission's role is to support staff in their efforts to reach residents.

Mr. Osoff stated that it can be a challenge to reach residents and suggested that the Commission can request a discussion item to further discuss with staff on finding ways to better engage the community for community meetings.

Chair Pavón stated that there is no excuse for having last minute meetings and a hundred surveys is not representative of the thousands of Pomona residents. He asked that staff include the Commission for community outreach in the future.

Commissioner Preciado-Becerra stated that getting community input is a difficult task and agrees that working with staff to increase community engagement is important. She would like to discuss with staff on how Commissioners could leverage their connections to support staff's efforts.

Commissioner Puschila stated he understands Chair Pavón's frustrations and that is why he believes the Commission having their own social media presence, like the Youth Commission having their own Instagram account, is necessary to reach the community.

Chair Pavón recommended the restrooms at Tony Cerda Park be demolished and that a state-of-the-art community center with a concession stand be built there.

Mr. Guerrero stated he would respond to Chair Pavón's e-mail and looks forward to meeting to discuss further.

Ms. DeFrank corrected Commissioner Puschila's comment regarding the Youth Commissioner being granted an Instagram account. Ms. DeFrank stated the City Manager approved the Community Services Division on having an Instagram account and not the Youth Commission.

Commissioner Puschila apologized for the inaccurate information, as he was told by his student, a Youth Commissioner. Commissioner Puschila expressed the importance of having a dedicated grant writer.

Commissioner recommendations included a skate park at Garfield Park, more full-sized basketball courts, features and amenities for seniors, beautification projects that seniors can enjoy, walking paths, a tennis court wall with a half court, more renovation projects instead of new construction, a community center and new restrooms at Tony Cerda Park.

Chair Pavón made a motion to approve the five project scopes for Proposition 68 applications, seconded by Vice Chair Marino, and passing with a vote of 7-0-0-0.

### **3. Discussion of Park Sanitation and Hygiene Program**



Public Works Director Rene Guerrero presented a pre-COVID-19 daily, weekly, bi-weekly, and as-needed schedule of park features and amenities (Attachment 3). Mr. Guerrero highlighted that the items in blue have been added to the new maintenance contract schedule.

Mr. Guerrero stated that the City Council recently awarded a new three (3) year park maintenance contract with Merchants Landscape Services, which is scheduled to begin March 1, 2021. Mr. Guerrero reminded the Commission that the park restrooms are currently closed per the direction of the City Council and City Manager at this time.

#### *Public Comment*

Henry Gonzalez spoke on his opposition of changing the name of Hamilton Park.

Vice Chair Marino asked if the contract would be in effect beyond COVID-19. Mr. Guerrero stated this is a three (3) year with the option to renew and the contract will be evaluated for scope at the time of renewal.

Commissioner Otero asked who oversees the maintenance contractor. Mr. Guerrero responded that the Parks and Facilities Manager, who is yet to be hired, and other staff would oversee the maintenance contractor.

Mr. Guerrero presented the pre-COVID schedule of park restrooms and the Commission-approved proposed park restroom schedule that opens restrooms from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in parks within a ½ mile of a school.

Commissioner Mendez-Zamudio suggested having a report of restroom cleaning, as they do in restaurants.

Commissioner Preciado-Becerra stated having park restrooms opened is very important and recommended that a restroom schedule be available to residents, like the City website or park directory.

Commissioner Pushila stated that the City's social media could share this information.

Chair Pavón stated that residents are still visiting the parks regardless of park restrooms being closed and feels that the new maintenance contract with daily cleaning will help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Chair Pavón made a motion to recommend to City Council the Commission-approved restroom schedule to begin March 1, seconded by Commissioner Mendez-Zamudio, and passing with a vote of 5-1-0-1.

Chair Pavón made a motion to table Agenda Item 4. Overview of Parks and Recreation Commission Priorities and Goals to the following meeting, seconded by Vice Chair Marino, and passing with a 7-0.

#### **VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION**

*Staff provided responses and updates on items the Commission had requested at previous meetings.*

Mr. Guerrero provided the following updates:

- Veterans Park is currently closed due to COVID-19. Prior to COVID-19, the City had plans to sell the property to a developer and is awaiting approval from the Department of Interior. Money from the sale will go toward soccer improvements and facilities at other parks.

- A consultant, RJM has been selected for a Parks and Facilities Master Plan. Staff is reviewing the contract of services.
- The contract with a geotechnical consultant is being finalized and a Hamilton Park community meeting for design input will be scheduled soon.
- The City hired a consultant to conduct an analysis for increasing development impact fees; this will be on the City Council agenda on March 1, 2021.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission Ad-Hoc has two current Commissioners and suggested placing this as an agenda item to select a third Commissioner.

Mr. Osoff stated that staff is providing brief responses to previous requests for updates, but if the Commission prefers to discuss a topic further, the Commission could agendaize it as a discussion item for a future meeting. Mr. Osoff then provided the following updates:

- Mr. Osoff advised the Commission that there was an application to change the name of Hamilton Park. Staff presented the City's Park Name Change Policy and the process of a park name change includes community meetings in [August 2020]. The Commission voted to proceed with the process of the name change post-COVID-19 when it is safer to conduct in-person meetings. Staff's preference is to host in-person meetings, rather than host virtual meetings due to the concerns of the lack of community participation due to socioeconomic barriers and creating a digital divide. Staff will move forward with community meetings, as soon as it is safe to do so per state and local guidelines regarding COVID-19.
- The Art in Park walk-throughs have been occurring to identify potential locations for placing art. Staff will bring forward a presentation next month once all parks are completed.
- The Virtual Community Center is open and asked the Commission to help spread the word.
- Staff forwarded the Commission's recommendation that City Council reconsider the City's Social Media Policy to allow Commissions to have its own social media. Upon review, it was determined that the policy was recently adopted [June 2019] and will not be considered for revisions at this time.
- In April or May, staff will present Measure A projects that were approved and prioritized by the Commission, for the first two years of funding.
- Park lighting fees do not cover the City's portion and rates that leagues pay depend on the group they fall under, based on who they serve.
- Staff asked the Commission to clarify an agenda item request to identify and designate spaces for green spaces. Chair Pavón responded that staff consider spaces like empty lots and alleys for green spaces, parks, or trails.

Ms. DeFrank stated the request for proposal for a grant writer is due by March 2, 2021 and should be going to City Council for an award of contract in May.

#### **IX. MATTERS INITIATED BY CITY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Carpio asked to know when summer activities would be published. If there are no activities, will funds be allocated elsewhere. Commissioner Carpio stated he heard that Chair Pavón is trying to profile him as a gang member. He does not understand why Chair Pavón is creating division and that he [Chair Pavón] should hold himself to a higher standard. Commissioner Carpio stated that Chair Pavón's words in the letter are slanderous. Commissioner Carpio stated he has served the community for over 50 years and his perseverance, education, and professional experience all contribute positively to the community.

Commissioner Otero spoke to Chair Pavón and stated that she was insulted when she saw the copy of the e-mail that was sent to everyone. She stated that it was childish and yes, she has affiliation with many different types of people, but she is proud to be able to communicate with all residents, including the homies.

Commissioner Puschila asked to see a collaboration with schools and Pomona Police for a park ranger program.

Chair Pavón stated that in the past, there has been difficulty with staff following up on items in a timely manner or issues with staff giving misinformation on processes at certain parks. Chair Pavón recommended that there be accountability and evaluation of staff and programming and a path to provide input.

Chair Pavón made a motion to discuss evaluations of staff and park services and programs, seconded by Commissioner Puschila,

Ms. DeFrank stated that staff evaluations fall under the purview of the City Manager through Human Resources. The Commission does not have the purview to evaluate staff. The Commission has the purview to evaluate programming.

Commissioner Carpio stated there is a protocol for complaints regarding staff. The Commission does not have the power for disciplinary action on staff.

Staff repeated the motion by Chair Pavón, a discussion to conduct evaluations on staff and park services and programs, and seconded by Commissioner Puschila, passing with a vote of 5-2. (Ayes: Pavón, Marino, Preciado-Becerra, Mendez-Zamudio, Puschila. Noes: Carpio, Otero)

Chair Pavón made a motion to discuss placing a little free community library at Memorial Park, seconded by Vice Chair Marino, passing with a vote of 7-0.

Chair Pavón made a motion to discuss a future beautification project at Powers Park, seconded by Vice Chair Marino, passing with a vote of 6-0-0-1. (Ayes: Pavón, Marino, Preciado-Becerra, Mendez-Zamudio, Otero, Puschila. Abstain: Carpio)

Chair Pavón made a motion to discuss with Andrew Quinones at a future meeting, court-ordered community services, by Commissioner Puschila, passing with a vote of 7-0.

Chair Pavón made a motion to discuss the Parks and Recreation Commission Ad-Hoc Committee, seconded Vice Chair Marino, passing with a vote of 7-0.

Commissioner Preciado-Becerra stated that a fence at Cesar Chavez Park is being cut by the transient population and there is an issue of trash collecting there. She asked if there is other material for fencing. Chair suggested that staff meet with Commissioner Preciado-Becerra at the park to evaluate the fence and

determined if there is a solution could be reached. If not, then a discussion could be brought back to the Commission.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

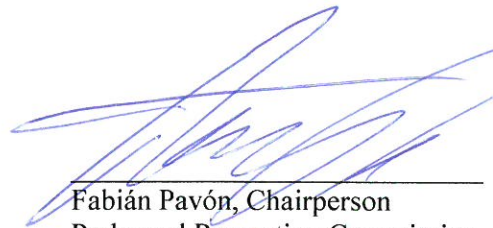
There being no further business, Chair Pavón adjourned the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference.



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Michael Osoff  
Community Services Manager



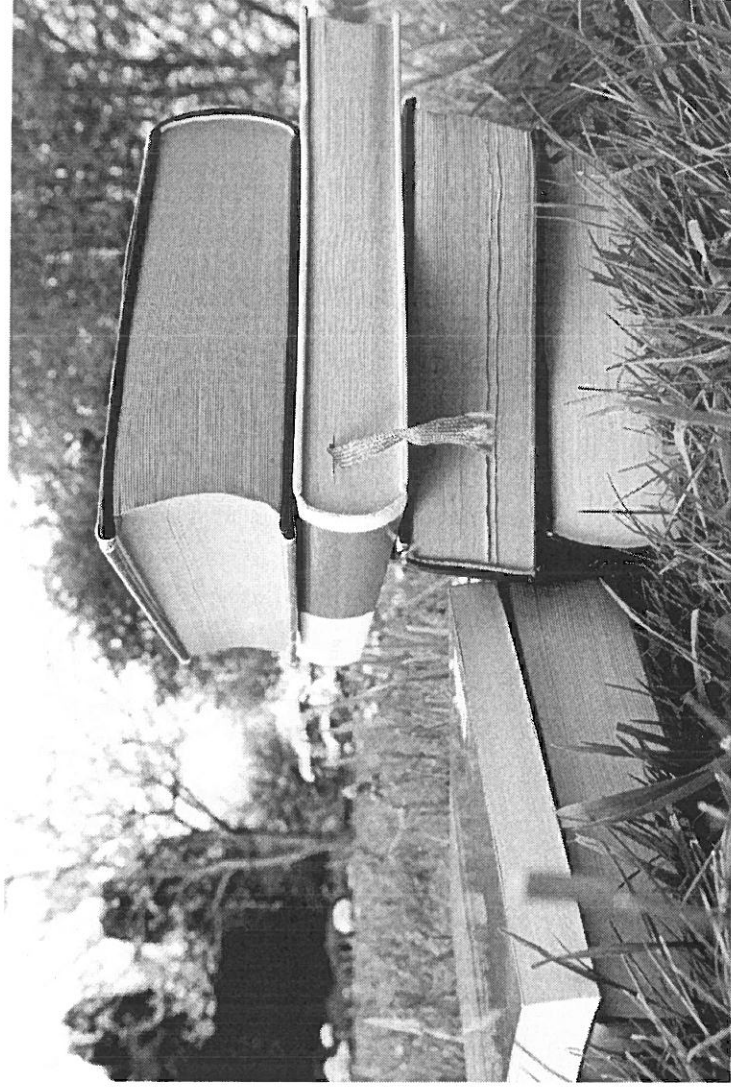
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Fabián Pavón, Chairperson  
Parks and Recreation Commission



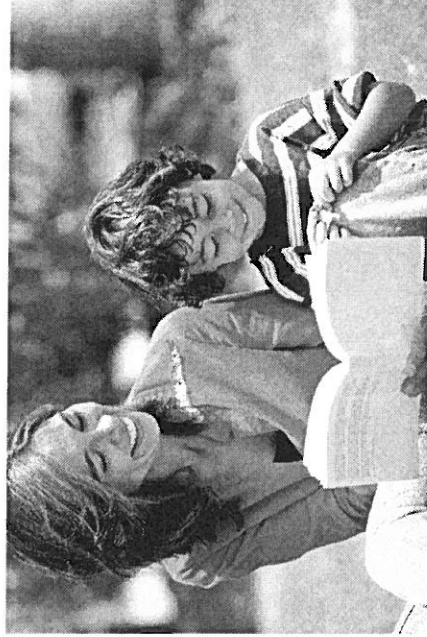
# **Powers Park**

**Free Community  
Library**



**Parks and Recreation Commission  
February 18, 2021**

# Criteria for Free Community Libraries



**Safety**

**High volume of visitors  
and/or staff**

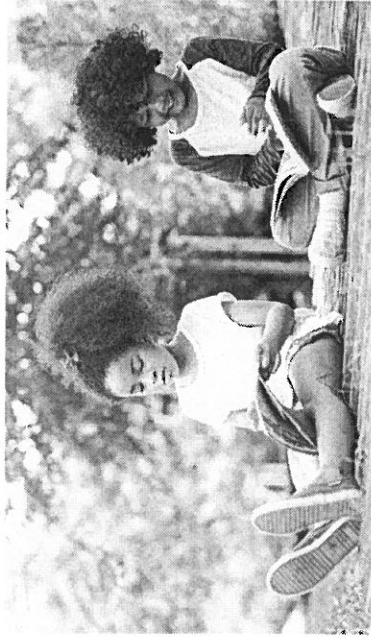
**ADA Accessibility**

**Stewardship/Contract**

**Location**

**Sustainability**

**Lighting**



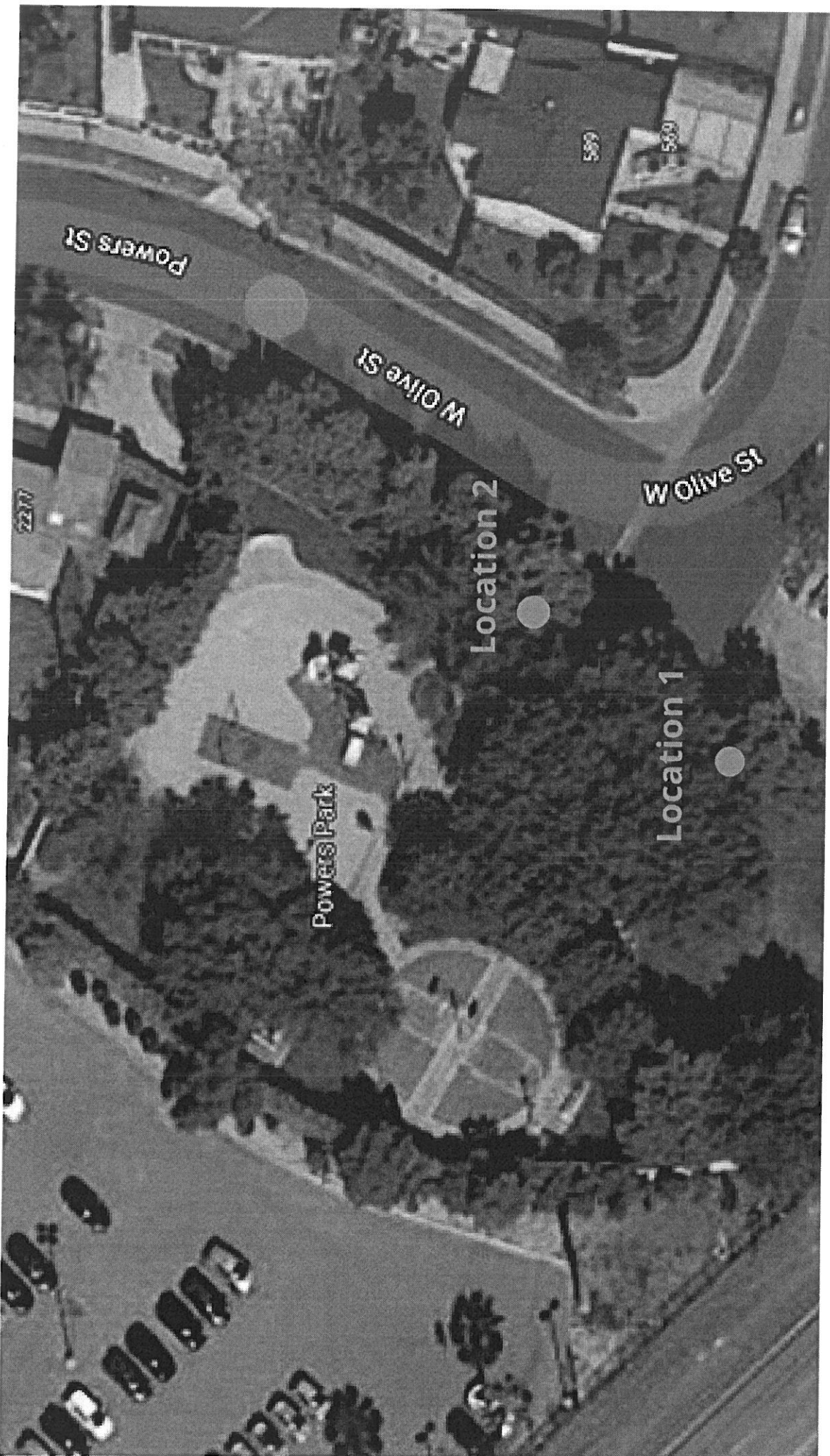
# POWERS PARK

600 W. Olive Street

- On January 21, 2021, City staff conducted a site visit with applicant to evaluate proposed locations.
- **Location 1** is on southwest side of park, adjacent to private property (with motion sensor and security camera) to help prevent vandalism.
- **Location 2** is off the Olive Street entrance to park adjacent to playground.
- Public Works has verified no interference with subsurface infrastructure.
- The structure will meet the approved design guidelines for a free community library.
- The steward will be Pomona resident Cesar A. Hernandez







Powers St

W Olive St

W Olive St

Location 2

Location 1

Powers Park

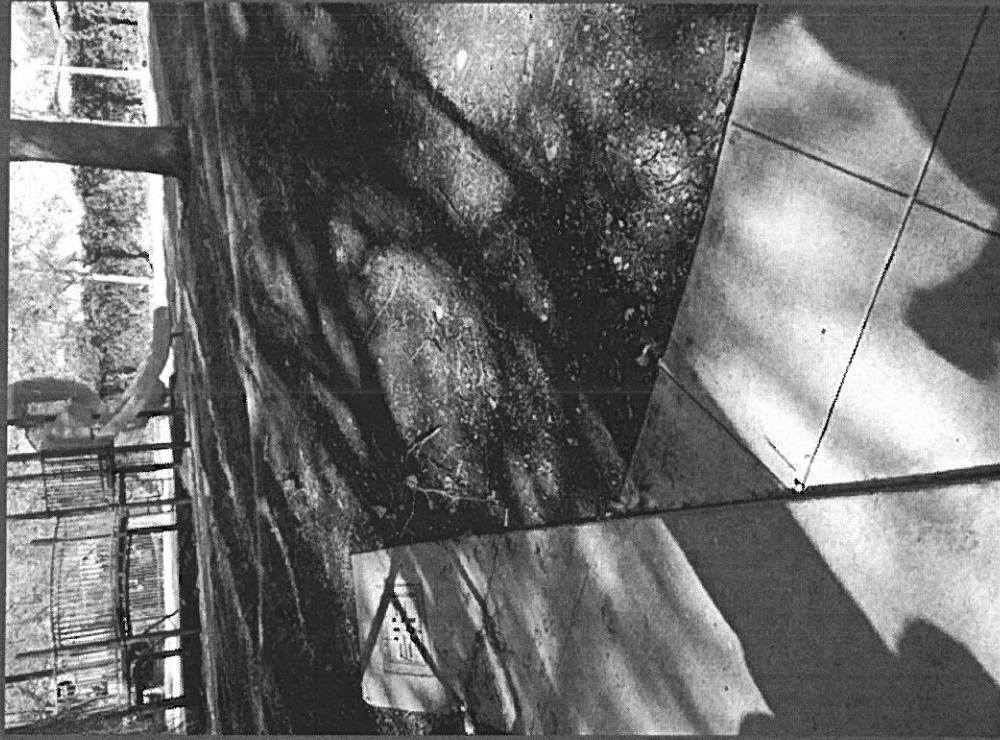


## Location 1 - Southwest side of park





## Location 2 - Park entrance



# Staff Recommendation

01

Approve Free Community Library at Location 1, on southwest side of park.

02

Approve Free Community Library at Location 2 at park entrance pathway to playground.



# Proposition 68 - Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Applications

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FEBRUARY 18, 2021

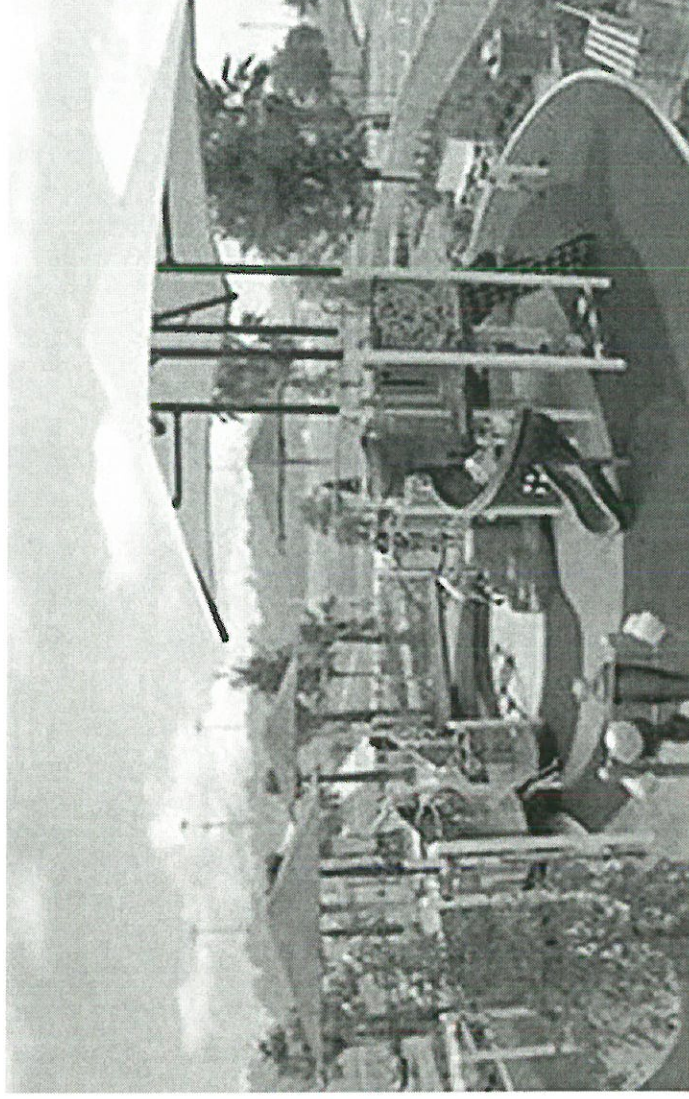




## Proposed Project Scope

# Philadelphia Park

- Park expansion
- Add Wi-Fi
- Redo basketball courts
- Add/integrate lighting throughout the park with LED
- Renovate athletic fields
- New restrooms
- Smart irrigation
- Connect walkways/pathways throughout the park
- Upgrade playground to all abilities/inclusive
- Upgrade gazebo
- Renovate community center
- Fitness equipment

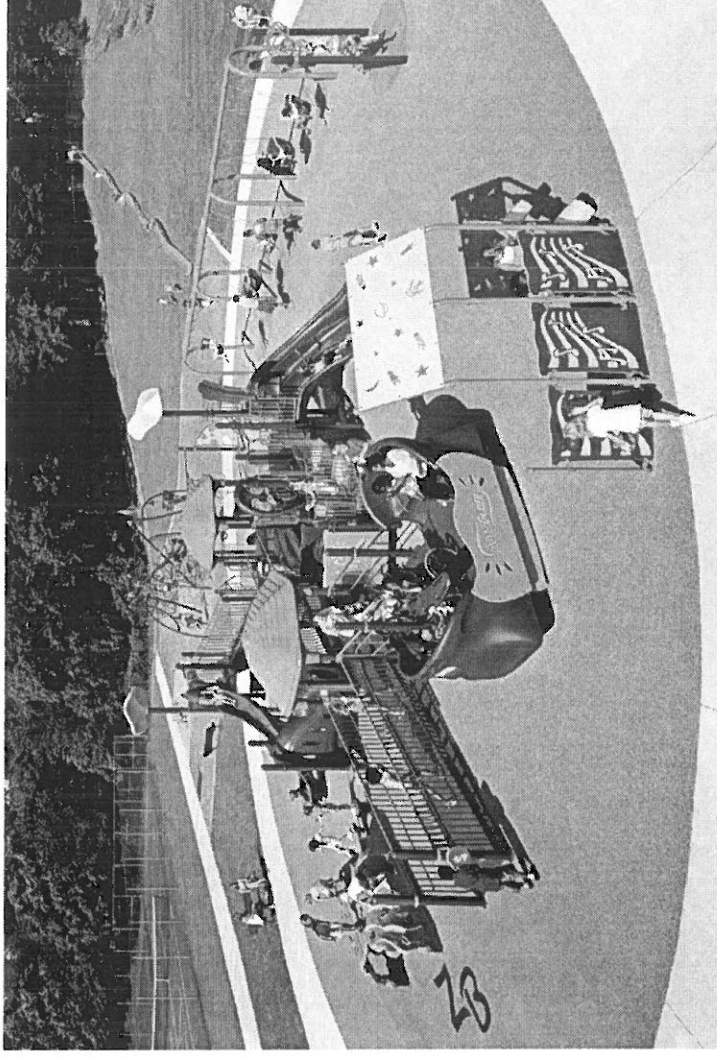


# Washington Park

865 W. Grand Avenue

## Proposed Project Scope:

- Renovate parking lot on west side
- Demolish and construct a new community center with an indoor multi-sport court with new lighting and landscaping
- Add Wi-Fi throughout the park
- New outdoor restroom
- Install playground equipment that is all inclusive/all abilities on east side
- Five new picnic tables
- Trail connecting sidewalk to park
- Area for public art
- Community garden



# Tony Cerda Park

## Possible Project Scope

- Renovate Stage
- Add Wi-Fi
- Add Basketball Court
- Add/integrate lighting throughout the park with LED
- Add Tennis Court
- Renovate restrooms
- Smart irrigation
- Add Jogging Path and Exercise Equipment
- Upgrade playground to all abilities/inclusive
- Add Gazebo and Picnic Areas
- Add Arena Soccer Facility
- Add Trees and Landscaping

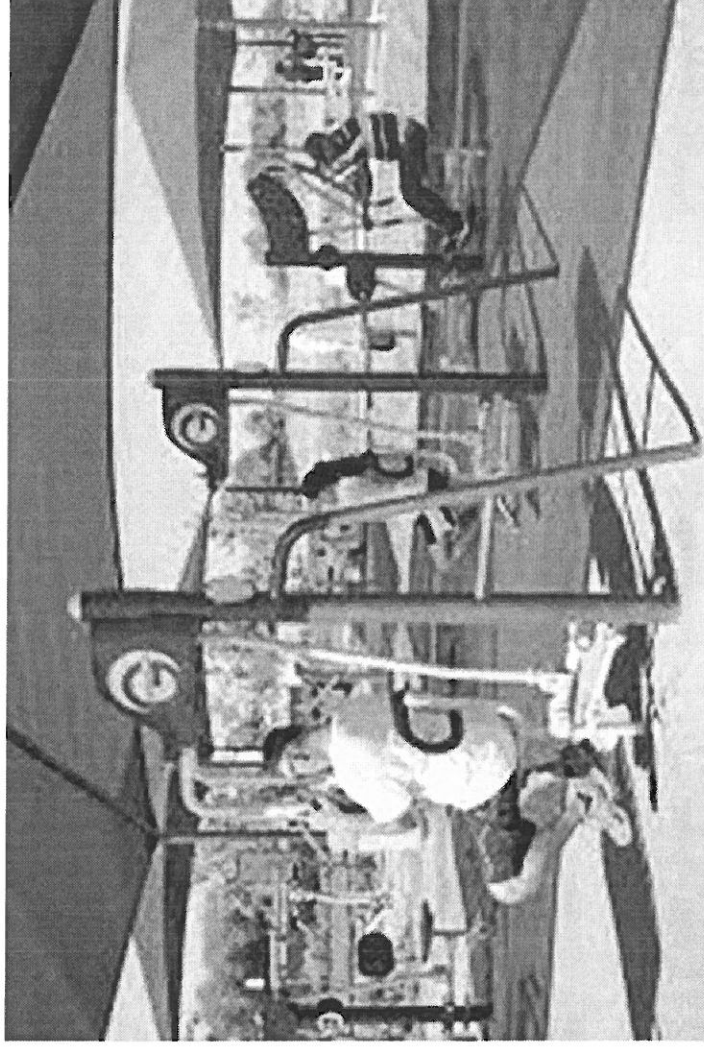




# Memorial Park

## Possible Project Scope

- Renovate Community Center
- Add Wi-Fi
- Renovate Basketball Court
- Add/integrate lighting throughout the park with LED
- Add Jogging Path and Exercise Equipment
- Smart irrigation
- Add Jogging Path and Exercise Equipment
- Upgrade playground to all abilities/inclusive
- Additional Trees and Landscaping





## Proposed Project Scope

- Add Wi-Fi
- Redo basketball court
- Add/integrate lighting through the park with LED
- Add skate park
- Renovate fields
- Renovate restrooms
- Smart irrigation
- Renovate bathrooms
- Upgrade playground to all abilities/inclusive
- Add parking in rear
- Renovate community center

# Garfield Park

