

# City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave  
Pomona, CA 91766

## Regular Meeting Minutes

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



*Chair Fabian Pavon  
Vice-Chair Cynthia Marino  
Commissioner Juanita Preciado-Becerra  
Commissioner Noel Mendez-Zamudio  
Commissioner Vince Carpio  
Commissioner Donna Otero  
Commissioner Ion Puschila*

#### VISION STATEMENT

*Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful  
community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of  
arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.*

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Thursday, October 21, 2021

6:00 PM

Teleconference via Zoom

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#### 6:00 P.M. Teleconference Meeting via Zoom

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pavon called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pavon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### III. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Fabian Pavon (District 2)  
Vice Chair Cynthia Marino (District 5) *Arrived at 6:15 p.m.*  
Commissioner Juanita Preciado-Becerra (District 1)  
Commissioner Noel Mendez-Zamudio (District 3)  
Commissioner Vince Carpio (District 4)  
Commissioner Donna Otero (District 6)  
Commissioner Ion Puschila (Mayoral Appointee)

Staff Present: Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director  
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager  
Danny Whaley, Parks and Facilities Manager  
Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## **V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

Commissioner Carpio stated he was happy to see Project Hope host their event at Tony Cerda Park.

Commissioner Otero stated she attended the City Council meetings of September 20, 2021 and October 18, 2021. A group of Native American women was asked to lead the Los Angeles Women's March on October 2, 2021. The Indigenous People's Day celebration at Ganesha Park was held on October 10, 2021. She stated she attended the southwest area commander meeting on October 15, 2021. She was asked to participate in Indigenous People's Day in Claremont on October 17, 2021. She stated that the restrooms in Pomona's parks are becoming a health issue and asked to have this placed as a discussion item.

### **MOTION BY COMMISSIONER OTERO, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CARPIO, CARRIED 6-0, to discuss park restroom condition and maintenance.**

Chair Pavon stated he attended HopeFest held by Project Hope. He reported there were 505 attendees and commended City Councilmember Victor Preciado and [Three Valleys Municipal Water Director] Carlos Goytia for putting together the event. He provided the number of items given away during the event:

- 200 boxes of food
- 300 packs of diapers
- 600 pack of baby wipes
- 130 shoes
- Clothing
- 35 free haircuts
- 200 new backpacks
- 300 hotdogs and waters

Commissioner Puschila stated he participated in the Pomona 5K and helped clean up the Spadra Cemetery in preparation for The Historical Society Annual Night in Old Spadra event.

[Vice Chair Marino entered the meeting at 6:15 p.m.]

## **VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Approval of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.

It was recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2021, August 19, 2021, and September 16, 2021.

### **MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CARPIO, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER OTERO, CARRIED 7-0, to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2021, August 19, 2021, and September 16, 2021.**

## **VII. DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

## 1. Presentation of Urban Forestry Master Plan Updates (formerly known as the City Tree Master Plan)

Parks and Facilities Manager Danny Whaley presented an Introduction to the City's Urban Forest Management Plan (Attachment 1). The plan is part of a grant from Cal Fire and WCA. Mr. Whaley spoke on four core areas of the plan detailing the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) Tree Risk Mitigation Policy, Integrated Pest Management, Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife, and Urban Wood Recycling Program. Mr. Whaley provided additional information on out-of-grid trimming, adopt-a-tree program, frequently asked questions and answers, and an approved street tree species guide.

Public Comment - Resident had technical difficulties and unable to connect.

Commissioner Carpio asked for clarification about the 1% charge for new construction and about enforcement. Mr. Whaley responded that the plan speaks more about the protection of specific trees, but will follow up with Planning regarding the matrix for what is removed and placed on a property. Mr. Whaley stated that code enforcement is written in the City Code but is not part of the plan.

Commissioner Preciado-Becerra asked if prevention and tree care procedures have been considered in the plan. Mr. Whaley stated that prevention falls under Tree Risk, which determines how grids are created throughout the City.

Commissioner Puschila asked if the previous list of drought resistant trees affect this plan. Mr. Whaley responded that although some changes were made, the plan does not affect the list of desirable and undesirable trees.

Mr. Whaley recommended that the Commission approve the Urban Forestry Master Plan Updates to move forward and present to City Council.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PUSCHILA, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CARPIO, CARRIED 7-0, to approve the Urban Forestry Master Plan Updates.**

## 2. Discussion of Park Restroom Schedule

Mr. Whaley spoke on park restroom schedules (pre-COVID-19, current, and a proposed schedule). Based on residents' requests, Mr. Whaley recommended opening park restrooms at JFK Park, Lincoln Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Montvue Park, and Ted Greene, on a trial basis. If vandalism occurs during the trial period, staff will revert to the previous schedule.

Public Comment

Resident Stephanie Devore stated that opening restrooms in parks may be better, but how will they be properly maintained with increased usage. Staff responded that Merchant Landscape Services unlocks and services the restroom in the morning, while the security contractor locks the restrooms in the evening. Any restrooms that are opened would be serviced once a day.

Commissioner Carpio asked what the impact to the budget would be if the proposed scheduled



is followed. Staff responded that there would be no impact to the budget through the contractors. However, there could be an impact if there is damage, graffiti, or vandalism done to the restrooms.

Commissioner Otero stated that opening park restrooms would be a plus since many people visit the parks.

Commissioner Puschila commented that he has contemplated this issue and spoke on potential solutions to increasing security at parks and deterring vandalism to park restrooms.

Mr. Whaley recommended that a park pride movement or slogan similar to "if you see something, say something" could be beneficial to the community and staff.

Commissioner Preciado-Becerra stated she will share a report from Green Play, LLC that discusses what cities can do to mitigate and address the effects of homelessness in parks.

Commissioner Carpio agrees with a park pride program and public reporting when damage occurs at parks. Commissioner Carpio asked staff if ARP funds could be used for a roaming maintenance person or a security person for bathrooms.

Vice Chair Marino stated she supports the opening of restrooms to help resolve some of the issues seen at parks.

Chair Pavon stated that the Commission had recommended opening park restrooms within [one half mile] from a school, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Staff stated that after speaking with the City Manager and City Administration, staff is recommending a revised schedule of opening selected park restrooms on a trial basis.

Chair Pavon noted that District 2 park restrooms are not on the list to be opened during the week, and stated that positive activities do take place in those parks. He recommend signage for restrooms with information on how to request opening restrooms with a phone number. He asked that the recommendation for opening restrooms adjacent to schools be considered again. He supports the idea of a park message, signage or campaign for parks.

Staff asked that the Commission approve the opening of specified park restrooms on a trial basis. Staff will then report back to the Commission and consider opening additional parks.

**MOTION BY CHAIR PAVON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER PUSCHILA, CARRIED 7-0, to recommend to the City Manager and City Council to allow staff to move forward with the pilot program of opening park restrooms.**

#### **IX. STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Public Works Director Rene Guerrero reported that the Parks and Facilities Master Plan is underway with a new website created in English and Spanish. The website provides a description of what a parks and facilities master is. It explains what the goals are and what the process is. The website can be accessed through the City website and gives the community the opportunity to participate in a survey and provide input on what residents would like to see



at parks, including programming and amenities. There will be four community meeting beginning next year.

Mr. Guerrero stated that Architerra, the landscape design consultant for Hamilton Park provided City staff final construction plans for Hamilton Park. The Building and Safety Department will review and then a Request For Proposal will be prepared and released, to award a construction contract by March 2022.

Mr. Whaley stated that funding has been received for playground rubberized surfacing. He will bring this back to a future meeting to discuss a plan. He stated that staff is obtaining quotes for a potential pickle ball court.

Technical Specialist Monica Belloso reported that the City submitted a grant proposal requesting \$700,000, through the Outdoor Equity Grants Program on October 8, 2021. Staff is awaiting award announcements for five grant proposals submitted through the Proposition 68 Statewide Park Program by the end of the month.

Community Services Mike Osoff reported the following updates:

- On September 25, 2021, Community Services took families on a 'family park day' to Alameda Park in Santa Barbara, Constanso Fire Station 84 Park in Los Angeles, and Brookside Park in Pasadena. The purpose of the trip was to gather community input for the Civic Center Plaza playground project, funded through the offices of Senator Connie Leyva, in the amount of \$1.1M. Community feedback will also be applied to the Outdoor Equity Grant Program proposal.
- Six community centers are opened for After School Recreation programming and are reaching capacity. Mr. Osoff asked the Commission help spread the word that Community Services is hiring for a variety of positions.
- Mr. Osoff reminded the Commission that City Council had allocated additional funding for Recreation Coordinators, and provided hiring updates on staff for After School, Seniors, programming funded by Pomona Unified School District, and Proposition 64.
- The Haunted House will be on Friday, October 29 and Saturday, October 30 at Palomares Park from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The family-friendly area will be held outdoors this year due to COVID-19.
- The PUSD Master Joint Agreement will be going to the School Board for approval in November and then will go to City Council.

## X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pavon adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

  
Mike Osoff  
Community Services Manager

  
Fabian Pavon  
Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission