



## PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 6:30 P.M.  
Public Comment In-Person/Telephone  
Art Pick Council Chambers – City Hall  
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522

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Commissioners Present: Chair, Daniel Jester, Ward 1  
Vice Chair, Matt Friedlander, Ward 4  
Mohammad Noor, Ward 5  
Thomas Miller, Ward 6  
Rakel Engles, Ward 7

Commissioners Absent: Victoria Brodie, Citywide-Ward 1  
Blake Faris, Ward 3  
Joseph Feola, Citywide-Ward 4

Department Staff Present: Pamela Galera, Director  
Noemi Lopez, Deputy Director  
Kyle Raphael, Park Superintendent  
Ali Borujerdi, Park Project Manager  
Mayra Ocampo, Senior Administrative Analyst

City Staff Present: Phillip Nitollama, Public Works Traffic Engineer

Chair Jester called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ward 2 resident, Kevin Dawson, member of Friends of Riverside Hills, informed the Commission about a grant the 'Friends' received, many years ago. He is now proposing development of Islander Park crossing into County's Box Springs Road.

### PRESENTATIONS

#### RIVERSIDE PACT UPDATE

Phillip Nitollama, Public Works Traffic Engineer, presented the traffic plans related to the PACT project. **PACT** stands for **P**edestrian Target Safeguarding, **A**ctive Transportation, **C**omplete Streets Ordinance, **T**rail Master Plan Update.

Chair Jester expressed his excitement for the Safe Routes to School component of PACT. This will hopefully encourage more families to walk or bike to their school. Additionally, having other means of transportation to get to our parks is very exciting.

Commissioner Friedlander inquired on the timeline for the grant funds on the Main Street work, about the benefits of zipper/diagonal parking, and expressed the need for safer biking areas

near Carlson Park.

Engineer Nitollama clarified that the grant was awarded just three weeks ago. The planning and design plus construction of the awards will be approximately three years. He clarified that zipper parking encourages a calmer traffic area, think of it as the Riverside Plaza.

Commissioner Miller asked if the City plans on using City Staff or RFPs to outsource the million dollars' worth of work.

Engineer Nitollama confirmed the idea is to outsource the design to excellent and qualified design consultants to move the projects along. Once design plans are done, the City can go out to bid for construction.

Director Galera presented on trails related to the PACT project.

#### PLANNING & DESIGN – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES

Ali Borujerdi, Project Manager and Director Galera presented and gave updates on all capital improvement projects.

Project Manager Borujerdi shared a conceptual drawing of how the basketball courts at Bordwell Park will look with an art piece on the court.

Director Galera highlighted that the Department received a grant from CalFire to complete work at Camp Evans at Fairmount Park.

Commissioner Miller inquired on timelines for so many projects and the different funding sources.

Director Galera clarified that funding sources with closer timelines are being completed first to ensure the Department stays in compliance.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

The following matter, presented to the Park and Recreation Commission on the consent calendar for consideration, was approved by a motion affirming the action appropriate to the item:

Minutes for the December 18, 2023, meeting

Motion: Friedlander  
Second: Rakel  
Ayes: All

#### DISCUSSION CALENDAR

#### ATTENDANCE

The Park and Recreation Commission excused the absence of Commissioner Feola from the December 18, 2023, regular meeting.

Motion: Mohammad  
Second: Rakel  
Ayes: All

## COMMUNICATIONS

### BRIEF REPORTS ON EVENTS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chair Friedlander attended the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Holiday Party and enjoyed the celebration.

Chair Jester adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAYRA S. OCAMPO  
Sr. Administrative Analyst