



PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, September 16, 2024, 6:30 P.M.
Public Comment In-Person/Telephone
Art Pick Council Chambers – City Hall
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522

Commissioners Present: Chair, Matt Friedlander, Ward 4
Chad Young, Ward 1
Kevin Dawson, Ward 2
Stephanie Schaefer, Ward 3
Tracy Barlogio, Citywide-Ward 5
Thomas Miller, Ward 6
Barry Johnson, Ward 7

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair, Mohammad Noor, Ward 5

Department Staff Present: Pamela Galera, Director
Noemi Lopez, Deputy Director
Anthony Zamora, Deputy Director
Jessica Ochoa, Recreation Supervisor
Stephanie Gallegos, Recreation Supervisor
Sandra Campbell, Sr. Administrative Assistant

City Staff Present: Robert Filiar, Urban Forester Manager, Public Works
Lee Withers, Deputy Director-Field Ops, Public Works

Chair Friedlander called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one wishing to address the Commission, and no e-comments were received prior to the start of the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (PRCSD) SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation Supervisor Jessica Ochoa delivered a presentation on PRCSD Summer Highlights.

Chair Friedlander stated it was a nice summer and a nice job was done with all the amazing programming and special events.

Commissioner Barlogio congratulated staff on a great summer. He attended concerts,

went to three swimming pools, and saw the paddle boats on the lake. It was a fabulous summer for parks.

At this moment, Chair Friedlander welcomed two new Commissioners. Ward 1 Commissioner Chad Young and Ward 3 Commissioner Stephanie Schaefer.

UPDATE ON THE URBAN POLICY MANUAL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY–FIRE SERVICES INFLATION, REDUCTION ACT GRANT AWARD, TREE PLANTING, REMOVALS AND TRIMMINGS

Urban Forester Manager Robert Filiar delivered the presentation.

Commissioner Barlogio asked how the districts that were presented in the presentation are determined in the city.

Urban Forester Manager Filiar stated that the Contractor calls them districts, which are actually grids that are spread throughout the city.

Commissioner Young asked when the in-house database/inventory management system will be complete.

Urban Forester Manager Filiar stated that the RFP was just prepared, and the plan is to get it out in the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner Young asked if they had a scope for the database/inventory and what the Department is looking for.

Urban Forester Manager Filiar stated that they are working with IT and other departments.

Commissioner Dawson asked if there was a plan to protect City trees considering the challenges of the high heat and surrounding fire issues.

Urban Forester Manager Filiar stated that in some places there is an automatic irrigation system. They depend on the public to hand water trees where there is not an irrigation system. They try to plant trees where there is an irrigation system.

Commissioner Dawson asked for advice on how to get water to new trees planted in turf area.

Urban Forester Manager Filiar stated that deep root water is important for young trees. This can be accomplished by letting hose drip or installing a bubbler system or drip system.

Commissioner Miller asked what the timeframe was for the \$2 million-dollar Measure Z funding for trimming of the palms.

Urban Forester Manager Filiar stated that it is up next year. They are going to the Budget

Engagement Commission in October to request the money and inform them about how important it is to continue with this funding.

Following the presentation, a motion was made to accept the update.

Motion: Johnson
Second: Barlogio
Ayes: All

RENOVATION OF CESAR CHAVEZ COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

Recreation Supervisor Stephanie Gallegos delivered the update on the Renovation of the Cesar Chavez Community Center.

Commissioner Dawson asked what the scope of this remodel is, and wanted clarification if the remodel would include the outside including the grounds around the building or only the interior of the building.

Recreation Supervisor Gallegos stated that most of the effort will be to bring the building up to code which includes ADA accessibility. We hope that there will be enough funds to prioritize other items, such as landscaping.

Commissioner Dawson asked if the remodel is conforming with the requirements of the Green Code and Title 24.

Recreation Supervisor Gallegos said yes and referred to one aspect concerning the use of natural gas. Recreation Supervisor Gallegos stated that the building is 93% electric. There are four large air conditioning units that are still gas and have 10 years life span left. When these last Air Conditioners are replaced in the future the building will be 100% all electric.

Commissioner Dawson asked if we have explored Federal and State incentives that might be available.

Recreation Supervisor Gallegos stated that once we know the costs we will seek CDBG funds or grant opportunities mentioned.

Recreation Supervisor Gallegos stated she will send the Commissioners a link to the Department website's landing page where they can review all the information of concepts as well as Community Engagement meetings. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 23rd from 6:30-8:30pm at Bobby Bonds Park.

Commissioner Barlogio asked if the landing page talks about all upcoming projects, in particular asked if the new gym at Bordwell Park is mentioned.

Recreation Supervisor Gallegos confirmed there are two landing pages, one through ELS/Event Bright and one through the City's Communication Team for all department major projects.

Following the presentation, a motion was made to accept the update on the Renovation

of the Cesar Chavez Community Center.

Motion: Dawson
Second: Barlogio
Ayes: All

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

MINUTES

The minutes of August 19, 2024.

ATTENDANCE

The Park and Recreation Commission accepted to record the absence of Chair Friedlander from the August 19, 2024; regular meeting as excused.

The Park and Recreation Commission accepted to record the absence of Commissioner Young from the August 19, 2024; regular meeting as excused.

Motion: Miller
Second: Johnson
Ayes: All, except Friedlander and Dawson
Abstained: Friedlander
Opposed: Dawson

COMMUNICATIONS

UPDATES OF EVENTS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COMMISSIONERS

Chair Friedlander attended Parks with Pamela.

Commissioner Barlogio attended the Safety Meeting with the Mayor.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

Commissioner Dawson wants to have a discussion on how the Commission Agenda is set.

Commissioner Dawson requested information on the Commissions purpose.

Commissioner Dawson would like a report on water concerns at Fairmount Park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Galera announced that paddle boats have been out on Lake Evans.

Deputy Director Lopez stated the paddle boats will be going until the end of September, depending on the weather. They are open from 12-6 p.m.

Recreation Supervisor Ochoa announced that the Bourns Family Youth Innovation Center is celebrating its 3rd Birthday. The celebration will take place throughout the week of September 23rd to September 27th, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 25th is the actual birth date.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 21, 2024.

Chair Friedlander adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SANDRA D. CAMPBELL
Sr. Administrative Assistant