



City of Arts & Innovation

MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, January 11, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Dales Senior Center – White Park
3936 Chestnut Street
Riverside, CA 92501
951-826-2000

Commissioners Present: **Whatley, Johnson, Lyles, Negron, Venegas, Cardullo, Elliot and Feola**

Commissioners Absent: **Rounds**

Riverside Youth Council Present: Blanc

Staff Present: Adolfo Cruz, Director
Mario Lara, Deputy Director
Robin Metz, Recreation Superintendent
Patricia Solano, Community Services Superintendent
Andrew Emery, Park Superintendent
Rachel McLure, Senior Management Analyst
Ronald Profeta, Special Transit Manager
Mayra Ocampo, Senior Administrative Assistant

Public Works Staff Present: Guy Tanaka, Landscape and Tree Inspector

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Whatley called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were two public speakers at the meeting. Ward 7 resident John Dave Denilos commented about the crime in the parks and closing La Sierra Park. Ward 3 resident Marlene Mossetad mentioned a few suggestions regarding graffiti removal.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission approved the minutes for the December 7, 2015, meeting as presented.

Motion: Johnson
Second: Negron
Ayes: All except Cardullo
Abstain: Cardullo

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:

3. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT URBAN FORESTRY / LANDSCAPE DIVISION QUARTERLY REPORT

Commissioner Johnson pulled the report to inquire about the uneven ratio of trees removed and planted; and asked if new developments must plant trees as a City of Riverside requirement.

Park Superintendent Emery introduce Tree Inspector Guy Tanaka.

Tree Inspector Tanaka confirmed that private developments' tree planting do not get tracked but are required. He also mentioned that Arborist Day is approaching where many tree planting projects take place, at that time the ratio usually evens out.

Commissioner Whatley asked that Commissioners be invited to any events during Arborist Day.

Motion: Johnson
Second: Elliot
Ayes: All

DISCUSSION**4. UPDATE REGARDING BUDGET PRIORITIES**

Director Cruz presented the report and gave an explanation about budget requests.

Chair Whatley encouraged Commissioners to speak out regarding a budget requests they have a passion for.

After discussion, a motion was made to receive the report for file.

Motion: Elliot
Second: Cardullo
Ayes: All

5. UPDATE ON SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION PROPOSED RATE INCREASE FROM \$2.00 PER TRIP TO \$3.00 PER TRIP

Superintendent Solano presented the PowerPoint and informed the Commissioners that many presentations and research has been done since the Commission presentation at the September 14, 2015, meeting.

Chair Whatley asked that Commissioners be invited to all Community Services and Youth Committee and City Council meetings regarding Special Transit fare increase. They want to support the Department.

Commissioner Johnson asked if incremental increases are an option due to the fixed income of seniors.

Superintendent Solano informed the Commissioners that all options are being reviewed and with each fare option, Management must also take staff time and additional costs into consideration to make the increase valuable.

Director Cruz confirmed that Special Transit Staff will return to the Commission after more research and presentations are done.

After discussion, a motion was made to receive the report for file.

Motion: Elliot
Second: Johnson
Ayes: All

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETING DATES, AND COMMISSION REQUESTS

1. Youth Liaison Blanc invited Staff and the Commissioners to the Martin Luther King, Jr. walk on Monday, January 18. Sign-ups will take place at Bordwell Park at 7:30 a.m., walk will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.; ending at White Park with a Rock-a-Thon.
2. Commissioner Negron invited Staff and the Commissioners to the following events:
 - a) Native Community Special Event on Saturday, January 23, at the Main Library
 - b) African American Workshop on Saturday, January 23, at the Grove Church
 - c) Moon Festival on Saturday, January 30, in Downtown Riverside
3. Commissioner Johnson commented about the Riverside Municipal Codes Ad-Hoc Committee meeting; he said there wasn't anything controversial and a report to the full Commission is coming soon.
4. Commissioner Elliot asked if the Department is still mowing turf during water conservations:
 - a) Park Superintendent Emery confirmed that lots of water wise improvements are complete and many are being planned; in the meantime mowing is necessary in many areas.
5. Chair Whatley inquired about the current graffiti removal process:
 - a) Park Superintendent Emery confirmed all reported graffiti is painted immediately and the affected areas are pressure washed once a month with the equipment on-hand; there are certain limitations on where the equipment can reach.
6. Chair Whatley inquired about crime in the parks and if Staff tracks the issues:
 - a) Director Cruz informed the Commission about the Community Livability Taskforce; which consists of six Riverside Police Officers who deal with homeless issues and work directly with our Parks Division. A report is emailed every Friday; and their efforts are incredible.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Whatley adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, 2016, at Dales Senior Center – White Park, 3936 Chestnut Street, Riverside, CA 92501.