



Park and Recreation Commission Report – Presented by Former Chairperson Barry Johnson

City Council
April 25, 2017

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CURRENT ROSTER

1. M. Todd Rounds, Chair, Ward 4
2. Amy Cardullo, Vice Chair, Ward 3
3. Becky Whatley, Ward 1
4. Barry Johnson, Ward 7
5. Luz Negron, Ward 2
6. John Venegas, Ward 4 (Citywide)
7. Walter Elliot, Ward 5
8. Joseph Feola, Ward 4 (Citywide)
9. Vacant, Ward 6



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RIVERSIDE CITY CHARTER

Sec. 809. Park and Recreation Commission.

There shall be a Park and Recreation Commission which shall have the power and duty to:

- (a) Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to parks, recreation, parkways and street trees.
- (b) Consider the annual budget for parks, recreation, parkways and street tree purposes during the process of its preparation and make recommendations with respect thereto to the City Council and the City Manager.
- (c) Assist in the planning of parks and recreation programs for the inhabitants of the City, promote and stimulate public interest therein, and to that end solicit to the fullest extent possible the cooperation of school authorities and other public and private agencies interested therein.
- (d) Establish policies for the acquisition, development and improvement of parks and playgrounds and for the planting, care and removal of trees and shrubs in all parks, playgrounds and streets, subject to the rights and powers of the City Council.

(Effective 12/27/1995)



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COMMISSION ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Provided input for biennial budget in context of the five year financial plan.
2. Assisted in updating the Riverside Municipal Code as it pertains to parks.
3. Assisted in updating the Urban Forestry Policy Manual.



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COMMISSION ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

4. Acknowledged donation from Rotary Club of Riverside for the 9th Annual Young Men's Conference.
5. Reviewed volunteer program which is tremendously invaluable and beneficial to delivery of park programs and services.
6. Received update and provided input on Park Master Plan project.



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DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Removal and replacement of 111,650 square feet of turf (2.5 acres); and weather-based irrigation control system expanded to 30 parks.
2. Installed shade structures over playgrounds at Villegas Park and Lincoln Park.
3. Recipient of two CPRS awards of excellence for Riverside Arts Academy program and Champion of the Community.



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DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

4. Playful Cities designation 9 years in a row!
5. The Department received its first National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) grant for the "Walk with Ease" grant for seniors.
6. Wrought iron decorative fence adorns Arlanza Community Garden.



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PARTNERSHIPS

1. **HEAL Zone/NEOP** - HEAL Zone pole banners were strategically hung around the perimeter of the Eastside delineating the HEAL Zone area.
2. **Riverside Arts Academy Board** - Riverside Arts Academy offered art classes to 395 participants in session 6 of Fiscal Year 2016-2017.
3. **Riverside Unified School District (RUSD)** - Summer of 2016, PRCSD and RUSD collaborated to provide 53,854 lunches to youth in the city during the Summer Feeds program.



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PARTNERSHIPS CONTINUED

4. **Kaiser Permanente Foundation** - Operation Splash was a success, offering 1,307 swim lessons last summer.
5. **Riverside Public Utilities** - Currently, with RPU's partnership, installation of water-wise landscaping at the Janet Goeske Senior Center is underway; and presently upgrading the City-wide irrigation controller communication system.



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ACTIVITIES ATTENDED

1. Summer Concert Series/Riverside Sings Competition
2. Mariachi Festival
3. Staff Appreciation Events
4. Mayor and Council Regatta
5. Operation Splash Swim Season Kickoff
6. NEOP Health Fair



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FUTURE CHALLENGES

1. Park Master Plan – Community Outreach/Participation
2. Continue to foster productive partnerships that allow for expanded and enhanced programming.
3. Monitor and request funding to continue supporting the programs the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department offers.



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RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council receive and file the Park and Recreation Commission report.



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