



MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, August 15, 2022, 6:30pm
Art Pick Council Chambers – City Hall
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522
Virtual Meeting – Live Webcast

Commissioners Present: Chair, Nathan Iverson, Ward 5
Vice Chair, Daniel Jester, Ward 1
Cecelia Fairfax, Ward 2
Andrew Guerra, Jr., Ward 3
Matt Friedlander, Ward 4
Joseph Feola, Citywide, Ward 4
Arthur Santore, Ward 6
Rakel Engles, Ward 7

Commissioners Absent: Patrick Taber, Citywide, Ward 4

Department Staff Present: Pamela Galera, Director
Randy McDaniel, Deputy Director
Noemi Lopez, Deputy Director
Kyle Raphael, Park Superintendent
Ron Profeta, Special Transportation Manager
Gabriella Garcia, Administrative Services Manager
Inge Tunggal djaja, Senior Administrative Analyst
Sandra Campbell, Senior Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

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

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

1. To comment on any matters within the jurisdiction of the Park and Recreation Commission, you are invited to participate in person or call at (669) 900-6833 and enter Meeting ID: 926 9699 1265. Press *9 to be placed in the queue to speak. Individuals in the queue will be prompted to unmute by pressing *6 when you are ready to speak.

To participate via ZOOM, use the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/92696991265>, select the "raise hand" function to request to speak. An on-screen message will prompt you to "unmute" and speak.

1. David Romo (Ward 1) – Reid Park Little League. Concerned and ask for direction and what they can do to be listened to and to get understanding why the bathroom where the little league play cannot be updated and cleaned.
2. Incoming Board Member for Reid Park (Ward 1) – The lighting is an issue when the time changes and it will be dark. The T-Ball field is unleveled full of holes. Women's bathroom has sewage coming to feet, no toilet paper, not acceptable.
3. Andrea, incoming Board of Reid Park (Ward 1) – The bathroom is unacceptable and has been since she played T-Ball, she now has children. It is unsanitary.
4. Monica Guzman, Incoming Board Member Reid Park (Ward 1) – Inviting the Commissioners to see the park bathroom and how awful the conditions are. They have sent 311 requests, has talked to Councilmember, seems no one is paying attention to the kids at Reid Park.
5. Sandra Hughey – Perthshire Place in Sycamore Canyon. Still having issues with trash on street, lots of traffic in the evening, also in the morning filling the entire street. Concerned when the issues at Perthshire Place will be revisited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING: JULY 18, 2022

No discussion, motion made to approve the minutes for the July 18, 2022, meeting.

Motion: Fairfax
Second: Guerra, Jr.
Ayes: All

PRESENTATION

3. ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM POLICY

Director, Pamela Galera, and Administrative Services Manager, Gabriella Garcia presented an update on the Adopt-A-Park Program to the Commission.

Vice Chair Jester had a few inquiries:

1. Asked if thought was given into tiering based on size of the park?
2. Asked how far would \$5,000 go?
3. Asked if donations collected once or annually?
4. Asked what account does the donations go into and are they protected from being used for other things? Asked if those accounts accrue interest?

Administrative Services Manager, Gabriella Garcia stated the following:

1. Department set a \$5,000 donation, but also discussed that larger parks can have multiple adopters.
2. Adopters can donate \$5,000 or more or volunteer their hours to specific areas such as the Rose Garden, playgrounds, and lake maintenance.
3. On the Adopt-A-Park application they can choose their payment terms such as monthly semi-monthly, or annually.
4. Finance Department will set up a separate account and the donations will go into those

accounts.

5. Will confirm with Finance Department is interest is accrued within donation accounts.

Park Superintendent, Kyle Raphael stated the following to Vice Chair Jester's question #2:

- A donation of \$5,000 won't go very far. It would be more for minor maintenance issues.

Commissioner Engle had questions:

1. Looking at the application there is a preferred adoption location question. Asked those who want to join this program do not get to decide what park they would be adopting and contributing towards?
2. Asked if there was a limit on how many people can adopt a certain park?

Administrative Services Manager, Gabriella Garcia stated the following:

1. The final say would be the Park Superintendent and Director. It is very unlikely that they would not get a say on how it would be contributed.
2. Not at the moment.

Park Superintendent, Kyle Raphael gave feedback on the expectations on what donation funds would go towards.

Commissioner Engle wanted clarification: Is this encouraging potential adoptees to join even with non-monetary commitments they would also be considered adopters.

Administrative Services Manager, Gabriella Garcia stated correct, there is volunteer hour options as well for parks clean up and beautification projects.

Chair Iverson asked if there would be an option for community members to request a quote for bathrooms for adoption purposes and fund raising?

Administrative Services Manager, Gabriella Garcia stated they can adopt a park and fundraise, they would work with the Parks Division and Park, Planning and Design Team depending on the project, to find what cost would be. The teams would give an estimate.

Vice Chair Jester had a clarifying question for Park Superintendent, Kyle Raphael: Asked if the priority beautification projects over needed maintenance in our parks for this program?

Park Superintendent, Kyle Raphael stated no, we have areas that need planning or additional planning those are the type of things we would direct the money towards.

Commissioner Friedlander had questions:

1. Asked if a doner could direct their donation to go towards fixing a bathroom.
2. Asked if a construction firm gets together with Department, would the donations of material need to be \$5,000 worth, or do we request material and equipment needed.
3. If company wants to donate trash cans, bike racks, etc. is it best they go through Department to donate the correct item or money needed?

Administrative Services Manager, Gabriella Garcia stated:

1. For a park's construction project, we consult with the Park, Planning and Design Section to see if park/project is on the list and contributions can go towards that. If not on the list,

we can check with planning to see if they could hold the donation for upcoming repairs.

2. It would be a \$5,000 value to be considered Adopt-A-Park. We can accept in-kind sponsorships not related to Adopt-A-Park. The City has a policy for donations that are not related to Adopt-A-Park for any amount.
3. Correct. Those type of donations they consult with our Parks Division and planners, they submit an application, we review, then reach out to them to coordinate.

Chair Iverson asked if someone wants to reach out to get a quote who is recommended to reach out to?

Administrative Services Manager, Gabriella Garcia stated, for a quote and to fill out an application, the best person to reach out to is Park Superintendent, Kyle Raphael. Once new employees are hired (in-process), we will have an email where applications, inquiries and donations can be sent to.

Vice Chair Jester stated that programs like this are great for the parks and getting people involved and can be a great mechanism. We have to be aware of inequitable situations that we are creating. Some parks with groups have more opportunity and resources and other parks neglected as a result. Goal as Ward 1 Commissioner is to try to fix that.

Director, Pamela Galera wanted to summarize that this is just one of the many ways that residents can help the parks system. Department has two volunteer programs coming up. The Department also work with so many wonderful groups in Riverside.

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

Motion: Feola
Second: Santore
Ayes: All

4. PARKS DIVISION DEFERRED MAINTENANCE BUDGET

Director, Pamela Galera, Administrative Services Manager, Gabriella Garcia, Senior Administrative Analyst, Inge Tunggalajaja, and Park Superintendent, Kyle Raphael presented on the Parks Division Deferred Maintenance Budget to the Commission.

Public Comments:

David Romo (Ward 1) – Appreciated the efforts discussed in report, is concerned with Reid Park bathroom, lighting, and holes in the field.

Vice Chair Jester had comments and questions:

1. Asked if the approximate calculations of \$6.9 million of unfunded deferred maintenance is annual?
2. Even on a schedule some of the maintenance items for all the parks are unfunded, if we receive the “unfunded amount”, we’re not back to square one, we have to come up with that money every single year.
3. How are the parks 62% underfunded? How long have we been seriously under-funded?

Director, Pamela Galera stated:

1. Correct. The goal is to get on a schedule.
2. Yes, and it also does not cover failing infrastructure, it addresses the most urgent items the Department has.

Deputy Director, Randy McDaniel responded to Vice Chair Jester's question #3; he clarified the Department had an increase in utility costs, hiring freezes, inflation, increased developed parkland, and new community centers but the budget allocation for maintenance did not keep pace.

After the presentation, motion was made to recommend to the City Council that during the next budget cycle, they increase the Park and Recreation Department's budget by \$7.3M to cover the annual unfunded deferred maintenance of all parks in the City.

Motion: Jester

After discussion, the motion was amended to recommend to the Mayor and City Council that during the next budget cycle, they increase the Park and Recreation Department's budget by \$7.3M to cover the annual unfunded deferred maintenance of all parks in the City.

Motion: Jester
Second: Iverson
Ayes: All

Commissioner Santore asked why we are moving forward with the Gateway Project since funding is not available.

Chair Iverson and Vice Chair Jester confirmed the Gateway Project is not a funded project and can be discussed when it is on the agenda again.

Motion carries.

After further discussion, Staff confirmed they will provide Commissioners with future meeting dates and types regarding budget proposals.

Public Comments:

1. Incoming Board for Reid Park (Ward 1) – Inquired about the revenue allocation from facility rentals; asked if it can be used towards safety issues at Reid Park.

Vice Chair Jester requested a future report regarding the 311 Call Center's requests sent to the Park and Recreation Department.

2. Andrea, Board Member Reid Park (Ward 1) – Expressed her concerns with safety issues concerning Reid Park. Thanked the Commissioners for their shared concerns.
3. David Romo (Ward 1) – Expressed concerns with not getting responses from 311 requests. Shared a flyer from 311 with Commissioners.

After discussion, motion was made to accept all comments for item #4.

Motion: Friedlander
Second: Guerra, Jr.
Ayes: All

ITEMS FOR FUTURE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION CONSIDERATION AS REQUESTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2022, at 6:30pm.

Vice Chair Jester would like a discussion with the Commissioners about the Gateway Park Project in the particular Loring Park at a future meeting.

Deputy Director Randy McDaniel confirmed the Gateway Project will be presented at the September meeting. Staff will present the plan for future plans in regard to the Park Master Plan.

Chair Iverson adjourned the meeting at 8:09pm.