



*City of Arts & Innovation*

**MINUTES  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Monday, August 8, 2016, 6:30 p.m.  
Dales Senior Center – White Park  
3936 Chestnut Street  
Riverside, CA 92501  
951-826-2000

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

Commissioners Absent: Whatley – excused for business  
Rounds – excused for business

Staff Present: Adolfo Cruz, Director  
Mario Lara, Deputy Director  
Robin Metz, Recreation Superintendent  
Patricia Solano, Community Services Superintendent  
Andrew Emery, Park Superintendent  
Randy McDaniel, Principal Park Planner  
Mayra Ocampo, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Socorro Huerta, Community Services Supervisor  
Terence Berry, Job Developer/John Muir Charter School  
Jovan Fontenot, Recreation Services Coordinator  
Daniel Castaneda, Recreation Leader

Community Development Staff Present: Emilio Ramirez, Deputy Director  
Agueda Padilla, Program Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Resident James Matus commented that Rutland Park has many amenities but needs public restrooms for residents to fully enjoy the park.

**2. CORRESPONDENCE**

Chair Johnson appreciated seeing such positive feedback from a 91 year resident that uses City services.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Commission approved the minutes for the July 11, 2016, meeting as presented.

Motion: Cardullo  
Second: Lyles  
Ayes: All

Chair Johnson announced the discussion item would be heard before presentation item.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **5. UPDATE REGARDING PROPOSED CASA BLANCA EDUCATIONAL GARDEN**

Community Development Deputy Director Ramirez presented the PowerPoint and informed the Commission he and Program Assistant, Agueda Padilla, were there to answer any questions.

Commissioner Negrón entered the meeting at this time.

Deputy Director Ramirez explained that the land being discussed was gained by the Successor Agency, is landlocked and cannot be sold. He mentioned Library Director, Tonya Kennon, Parks Recreation and Community Services Director, Adolfo Cruz, and Riverside Public Utilities Director, Girish Balachandran, met regarding the development of this garden, because it involves all departments.

Commissioner Cardullo recommended Community Development Staff contact Riverside Community College and their community garden because it seems very successful.

Commissioner Negrón recommended that youth be involved in the garden.

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

Motion: Elliot  
Second: Feola  
Ayes: All

## **PRESENTATION**

### **4. UPDATE ON THE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE VOCATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AND THE VOLUNTEERS IN PRACTICE**

Superintendents Metz and Solano presented the PowerPoint and introduced staff that make the Vocational Internship Program and VolunTeens in Practice a success; Supervisor Huerta, Job Developer Terence Berry, Recreation Services Coordinator Jovan Fontenot and Recreation Leader Daniel Castaneda.

A special treat during the meeting were the five VolunTeens who showed-up, with their supportive parents, to give a brief version of their experience; Kaizen Schanz (Admin Office), Brianna Brizuela (Hunt Park), Kayla Hernandez (Aquatics Section), Paul Fuery (Bordwell Park), and Isaac Razo (La Sierra Park), were all very happy to have gained parks and recreation knowledge and skills.

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

Motion: Venegas  
Second: Feola  
Ayes: All

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETING DATES, AND COMMISSION REQUESTS**

Commissioner Negrón

- Invited Commissioners to a Grant Workshop, being held tomorrow by Congressman Takano.

Commissioner Cardullo

- Informed Staff that the Riverside Road Runners started yesterday at Arlington Heights Sports Park, and it should be another successful season.

Commissioner Lyles

- Informed Staff and Commission that she is moving to Oklahoma; therefore tonight is her last meeting.

Chair Johnson

- Thanked Commissioner Lyles for her time; she will be missed on the Commission.
- He congratulated Staff on a great summer concert series. The Riverside Sings was a great way to finish the last concert at Fairmount Park.

Director Cruz

- Thanked Lyles for support at all Department events and for her time on the Commission.

Community Services Superintendent Solano

- Invited Commissioners to the Senior Fitness Fair and Expo at Bordwell Park on Tuesday, August 23, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.

Principal Park Planner McDaniel

- Informed the Commission that Department is moving forward with T-Street Skate Park.

Commissioner Elliot

- Informed Staff and Commission that he will not be present for September's Commission meeting.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 12, 2016, at Dales Senior Center – White Park, 3936 Chestnut Street, Riverside, CA 92501.