



MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Monday, June 21, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting – Live Webcast

Commissioners Present: Chair Joseph Feola, Citywide - Ward 4
(Current Vacancy: Ward 6) Vice Chair Nathan Iverson, Ward 5
Amy Cardullo, Ward 3
Matt Friedlander, Ward 4
Patrick Taber, Citywide - Ward 4
Rakel Engles, Ward 7

Commissioners Absent: Cecelia Fairfax, Ward 2
Daniel Jester, Ward 1

Department Staff Present: Noemi Lopez, Recreation Superintendent
Kyle Raphael, Park Superintendent
Ronald Profeta, Special Transit Manager
Alisa Sramala Dawson, Trails Coordinator
Mayra Ocampo, Administrative Analyst

Public Works Staff Present: Robert Filiar, Urban Forester
Alex Rodriguez, Senior Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Feola called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- 1. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA OR ANY MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION CAN BE SUBMITTED BY eCOMMENTS AT WWW.RIVERSIDECA.GOV/MEETING OR VIA EMAIL PARKS@RIVERSIDECA.GOV UNTIL TWO HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING.**

No public comments were received for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2. PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING: MAY 17, 2021**

No discussion, motion was made to approve the minutes for the May 17, 2021, meeting.

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Engles
Ayes: All, except Friedlander
Abstain: Friedlander; not a Commissioner last month.

PRESENTATION

3. UPDATE ON THE SANTA ANA RIVER GATEWAY PROJECT

Recreation Superintendent Lopez informed the Commission that Commissioner Jester requested this item but could not attend the meeting today.

No discussion, motion was made to postpone this item until July when Commissioner Jester is in attendance.

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Friedlander
Ayes: All

DISCUSSION

4. STREET TREE PROGRAM – REPLACEMENT OF A RESIGNED COMMISSIONER ON THE URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL AD-HOC COMMITTEE

Urban Forester Filiar reintroduced this item. The item is back on the agenda because existing committee member is no longer a member of the Commission.

Commissioner Cardullo requested timeframe for the committee.

Urban Forester Filiar confirmed the commitment is 6-8 months and meetings will begin before the end of the month.

After discussion, motion was made to appoint Commissioner Friedlander to the ad-hoc committee.

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Engles
Ayes: All

5. REMOVAL OF TWELVE PALM TREES AND TWO CANOPY TREES FOR THE DWIGHT AVENUE STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Urban Forester Filiar introduced this item. He confirmed that anytime there are more than four trees within a quarter block radius, the City must get approval from the Park and Recreation Commission to remove them. He confirmed that businesses and property owners surrounding

the area have been informed and no negative feedback has been given.

After discussion, Commissioner Cardullo made a motion to accept the removal of trees for the Dwight Avenue Street Improvement Project and to plant new trees if space is available.

Senior Engineer Alex Ramirez, who is leading the project, confirmed square footage of the project and stated space will not be available to plant new trees. He also confirmed letters were mailed to residents; a few calls were received for clarification, but all in favor of the project.

After discussion, motion stands with the understanding that space will not be available to plant new trees.

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Friedlander
Ayes: All

Vice Chair Iverson joined the meeting at this point, at 6:47pm.

6. 2021 SUMMER EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

Recreation Superintendent Lopez introduced this item. She confirmed that parks, community centers and amenities are open and confirmed that traditional summer programming is in full effect. This summer’s activity guide is in mini-form but still full of programming for all to enjoy. She mentioned masks are required for all non-vaccinated park patrons.

Commissioner Engles ask if proof of vaccination will be verified.

Recreation Superintendent Lopez confirmed that all park patrons are on the honor system as proof of vaccination isn’t permitted.

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

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Friedlander
Ayes: All

7. CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT ANNUAL REVIEW

Recreation Superintendent Lopez introduced this item.

No discussion, a motion was made to accept the report.

Motion: Friedlander
Second: Cardullo
Ayes: All

8. VERBAL UPDATE --- STATUS ON THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE PARK RANGER PROGRAM: THE PARK AND NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY SPECIALISTS PROGRAM

Recreation Superintendent Lopez requested the Commission postpone this item until July to ensure the update can be provided by Director Cruz.

No discussion, motion was made to postpone this item until July.

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Friedlander
Ayes: All

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

Chair Feola adjourned the meeting at 6:55pm. The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting, with hybrid options, is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 19, 2021.