



**MINUTES**  
**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Monday, July 19, 2021, 6:30 p.m.  
Art Pick Council Chambers – City Hall  
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522  
Virtual Meeting – Live Webcast

Commissioners Present: Chair Joseph Feola, Citywide - Ward 4  
(Current Vacancy: Ward 6) Vice-Chair Nathan Iverson, Ward 5  
Matt Friedlander, Ward 4  
Rakel Engles, Ward 7  
Daniel Jester, Ward 1  
Cecelia Fairfax, Ward 2

Commissioners Absent: Patrick Taber, Citywide - Ward 4  
Amy Cardullo, Ward 3

Department Staff Present: Adolfo Cruz, Director  
Randy McDaniel, Deputy Director  
Noemi Lopez, Recreation Superintendent  
Kyle Raphael, Park Superintendent  
Ronald Profeta, Special Transit Manager  
Mayra Ocampo, Administrative Analyst  
Jarin Valencia, Parks Supervisor  
Jacob Schwerdt, Parks Supervisor  
Anthony Zamora, Recreation Supervisor

**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](http://WWW.RIVERSIDECA.GOV/MEETING) OR VIA EMAIL [PARKS@RIVERSIDECA.GOV](mailto:PARKS@RIVERSIDECA.GOV) UNTIL TWO HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING.**

eComment received from resident, Sandra Hughey. Ms. Hughey stated her concerns regarding Sycamore Highland Park.

Director Cruz informed Commissioners about the efforts the City has made to assist the residents of Sycamore Highland Park and their concerns. He will ensure City Departments regroup in a few months to see what else can be done.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **2. PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING: JUNE 21, 2021**

No discussion, a motion was made to approve the minutes for the June 21, 2021, meeting.

Motion: Friedlander  
Second: Jester  
Ayes: All

## **PRESENTATION**

### **3. PRESENTATION OF PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT VIDEO**

Director Cruz presented the item and showed the video. He presented the Employees of the Year, Recreation Supervisors Anthony Zamora and Jessica Ochoa, and Parks Supervisors Jarin Valencia and Jacob Schwerdt, and Director's Challenge Award recipient, Noemi Lopez.

After positive comments of appreciation, a motion was made to accept the report for file.

Motion: Friedlander  
Second: Fairfax  
Ayes: All

### **4. UPDATE ON THE SANTA ANA RIVER GATEWAY PROJECT**

Deputy Director McDaniel presented PowerPoint.

Deputy Director McDaniel confirmed that upcoming projects are not funded through General Fund; they are either grants or through the Regional Park Fees.

Commissioner Jester thanked Deputy Director McDaniel for the information and asked for clarification on where the \$2M will be spent.

Deputy Director McDaniel confirmed the \$2M would be spent on projects at Fairmount Park for Camp Evans and to the natural habitat.

Commissioner Jester asked how the projects would be prioritized.

Deputy Director McDaniel confirmed that partnership projects and grant opportunity projects would jump to the top because of better funding options; but emphasized that community input will be a big component of the priority list.

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

Motion: Jester  
Second: Engles  
Ayes: All

## **5. UPDATE ON THE GAGE CANAL TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS MASTER PLAN PROJECT**

Deputy Director McDaniel presented Alta Planning + Design consultants Vincent Hellens and James Powell to present PowerPoint; they confirmed that design will begin in early 2022.

Commissioner Jester thanked the consultants for their thoughtfulness in the great design; he inquired if there are long-term plans if this original plan is successful.

Deputy Director McDaniel confirmed that other trail segments are in the long-term plans.

Commissioner Friedlander stated he crosses that area of the City and couldn't agree more with the project.

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

Motion: Jester  
Second: Fairfax  
Ayes: All

## **DISCUSSION**

### **6. VERBAL UPDATE --- STATUS ON THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE PARK AND NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY SPECIALISTS PROGRAM; FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE PARK RANGER PROGRAM**

Director Cruz referenced the PowerPoint that was presented to the Budget Engagement Committee by the Riverside Police Department. He emphasized PANS will monitor and support the neighborhoods surrounding community parks and open space.

Next Step: August 17, 2021, Human Resources will be taking new job class to Council. If approved, it will go to recruitment.

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

Motion: Jester  
Second: Engles  
Ayes: All

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

Director Cruz confirmed the first two concerts of the summer have had an amazing turn out.

Commissioner Friedlander commented that he visited the Movies in the Park special event and witnessed a great turn out and had a blast.

Director Cruz announced his retirement and thanked the Commissioners for their commitment.

Chair Feola adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm. The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 20, 2021, at 6:30pm.