



City of Arts & Innovation

**MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Monday, July 13, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
La Sierra Senior Center – La Sierra Park
5215 La Sierra Avenue, Building B
Riverside, CA 92505
951-826-2000

Commissioners Present: Johnson, Lyles, Negron, Rounds, Venegas, and Elliot

Commissioners Absent: Whatley, Cardullo, and Feola

Staff Present: Mario Lara, Deputy Director
Patricia Solano, Community Services Superintendent
Robin Metz, Recreation Superintendent
Randy McDaniel, Principal Park Planner
Lee Withers, Senior Administrative Analyst
Alisa Sramala-Dawson, Trails Coordinator
Byron Mayhan, Transit Supervisor
Mayra Ocampo, Senior Administrative Assistant

Public Works Staff Present: Robert Filiar, Urban Forester

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

During public comment, one speaker addressed the Commission. Les Twedell commented on a possible dog corral at Ryan Bonaminio Park, and gave commissioners a letter and map of his proposed project. Mr. Twedell hopes to add his proposed project to an agenda in the near future.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission approved the minutes for the June 8, 2015 meeting as presented.

Motion: Elliot
Second: Lyles
Ayes: All

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following matters, presented to the Park and Recreation Commission on the consent calendar for consideration, were approved by a motion affirming the action appropriate to the item:

3. June Community Service Division Monthly Report
4. June Recreation Division Monthly Report
5. June Parks Division Monthly Report
6. Capital Improvement Projects Tracking Report
7. Public Works Department Urban Forestry / Landscape Division Quarterly Activity Report

Motion: Rounds
Second: Venegas
Ayes: All

DISCUSSION

8. UPDATE OF THE URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL

Urban Forester Filiar presented the item, and thanked Commissioners Elliot, Lyles and Johnson for the time at the subcommittee meetings and tour. He gave the Commissioners an additional sheet to inform them of changes decided by the Department after the subcommittee meetings.

After discussion, a motion was made to accept the Policy Manual and move it forward.

Motion: Lyles
Second: Elliot
Ayes: All

9. CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM – SUBMITTAL OF GRANT APPLICATION TO RESTORE HABITYAT AND CONSTRUCT AN INTERPRETIVE NATURE TRAIL AT FAIRMOUNT PARK

Trails Coordinator Sramala-Dawson presented the item to the Commission, and gave them a map to guide them through the project. She explained the department aims to provide safe and sustainable trails to the families in Riverside. There are many future plans for the trails, but for now the Department will scale down to \$500,000 to complete the “classroom without walls” project.

After discussion, a motion was made to receive the report for file, and to send to Council for approval to apply with the understanding Staff will return to Commission, once Grant is approved, with specific projects ideas.

Motion: Venegas
Second: Rounds
Ayes: All

10. FISCAL YEAR 2015/16 – 2017/18 SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN AND PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

Community Services Superintendent Solano presented a detailed PowerPoint to Commissioners regarding the Short Range Transit Plan and the proposed rate increase; she introduced Transit Supervisor Byron Mayhan.

Commissioner Venegas inquired about Special Transit's marketing strategies.

Community Services Superintendent Solano confirmed Supervisor Mayhan developed creative methods of marketing. For example, Ralph's pharmacy placed PRCSD Transit information on their bags, and worked with a consultant to create a brochure in braille. Shortly, Mr. Mayhan will resume visiting senior housing communities where he will meet with seniors to promote PRCSD Transit services. His visits temporarily stopped due to the overwhelming ride demands and staff shortages.

Commissioner Negrón asked if the fare is a one-time charge, and how will it be applied by the Department?

Community Services Superintendent Solano clarified, by law, the department can change double the fixed route services' rate, and the fee is per ride. Riders can pay each ride with cash or they can purchase a punch card.

Commissioner Negrón expressed concern for fare rate increases because senior citizens are on a fixed income.

Deputy Director Lara confirmed that State and Federal grants have very specific requirements and even if revenues are up and expenditures are down, there is a required fare box rate quota that must be met or else grant can be taken away. He assured the Commissioners the Council meeting will be public hearing to allow Public Comment on the potential fare increase.

After discussion, a motion was made to accept and file the Short Range Transit plan report and increase the fare rate, per passenger, effective January 2016.

Motion: Rounds
Second: Venegas
Ayes: All except Negrón
Abstain: Negrón

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETING DATES, AND COMMISSION REQUEST

1. Commissioner Venegas asked for an update on a proposed additional skate park in the City.
 - a) Principal Park Planner McDaniel clarified that Master Plan needs to be complete first, and it is in the plans to be complete this fiscal year. During Master Plan planning, staff will consider best sites for skate parks, dog parks, etc.
2. Commissioner Elliot asked for an update on the department's water conservation.
 - b) Senior Administrative Analyst Withers informed the Commission the Parks Division continues to expand the CalSense System. When comparing June 2013 to June 2015 the department has conserved 25% water. This year, the department converted 100,000 square feet of turf into water-wise landscaping. The Parks division anticipates Metropolitan Water District will grant an additional rebate so PRCSD may remove an additional 100,000 square feet of turf.

3. Deputy Director Lara invited the Commissioners to the Volunteer Recognition and Summer Concerts at Fairmount on Wednesday, July 15, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairperson Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, 2015, at the La Sierra Community Center, 5212 La Sierra Avenue, Building A, Riverside, CA 92505.