



City of Arts & Innovation

**MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Monday, November 9, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Ysmael Villegas Community Center – Villegas Park
3091 Esperanza Street
Riverside, CA 92504
951-826-2000

Commissioners Present: **Whatley, Lyles, Negron, Cardullo, and Feola**

Commissioners Absent: **Venegas, Elliot, Johnson, and Rounds**

Riverside Youth Council Present: Blanc

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
 Veronica Cortes-Barrientos, Assistant Recreation Coordinator

Public Works Staff Present: Kevin Goodwin, Project Manager

Community and Economic
Development Department: Emilio Ramirez, Interim Director

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

During public comment, one speaker addressed the Commission. Resident Paul Chavez attended the Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful beautification project at Villegas Park, on Saturday, November 7, and noticed the sidewalks had lots of trash, trees need trimming near the soccer fields, and the fields are dry and bare. He commented that Villegas Park needs an extra restroom facility on the back side of the park due to the many patrons who visit.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission approved the minutes for the October 19, 2015, meeting as presented.

Motion: Lyles
Second: Cardullo
Ayes: All

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

3. Quarterly Report: June – August 2015

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Lyles
Ayes: All

DISCUSSION

4. UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REGARDING SANTA ANA RIVER TRUNK SEWER PROJECT

Director Cruz presented Kevin Goodwin, Project Manager from Public Works to explain project to the Commission.

Kevin Goodwin informed the Commission of the current project which began November 6. They anticipate to complete 100 feet a day and nearby trails will be closed during construction. He informed the Commissioners that all residents in the area received a hand delivered letter informing them of project and to seek answers from Construction Managers on site, if needed.

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

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Lyles
Ayes: All

5. UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REGARDING CASA BLANCA EDUCATION GARDEN CONCEPT

Director Cruz presented Emilio Ramirez, Interim Director from Community and Economic Development Department to present project concept.

Director Ramirez informed the Commission that after many proposed projects for the specific land site the Casa Blanca Education Garden seems like the best concept for the land. There are 20+ amenities the garden can provide to benefit the community. The plan would be to hire a private investor to run the operations. This concept still needs a few community meetings to see if idea should move forward; right now the plan is to solicit input.

Commissioner Negron commented that garden is a great idea. She expressed that youth should be involved with the creative design.

Riverside Youth Council Liaison Ashley Blanc mentioned that garden is a great idea for youth to learn how to be healthy and to plant. Keep youth away from obesity, great community service for high school students.

Chair Whatley inquired about the action plan and questioned whether it's considered a community garden.

Director Ramirez confirmed that community meetings and workshops with the Park and Recreation Commission, the Board of Library Trustees and the community are the first steps in considering the educational garden. Also, the vision is not only a community garden; it is going to be a learning area with an operator managing it.

Director Cruz informed the Commission the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department supports the idea.

Resident Paul Chavez commented that conceptual idea sounds nice. He will need more operating budgeting information to see if he agrees or not.

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

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Negron
Ayes: All

6. PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL – CHAIR WHATLEY

Chair Whatley presented her PowerPoint and invited all Commissioners to attend the meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at the Council Chambers.

Commissioner Cardullo mentioned that Riverside Youth Council Liaisons should be mentioned in PowerPoint since the Commission gets a few every year.

After discussion, a motion was made to accept report for file with possible add-on.

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Feola
Ayes: All

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETING DATES, AND COMMISSION REQUESTS

Commissioner Negron

1. Invited everyone to the 5th Annual Day of Inclusion – Our Native Voices on Saturday, December 5, at The Box at the Fox Entertainment Plaza. It is a free, family event to recognize native culture.

Director Cruz

1. Informed the Commission he would be present at the Community Action Group meeting on Wednesday, November 18, when Director Ramirez presents his Education Garden concept.

2. Informed the Commission that staff will present on El Niño preparation work, an update on the Riverside Municipal Code, and a budget update at the December meeting.
3. Invited all Commissioners to the Employee Recognition Breakfast on Tuesday, December 15, 9:00 a.m. at Hunt Park.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Whatley adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2015, at Dales Senior Center – White Park, 3936 Chestnut Street, Riverside, CA 92501.