



MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, August 17, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting – Live Webcast

Commissioners Present: Vice Chair Joseph Feola, Citywide - Ward 4
(current vacancies in Wards 5 & 6) Maureen Mitchell, Citywide - Ward 3
Barry Johnson, Ward 7
Amy Cardullo, Ward 3
Todd Rounds, Ward 4
Becky Whatley, Ward 1
Cecelia Fairfax, Ward 2

Staff Present: Adolfo Cruz, Director
Randy McDaniel, Deputy Director
Kyle Raphael, Park Superintendent
Noemi Lopez, Recreation Superintendent
Gabriella Garcia, Administrative Services Manager
Ronald Profeta, Special Transit Manager
Mayra Ocampo, Administrative Analyst

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Feola called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public email was received regarding resident's concerns regarding the ongoing litter, loud noise and illegal parking at Sycamore Highland Park.

Director Cruz confirmed that many departments have been notified of this concern and have implemented solutions like more trash pick-ups, signs regarding parking, and police department drive-byes.

eComment was received regarding the Riverwalk District and its current landscaping and maintenance concerns.

Director Cruz confirmed the item would be agendaized for the next Commission meeting to provide a proper update.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING: JANUARY 29, 2020

After discussion, the minutes for the January 29, 2020, meeting as presented, were approved.

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Mitchell
Ayes: All

Commissioner Fairfax entered the meeting at this point, 6:36 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

3. RENAMING OF NORTH ARROYO TRAIL AT SYCAMORE CANYON PARK AFTER BOB STOCKTON --- PRESENTED BY THE MAYOR’S OFFICE

Director Cruz presented Mayor Bailey to present the item.

Mayor Bailey presented a very heartfelt PowerPoint and confirmed that Commissioners received the eight letters of support. He established that there are many impacted by the loss of Bob Stockton, having the trail named after him will mean a lot to the community.

Resident and Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Nicholas Adcock, asked for the Commissions’ support in honoring Bob Stockton... “he was the bridge, between all the people”.

Commissioner Cardullo supports the proposal and made a motion to move forward because the request because meets all requirements; additionally, Bob was a great partner to the City.

Commissioner Whatley asked who will be collecting the funds.

Mr. Adcock confirmed that only private commitments have been made, they do not want to interfere with Bob’s scholarship for high school students.

After discussion was made, Cardullo’s original motion to move forward was approved.

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Johnson
Ayes: All

4. FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 ANNUAL BUDGET UPDATE

Director Cruz presented Administrative Services Manager Gabriella Garcia.

Administrative Services Manager Garcia presented the PowerPoint and provided a very detailed representation regarding the Department’s budget.

Director Cruz enforced that the City had a roll over budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; the

outcome of CalPERS and revenue shortages will tell a better story soon.

Commissioner Whatley asked how many employees have been furloughed.

Director Cruz confirmed that on March 15, 2020, the City issued a minimum staffing order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At that point only essential workers continued working. In May, all full-time employees returned to work to operate the golf course, food distribution and park maintenance. A few weeks ago, the remaining benefitted employees were called back to work to ensure the cooling centers were able to run properly. Now, only non-benefitted, part-time employees are still on furlough.

Commissioner Whatley made a motion to accept the report for file.

Commissioner Mitchell referred to page 43: Deferred Maintenance and asked if the Department has worked with Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) on reimbursements or price reductions.

Park Superintendent Raphael confirmed that 33% of parks have been converted to LED lighting and the next priority is parking lot lighting. He confirmed that the Department takes advantage of any reimbursements or price reductions available.

Commissioner Mitchell inquired about the current state of the Department’s revenues.

Administrative Services Manager Garcia confirmed a financial report, of the COVID period, will be presented during the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Rounds inquired about the lowered debt and how that came to be.

Director Cruz and Deputy Director McDaniel responded that the renaissance debt has gone down, it was possibly refinanced, plus the local park fees (from development permits) have paid off some debt.

After discussion was made, Whatley’s original motion to accept report for file.

Motion: Whatley
Second: Rounds
Ayes: All

5. UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM

Director Cruz presented Park Superintendent Kyle Raphael.

Park Superintendent Raphael informed the Commission that every year the Department contracts Cal Fire and the California Conservation Corps for weed abatement; this allow the Department to focus on other areas of concern. This year, due to COVID-19 concerns, there was no option for outside help and in addition, City employees were on furlough. The Parks Division has provided a lot of hard work to ensure the weed abatement process was taken care of.

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

Motion: Johnson
Second: Whatley
Ayes: All

6. VERBAL UPDATE REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC'S (COVID-19) IMPACTS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Director Cruz provided an update for each division:

Special Transit – Considering the clientele for Special Transit are the elderly and disabled, and they are the most vulnerable to the Coronavirus; the number of rides dropped drastically. A typical daily ride amount of 500-600 went to down to 30-80 rides.

Also, they were able to secure CARES Act funding to provide salary to all drivers even while on furlough.

Transit Manager Profeta confirmed that FTA and the City’s Safety Officer safety guidelines were adopted and are in place.

Parks Division – They have been very busy and adapting to daily changes due to state and local guidelines. Opening of restrooms, playgrounds and splashpads is their next action item.

Planning and Design – This Division has not skipped a beat. The Youth Innovation Center at Arlington Park looks amazing; Villegas Park finalized their renovations of \$1Million. Myra Linn Park’s renovations are complete. Plus, they have been working with the Coastal Conservancy for their \$2 million grant for work along the Santa Ana River trail.

Recreation Division – This Division has provided lots of community support through operating the golf course and cooling centers; assisting with food banks and distributions; working with current instructors to provide virtual contract classes; acting quickly with state and local guidelines with changes to field use, and working diligently with the school districts to be able to provide mobile recreation and educational services to the youth in the City.

Commissioner Cardullo left the meeting at this point, 7:43 p.m.

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

Motion: Rounds
Second: Mitchell
Ayes: All

DISCUSSION

7. YOUTH INNOVATION CENTER AT ARLINGTON PARK UPDATES

Deputy Director McDaniel informed the Commission about the Youth Innovation Center’s vandalism, fortunately insurance was able to cover the costs and now it looks better than ever. The center still needs IT action items and sponsorship opportunities are still available.

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

Motion: Johnson
Second: Rounds
Ayes: All

8. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS: CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to nominate Joseph Feola for Chair.

Vice Chair Feola accepted.

Motion: Johnson
Second: Mitchell
Ayes: All

Commissioner Mitchell volunteered to be Vice Chair.

Motion: Mitchell
Second: Fairfax
Ayes: All

9. COMMISSIONER BARRY JOHNSON'S ABSENCE FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING ON JANUARY 29, 2020

After discussion, motion was made to excuse Commissioner Johnson.

Motion: Whatley
Second: Rounds
Ayes: All

10. COMMISSIONER TODD ROUNDS' ABSENCE FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING ON JANUARY 29, 2020

After discussion, motion was made to excuse Commissioner Rounds.

Motion: Whatley
Second: Johnson
Ayes: All

11. CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT ANNUAL REVIEW

No discussion, motion was made to accept report.

Motion: Whatley
Second: Johnson
Ayes: All

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

Vice Chair Feola adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Park and Recreation Commission meeting is on Monday, September 21, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.