



MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting – Live Webcast

Commissioners Present: Chair Joseph Feola, Citywide - Ward 4
(current vacancies in Ward 6) Vice Chair 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
Nathan Iverson, Ward 5

Department Staff Present: Adolfo Cruz, Director
Randy McDaniel, Deputy Director
Kyle Raphael, Park Superintendent

City Staff Present: Robert Filiar, Urban Forester

CALL TO ORDER

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

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment was presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING: DECEMBER 21, 2020

No discussion, motion made to approve the minutes for the December 21, 2020, meeting.

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Mitchell
Ayes: All except Whatley
Abstain: Whatley, she was absent for the December 21, 2020, meeting

DISCUSSION

3. STREET TREE PROGRAM --- ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDED UPDATES TO THE URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL

Urban Forester Filiar informed the Commission the Department generally updates the Urban Forestry Policy Manual every three years and it's been five years since the last update. He is inviting three Commissioners to join the Ad-Hoc Committee for a six-month long process.

Commissioner Cardullo asked who the Ad-Hoc Committee will consist of.

Urban Forester Filiar confirmed the Ad-Hoc Committee will consist of Park and Recreation Commission members, Riverside Public Works Staff and Community Group members.

After discussion, Commissioners Feola, Mitchell and Iverson offered their time to be part of the Ad-Hoc Committee.

4. VERBAL REPORT --- FAIRMOUNT PARK TOPICS AND STATUS OF PARK RANGER PROGRAM

Director Cruz presented this item.

Vice-Chair Mitchell asked Commissioners to view the pictures on pages 48 and 49 in the agenda packet. She emphasized the amount of dedication the park patrons give to Fairmount Park. She would like a certificate for the Sir who takes cares of the park fowl, removes fishing wires from the lake and disposes of pellet gun cartridges. Vice-Chair Mitchell also asked the Department to post more signs at the park regarding proper fishing spots and no littering.

Director Cruz assured Vice-Chair Mitchell that proper recognition will be given to a few Fairmount Park volunteers for years of dedication. Director Cruz confirmed the Department is in the beginning stages of designing signs and they will be posted as soon as they are approved. Director Cruz mentioned the park ranger program has two possibilities, 1) Restore the park ranger program which ended in 2008. The operational plan is being worked on with the Police Department; plus, the budget is being reviewed; or, 2) Deputy Director McDaniel has been working with the County of Riverside to work alongside them with their current contracted park ranger program.

Vice-Chair Mitchell inquired if the old boy scout area will be turned into an RV Park.

Deputy Director McDaniel stated that extensive community outreach is needed to truly know what the "old boy scout" area will turn into; but, the preliminary plan is to work with the San Bernardino Valley District and convert the area into a natural habitat area. There are currently multiple awarded grants to fulfill multiple aspects of future projects.

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

Motion: Fairfax
Second: Cardullo

Ayes: All

5. COMMISSIONER BECKY WHATLEY'S ABSENCE FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING ON DECEMBER 21, 2020

After discussion, motion was made to excuse Commissioner Whatley from the December 21, 2020, meeting.

Motion: Rounds
Second: Cardullo
Ayes: All

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

Commissioner Johnson thanked Commissioners and Staff for their respect during his time on the Commission.

Commissioner Rounds thanked Commissioners and Staff and emphasized how impressed he continued to be with their ability to do so much with so little.

Commissioner Whatley thanked Commissioners and Staff and highlighted how professional everyone always was.

New Commissioner, Dr. Nathan Iverson, introduced himself.

Director Cruz thanked Commissioners Johnson, Rounds and Whatley for their time, guidance, and support during their time with the Commission.

Chair Feola adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The next virtual Park and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021.