



MINUTES PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, May 17, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting – Live Webcast

Commissioners Present: Chair Joseph Feola, Citywide - Ward 4
(Current Vacancies: Wards 4, 6, 7 and CW) Vice Chair Nathan Iverson, Ward 5
Cecelia Fairfax, Ward 2
Amy Cardullo, Ward 3
Daniel Jester, Ward 1

Department Staff Present: Adolfo Cruz, Director
Randy McDaniel, Deputy Director
Ronald Profeta, Special Transit Manager
Mayra Ocampo, Administrative Analyst

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Feola called meeting to order at 6:30 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.ENGAGERIVERSIDE.COM OR VIA EMAIL AT PARKS@RIVERSIDECA.GOV UNTIL TWO HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING.**

Resident near Sycamore Highlands Park informed the Commission of her ongoing concerns at the park.

Director Cruz addressed the concern and assured the Commission that many City Departments have been involved with the concerns surrounding Sycamore Highlands Park. After a community meeting the Department installed LED lighting, re-seeded and re-fertilized the turf area, and additional signs will be installed. Another community meeting will be scheduled to revisit the concerns and provide updates.

Resident and visitor of the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) informed the Commission of his concerns at the trail.

Director Cruz addressed the concern and assured the Commission that SART concerns have

been on the City's radar for a while. There are monthly meetings with various stakeholders regarding issues and solutions for SART.

Commissioner Jester inquired about the jurisdictions for SART and what can be done to make it safe for everyone. He also inquired about the Park Ranger program.

Director Cruz confirmed reports will be brought forward with more information.

Vice Chair Iverson inquired about funding available for the trail.

Director Cruz confirmed the Coastal Conservancy grant was granted for recreation improvement design and environmental work.

Deputy Director McDaniel confirmed the process will take some time; the Department will be scheduling community outreach as soon as the consultant is ready.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING: MARCH 15, 2021

No discussion, motion was made to approve the minutes for the March 15, 2021, meeting.

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Fairfax
Ayes: All

DISCUSSION

3. REVISED PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION STANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS

No discussion, motion was made to approve the updated Standing Rules and Regulations.

Motion: Cardullo
Second: Jester
Ayes: All

4. NAMING REQUEST FOR THE COMMUNITY ROOM OR AUDITORIUM AT BOBBY BONDS PARK IN HONOR OF COUNCILMAN ANDY MELENDREZ

Director Cruz presented this item and confirmed Councilman Melendrez spearheaded and has continued to support the Riverside Arts Academy, formerly known as the Eastside School of the Arts. His leadership has brought strong connections with the school districts, UCR and CBU; and has brought highly recognized, world renowned instructors to the program.

Director Cruz confirmed this request meets the Park Naming criteria because "...A park or recreation facility can be named for a person only in limited situations...The person for whom a park or recreation facility is named must be an outstanding, long-time City leader...who has

supported or contributed to open space and/or recreation activities and concepts...". We can move the item to Council on your recommendations.

Commissioner Jester asked if public comments were submitted to support this request so the Commission can best evaluate the request. He brought to the attention of the Commission that per the Park Naming policy, a facility naming should be done posthumously unless under extraordinary circumstances.

Commissioner Iverson question the wisdom to approve the naming of the current Mayor's running mate.

Commissioner Cardullo expressed the request moving forward should be specific to the auditorium or the community room. Additionally, she asked who's responsible for the plaque's wording and costs.

Director Cruz confirmed the plaque wording will require Department approval and all costs associated with the naming request will be the responsibility of the applicant, which is the Riverside Arts Academy Board.

Commissioner Jester made a motion to bring the item back in order to receive more information to validate the request is deemed extraordinary by the Park and Recreation Commission.

Motion: Jester
Second: Iverson

Commissioner Cardullo clarified that many naming requests have honored living people. Additionally, she suggested politics shouldn't play a part in the request to name a facility in honor of Councilman Melendrez, instead his active community role and achievements should be considered.

After discussion, Commissioner Jester rescinded his motion after he received the insight he needed during the meeting.

Commissioner Fairfax made a motion to move the naming of the auditorium at Bobby Bonds Park in honor of Andy Melendrez to City Council.

Motion: Fairfax
Second: Cardullo
Ayes: All

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

Chair Feola adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m. The next virtual Park and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 21, 2021.