



## **PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

Monday, August 21, 2023, 6:30 P.M.  
Public Comment in Person/Telephone  
Art Pick Council Chambers – City Hall  
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522

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Commissioners Present:  
(Current Vacancies: Wards 2, and 3)

Chair, Daniel Jester, Ward 1  
Vice Chair Matt Friedlander, Ward 4  
Joseph Feola, Citywide, Ward 4  
Mohammad Noor, Ward 5  
Thomas Miller, Ward 6  
Rakel Engles, Ward 7

Absent:

Victoria Brodie, Citywide, Ward 1

Department Staff Present:

Pamela Galera, Director  
Randy McDaniel, Deputy Director  
Jessica Ochoa, Recreation Supervisor  
Sandra Campbell, Senior Administrative Assistant

City Staff Present:

Philip Falcone, Senior Advisor to Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson

Chair Jester called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments received.

### **PRESENTATION(S)**

#### **WHITE PARK PUBLIC ART METAL TREE SCULPTURE INSTALLATION**

Senior Advisor to Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson, Philip Falcone presented an update on the location and installation of a metal tree sculpture in White Park.

Commissioner Engles asked if the painting of the sculpture will be seasonally or annually.

Senior Advisor Falcone stated they would like to have it painted each year in October during the Art Festival in White Park.

Commissioner Engles asked who will be doing the painting each year.

Senior Advisor Falcone stated we would work with the Arts Council. They want one main artist to lead the vision.

Commissioner Noor asked what kind of consideration is given to the design in making it unappealing for children to climb it.

Senior Advisor Falcone introduced designer of sculpture Rico Alderette of Alderette Designs to answer question. Rico stated that it is going to be a 10-foot-wide sculpture, simple design. They will not be creating ladders or foot holes. It is going to be very difficult to get up past 10 feet.

Vice Chair Friedlander asked how high will the lowest branch be in order to avoid running into it and to avoid liability for the city.

Designer Alderette stated that they were aiming for 10 feet. It will be made with smaller pieces and that they are working with an engineer to make sure there are correct footing and calculations to make sure everything is very safe.

Chair Jester asked if there are any other arrangements with the Riverside Arts Council anywhere else in the city about maintaining a piece of art in the public space.

Senior Advisor Falcone stated that Rico can reach out to the Arts Council, but to his knowledge there is not and is willing to vouch for their creditability as well as the Mayor. They have been very active with the Beautify Riverside Initiative.

Chair Jester asked if they have delivered a maintenance plan for this piece of art. Has there been a discussion about what it would take to maintain it besides annual painting.

Senior Advisor Falcone stated they do have a maintenance plan. It will be the responsibility of the Arts Council, but they will need Parks' assistance in knowing when it gets graffitied/vandalized.

#### PARK AND RECREATION MONTH

Recreation Supervisor Jessica Ochoa presented an update and introduced the video on Park and Recreation Month.

Commissioner Noor asked if there are higher demand than capacity, is there still availability for more youth to take part in activities. What are the challenges in getting the word out.

Recreation Supervisor Ochoa stated that challenges faced is competition. There is travel sports, art programs and different types of activities that families are more involved in. Parents work later and travel further. It is difficult to get their children to certain activities. Our goal is to round up our social media and make more people aware of what we have to offer.

Commissioner Noor asked if there are any ties to elementary or junior high schools, where they are provided flyers for students to take home

Recreation Supervisor Ochoa stated that school districts have gone away from flyers and use Peachjar to promote all services. All our fall activities were recently promoted through Peachjar.

Commissioner Miller asked with the lifeguard shortage how much does that impact the aquatics program.

Recreation Supervisor Ochoa stated that it impacts how we open pools. A plan was devised with the staffing levels we have for our most popular pools and then we work toward expanding to other locations.

Commissioner Miller asked, referring to the basketball program, is there are only six teams.

Recreation Supervisor Ochoa stated that it was the teen basketball league that competes during the summer with high school summer league.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Commissioner Friedlander and seconded by Commissioner Engles to approve the Consent Calendar as presented affirming the actions appropriate to each item. The motion was carried unanimously with members Brodie absent.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on July 17, 2023, were approved as presented.

### DISCUSSION

#### ABSENSE OF COMMISSIONER MILLER

The Park and recreation Commission motioned to excuse the absence of Commissioner Miller from the July 17, 2023, meeting.

Motion: Noor

Second: Engles

Ayes: All

#### ABSENSE OF COMMISSIONER FEOLA

The Park and recreation Commission motioned to excuse the absence of Commissioner Feola from the July 17, 2023, meeting.

Motion: Friedlander

Second: Miller

Ayes: All

### ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETING DATES, AND COMMISSION REQUEST

Commission had no new request or announcements

Director Galera announced that World Rivers Day will be held on September 23, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Martha McLean Park. Included that day:

- Volunteer Events
- Climate Action Day
- World Rivers Day – Putting the River back in Riverside

Director Galera shared Summer Programming updates

- Park and Recreation Video reviewed in this meeting encumbered a lot of the Summer

Programs that we experienced

- Other highlights for summer program included
  - Summer Concerts Series at Fairmount Park
  - Many Summer Camps
  - Previously discussed Aquatics programming
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Kids are back in school, and the summer programming has now been wrapped up with great success

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Jester adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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SANDRA D. CAMPBELL  
Sr. Administrative Assistant