



## PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, October 16, 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: Chair, Daniel Jester, Ward 1  
Victoria Brodie, Citywide-Ward 1  
Blake Faris, Ward 3  
Joseph Feola, Citywide-Ward 4  
Mohammad Noor, Ward 5  
Thomas Miller, Ward 6  
Rakel Engles, Ward 7

Absent: Vice Chair, Matt Friedlander, Ward 4

Department Staff Present: Pamela Galera, Director  
Randy McDaniel, Deputy Director  
Noemi Lopez, Deputy Director  
Alisa Sramala, Principal Project Manager  
Kyle Raphael, Park Superintendent  
Jordan Maus, Project Manager  
Sandra Campbell, Senior Administrative Assistant

Chair Jester called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one wishing to address the Commission.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Commissioner Feola and seconded by Commissioner Brodie to approve the Consent Calendar as presented affirming the actions appropriate to the item. The motion carried with Vice Chair Friedlander absent.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on September 18, 2023, were approved as presented.

### PRESENTATION

#### URBAN ECOLOGY

Director Pamela Galera delivered the presentation on Urban Ecology.

Chair Jester asked if this idea is designed to bring native items in as the parks and public spaces are developed to help our ecology.

Director Galera stated that is correct. Native plants is an important tool we have. It is being installed, once established it will be easier to maintain.

## DISCUSSION

### PICKLEBALL COURTS UPDATE

Deputy Director Randy McDaniel presented a Pickleball Courts update.

Chair Jester asked the one of five out of two hundred cities popular interest in access is specifically talking about pickleball

Deputy Director McDaniel stated it is specifically talking about pickleball service level based on eleven metrics.

#### Public Comment:

Debi Bagley, Riverside Pickleball – Supports – They are very excited that the design/build service agreement for the Arlington Park Pickleball Complex is being submitted to City Council and excited that they will have courts by the summer of 2024, with permanent nets specifically designated for playing pickleball.

Following the discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Noor and seconded by Commissioner Feola to support the Pickleball Courts update. The motion carried with Vice Chair Friedlander absent.

### EL DORADO PARK RENAMING

Project Manager Jordan Maus presented an update on El Dorado Park and introduced President of Riverside City Firefighters Association Michael Detoy who spoke about renaming El Dorado Park to Tim Strack Park.

Project Manager Maus reviewed the naming schedule.

Chair Jester verified when there was a community meeting adjacent to this park there was no opposition to renaming the park.

Project manager Maus stated no opposition.

Following the discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Brodie to support the renaming of El Dorado Park to Tim Strack Park. The motion carried with Vice Chair Friedlander absent.

### PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Director Galera reviewed to the Commission a workplan draft and requested their input and suggestions.

Chair Jester asked if these items are something we can bring up in future meeting to discuss more or is this something we need to resolve today.

Director Galera stated that this is a workplan that we are going to be discussing over a year, but the City Manager's office would like us to turn something in now as a guideline. General areas of the work can be changed and added onto at a later time.

Commissioner Brodie asked if there is a shared meaning of all the goals provided.

Director Galera stated we try to bring goals back to a Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Engles asked if they were establishing that the commission to list out what Goal One would look like, creating a list of community partners that we would like to engage with.

Director Galera stated that would be the work, we are establishing the work plan.

Commissioner Engles asked would that include updating along the way, would there be a spot for this in every meeting.

Director Galera suggested that they can direct us on a subject they would like to hear or discuss, and we would bring a staff report on a following meeting to touch base on the request.

Chair Jester likes the three goals brought to the meeting, does not feel anything else needs to be added.

Commissioner Noor asked if there were any working plans that can help the Commission to achieve improvement for the enhancement to the parks as reflected in Goal 1.3, as opposed to just getting update reports.

Deputy Director McDaniel touched base on items commissioners and community have been involved with.

Commissioner Noor wanted one of the goals be the deferred maintenance thinks it would be a meaningful goal.

Chair Jester asked to bring funding for maintenance needs for the parks as a 4<sup>th</sup> goal on the working plan.

Commissioner Brodie asked if we had a grant writer dedicated to this Commission

Director Galera stated yes that we all are grant writers. We have a person at City Hall that oversees the whole Grant machine.

Commissioner Brodie asked if there is a way to support the efforts where we can connect those grants for the neighborhood groups so they can try to raise funds or apply for funds themselves.

Director Galera stated that we can work with the organizations themselves. Also suggested to add a 4<sup>th</sup> goal to the workplan having to do with funding and grants.

Chair Jester suggested one more goal to add to the workplan – for Commission to look for opportunities to advocate for additional funding to support park improvements, new projects, and maintenance.

Commissioner Brodie asked staff for a calendar of events to be aware of an event coming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETING DATES, AND COMMISSION REQUEST

Chair Jester stated if commissioners don't have any request for a particular subject today, they can email the Senior Administrative Assistant with suggestions.

Chair Jester adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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SANDRA D. CAMPBELL  
Sr. Administrative Assistant