



MINUTES
Regular Meeting

PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMISSION

Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840

April 8, 2021

6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL PRESENT: (5) Commissioners Johnson, Perez,
Stevens, Strickland, Tran

ABSENT: (2) Commissioners Bao, Solis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Commissioner Stevens

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC:

None.

2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

An email from Mr. Craig Durfey, a resident of Garden Grove was received and distributed to the Commissioners. In this written communication he addresses his concern regarding lack of green space; increasing bike and pedestrian safety; honoring war dogs; information about mental health; and information regarding a Greenway Trail in the City of Whittier among other topics. Commissioners received the complete written communication that was submitted by Mr. Durfey.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 8, 2020.

It was moved by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Commissioner Stevens that:

The minutes from the October 8, 2020 meeting be received and filed.

The motion carried by a 5-0-2 vote as follows:

Ayes: (5) Johnson, Perez, Stevens, Strickland, Tran
Noes: (0) None
Absent (2) Bao, Solis

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

4.a. Introductions

Staff and Commissioners introduced themselves.

At 6:15 p.m. Commissioner Solis joined the meeting.

4.b. Receive and File Brown Act and Code of Ethics

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Perez that the Brown Act and Code of Ethics be received and filed.

The motion carried by a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Johnson, Perez, Solis, Stevens, Strickland, Tran
Noes: (0) None
Absent (1) Bao

4.c. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

It was moved by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Commissioner Solis that Commissioner Stevens be selected as Chair.

The motion carried by a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Johnson, Perez, Solis, Stevens, Strickland, Tran
Noes: (0) None
Absent (1) Bao

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Solis that Commissioner Perez be selected as Vice Chair.

The motion carried by a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Johnson, Perez, Solis, Stevens, Strickland, Tran
Noes: (0) None
Absent (1) Bao

4.d. Department Programs and Services During COVID-19 Pandemic

Staff reported on what the department has offered for the community during the pandemic. One of the most important was providing COVID-19 vaccination clinics. In February, through a collaboration with Garden Grove Hospital, 400 seniors were vaccinated, most participants were from the H. Louis Lake Senior Center. The City is currently working with the Orange County Health Agency and Orange County Fire Authority to vaccinate between 400-500 individuals per week at the Christ Cathedral POD site. This POD consists of first dose vaccinations for the first three weeks, and second dose vaccinations the following three weeks of the Pfizer vaccine. This week, the City began hosting a weekly vaccine POD at the Sports and Recreation Center in partnership with St. Joseph Hospital. Weekly vaccinations of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine will be offered every Wednesday until the end of July, or as long as there's a demand for it. Staff have been assisting with registration, check-in, and traffic control. Othena and My Turn websites are being utilized for appointment scheduling.

The Human Services Division has been very busy during this pandemic. The Senior Center has been providing a weekly virtual program called "Let's Chat About It", which features different topics including health and wellness, technology, community resources, and a craft making workshop. Staff have also expanded information and referral services to seniors. The family resource centers continue to offer virtual programs including parent workshops, family nights, youth and family workshops, and they are exploring modified center programming including Day Camp options at both centers. Additionally, the Garden Grove Community Collaborative (comprised of about 38 agencies) continue to meet and focus on important topics such as vaccine education, available resources for the community, and rental assistance. In the next two weeks they will be hosting a training on coping skills for stress and anxiety.

Due to the pandemic, many recreation programs were forced to shut down and the division had to reinvent themselves to continue to offer recreation programs for the community. One major accomplishment was developing a virtual recreation center on the City website with resources, virtual programs and classes, as well as virtual tours. The division also created its own department Facebook and Instagram pages to be able to provide updates on programs and events offered. The division offered three drive-in movie events over the summer; these were a huge success with 80-110 cars per event. In October the annual Jack O' Lantern Jamboree Halloween event had to be reinvented with an in-person movie in the park event using pods for families instead of a drive-in. In December, the annual Winter in the Grove event was transformed to a drive-through event at Village Green Park. About 400 cars drove through the park, ending their route with a picture with Santa standing outside each vehicle. Most recently, the annual Eggscavation Easter event was turned into a drive-through event with about 300 cars, 261

children going through collecting giveaways and candy-filled eggs, ending with a picture with the Easter Bunny.

Due to the pandemic all City facilities had to shut down. It took some time for the State to provide guidelines to be able to reopen some of the facilities and amenities. The rental facility capacities were modified to meet COVID guidelines. Signage with guidelines are displayed and hand sanitizer is available at all facilities. Field users will be required to sign a COVID acknowledgement form agreeing that they are aware of guidelines and will abide by them.

Department-wide, a great focus has been providing meal distributions. The H. Louis Lake Senior replaced their daily lunch program with a weekly frozen meal distribution and home delivered meals. Both family resource centers continue to provide food resources to the community.

Commissioner Stevens thanked the department for all they've done, pointing out that this pandemic has raised the visibility of recreation and hopes that City Council, the City Manager, and other departments realize how important this department really is to the community.

4.e. Capital Projects

4.e.1. Garden Grove Park Improvements Project

This project was awarded to Land Forms Landscape Construction in November of 2020. The scope of work includes demolition of the large picnic pavilion, the three smaller picnic shelters, construction of an ADA accessible walkway with new lighting, new picnic tables and benches, new barbeques, and construction of new shelters and pavilion. The total cost for this project is \$750,321 and is being funded by the Community Development Block Grant and park fees funding. The project is currently in the demolition phase. Phase 1 commenced on March 22 and expected for completion on September 3, 2021. Phase 2, tentatively scheduled for the fall, will include removal of both playground structures and installation of new playground equipment in a new playground area connecting to the walkway. Staff responded to Chair Stevens' question stating that the playground equipment will include ADA elements.

4.e.2. Proposition 68 Grant Application for Woodbury Park Project

Staff brought new commissioners up to speed by providing background information regarding the Proposition 68 Grant Application.

The second round of the grant program was released summer of 2020, allocating \$395.3 million for competitive grants. Cities are able to apply for a minimum of \$200,000 and a maximum of \$8.5 million. The

City applied for this program in 2019 but was not selected in the first round. The City selected Woodbury Park once again for the second round of this program because it meets many of the criteria to be competitive and provides the best opportunity to receive the funding. The application was due and submitted in March 2021. The City requested \$6 million for this grant; the total project amount is \$7.1 million. Staff shared the site plan and the proposed improvements and amenities for the project. Staff anticipate results for this second phase grant program in late summer, possibly in August 2021.

Chair Stevens questioned how the difference in grant award and cost of project will be funded, staff replied that park fees will cover the difference.

Staff addressed Commissioner Tran's concern on what staff did different for this round to become more competitive and increase chances of getting selected.

4.f. Community Services Programming

4.f.1. Recreation Division

Staff reported on upcoming Recreation Division programming. The next event will be Art in the Park, which is put on in partnership and collaboration with the Garden Grove School District. This event is usually held in March, but due to the current situation, it was pushed back a couple months. This year, the art gallery will be held virtually. Other in-person passive components include Re:Imagine letters displayed in 4'x5' banners, and large vinyl pieces on giant easels displaying art from students K-12 at Village Green Park that will be available for residents to enjoy. The Re:Imagine sign will be installed on April 26. May 10 will be the kick off for the virtual art gallery as well as the first day the giant art easels will be available for viewing at the park.

In-person summer programs include day camp, aquatics, and various recreational classes, some with slight modifications to follow COVID-19 guidelines. The basketball program has been cancelled for the summer but staff hope to offer a fall program.

4.f.2. Human Services Division

Both Family Resource Centers hope to offer in-person day camp programs. The Senior Center is exploring reopening some outdoor classes and possibly some modified indoor activities.

4.f.3. Facilities Division

Rental facilities remain closed for large social events but are beginning to open for small business meetings. COVID-19 protocols will continue to be in place. Fields are open for soccer, baseball, and softball youth and adult teams at various parks with athletic fields. The park sports facilities which are run by third party operators have begun programming at the indoor soccer arena at Garden Grove Park and Pioneer Park as well the hockey rink at Chapman Sports Complex. Summer Concerts and Movie in the Park series have been combined this year, alternating every week on Thursdays beginning June 24 for a total of 8 weeks until August 12.

Commissioner Strickland asked if concerts would be rotating at different parks or one location, staff replied that due to COVID-19 guidelines, a larger park site may be required; location is still to be determined.

4.g. Public Works Department Update

Staff reported that Public Works Department is working on some facility upgrades. The flooring in the activity room at the Courtyard Center requires replacement due to water damage caused by a leaking water heater. Reconfiguration of some of the room amenities will also be performed to make the room layout more functional for various events. This project should be completed in about two months.

Improvements are being made to the Gem Theater and Amphitheater before reopening. The Gem Theater will open with its first show for the year, *Always Patsy* on April 22. Amphitheater programming won't begin until late fall once it's more financially feasible to open at higher capacities.

Public Works is also assisting with the capital improvements at Garden Grove Park.

Staff added that the bridges adjacent to the Senior Center and the Community Meeting Center have been removed because the bridge by the Senior Center recently collapsed. Staff are waiting for a design from a landscape architect.

5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Chair Perez thanked staff for all their hard work during the pandemic.

Commissioner Solis also thanked staff for being able to work with the new normal. Her family participated in some of the special events offered to the community. Staff thanked her for the support.

Commissioner Strickland expressed similar sentiments and thanked staff for all the great work.

Commissioner Tran thanked staff for all their hard work and is happy to learn of all the progress they have made so far.

Chair Stevens thanked Commissioner Perez for serving as Chair the past two years. He encouraged all Commissioners to attend the Garden Grove Medal of Honor Bike and Pedestrian Trail Dedication.

6. MATTERS FROM STAFF:

6.a. Discuss City of Garden Grove Parks Tour

In past years, staff have been able to provide a tour of parks and facilities in Garden Grove. Unfortunately due to the current pandemic, staff cannot offer this tour but can provide an agenda and map for Commissioners to take a self-guided tour.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:21 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned to Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Sports and Recreation Center Multipurpose Room, 13641 Deodara Drive, Garden Grove.

SUGEIRY REYNOSO
Commission Secretary