



CITY OF MERCED

Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Minutes Recreation & Parks Commission

Monday, October 26, 2020

5:30 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Valente HUITRON called the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Clerk's Note: Vice Chair Douglas PIUSER arrived at 5:34 PM.

Present: 7 - Ralph Morris, Eric Moore, Norma Cardona, Chairperson Valente Huitron, Yesenia Curiel, Justin Anderson and Vice Chair Douglas Piuser

Absent: 0

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

E.1.

SUBJECT: Adoption and Filing of Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2020

REPORT IN BRIEF

Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

Recreation and Park Commission - Adopt a motion approving and filing the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2020.

A motion was made by Member Morris, seconded by Member Anderson, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Member Morris
Member Moore
Member Cardona
Huitron
Member Anderson
Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 - Member Curiel

F. REPORTS

F.1. **SUBJECT:** Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Powers and Duties of the Recreation and Parks Commission per Section 712 of the Charter, Additional Requirements and Powers of Boards and Commissions in General per Section 704 of the Charter, Rules and Regulations Prescribed by and Governing the City Council Which are Applicable to Boards and Commission per Section 704 of the Charter, and Obtaining Information to Perform the Powers and Duties of the Recreation and Parks Commission

REPORT IN BRIEF

Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Powers and Duties of the Recreation and Parks Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action needed.

City Attorney Phaedra NORTON gave a presentation regarding the powers and duties of the Commission.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions.

F.2. **SUBJECT:** Staff Update on the Request for Interest Process for McNamara Youth Center and Stephen Leonard Youth Center and Contract Extensions with the Currently Lessees, Symple Equazion and Soccer Academy of Merced, Inc., through June 2021

REPORT IN BRIEF

Staff update on McNamara Youth Center and Stephen Leonard Youth Center Contracts

RECOMMENDATION

Recreation and Parks Commission- Adopt a motion extending the current leases for McNamara Youth Center and Stephen Leonard Youth Center to June of 2021, and begin the request for interest process for both centers in March 2021.

Recreation Supervisor Jennifer ARELLANO gave an update on McNamara and Stephen Leonard contracts.

Commissioner Yesenia CURIEL asked that the RFI include information on quarterly reporting.

Interim City Manager Stephanie DIETZ suggested staff come back in January with the draft RFI for Commission approval.

A motion was made by Member Moore, seconded by Member Anderson, that the current leases for the Stephen Leonard and McNamara Youth Centers be extended until June 30, 2021, with a request for interest process to begin for each center in March 2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Member Morris
Member Moore
Member Cardona
Huitron
Member Curiel
Member Anderson
Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 0

F.3.

SUBJECT: Update from the Participatory Budgeting Ad Hoc Committee and Make Recommendation to the City Council on the Budget Process

REPORT IN BRIEF

Update from the last meeting of the Participatory Budgeting Ad Hoc Committee

RECOMMENDATION

Recreation and Parks Commission- Adopt a motion making a recommendation to City Council.

Commissioner CARDONA showed a video and gave an update on the ad hoc committee's activities.

Commissioners had a brief discussion and asked questions of Interim City Manager, Stephanie DIETZ and Finance Officer, Venus RODRIGUEZ.

Sol Rivas of Building Healthy Communities, Merced, commended the commission for looking into participatory budgeting, spoke about their work with participatory budgeting, and offered their support to help with the project.

Jess ORNELAS of Youth Leadership Institute, Merced, spoke about the

need for youth involvement in the process.

Dorthea Lynn WHITE, Merced, spoke about her experience on the steering committee during Lee Lor's participatory budgeting process and asked that a greater number of people be allowed on the steering committee.

Steve RUSOS of the 18th St. People's Garden, Merced, spoke about being a beneficiary of the process.

Interim City Manager, Stephanie DIETZ thanked the commissioners and public for their work on the topic.

Commissioner CARDONA asked to table the item to a later meeting in order to meet with staff to develop a proposal for city council further.

A motion was made by Member Cardona, seconded by Member Curiel, that this agenda item be tabled to a future meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Member Morris
Member Moore
Member Cardona
Huitron
Member Curiel
Member Anderson
Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 0

G. BUSINESS

G.1. **SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding Recommendations in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan and Mini-Parks**

REPORT IN BRIEF

Discussion on Mini-Parks

RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action needed

A motion was made by Vice Chair Piuser, seconded by Member Anderson, that this agenda item be combined with item G.4, needs assessment survey, and tabled until the November meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Member Morris
Member Moore
Member Cardona
Huitron
Member Curiel
Member Anderson
Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 0

G.2.

SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding Parks Without Names Including the Parks Located at 11th and H Street and 12th and G Street, and Parks Without Formal Names Including Hansen and Circle Drive Park

REPORT IN BRIEF

Discussion on Parks Without Names

RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action needed.

Recreation Supervisor Jennifer ARELLANO gave a brief report on parks without names, and the current policy in place to name a park or facility.

Member Norma CARDONA asked clarifying questions, and stated she would like to invite the community to name the parks without names.

Member Douglas PIUSER asked if the community members near these parks already had informal names they used.

Member Yesenia CURIEL stated she would like to make naming these parks one of the Commission priorities.

Chair Valente HUITRON clarified the process for naming parks for Commissioners.

Recreation and Parks Director, Joey CHAVEZ stated he would also like to see Sports Complex be renamed.

Interim City Manager Stephanie DIETZ suggested staff put out a call to the community to see if there were any ideas for naming these parks and would return to Commission with the results.

Member Yesenia CURIEL mentioned Commissioners could use their networks to share the information.

Jesse ORNELAS, Merced, spoke about kids who have died in these parks, and that they are sacred space to the community. He stated that the flyers should be printed in both Spanish and Hmong.

G.3.

SUBJECT: Discussion on Setting Goals and Priorities for the Recreation and Parks Commission

REPORT IN BRIEF

Discussion to set goals and priorities for the Recreation and Parks Commission.

RECOMMENDATION

Recreation and Parks Commission- Adopt a motion setting goals and priorities for the Recreation and Parks Commission.

Member Norma CARDONA asked to table this item and instead make a study session to review the master plan and set commission goals and priorities.

Interim City Manager Stephanie DIETZ suggested staff could reach out with some dates for a study session.

Member Yesenia CURIEL asked Interim City Manager Stephanie DIETZ if an ad hoc committee on the subject would be possible.

Interim City Manager Stephanie DIETZ replied with the benefits of allowing everyone to participate in a study session and suggested staff could solicit information from Commissioners before the study session.

G.4.

SUBJECT: Needs Assessment Survey for Parks and Recreation Programming

REPORT IN BRIEF

Discussion on a potential process to evaluate Parks and Recreation programming.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action needed.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Piuser, seconded by Member Anderson, that this agenda item be combined with item G.1, Recommendations from the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, and tabled until the November meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Member Morris
Member Moore
Member Cardona
Huitron
Member Curiel
Member Anderson
Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 0

G.5. SUBJECT: Discussion and Recommendation to the City Council on Ways of Making Parks More Youth Friendly

REPORT IN BRIEF

Discussion on making parks more youth friendly.

RECOMMENDATION

Recreation and Parks Commission- Adopt a motion recommending to city council specific changes to make parks more youth friendly.

A motion was made by Member Cardona, seconded by Member Anderson, that this agenda item be tabled until the next meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Member Morris
Member Moore
Member Cardona
Huitron
Member Curiel
Member Anderson
Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 0

G.6. SUBJECT: Request to Add Item to Future Agenda

REPORT IN BRIEF

Provides members of the Boards/Commissions to request that an item be placed on a future Boards/Commissions agenda for initial consideration by the Boards/Commissions.

Chair Valente HUITRON requested to add an item to discuss the history of the annual grant to Boys and Girls Club for their summer programming.

Member Eric Moore requested to add an item to review the draft of the new proposed sports park policy.

G.7. SUBJECT: Commission Comments**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Provides an opportunity for the Chair and/or Member(s) to make a brief announcement on any activity(ies) she/he has attended on behalf of the Commission and to make a brief announcement on future community events and/or activities. The Brown Act does not allow discussion or action by the legislative body under this section.

Member Norma CARDONA stated she attended the drive-in movie and a Proposition 68 park design meeting, and thanked staff for their great work for the community.

Member Eric MOORE thanked the City Manager's office for the work on the legislative subpoena item, and mentioned his support and concerns around participatory budgeting.

Member Yesenia CURIEL thanked staff for supporting the Recreation and Parks Commission, and reflected on why she joined the Commission.

Member Justin ANDERSON attended ZpOOky Nights, and thanked staff for a good job, voicing his support for it to be continued in future years.

Chair Valente HUITRON attended a CP-42 Proposition 68 park design meeting, and mentioned how needed a soccer complex is for the whole Central Valley. He also stated appreciation for staff and their patience and support of the Recreation and Parks Commission especially regarding meeting procedures.

Member Ralph MOORIS congratulated the Commission and staff for the work on participatory budgeting for being even more progressive than Berkeley when he was involved in Recreation there.

Member Norma CARDONA wanted to echo everyone's appreciation for staff and offered a round of applause.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM.

By: Jennifer Arellano, Recreation Supervisor

Approved: Valente Huitron, Chair