



CITY OF MERCED

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

Minutes Recreation & Parks Commission

Monday, January 25, 2021

5:30 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair HUITRON called the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Clerk's Note: Commissioner CURIEL arrived at 5:33 PM.

Present: 5 - Member Norma Cardona, Chairperson Valente Huitron, Member Yesenia Curiel, Member Justin Anderson, and Vice Chair Douglas Piuser

Absent: 1 - Member Eric Moore

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Clerk's Note: Comments were received via email for Oral Communication and Item F.1. and forwarded to the Commission prior to the meeting.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

E.1.

SUBJECT: Adoption and Filing of Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020

REPORT IN BRIEF

Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

Recreation and Park Commission - Adopt a motion approving and filing the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cardona, seconded by Vice Chair Piuser, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Member Cardona, Chairperson Huitron, Member Anderson, and Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Moore

Abstain: 1 - Member Curiel

F. REPORTS

F.1.

SUBJECT: Considers Four Applications Requesting to Name Three Parks Including the Park Located at 11th and H Street, Circle Drive Park located at Circle Drive and 23rd Street, and the Future Park Site Unofficially Called Fahren’s Creek Park Site Located at Freemark Avenue and Heitz Way and Adopt a Recommendation to the City Council

REPORT IN BRIEF

Consider four park naming applications and select three names for three park sites and adopt a recommendation to the City Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Recreation and Parks Commission- Adopt a motion approving three park naming applications and make the recommendation to City Council.

Recreation Supervisor Jennifer ARELLANO gave a brief overview of the 4 park naming applications and the 3 available park sites.

Alejandro JURADO, Merced, representing the families that collaborated on the application, spoke in favor of naming the park at 11th and H Street Little Angels Park/Parque De Los Angelitos.

Chair HUITRON stated he would like to see separate motions to recommend a name for each park site.

Commissioner CARDONA stated that the Facebook feed did not have any sound.

Clerk’s Note: The Commission took a brief recess due to loss of sound.

A motion was made by Chairperson Huitron, seconded by Commissioner Curiel, to take a 5-minute recess while I.T. worked on restoring the meeting to Facebook Live. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Cardona, Chairperson Huitron, Member Curiel, Member Anderson, and Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Moore

Chair HUITRON asked that any voicemail correspondence be played before the first motion be made on the 11th and H Street site.

Recreation Supervisor Jennifer ARELLANO stated there were 8 emails and 12 voicemails regarding the park naming applications. The emails were emailed to commissioners and posted on the website. The 12 voicemails were played for Commissioners.

Gloria AGUIRRE, Merced, representing the families that collaborated on the application, spoke in favor of naming the park at 11th and H Street Little Angles Park/Parque De Los Angelitos.

A motion was made by Chairperson Huitron, seconded by Commissioner Curiel, to recommend to the City Council naming of the park located at 11th and H Street to Little Angels Park/Parque De Los Angelitos. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Cardona, Chairperson Huitron, Member Curiel, Member Anderson, and Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Moore

Anita RICHARDS, Merced, applicant, spoke in favor of naming Circle Drive Park Staff Sergeant Frank Joseph Gasper Park.

A motion was made by Chairperson Huitron, seconded by Commissioner Curiel, to recommend to the City Council naming of the park located on Circle Drive to Staff Sergeant Frank Joseph Gasper Park. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Cardona, Chairperson Huitron, Member Curiel, Member Anderson, and Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Moore

Moua TAO and Mike MURPHY, Merced, applicants, spoke in favor of naming the future park site at Freemark Avenue General Vang Pao Park.

Mark SCHELBY, Merced, applicant, spoke in favor of naming the future park site at Freemark Avenue Aletha June Park.

Commissioners and Director of Parks and Recreation Joey CHAVEZ, and

Mrs. ARELLANO discussed several options for naming the site.

Clerk's Note: A motion was made by Commissioner CURIEL to recommend to the City Council to name the future park site at Freemark Avenue and Heitz Way General Vang Pao Park. The motion failed for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Chairperson Huitron, seconded by Vice Chair Piuser, to recommend to the City Council naming of the future park located at Freemark Avenue and Heitz Way to General Vang Pao Park, and the playground to Aletha June Playground. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Member Cardona, Chairperson Huitron, Member Anderson, and Vice Chair Piuser

No: 1 - Member Curiel

Absent: 1 - Member Moore

F.2.

SUBJECT: Staff Update on City Council Meeting Decision and Discussion Regarding Participatory Budgeting for Measure Y Revenue and Setting a Joint Study Session in March with the Merced City Council

REPORT IN BRIEF

Staff update regarding City Council's direction for budgeting Measure Y Revenue

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a motion setting a date for a joint study session with City Council in March

Recreation Supervisor Jennifer ARELLANO gave a brief update on the January 18, 2021 City Council meeting discussion on the Recreation and Parks Commission recommendation for participatory budgeting of a portion of Measure Y funds.

Commissioner CARDONA discussed the City Council meeting on the 18th regarding participatory budgeting.

Commissioners discussed the dates for a joint study session with City Council.

A motion was made by Chairperson Huitron, seconded by Commissioner Cardona, to accept the City Council's invitation to hold a joint study session with the City Council on March 15, 2021 at 5:00 PM. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Cardona, Chairperson Huitron, Member Curiel, Member Anderson, and Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Moore

F.3.

SUBJECT: Receive a Sub-Committee Update on the Status of the Development of an Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy

REPORT IN BRIEF

Sub-committee update on the draft Athletic Field Use and Allocation policy

RECOMMENDATION

Information Only-No Action Needed

Chair HUITRON gave an update on the subcommittee's work on the draft field use policy.

Director of Parks and Recreation Joey CHAVEZ discussed the process and next steps for the policy.

Vice Chair PIUSER thanked everyone for their work on the policy.

G. BUSINESS

G.1.

SUBJECT: Discussion on Setting Recreation and Parks Commission Goals and Priorities including a Review of the Park and Open Space Master Plan Which May Include, but not be Limited to, Recommendations on Mini Parks in the South Side, Park Divestment, Conducting a Needs Assessment, and Ranking Park Quality

REPORT IN BRIEF

Discussion on Goals and Priorities, including multiple related items previously requested by Commissioners

RECOMMENDATION

Recreation and Parks Commission - Adopt a motion setting Goals and Priorities.

Recreation Supervisor Jennifer ARELLANO gave a brief overview of the Commission goals and priorities and asked for direction from the Commission.

Commissioners discussed reviewing the master plan in a separate study session, and asked to table the item until after the joint study session with the City Council on March 15, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cardona, seconded by Commissioner

Curiel, to hold a special study session to review the master plan, and to table this agenda item until after the March 15, 2021 meeting with City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Cardona, Chairperson Huitron, Member Curiel, Member Anderson, and Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Moore

G.2.

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.

Commissioners discussed creating more youth friendly parks and how to involve the youth council to receive and promote their recommendations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cardona, seconded by Commissioner Curiel, to send Commissioner Cardona as a liaison to a Youth Council meeting to get their recommendations on how to make parks more youth friendly, and to bring back this item with their recommendation when available. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Cardona, Chairperson Huitron, Member Curiel, Member Anderson, and Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Moore

G.3.

SUBJECT: Review and Approve Draft Request for Interest for Lease of the McNamara Youth Center and the Stephen Leonard Youth Center

REPORT IN BRIEF

Review and approve draft Request for Interest for McNamara Youth Center and Stephen Leonard Youth Center contracts.

RECOMMENDATION

Recreation and Parks Commission- Adopt a motion approving the draft Request for Interest for McNamara Youth Center and Stephen Leonard Youth Centers

Recreation Supervisor Jennifer ARELLANO gave a brief overview of the item and presented the draft Request for Interest (RFI) for approval.

Commissioners discussed the draft with Director of Parks and Recreation Joey CHAVEZ and Mrs. ARELLANO, and offered suggestions for changes.

Chair HUITRON made a motion to accept the draft RFI, but to also add language that if a lessee exceeded \$7,500 for utilities annually they would be responsible for the overage, and that any non-profit leasing the building had to be in service for at least one year. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner CURIEL clarified the information she would like to see in the RFI, to include outcomes and deliverables.

A motion was made by Chairperson Huitron, seconded by Commissioner Curiel, to accept the draft RFI, but to also add language that if a lessee exceeded \$7,500 for utilities annually they would be responsible for the overage, and that any non-profit leasing the building had to be in service for at least one year, and that the application include language on outcomes and deliverables. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Cardona, Chairperson Huitron, Member Curiel, Member Anderson, and Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Moore

G.4.

SUBJECT: Information and Discussion Regarding the Grant Funding Awarded to the Boys and Girls Club, the Current Lease Agreements for the McCombs Youth Center, the Current Contract for Summer Camp Services, and Information Regarding the Process for Applying for Grant Funding Opportunities

REPORT IN BRIEF

Discussion regarding the current contracts with the Boys and Girls Club

RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action needed.

Recreation Supervisor Jennifer ARELLANO gave a brief overview of the item.

Chair HUITRON stated that this was his item and he was satisfied with the information given, and asked if the Boys and Girls Club Lease agreement would be automatically renewed.

Director of Parks and Recreation Joey CHAVEZ clarified that there are no plans to open up the McCombs Youth Center to an RFI process, but will

renew the lease agreement with the Boys and Girls Club in one-on-one negotiations.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of recommending to City Council to open up the McCombs Youth Center to an RFI process when the lease agreement expires on June 30, 2021.

G.5.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 HUITRON requested an item to recommend to the City Council to ensure that all City-owned leased youth centers be opened up to the Request For Interest process at the end of their lease terms beginning ASAP.

G.6.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.

Commissioner CARDONA thanked everyone who submitted a park naming application, especially those who lost loved ones, and thanked staff for all the hard work.

Chair HUITRON thanked everyone for their patience with items he is passionate about, and also asked about the Commission vacancy.

Director of Parks and Recreation Joey CHAVEZ stated he hoped within a month the commission position could be filled.

Commissioner CURIEL thanked the new City Council liaison, Jesse Ornelas for his participation.

Chair HUITRON addressed Council member Jesse Ornelas and stated he hoped the Commission's recommendations to the City Council would be taken seriously, as the last 3 recommendations were not accepted by the City Council.

Council member Jesse Ornelas thanked everyone for being on the Commission as a labor of love, and that he looked forward to collaboration.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cardona, seconded by Chairperson Huitron, that the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Cardona, Chairperson Huitron, Member Curiel, Member Anderson, and Vice Chair Piuser

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Moore