



CITY OF MERCED

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

Minutes Recreation & Parks Commission

Monday, February 22, 2021

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

Present: 5 - Member Eric Moore, Member Norma Cardona, Chairperson Valente Huitron, Member Yesenia Curiel, and Member Justin Anderson

Absent: 1 - Vice Chair Douglas Piuser

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

E. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

E.1. **SUBJECT:** Introduction of and General Remarks from Interim Parks and Recreation Director, Frank Quintero

REPORT IN BRIEF

Introduction of and General Remarks from Interim Parks and Recreation Director Frank Quintero

RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action required

Interim Parks and Recreation Director, Frank QUINTERO introduced himself and gave brief remarks on his plans for future meetings.

Commissioner Yesenia CURIEL welcomed him and asked how long he had been with the city.

F. REPORTS

F.1. **SUBJECT:** Parks Maintenance Overview from Public Works Director, Ken Elwin and Questions and Discussion Regarding Parks Maintenance

REPORT IN BRIEF

Public Works Director, Ken Elwin will give an overview on Parks Maintenance with an opportunity for Commissioners' questions and discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action required

Public Works Director, Ken ELWIN gave a presentation on park maintenance.

Commissioners asked questions and discussed how to best support the department.

Clerk's Note: This item was information only; no action was taken.

F.2.

SUBJECT: Update from Commissioner Cardona on Presentation to Youth Council on Ways of Making Parks More Youth Friendly

REPORT IN BRIEF

Update from Commissioner Cardona on her presentation to the Youth Council and their feedback on making parks more youth friendly.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action required

Commissioner Norma CARDONA gave an update on her visit to the Youth Council meeting.

Commissioners discussed next steps for advocating for more youth friendly parks.

Clerk's Note: This item was information only; no official action was taken.

F.3.

SUBJECT: Mid-Year Budget Review for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and Quarterly Revenue Update for First Quarter of the Fiscal Year Report From Finance Officer, Venus Rodriguez

REPORT IN BRIEF

Finance Officer, Venus Rodriguez, will present the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Mid-Year Financial Report and provide a quarterly revenue update.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action required

Finance Officer, Venus RODRIGUEZ gave a presentation on a mid year budget review and quarterly revenue update.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions.

Clerk's Note: This item was information only; no official action was taken.

G. BUSINESS

G.1.

SUBJECT: Discussion and Identification of the Topics for the Upcoming March 15 Joint Study Session with City Council

REPORT IN BRIEF

Discussion on the upcoming joint study session with City Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Direction to staff providing a courtesy list of discussion topics to the City Council for the March 15, 2021, Joint Study Session.

Interim Director, Frank QUINTERO asked Commissioners for their top 3 items to discuss at the upcoming joint study session with City Council.

Commissioners discussed possible topics and ranked them in order of preference. Final topics selected were:

1. Parks and Open Space Master Plan
2. Research Community Violence Prevention
3. Participatory Budgeting
4. Applegate Park Zoo
5. Soccer Fields

Clerk's Note: This item was information only, no official action was taken.

G.2.

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 an updated list of the parks without names and asked staff to do a second round of advertisements about those sites. He also requested an item to discuss the last 10 years of budgets for Parks and Recreation, especially what percentage of the general fund was allocated to Parks and Recreation, shown in a Pie Chart form. He also requested an item to discuss the full service contract at Ray

Flanagan Park, and an explanation of fiscal year 2019/2020 professional services spending.

Commissioner Eric MOORE requested an item to discuss the vendor contracts for concessions at Joe Herb and Sports Complex Parks.

Commissioner Yesnia CURIEL requested an update on the Zoo and updates on what the youth centers are doing currently in light of Covid-19.

Commissioner Norma CARDONA requested an item to discuss sending a regular representative to the youth council meetings.

G.3.

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.

Chair Valente HUITRON mentioned that recently the Commission has sent 4 recommendations to the City Council, and that this time, one was approved without modification for the park naming applications, and there was a nice article in the Merced Sun Star about it.

Commissioner Eric MOORE wanted to thank everyone for the hard work they have been putting in on the sports park policy in the subcommittee.

Commissioner Yesenia CURIEL thanked staff for all their work and all the presenters for attending the meeting.

Recreation Supervisor Jennifer ARELLANO announced this would be her last meeting, as she was pursuing her dream to be a stay at home mom, and thanked everyone for their passion and work for parks and recreation.

Commissioner Norma CARDONA, Eric MOORE and Chair Valente HUITRON thanked Jennifer ARELLANO for her service and wished her luck.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

