



# CITY OF MERCED

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

## Minutes Recreation & Parks Commission

---

Monday, August 24, 2020

5:30 PM

---

### A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair CARDONA called the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

### B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### C. ROLL CALL

**Clerk's Note:** Commissioner Huitron left the meeting at 6:45 PM.

**Present:** 6 - Eric Moore, Chairperson Norma Cardona, Valente Huitron, Vice Chair Yesenia Curiel, Justin Anderson and Doug Piuser

**Absent:** 1 - Ralph Morris

### D. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### E. CONSENT CALENDAR

E.1. **SUBJECT:** Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2020

#### REPORT IN BRIEF

Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2020.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**Recreation and Park Commission** - Adopt a motion approving and filing the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2020.

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

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Morris

## F. REPORTS

### F.1. SUBJECT: Quarterly Reports from Youth Center Lessees

#### REPORT IN BRIEF

Youth Center Lessees in attendance to give quarterly activity reports.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action needed.

#### DISCUSSION

At the July Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Vice Chair Yesenia CURIEL requested a quarterly report from the Boys and Girls Club. Since quarterly reports are required from all youth center lessees, occupants of the Boys and Girls Club, McNamara Youth Center, and Stephen Leonard Youth Center will give quarterly reports.

McNamara Youth Center lessee representative Kelly TURNER gave a quarterly report presentation of activities at the Youth Center.

Commissioners asked questions and thanked Ms. TURNER for her good work.

Stephen Leonard Youth Center Lessee representative Angela LOPEZ gave a quarterly report presentation of activities at the Youth Center.

Commissioners asked questions to which additional lessee representatives, Daisy RAMIREZ and Fernando AQUILERA helped Ms. LOPEZ to respond to.

Commissioners thanked everyone for their good work at the Stephen Leonard Youth Center.

Boys and Girls Club lessee representative Virginia HAYWARD gave a quarterly report presentation of activities at the Club.

Commissioners asked questions and thanked Ms. HAYWARD for the good work at the Club.

Vice Chair Yesenia CURIEL spoke of the need for a standardized reporting form for all Youth Center lessees and volunteered to create one. Acting City Manager Stephanie DIETZ made a recommendation for Staff to assist by giving needed information.

## G. BUSINESS

### G.1. SUBJECT: Selection of a New Chair and Vice Chair

#### REPORT IN BRIEF

Yearly selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Curiel, seconded by Member Moore, that Commissioner Valente Huitron be nominated for Chair.**

**A motion was made by Member Cardona, seconded by Member Moore, that Commissioner Douglas Piuser be nominated for Vice Chair.**

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Member Morris

### G.2. SUBJECT: Update and Discussion on Future Soccer Complex Site CP-42

#### REPORT IN BRIEF

Staff update and discussion on future soccer complex site CP-42.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action needed.

#### DISCUSSION

At the July Recreation and Parks Commission meeting Commissioner Eric MOORE requested this item to discuss the future soccer complex site CP-42 and to receive an update from staff on recent community meetings regarding the site.

Parks and Recreation Director Joey CHAVEZ gave a brief presentation on updates to the CP-42 park planning process.

City Manager Stephanie DIETZ suggested Commissioners create an ad hoc subcommittee to discuss CP-42 and other park sites for Prop 68 application.

Commissioners discussed creating a park site selection ad hoc committee; members Douglas PIUSER and Yesenia CURIEL volunteered to be on the committee, and Commissioner MOORE suggested member Valente HUITRON also be on the committee.

**G.3. SUBJECT: Discussion on Sports Park Usage Policy**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Discussion on a sports park usage policy suggested by Merced Soccer Association

**RECOMMENDATION**

Information only-no action needed.

Commissioner Yesenia CURIEL stated not all members were present for the discussion and in response, Acting City Manager Stephanie DIETZ suggested tabling this item to the next meeting.

**G.4. SUBJECT: Adopt a Motion Selecting 3 Potential Park Sites for the Submission of 3 Proposition 68 Statewide Park Program Round 4 Grant Applications for an Amount Not to Exceed \$8.5 Million Dollars (\$8,500,000) Per Application**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers selecting 3 potential park sites for the submittal of 3 grant applications for funding of park renovations, expansions, and/or to create new parks throughout Merced for an amount not to exceed \$8.5 Million (\$8,500,000) per park site.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Recreation and Parks Commission** - Adopt a motion selecting 3 project sites for the submission of 3 Proposition 68 Statewide Park Program Round 4 grant applications for an amount not to exceed \$8.5 million dollars (\$8,500,000) per project site.

Recreation Supervisor, Jennifer ARELLANO gave a presentation on Proposition 68 Grant Funding and reviewed possible project sites.

Commissioners asked questions and discussed their priorities for selecting the 3 project sites.

Commissioner ANDERSON stated he did not think the I Street and 18th Street site would be a good site for a park due to high violence and crime in the area.

Commissioner MOORE suggested prioritizing the list of sites instead of selecting 3, so that staff and City Council could be flexible in site selection.

**A motion was made by Member Moore, seconded by Member Piuser, that the park sites be ordered from highest to least preference from I St. and 18th Street, Alfarata Ranch, CP-42, William Lloyd Garrison, Bob Hart Square, Rascal Creek Bike Path, Santa Fe and G Street. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Member Moore  
Cardona  
Member Huitron  
Vice Chair Curiel  
Piuser

**No:** 1 - Member Anderson

**Absent:** 1 - Member Morris

**G.5. SUBJECT: Discussion on the Format of Commission Meetings During COVID-19**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Discuss the format of Board and Commission Meetings.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Provide staff direction on the format of future Board and Commission Meetings.

Commissioners discussed virtual and in-person meetings and expressed their desire to continue to meet in person.

**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.

Commissioner CARDONA requested to add an item to discuss setting goals and priorities for the Commission, and an item for October's agenda to discuss what to do with the mini parks recommended for disposal, and an item for October's agenda to discuss park naming in regards to the

Black Lives Matter movement.

Commissioner MOORE requested to add an item for an update from the ad hoc park site selection committee, and an item to discuss a legislative subpoena process.

Commissioner CURIEL requested to add an item to discuss Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment.

**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.

Commissioner CURIEL suggested to commissioners to watch City Council meetings and stay current on happenings.

Vice Chair Piuser thanked everyone for welcoming him to the Commission and stated his excitement to be a part of the Commission.

Commissioner CARDONA welcomed Commissioner Piuser and thanked everyone for their support during her tenure as Chair.

Commissioner MOORE discussed the passing of Butch Hughes and his importance in the community and how much he will be missed.

Recreation Supervisor ARELLANO discussed the passing of Janet Demaree and requested the meeting be adjourned in honor of her and Butch Hughes.

Parks and Recreation Director CHAVEZ discussed his memories and appreciation of Coach Butch Hughes.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM in remembrance of Coach Butch Hughes and Janet Demaree.

By:

Jennifer Arellano  
Recreation Supervisor

Approved:

Valente Huitron  
Chair