

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
OCTOBER 16, 2019, 6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Jeff Brauckmann, Chair
Don Mrla, Vice Chair
Chris Hardeman, Commissioner
Kevin Kennedy, Commissioner
Delia Morales, Commissioner
Ray Wong, Commissioner

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to address Park, Recreation and Community Services Commission regarding any item of business, with the exception of the public hearing items, or any matter within the body's subject matter jurisdiction. Speakers must limit their comments to three minutes. Pursuant to State law, the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any oral communications which do not appear on the printed agenda.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.A. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2019.

5.B. Community Services Division Presentation

Recommendation: Receive and file Community Services Division's presentation focusing on Special Events, Cultural Arts, and Parnell Park Facility programming.

5.C. Commissioner Sub-Committee Assignments

Recommendation: Discuss and approve assignments for FY 2019-20 for the following sub-committees:

1. Summer Concerts
2. Youth Sports

5.D. Update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan Implementation

Recommendation: Receive and file update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

5.E. Whittier Girls Softball League

Recommendation: Receive and file report on Whittier Girls Softball League matters.

6. SECRETARY COMMENTS

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND CONFERENCE REPORTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

The agenda packet is available three days before the meeting in the PRCS Department at City Hall (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) and East Whittier Branch Library (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Additionally, the agenda packet can be viewed on the City's website. Materials distributed to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission within 72 hours of the Commission meeting are available for public inspection in the PRCS Department's Office.

Los servicios relacionados con la discapacidad están disponibles para permitir que las personas con discapacidad participen en esta reunión, de conformidad con la Ley Federal de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990. También hay intérpretes en español disponibles. Para obtener información o para solicitar servicios, comuníquese con el Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad al menos de 24 horas antes de la reunión al (562) 567-9400.

El paquete de la agenda está disponible tres días antes de la reunión con El Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad en el Ayuntamiento (13230 Penn Street), Biblioteca Central de Whittier (7344 Washington Avenue) y Biblioteca sucursal del este de Whittier (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Además, el paquete de la agenda se puede ver en el sitio web de la Ciudad. Los materiales distribuidos al Comisión de parques, recreación y servicios comunitarios dentro de las 72 horas de la reunión del Concejo Municipal están disponibles para inspección pública en la con El Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Regular and Adjourned Regular meeting agendas may be amended up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Dated this 11th day of October 2019.

/s/ Rosemary Serrano-Aiken

Rosemary Serrano-Aiken, Secretary



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: October 16, 2019

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2019.

BACKGROUND

None

DISCUSSION

Staff prepared draft minutes and hereby submits the minutes for Commission's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2019

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Brauckmann called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jeff Brauckmann, Chair
Don Mrla, Vice Chair
Chris Hardeman, Commissioner
Kevin Kennedy, Commissioner
Delia Morales, Commissioner
Ray Wong, Commissioner

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Virginia Santana, Community Services Manager
Darren Schmidt, Community Services Supervisor
Nanette Duron, Community Services Coordinator
Sheryl Dugas, Administrative Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Wong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Dickerson, a member of the Whittier Conservancy Board, and Chair of the Urban Forest Committee, stated that one of the requirements for a city to be designated, as a "Tree City USA" is to have a "Tree Committee". Therefore, the Parks Recreation and Community Services Commission must stay to insure that the City of Whittier is able to maintain this distinction. He also commented on the Whittier Conservancy's latest newsletter, as well as the Conservancy's funding available for tree planting in each district. Mr. Dickerson reported that the Conservancy is working with Whittier College to fund the planting of twenty Avocado trees on campus.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5. A Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Vice Chair Mrla, and carried 6 – 0 to approve the Minutes of the August 21, 2019 regular Meeting.

5. B Update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan Implementation

Secretary Alaniz advised Commission that all Commissions would be receiving regular updates on the status of homelessness issues. This will be one way to get the word out to the public as to what the City is doing about their concerns. He also reported that the annual State of Homelessness joint meeting, between the City and the consortium on Homelessness would take place at Parnell Park, On October 19, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. This meeting is open to the public.

Secretary Alaniz reported that he and Community Services Manager Browne had attended a tactical area meeting and will soon be going to the city of Pomona to see the new shelter that was recently opened.

Community Services Manager Browne and Secretary Alaniz will be meeting with representatives from People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) to discuss the possibility of hiring two of their vetted and trained staff members to assist the city with the implementation of the homeless plan. Secretary Alaniz noted that the City has \$120,000 in Measure H funding available to pay for this staffing. The City is currently waiting for the agreements to come from Los Angeles County to finalize the funding process.

Secretary Alaniz noted that one couple from Leffingwell Ranch Park was recently provided with housing in the Long Beach area, however, there are still several people remaining in the park. Parnell, Lee Owens, and Kennedy Parks are also seeing an increase in the presence of homeless individuals. Secretary Alaniz reported that at both Parnell Park and the Palm Park Aquatic Center plumbing has been vandalized.

Commissioner Kennedy questioned if PATH is affiliated with United Way, and not a political organization. He also questioned what they do. Secretary Alaniz stated that they are a “social services” organization who works directly with homeless people, like social workers, to connect them directly with services, housing, etc. They will be a direct connection with the city. Commissioner Kennedy questioned if a database of individuals will be created. Secretary Alaniz responded that there is already a database, with information gathered by previous outreach teams

Commissioner Morales reported that she attends dog-training classes at Kennedy Park on Saturdays and there are several homeless people camping out next to the rest rooms. Commissioner Hardeman questioned how it is that Sorensen and Adventure Parks, both Los Angeles County parks, do not seem

to have the same issues that Whittier is experiencing. Commissioner Kennedy commented on the possibility of cities fighting the Boise court ruling. Commissioner Morales questioned whether the mobile shower service is still in operation. Secretary Alaniz noted that the program is still in effect, with the service available at Liberty Plaza every Friday.

Chair Brauckmann questioned whether the Measure H funds are only going to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Secretary Alaniz responded that the funds come to the City for programs earmarked to address homelessness issues, which are under the purview of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Morales, and carried 6 – 0 to receive and file the update on the City of Whittier Homeless Plan Implementation

5. C Community Services Division Presentation

Secretary Alaniz introduced Community Services Supervisor, Darren Schmidt, and Community Services Coordinator Nanette Duron. Mr. Schmidt gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following aspects of the Youth Services Division:

- Whittier Youth Network (WYN Club) program – a drop-in recreation program for elementary school students. WYN Club is available during the after-school hours at several school sites and during the summer months at various park sites. There are 40 part-time staff, interns and Volunteers working at the seven school sites. Staff also works with the SKILLS programs at Orchard Dale and Scott Avenue Elementary Schools.
- Summer WYN Club – a drop-in recreation program available at Michigan, Anaconda, Palm and Parnell Parks. The cost is \$50 for the entire summer, with various field trips available at various costs.
- Summer Day Camp program – full day programming, not drop-in, available at Palm and various elementary schools for children 5 to 12 years of age. These spots sell out quickly. There are weekly field trips available, swimming, and an annual picnic.
- VolunTEEN program – a mentoring program for youths ages 14-17. Receive training in life skills, participation in the Summer Concert Series Emerging Arts program, assist with special events, and gain experience in the field of recreation.
- Students Run Whittier – a free program to train students to encourage life-long physical fitness and create an atmosphere of belonging while training

with their peers to participate in local 5k runs in the City of Whittier. Practices are on Saturday mornings at Palm Park.

- Students in Government. – an annual program with participation rotating between Whittier High School, California High School, and La Serna High School. Students selected by their teachers, work together to create an agenda for a mock City Council meeting, write an agenda report, shadow Department Heads, and participate in a mock City Council meeting.
- Among other programs the Youth Services Division are involved with are The Southern California Teen Coalition, and the City's Movies in the Park program.

It was moved by Vice Chair Mrla, seconded by Commissioner Kennedy, and carried 6 – 0 to receive and file the Community Services Division's presentation focusing on Youth Services.

6. SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Secretary Alaniz advised Commission of an incident that had occurred on Friday, September 13, at East Whittier Middle School, involving current and past board members of the Whittier Girls' Softball League. There was a violent altercation, with children present, which resulted in one person being transported to the hospital in an ambulance. The incident is under investigation by the softball league, the overseeing athletic association, the City, and the Whittier Police Department. Secretary Alaniz noted that the City is taking this very seriously. Commissioner Kennedy questioned if this incident will be agendized for discussion at the next Youth Sports Advisory Committee meeting. Secretary Alaniz stated that due to the ongoing investigation into the incident it is not known at this time if it will be included on the agenda.

Secretary Alaniz advised Commission that review and revision of the Parkway Tree Manual would be coming up in the next few months. Commission will be included in the review process. At this time, it appears that the majority of tree issues will remain with the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

Secretary Alaniz advised Commission of the following coming events:

- The Whittier Community Foundation is holding their second annual "Boots, Beer and BBQ" fundraising event on Saturday, September 21, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., at the Whittier Quad. Tickets are \$35.00 each. Funds raised are going towards the Firefighter tribute art piece.
- The Firefighter tribute unveiling ceremony will take place on Thursday, October 3, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., at Fire Station 28 on Greenleaf Avenue.

- The annual “State of Homelessness”, joint meeting will take place at the Parnell Park Community Center, on Saturday, October 19, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

7. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Commissioner Morales reported that she had attended the recent Luau at the Senior Center and that Secretary Alaniz was a great server. She also noted that she is attending the dog training classes at Kennedy Park on Saturdays.

Commissioner Wong reported seeing the tree down on Hadley Street, that had crushed a care, last week. Secretary Alaniz noted that it was a City tree.

Commissioner Hardeman commented on the “Boots, Beer and BBQ” fundraiser, stating it is a great event, and there will be a fabulous live band.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brauckmann adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission on _____.

Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: October 16, 2019

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Community Services Division Presentation

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file Community Services Division's presentation focusing on Special Events, Cultural Arts, and Parnell Park Facility programming.

BACKGROUND

The Community Services Division, offers various Special Events, Cultural Arts, and Parnell Park Facility programs and services benefitting the community. Programs include the Eggxtravaganza, Police Open House and Health Fair, Concerts in the Park, 4th of July Spectacular, Community Street Banner, Visual Arts, Emerging Arts, and Whittier Nights at the Hollywood Bowl. The Parnell Park Senior and Community Center facilitates numerous classes and programs for seniors and the community.

DISCUSSION

Staff has prepared a presentation focusing on Special Events, Cultural Arts, and Parnell Park Facility programming.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

None



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: October 16, 2019

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Commissioner Sub-Committee Assignments

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and approve assignments for Fiscal Year 2019-20 for the following sub-committees:

1. Summer Concerts
2. Youth Sports

BACKGROUND

Annually, Commission appointments representatives to the Summer Concert sub-committee and the Youth Sports sub-committee for each new fiscal year.

DISCUSSION

Commission will discuss and approve appointments of representatives to the Summer Concert sub-committee and the Youth Sports sub-committee for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

None



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: October 16, 2019
To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission
From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Subject: Update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan Implementation

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

BACKGROUND

At the July 24, 2018 City Council Meeting, Council adopted the City of Whittier Homeless Plan.

The homeless plan provides a framework, and establishes four goals with supporting action items, for preventing and combatting homelessness over the next three years. The plan includes key supporting actions the City has undertaken to improve existing services and programs, increase service access, identify and strengthen local and regional partnerships, and provide outreach and information to the community regarding homelessness. The plan includes ideas from the two consultants who worked on the plan, Whittier Police Department, Whittier First Day, Social Services Commissioners, and comments from the community meetings, community surveys, and stakeholder interviews. The plan recognizes the need for additional resources to address the homeless issues in the City, and to provide information to the community on the work being done. Metrics for each goal have been set, as appropriate, in coordination with the County and homeless prevention experts over the course of the life of the plan.

DISCUSSION

Staff will update Commission on City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

None



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: October 16, 2019
To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission
From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Subject: Whittier Girls Softball League

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file update on the Whittier Girls Softball League matters.

BACKGROUND

The Whittier Girls Softball League (WGSL) was founded 57 years ago as a fast pitch softball league for girls ages five to 14 years of age. It is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization whose purpose is to perpetuate and organize a recreational program for young girls, which stresses self-responsibility, sportsmanship, team work, and friendship. Approximately 700 girls participate with 54 teams at levels 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U. All practices and games are held at East Whittier Middle School.

DISCUSSION

Staff will report on a Whittier Girls Softball League (WGSL) incident which occurred on Friday, September 13, 2019 at approximately 7:30 p.m. at the East Whittier Middle School blacktop, in front of the gymnasium and the action the WGSL Board has taken.

Board Member John Hernandez and parent Tony Avila were having a verbal disagreement. At some point during the disagreement Mr. Hernandez asked WGSL President, Moses Galicia for assistance to diffuse the situation. The three men walked away from the playing fields and over to the blacktop area. Mr. Avila began pushing Mr. Hernandez multiple times. President Galicia did not stop this from happening; at some point, Mr. Hernandez threw a punch to defend himself. After the fighting began, President Galicia, in an attempt to break up the fighting, pushed both gentlemen to the ground. At this time another man, Rick Jaimes became involved, then he and Mr. Avila beat up Mr. Hernandez.

During the incident four ladies; Bianca Hernandez, Nancy Avila, Cynthia Galicia and Teresa Jaimes all were using profanity. The Whittier Police Department (WPD) was called, and at the sound of sirens everyone involved scattered except for Mr. Hernandez, President Galicia, and Ms. Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez was taken away by an ambulance due to his injuries and a police report was taken.

That same night, Anthony Buresch sent a text message to members involved. City staff was notified of incident on the morning of Monday, September 16, 2019.

On Monday, September 16, 2019 the WGS� Executive Board called an emergency meeting for the same day at the Whittier Community Center. At this meeting, all members involved were suspended indefinitely until a hearing could take place.

On Thursday, September 18, 2019 a hearing for all members involved was held. Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Avila were not present; their hearing was postponed to another date. Fifteen Executive Board Members were in attendance along with USA Softball of Southern California – Northern District Commissioner, Ralph Rivera. Commissioner Rivera ran the hearing process. Individuals involved in the incident were scheduled every half hour. Commissioner Rivera explained to each individual, their violations and they were allowed to speak for five minutes in their defense. The WGS� Executive Board made decisions regarding suspensions.

From the hearing process the following was decided:

1. Bianca Hernandez (Profanity) – Suspension lifted.
2. Anthony Buresch (Threats) – Suspension lifted with the stipulation he will be suspended for one calendar year if any further issues occur.
3. Cynthia Galicia (Profanity) – Suspension lifted.
4. John Hernandez (Fighting) – Postponed
5. Nancy Avila (Profanity) - Lifetime ban from WGS�. In addition to the profanity used that night, it was determined she had been a problem instigating many issues in the last three months leading up to the September 13, 2019 incident.
6. Tony Avila (Fighting) – Lifetime ban from WGS�.
7. Teresa Jaimes (Profanity) - Suspension lifted with the stipulation she will be suspended for one calendar year if any further issues occur.
8. Rick Jaimes (Fighting) – Postponed.

Commissioner Rivera stated the Board as a whole was very fair and rational, and the Board had the best interest of the players and the WGS� at hand. Commissioner Rivera also stated President Galicia was very displeased that he was not running the hearing. In addition, President Galicia did not agree with some of the suspensions handed down by the Board.

On Tuesday, October 1, 2019 a hearing was held for Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Jaimes at the Whittier Community Center. The results from the hearing are as follows:

1. John Hernandez (Fighting) – Lifetime ban from WGS�.
2. Rick Jaimes (Fighting) – Lifetime ban from WGS�.

After the October 1, 2019 hearing was completed, President Galicia officially resigned from the WGS� Board.

On Wednesday, October 2, 2019 an Emergency Board Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Rivera. Commissioner Rivera explained to the existing Board the steps to take to replace the open Board Member positions. Commissioner Rivera feels the Board has a strong foundation and with a little guidance, they can grow and return the WGSL to the success it once had.

At this time, the City is working closely with Commissioner Rivera to steer the WGSL in the right direction.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

None