

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
DECEMBER 18, 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 October 16, 2019.

5.B. Community Services Division Presentation

Recommendation: Receive and file update on Community Services Division's presentation focusing on Aquatics, Tennis, and Palm 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
3. Affiliate Policy

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

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

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 13th day of December 2019.

/s/ Sheryl Dugas

Sheryl Dugas, Administrative Secretary



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: December 18, 2019

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2019.

BACKGROUND

None

DISCUSSION

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

FISCAL IMPACT

There is not fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2019.

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
OCTOBER 16, 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
Chris Hardeman, Commissioner
Kevin Kennedy, Commissioner
Delia Morales, Commissioner

ABSENT: Don Mrla, Vice Chair
Ray Wong, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Virginia Santana, Community Services Manager
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Supervisor
Amanda Krause, Community Services Coordinator
Sheryl Dugas, Administrative Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Morales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. David Dickerson, Chairman of the Urban Forestry Committee of the Whittier Conservancy, stated that it is an honor for Whittier to be designated as a “Tree City USA”, which is awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation. He provided Commission with information on the four standards that must be met by cities to qualify for this distinction. The first standard is to have a Tree Board or Department, which is met by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission. The second standard is to have a tree care ordinance. Within the City of Whittier’s ordinance the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services is listed multiple times as the enforcer of the rules pertaining to city trees. The third standard to be met is a community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per Capita. Mr. Dickerson noted that the Conservancy recently donated \$5,000 to the City for tree planting. He stressed the importance and roll of the Commissioners and Parks Division in the preservation of Whittier urban forest, and commended Commission for their work.

Mr. Moses Galicia, former President of Whittier Girls Softball League, addressed Commission regarding the incident involving current and past Board Members of the Whittier Girls' Softball League, which occurred on September 13, 2019 at East Whittier Middle School. He reported that information previously provided to the City by others involved in the incident were inaccurate. Mr. Galicia outlined the course of events that took place. He also noted that one of the parties involved had subsequently sent "threats" to other involved parties and was not "censured" during the hearing that was conducted by District Commissioner, Ralph Rivera.

Mr. Richard Jaimes advised Commission on the same incident addressed by Mr. Galicia. Mr. Jaimes noted that he did not see what initiated the disturbance but stepped in in an attempt to diffuse the situation. He stated that during the course of events it became necessary for him to defend himself against a physical attack. Mr. Jaimes refuted the information presented to the City that "multiple people" were holding the other party involved down and beating him. He also stated that he had received a suspension from participation in the league, and he does not dispute that. He also received a lifetime ban. Mr. Jaimes voiced his apology to the City, the School District and all involved in the incident. He thanked Commission for "hearing him out".

Mr. Tony Avila, Whittier Girls Softball League, added his comments about the September 13 incident. He stated that what started as a discussion between himself and the other involved party escalated in intensity, resulting in punches being thrown. Mr. Avila noted that he had not witnessed Mr. Jaimes' involvement, and at the end of it his shirt was torn, the girls were upset and he left the school grounds. He later went voluntarily to the Whittier Police Department to give his statement. Mr. Avila stated that the report information was not accurate. He takes responsibility for his actions, and noted that if everyone involved took responsibility for their actions the situation would be over by now.

Ms. Cynthia Galicia, wife of Mr. Moses Galicia, stated that she did not witness the event as she was with the team of six and under girls. She feels that they failed their girls as a whole, and this has taken its toll on their family. She also reported that the "unauthorized" email sent to over 800 families included false statements and slandered and defamed the involved parties. She noted that she is a "PTA mom", and they are good citizens trying to make a good impact on the community. Ms. Galicia stated that she is afraid to walk out to her car and it is not right to be falsely accused.

Commissioner Kennedy requested a change to the order of the Agenda to move item 5.E. Whittier Girls Softball League to follow item 5.A. Approval of Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Hardeman, and carried 4 – 0, (absent: Vice Chair Mrla and Commissioner Wong) to change the order of the Agenda to move item 5.E. Whittier Girls Softball League to follow item 5.A. Approval of Minutes.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5. A Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Morales, and carried 4 – 0 (absent: Vice Chair Mrla and Commissioner Wong) to approve the Minutes of the September 18, 2019 Regular Meeting.

5. E Whittier Girls Softball League

Secretary Alaniz updated Commission on the Whittier Girls Softball League incident and follow-up. He stated that it is a very unfortunate situation with the biggest concern being that the children present witnessed the event. Secretary Alaniz reported that the league is working with the Softball Commission, with staff members Justin Steele and Ryhan Cordova following the proceedings and gathering information. Commissioner Hardeman voiced his concern about the relationship between the City, Whittier Girls Softball League and the East Whittier School District being damaged. He stated that the School District is very concerned about what happened. Commissioner Kennedy proposed a motion to suspend Whittier Girls Softball League's affiliate status until they conduct a "Victory with Honor", or similar, program for all members in leadership rolls. He stated that there needs to be a change of culture in the entire program, not just for the individuals involved in the incident. Chair Brauckmann noted that the Affiliate Policy allows for placing a league on a probationary period. Secretary Alaniz stated that the Affiliate Policy is not currently clear on the implementation of probation or suspension, and will need to be reviewed and possibly revised to outline exactly what course of action is to be taken in these types of situations. Commissioner Hardeman noted that the type of training program suggested by Commissioner Kennedy should be added as a requirement to the Affiliate Policy. Chair Brauckmann questioned what process needs to be followed to put a league on probation. Secretary Alaniz reported that the City Manager is not comfortable with suspending the league. Chair Brauckmann noted that item policy item 7F, on page 8, addresses the issue of probation. Commissioner Hardeman suggested reviewing the Affiliate Policy in the future. Commissioner Morales questioned what happens now. Commissioner Hardeman noted that at this time the girls continue to play softball and some of the parents remain suspended. He also voiced the greatest concern at this time is preventing damage to the relationship between the East Whittier School District and the City, thereby affecting the joint use agreement. Commissioner Kennedy questioned what implications this has for other programs. Secretary Alaniz stated that it could potentially damage the Joint Use Agreement, which is currently under review by the East Whittier School District. Commissioner Kennedy advised that the City show the District that it is also concerned and is doing something. Chair Brauckmann requested a report to address possible probation.

It was moved by Commissioner Hardeman, seconded by Commissioner Kennedy, and carried 4 – 0 (absent: Vice Chair Mrla and Commissioner Wong) to receive and file the report on the Whittier Girls Softball League.

5. B Community Services Division Presentation

Secretary Alaniz introduced Community Services Supervisor, Erin Hamilton, and Community Services Coordinator, Amanda Krause, who are in charge of the Special Events, and Cultural Arts programs, and daily activities at the Parnell Park Community and Senior Center. Supervisor Hamilton and Coordinator Krause gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the events, projects, and programs accomplished by the division.

- Annual Special Events include the Eggxstravaganza, Whittier Police Department Open House and Health Fair/Kiddie K Fun Run, and the Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular.
- Summer Concerts in the Park include 12 concerts over 6 weeks. Concerts take place on Mondays at Central Park and Thursdays at Parnell Park. The largest audience to date was the Selena tribute concert at Parnell Park, which had approximately 4,000 people in attendance.
- The Division also plans and assists with various fund raising and City events. These events include, but are not limited to, Whittier Community Foundation fund raisers, the City Council sponsored annual Holiday Breakfast for City staff, the annual Boards and Commissions Recognition Reception hosted by the City Clerk's Department, and numerous ribbon cutting, and "unveiling" events.
- The Lobby Art Program presents temporary art exhibits, by local artists in both the City Hall and Parnell Park Community Center lobbies. There are twelve-six week exhibits at each site.
- Art in Public Places is funded in part by development projects coming into the City. Developers are required to include an art piece in their project or pay ½ of 1% of the project cost into the Art in Public Places account to have the City install an art piece. There are currently 14 art pieces in place and one more is close to being completed. The City also has regular maintenance done on the pieces to keep them in good condition.
- The Street Banner Program is a partnership between the City and Los Angeles County Supervisor, Janice Hahn. This is the 17th year for the program. People wishing to participate in the program submit a small version of their proposed banner, based on the theme set for the year. Nine hundred submissions were received this year, of which 120 were selected to be recreated on the large banners for display on Whittier Boulevard and other locations throughout the City.

- This summer was the 6th year for the Emerging Arts program. A “hands-on” art project takes place through the summer concert series, with concertgoers participating in the creation of the chosen artwork culminating in the final display of the completed project at the final concert. This year’s project included people making paper cutouts of their hands and decorating them with either watercolors or a tissue paper coloring technique. The final product was all of the hands attached to a large display wall with the hands all “reaching for the stars” together.
- For approximately 25 years, Whittier has taken busloads of concertgoers to the Hollywood Bowl for two concerts. The Cultural Arts Commission chooses the concerts to attend each year. Participation ranges from 50 to 300 people, depending on the concert.
- The Parnell Park Community and Senior Center is 13 years old and heavily used on a daily basis. The building is busy with private rentals, meetings, classes, a church on Sundays, bingo, and various senior and therapeutic recreation programs.
- Special Event staff is also responsible for managing the department’s social media accounts. They keep Face Book, Instagram, and Twitter posts up-to-date with announcements for upcoming events, programming, and general information.

It was moved by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Chair Brauckmann, and carried 4 – 0, (absent: Vice Chair Mrla and Commissioner Wong) to receive and file the Community Services Division’s presentation focusing on Special Events, Cultural Arts, and Parnell Park Community and Senior Center programs.

5.C Commissioner Sub-Committee Assignments

Commission discussed sub-committee assignments being carried over to the next regular meeting, due to the absence of Vice Chair Mrla and Commissioner Wong,

It was moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Morales, and carried 4 – 0 (absent: Vice Chair Mrla and Commissioner Wong) to carry over discussion of assignments to the Summer Concert and Youth Sports sub-committees until the next regular meeting.

5.D Update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan Implementation

Secretary Alaniz reported that this morning, with the assistance of the Whittier Police Department, staff members and a biohazard remediation company, a clean-up of the encampment at Parnell Park was completed. He noted that several truckloads of debris were removed.

Secretary Alaniz stated that the site would be posted on Mondays for clean-ups to be done on Wednesdays, on a regular basis. It was also reported that

fencing and gates have been installed on the west side, at the back of Leffingwell Ranch Park.

Secretary Alaniz also reported the following, regarding homelessness:

- The annual State of Homelessness meeting will take place on Saturday, October 19, 2019, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at Parnell Park. This meeting is open to the public and involves multiple organizations and agencies. There will be presentations, and a period for public questions.
- City Council members Bouchot and Warner, Community Services Manager, Martin Browne, and Secretary Alaniz recently visited a new, multi-agency, homeless facility in the City of Pomona. The cost to build the shelter was \$10 mil. , and the annual cost to run it is \$6 mil.
- The job description is being created in preparation to advertise for two part time, 18-month positions, to address issues of homelessness within the City. These staff members will assist Martin Browne.
- The ongoing issues relating to homelessness are taking a toll on the Whittier Community and staff.

Commissioner Kennedy commented that at Palm Park there are homeless people “hanging out” where students from Dexter Middle School come through the park every day. He noted that this has created a very uncomfortable situation. Commissioner Kennedy also stated that there appears to be more parents walking students to and from school.

It was moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Chair Brauckmann, and carried 4 – 0 (absent: Vice Chair Mrla and Commissioner Wong) to receive and file the update on the City of Whittier Homeless Plan Implementation

6. SECRETARY’S COMMENTS

Secretary Alaniz advised Commission of the following coming events:

- The State of Homelessness Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, October 19, 2019, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Parnell Park Community Center.
- There will be a ribbon cutting for the Oak Station, on the Greenway Trail at Lambert Road and Mills Avenue, on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.
- The annual Spooktacular 5K will take place on Saturday, October 26, 2019, at the Whittier Community Center. Day-of registration opens at 6:30 a.m. with the first race starting at 7:30 a.m. The Whittier Community Foundation and the Whittier Host Lion’s Club sponsor this event.

- The City Clerk Department will be hosting its annual Boards and Commissions Reception on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Parnell Park Community Center.
- Veteran's Day will be commemorated at 9:00 a.m., on Monday, November 11, 2019, in front of Whittier City Hall. The program will include speakers, performances by the Whittier High School Choir, California High School Band, participation of Boys Scout, and Girl Scout Troops, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Library's Veteran Resources Department. Light refreshments will be served.

7. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Morales reported that a Journey tribute band will be performing at the Whittier Community Theater on February 1, 2020, and there will be a Halloween party at the Uptown Senior Center on October 30, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. She noted that costumes are optional, and that this is a great event. Commissioner Morales questioned when field maintenance is done at York Field. Secretary Alaniz reported that the annual major maintenance project is done in late June, in preparation for the annual July 4th event and the Pony Baseball World Series, which takes place shortly after July 4th. Commissioner Morales noted that the current dog obedience classes taught at Kennedy Park have concluded, and she commended the teacher. She also stated that there continues to be homeless issues at Kennedy Park.

Commissioner Kennedy reported that many of his neighbors, in the area of Palm Park, have voiced their opposition to the proposed shelter site on Esperanza. He noted that an industrial site would be more appropriate.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brauckmann adjourned the meeting at 7:15 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: December 18, 2019

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Community Services Division Presentation

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file update on Community Services Division's presentation focusing on Aquatics, Tennis, and Palm Park Facility programming.

BACKGROUND

The Community Services Division's Palm Park Facility offers an Aquatics Program, Tennis Program, and Facility Rentals.

DISCUSSION

Staff has prepared a presentation focusing on Aquatics, Tennis, and Palm 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: December 18, 2019

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Commissioner Sub-Committee Assignments

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. Summer Concerts
2. Youth Sports
3. Affiliate Policy

BACKGROUND

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

DISCUSSION

Commission will discuss and approve the appointment of representatives to the Summer Concert sub-committee and the Youth Sports sub-committee for Fiscal Year 2019-20. In addition, Commission will discuss the possible need for creation of a sub-committee to review the existing Affiliate Policy, with the goal of proposing revisions as needed.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

None



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: December 18, 2019

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Interim 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