

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Meeting Agenda Announcement

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 361, which allows Brown Act bodies to attend meetings telephonically. Please be advised that some, or all, Whittier Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioners may attend this meeting telephonically.

Consistent with mandates of Assembly Bill 361 and local adopted policies, a physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting or offer public comment will not be made available. City Hall will not be open to the public for this meeting; however viewing and public comment options are provided below.

To submit Public Comments/Questions:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400

To view live meetings remotely:

- Video and audio: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86955588397>
- Audio only: Dial 1 (720) 707-2699 (Meeting ID: 869 5558 8397)

Please submit email comments by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails received by 5:00 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails received after 5:00 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Americans with Disabilities Act

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 Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
JANUARY 19, 2022, 6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to address the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission regarding any item of business, or any matter within the body's subject matter jurisdiction. Consistent with Executive Order No. N-29-20 public comments can be made via:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400

Please submit email and voicemail public comments by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails and voicemails received by 5:00 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails and voicemails received after 5:00 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Pursuant to State law, the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any 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 December 15, 2021.

5.B. Senior Center Renovation Project Sub-Committee

Recommendation: Discuss and approve the formation of a new Sub-Committee and assign a Commissioner to the Sub-Committee for the 2021-22 FY.

1. Senior Center Renovation Project Sub-Committee

5.C. Parnell Park State Specific Grant Update

Recommendation: Receive and file update on the Parnell Park State Specific Grant Update.

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 14th day of January 2021.

/s/ Roxanne Gonzalez

Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: January 19, 2022

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

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

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2021.

BACKGROUND

None.

DISCUSSION

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

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2021

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
DECEMBER 15, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Kevin Kennedy, Commissioner
Delia Morales, Commissioner (Absent 5:50 – 7:04)
Don Mrla, Commissioner
Ray Wong, Commissioner
Chris Hardeman, Chair

ABSENT: Jeff Brauckmann, Vice-Chair

STAFF PRESENT:

Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager
Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Hardeman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Administrative Secretary Gonzalez reported no public comments were received.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.A. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Mrla, seconded by Commissioner Morales, and carried 4-0, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2021. Commissioner Kennedy abstained.

5.B. Uptown Senior Center Update

Secretary Santana updated Commissioners on the Uptown Senior Center renovation project. Staff met with the architect and kitchen representative to discuss necessary adjustments for the kitchen. Furthermore, she stated that Council is working with our department to find funding for the renovation project

given the projected costs. The architect has held discussions with Staff to determine what necessary improvements need to occur to both the exterior and interior of the building to meet ADA requirements.

Additionally, the architect and Staff have discussed renovating the exterior of the building by replacing the entry doors with sliding doors, expanding the sidewalk and ramp, and grading to ensure water flows away from the doors. Likewise, in the interior of the building, the doorways to the restrooms and partitions need to be widened, sinks need new fixtures, countertops need to be replaced, as do the bathroom flooring and tiles. She added that one of the back restrooms needs an adult changing table and needs to be expanded to allow two wheelchairs sufficient space to maneuver inside for ADA compliance. Also, there are plans to remove the items from the atrium and to enclose the atrium. Finally, there are plans to upgrade the kitchen and expand the doors by the ice machine.

Commissioner Morales asked when the architect and the Senior Advisory Committee will meet so that the Committee may provide suggestions for the renovation project. Secretary Santana stated that Staff would schedule a phone call meeting before the holiday break for the Senior Advisory Committee to meet with the architect so he may explain the details of the renovation project.

Chair Hardeman stated that before expressing renovation dreams, Staff needs to collect details of what is possible. He added that specific standards must be met when a building undergoes renovations. Furthermore, he stated that discussions with the architect have been over the phone and is confident that Staff will bring forward information to share with the Senior Advisory Committee. Also, he added that it would likely take another eight months to a year before renovations are complete. He stated that there is still time for the Senior Advisory Committee and the Parks, Recreation, and Community Service Commission to provide input on the Senior Center renovations.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if Commissioner Morales is a liaison between the Senior Advisory Committee and the Parks, Recreation, and Community Service Commission. Commissioner Morales stated that she is not a liaison. He suggested that Secretary Santana contact Commissioner Morales and include her in meetings to provide input. Then, Commissioner Morales could transfer information from those meetings with the architect to the Senior Advisory Committee. Commissioner Morales stated that she would be open to being a representative for the Senior Advisory Committee. Secretary Santana added that the Parks, Recreation, and Community Service Commission could create a sub-committee for the Senior Center renovation project and vote Commissioner Morales to be a part of that Sub-Committee to act as a representative. Chair Hardeman asked Staff to add the creation of the sub-committee and election of its member as an agenda item at the next Commission meeting.

5.C. Kennedy Park – Per Capita Grant Application

Secretary Santana stated that we have an opportunity to apply for a Per Capita Grant where agencies will be allotted a specified amount of funds. To qualify for the grant, we must meet specific criteria and follow the application guidelines. She further stated that we could receive \$249,000 if we apply, and they find our project suitable for funding.

Staff chose Kennedy Park as a project site for the Per Capita Grant application because of its potential and the damage the park has sustained. Secretary Santana stated that Staff held a community meeting at Kennedy Park and sent out surveys to the surrounding neighborhood. Twenty-two community members joined Staff at the meeting. Staff learned that safety was a significant concern for community members, specifically at the park access road and exit off Wheatland due to the absence of a gate between their homes and the park. In addition, community members who live around Kennedy Park have dealt with threats, vandalism, and theft.

At the community meeting, residents commented that they liked the idea of a one-way entrance and exit for Kennedy Park. However, Secretary Santana stated that a one-way entrance and exit would be difficult on Painter Ave because the driveway is not wide enough to grant the Fire Department and park staff vehicles access. She added that a turnaround would be necessary too. Chair Hardeman stated that although there are some issues with the width of the driveway, there is sufficient space to create a turnaround at the back of the park to provide access for fire trucks to the park if need be.

Manager Hamilton presented the survey results to the Commission. Staff received a total of forty-one responses. The survey included different suggestions of things the park needs and blank spaces for residents to add their own ideas. The suggestions that received the most interest were parking, fencing, lighting, relocating the homeless population, helping the homeless, and the cleanliness and safety of the park. Manager Hamilton added that the survey is still open. However, she added that the Per Capita Grant application is due before December 31, and the survey results received will be the items included in the application.

Chair Hardeman asked when individuals are participating in illegal activities in Kennedy Park, and Secretary Santana responded all day. She added that they provided residents with information on the 24/7 App at the community meeting and encouraged them to download it onto their phones.

Manager Hamilton informed the Commission that artist McGonagle plans to come out to Kennedy Park to assess the mural's damage to determine the costs associated with repairing the mural. The artist stated that half of the mural on the bathroom wall would need repainting, and the other half needs repair for an estimated \$4,000.

Chair Hardeman stated that we first need to resolve the homeless problem at Kennedy Park before proceeding with renovations. Otherwise, we are throwing money at a park that will be destroyed again. Commissioner Kennedy suggested that Staff hire a security guard for the park to serve as a deterrent which could be less expensive. Chair Hardeman asked if other cities were in the same situation and successfully resolved a similar issue. Secretary Santana stated that Staff could conduct research; however, the application deadline is near. She added that residents suggested placing a gate around the park to create a one-way entry and exit, allowing staff to lock up the park and restrooms in tandem.

Commissioner Morales asked if there were sufficient funds for a fence, gate, and turnaround. Secretary Santana stated that Council would hold discussions on dispersing funds after the new year. Chair Hardeman asked how long we have to spend the funds if we receive the grant. Secretary Santana stated that we would have about two years to spend the grant money.

Secretary Santana stated that we need to determine the scope of work for the grant application and what we want to do with the space at Kennedy Park. Then she asked Commissioner Morales if she could recall anything Kennedy Park needs. Commissioner Morales stated that resident suggestions like adding the gate, blocking off their residential street from the park, and opening the driveway so that patrons can enter and exit the park on Painter Ave were all good suggestions. Secretary Santana stated we would move forward and start with determining a budget for the safety features, then add the other amenities suggested by residents.

6. SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Secretary Santana updated the Commission on the Measure A Grant projects and the State Specific Grant project. Staff is preparing the Measure A Grant projects invitation for bids to present to Council. If Council approves the invitation for bids, the notices will go out for ten days. She added that the architect design group is working on concepts for the Parnell Park, State Specific Grant project. Although the funding was approved, staff still needs to get resolutions and agreements signed and outline what renovation Parnell Park will undergo.

Secretary Santana shared ongoing and upcoming events with Commissioners. December 13th was the last day to send your letter to Santa. On December 19th Palm Park will be hosting a rubber duck race where families can come and decorate rubber ducks and enter them into the race. She added that several businesses from the Groves, like Stater Bros., Raising Canes, and In-N-Out, have donated fun prizes for the event. She also reminded the Commission that City Hall will be closed beginning at noon on December 23rd and will reopen after the New Year. However, Staff will still be around to respond to emails during the closure. Secretary Santana wished the Commission a happy holiday season.

7. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Kennedy stated that Staff efforts for the recent Senior excursion of the Harbor Cruise were outstanding and well organized. He suggested that Staff should reach out to seniors for input regarding senior trips to avoid events like those that transpired. Location and senior access to the venues are key components to consider for the success of trips like this. He also added that Staff attempted to right the wrongs by satisfying the needs of participants with adjustments during the remainder of the trip.

Commissioner Morales stated that seniors have website access to book Dial-A-Ride trips online. Manager Hamilton informed Commissioner Morales that Dial-A-Ride could be purchased at the Community Center and our other sites starting on January 10th, 2022.

Commissioner Wong wished Commissioners and staff happy holidays. He asked Secretary Santana about the storm earlier in the week. Secretary Santana informed him that a few trees did come down, but Staff acted quickly to assist with tree removal and branch pick-ups. Commissioner Wong also informed Commissioners and Staff about the high rate of deer fatalities and asked that everyone drive carefully.

Commissioner Mrla wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chair Hardeman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

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

Virginia Santana, Secretary



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: January 19, 2022

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

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

Subject: Senior Center Renovation Project Sub-Committee

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and approve the formation of a new Sub-Committee and assign a Commissioner to the Sub-Committee for the 2021-22 FY.

1. Senior Center Renovation Project Sub-Committee

BACKGROUND

Since the Navigation Center has opened on Pickering Avenue, the Uptown Senior Center, located at 13225 Walnut Street, is no longer a shelter and was closed for renovation. Since the closure, the Senior Center has been cleaned and prepared for temporary use. The renovation project is in the planning stages. The architect has presented Staff with plans indicating where the Senior Center needs upgrading to meet ADA requirements.

DISCUSSION

The Commission has expressed an interest in receiving updates about the Renovation as well as a willingness to share their suggestions. As the project moves forward a Sub-Committee may be effective to act as a liaison to the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: January 19, 2022
To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission
From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Subject: Parnell Park State Specific Grant Update

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file update on the Parnell Park State Specific Grant Update.

BACKGROUND

Parnell Park, located originally at 10711 Scott Avenue, is a 12.8-acre park in a residential neighborhood between Lambert Road and Mulberry Drive.

On March 9, 2021, City Council approved the filing for a statewide park development and community revitalization program grant to begin seeking funds to renovate Parnell Park.

On November 9, 2021, City Council approved Resolution No. 2021-87. Additionally, the architect has sent Staff different renovation concepts for Parnell Park. Furthermore, Staff is working towards obtaining signatures for the resolution and agreements that outline what renovation Parnell Park will undergo.

DISCUSSION

Budget trailer bills AB 170 and SB 170 included \$5 million as a designated grant to the City of Whittier for Parnell Park through the state budget process. California State Parks staff recently requested a meeting with City staff to begin discussing the application and funding process.

Guided by the prior public outreach process and previous consideration by City Council, the following items are proposed to be funded by the Specific Grant for the Parnell Park renovation:

- Youth Sports Fields, lighting and ancillary improvements
- Playground and Rubberized Surfacing
- Fitness Par Course
- New Restroom Facility
- Splash Pad

In the event the application to the Statewide Park Development Program is also funded, staff will work with the State Parks grant-officers on complementary, non-duplicative scopes of work for Parnell Park. Future City Council action would be necessary to accept

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Parnell Park State Specific Grant Update
January 19, 2022

and appropriate any potential funds and approve proposed changes to the scope of work for the Statewide Park Development Program.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent and Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

None.