

CITY OF OXNARD
PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES
DRAFT

SPECIAL ONLINE MEETING
Oxnard, CA 93030
Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

At 5:34 p.m., the meeting of the Oxnard Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission convened in a Zoom meeting. Chair Poirier, Vice Chair Whitecomb, Commissioners Fernandez, Chris Hernandez, Lemos, Purther, Oscar Hernandez were present. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States. Chair Poirier presided and called the meeting to order. Staff members present were; Terrel Harrison, Director of Cultural and Community Services, Steve Howlett, Assistant Public Works Director, Kevin Thompson, Parks Manager, and Janice M. Zaragoza, Recording Secretary.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Poirier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Moncerat Hernandez, Intern with The Arts Project, of Achieving Resilient Communities. A 17-years-old resident of South Oxnard, she grew up visiting College Estates Park. She and her family relied on parks for their health and quality of life. Called attention to Ventura Co projected rise in climate temperature, cautions about projected increase in number of days with elevated temperatures. States that parks are a key component of resilient infrastructure for the health of the community. Her group is working on a parks survey, and will bring recommendation to a future Commission meeting.
2. Madison Hernandez - Intern partnering with Achieving Resilient Communities, 19-years-old, a resident of Camarillo, attends Oxnard College, aware of how heat affects community, wants Oxnard children to have the same access to parks as Camarillo children. She asks that the Commission take rising heat into consideration in future park design, particularly in South Oxnard.
3. Lilia Evans, 16-years-old, intern with Encampment for Citizenship in collaboration with the Public Health Institute, working with Achieving Resilient Communities. She relies on parks when temperatures get too high, is working on a parks survey to determine how much relief parks provide from heat, will continue to monitor heat and park cooling effects throughout summer, and will deliver findings to Commission at a future meeting.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. SUBJECT: Minutes of the PRCSC meeting from March 24, 2021 were submitted for approval.
ACTION: PRCSC approved amended minutes from March 24, 2021 meeting. Whitecomb-Amended (Item. L) - How can we best utilize parking lots and structures? (Whitecomb/Lemos -Unanimous)

E. CEREMONIAL CALENDAR

1. City Clerk swears in one new Commissioner. - Tabled to next meeting

F. SUBJECT: PRCSC Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair

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ACTION: That Commissioners elected the Commission Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair Poirier nominated Vice Chair Whitecomb. Vote was unanimous, electing Whitecomb to Chair.
Commissioner Purther nominated himself for Vice Chair
Chair Poirier nominated himself for Vice Chair
O. Hernandez seconded Poirier nomination. Vote was unanimous, electing Poirier to Vice Chair

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. SUBJECT: Update on Ongoing Park projects: Renderings of Community Center Park East, Wilson Park, Pleasant Valley Park playgrounds, if available. - Parks Staff - Steve Howlett and Kevin Thompson
ACTION: The Commission reviewed the renderings and discussed the project.

DISCUSSION on COMMUNITY CENTER PARK EAST playground design:

Poirier: Asked about a piece of play equipment: inclusive merry-go-round or bench?

[Howlett: It's an "Inclusive Whirl."]

C. Hernandez: Sycamore stump?

Poirier: suggests removing empty planter with sycamore stump, or use as planter.

Lemos: asked if rubberized playground surface fireproof? [Howlett: flame-resistant; will melt]

C. Hernandez: suggested adding swings to Community Center Park East playground.

Whitecomb: requested more "arts-oriented" equipment or elements into playground as per original community input.

Poirier: observed swings very popular, agrees extra swings would be beneficial, suggested puppet theater element, or some kind of stage.

DISCUSSION on WILSON PARK playground design:

C. Hernandez: observations on Wilson Park issues: tennis courts/pickle ball? Courts need maintenance. What can be done about trash and vagrants? Observed that park issues keep people away. Asked about Mixteco court and more security.

Whitecomb: Asked about including a zip line, a suggestion which had come out of workshops. Use floor space with design elements to enhance experience, provide games and activities. Also, what happened to all the workshop recommendations? [Howlett: will go back to vendor to inquire about possibilities.]

Poirier: requested similar art elements added to Community Center Park East playground surface.

Fernandez: requested details on rendering elements, asked about maintenance for grade-level Whirl.

C. Hernandez asked about safety for inclusive whirl. [Whitecomb offered to research specs.]

2. SUBJECT: Quimby Fund Presentation - Kevin Thompson, Parks Manager
RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Quimby ordinance and current Quimby Fund balances and proposed projects, discuss the presentation and vote on any recommendations.

MOTION: To accept staff proposal to spend Quimby funds, moving forward with walking paths, but without utilizing Quimby funds from Five Points or Mar Vista.

C.Hernandez/Fernandez

DISCUSSION: Poirier outlined opposition to staff proposal for various reasons. Further recommended only using Quimby funds in neighborhoods where they were generated.

Director Harrison mentioned 2.2 mile concrete path in River Park gets a lot of use.

Vote: Motion was rejected by unanimous vote of commission, 7-0.

MOTION: Commission recommends that City only utilize Quimby funds in the neighborhoods where they are generated. Poirier/C. Hernandez
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

MOTION: Commission does not recommend moving forward with staff proposal for building walking tracks with Quimby funds. Poirier/Fernandez
Vote: Six to approve, 1 abstention (Lemos)

Vice Chair Poirier - Suggest subcommittees to meet with neighborhood councils to brainstorm Quimby projects
Chair Whitecomb - suggest the same as VC Poirier
Agendize Committees on next agenda

3. SUBJECT: Oxnard Park Exercise Tracks and Walking Paths - Parks Staff
RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a report on Oxnard park exercise tracks and walking paths, and vote on recommendations.
Discussion to form committees and come back to this item at next meeting

H. TASK FORCE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners may report or arrange for the report of Task Force and Committee activities.
- No reports

I. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioners may individually report on items of interest or concern outside of sub-committee reports. The PRCSC cannot enter into detailed discussion or take action on any item presented during these reports.

VC Poirier - Purther, Hernandez and himself met with Mar Vista residents to help create a neighborhood council. Hernandez and himself are working to get 5 Points Neighborhood Council on its feet to discuss possibilities for a neighborhood park.

Commissioner C. Hernandez - Concerned there are no open restrooms at Parks (especially Durley Park and Southwest Community Park)

Commissioner Lemos - Advocate for youth baseball, would like to see sports leagues fundraise and contribute more to upgrading and maintaining their fields, and also to rent restrooms for those parks without restrooms. Would recommend placing a new restroom near Colonia snack bar.

Commissioner Purther - Take photos if they see trash and graffiti send to 311 and Parks will pick it up.

Chair Whitecomb - on Next Door app, regarding state of Campus Park dog park - dog owners are not picking up after their dogs properly and there are not many amenities. Looks bad. Recommends that the owners take more responsibility after their dogs. Would like to see something done in front of the dog park. It's a dirt area. Proposes to hold a work day, where people can plant attractive landscaping there. With the City's permission, Friends of Campus Park and Angela would like to beautify the area.

J. ITEMS OF FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- Park amenities for Quimby projects - an a la carte menu showing ballpark costs of different kinds of walking tracks, restrooms, lighting, new trash containers, and other features
- Quimby Funds Spending Ideas

- Formation of committee(s) for Quimby projects
 - Colonia Baseball item
 - Explore proposing an Exeloo Restroom next to Colonia snack bar using Quimby funds
 - Plan for programming from staff for when we get back to normal life
 - Fibar Restoration Plan for park playgrounds, staff plan for upgrading or replacing playgrounds
 - How much did the work on Southbank cost, funded by Quimby?
- ctators enjoyed Commissioner Lucero's car

K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Angela Whitecomb, Chair

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