

AGENDA
ALHAMBRA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

Joslyn Adult Center
210 N. Chapel Avenue, Alhambra CA 91801
April 7, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners

Frank Bodeman, President
Vacant, Vice President
Glenn Barnett
Bella Flowers
Veronica Martinez
David Mejia
Donald Mumford
Maurice Norrington
Bertha Rivera
Griselda Valdez
Margaret Whelan

Members Ex Officio

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Board of Education
Mary K. Swink, City Manager
Martin W. Ray, Director of Community Services

We welcome you to the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

If you wish to address the Commission during the meeting, please complete a speaker's card and give it to the secretary. **The maximum time for addressing the Commission is five minutes.** If you wish to address the Commission on an item which appears on the agenda, your comments will be heard during the Commission's discussion of that item. If you wish to address the Commission on a subject which does not appear on the agenda but related to recreation or community service, you may make your presentation under Agenda item IV. Please be advised that the Commission cannot, under the provisions of the State of California's Ralph M. Brown Act, take action on any item which does not appear on the agenda.

When making your presentation, please give your name and address for the record, and make your statement as brief as possible.

Thank you.

I. Roll Call

II. Flag Salute

III. Election of Officers for the 2016-2017 term

President
Vice-President

IV. Approval of the Minutes of the regular meeting of February 7, 2016

(Only commissioners who were present at this meeting may vote. Commissioners who were absent must abstain)

V. Upcoming Events

VI. Monthly Status Report

VII. Oral Communications

VIII. Commission Orals

IX. Adjournment

Copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business described hereinabove are on file in the Department of Community Services, Alhambra City Hall, 111 South First Street, Alhambra, California are available for public inspection during regular office hours which are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Should any person have a question concerning any of the above agenda items prior to the meeting described herein, he or she may contact Mr. Martin Ray, Director of Community Services, either in person at the Department of Community Services or by telephone at (626) 570-5044.

Unofficial until adopted by the
Parks and Recreation Commission

April 7, 2016
Action Item III
APPROVE

MINUTES
ALHAMBRA PARKS AND RECREATION
February 11, 2016

The Alhambra Parks and Recreation Commission met at 7:00 p.m. on February 11, 2016 at the Almansor Park Gym Activity Room 800 S. Almansor Street, Alhambra, CA 91801

Commission members present: Barnett, Bodeman, Flowers, Lu, Whelan
Commission members absent: Arroyo, Hutchinson, Martinez
Also attending: Deputy City Manager / Director Martin Ray
Deputy Director Julian Venegas
Recreation Supervisor Michael Macias

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Commissioner Barnett moved to nominate Commissioner Bodeman for the office of President of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Whelan the motion carried by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lu moved to approve the Minutes of the November 5, 2015 Adjourned Regular Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Whelan the motion carried by unanimous vote.

ALMANSOR PARK PARKING STRUCTURE PRESENTATION

Mr. Ray stated that Almansor Park is the largest park in Alhambra and is heavily used by Little League, AYSO, City Sport Programs, and the people who use the park for recreation use. The proposed parking structure will be able to accommodate approximately 400 vehicles and this will get vehicles off the street and help reduce traffic congestion.

Vicky Orlando, resident of 729 S. Almansor Street, objected to this project because Almansor Street is already very congested and a parking structure would bring in more traffic. Ms. Orlando stated that getting in and out of her driveway is very difficult due to the amount of vehicle traffic that use Almansor Street to get to the park and to move from one part of town to another. She stated that there is already a lot of traffic, noise, pollution, and people in the park late at night and a lack of street parking for their visitors. Ms. Orlando stated that their trash cans have to be put out the evening before trash day otherwise vehicles take up all the space in front of her home and there is nowhere to put the cans on the street. Ms. Orlando stated that the residents do not want to look out their front window and see a parking structure. Ms. Orlando stated that a parking structure will bring down the home value and she believes that park users will still park in the street even if there is a parking structure for them to use. Ms. Orlando stated

that over the years Almansor Park was expanded, the Alhambra Golf Course was expanded and the YMCA was moved to Corto Street and that has added more traffic to the area. She asked if the residents could be given permit parking on their side of the street and asked that the City not build a parking structure in front of their homes.

Commissioner Bodeman commented that one of the reasons he favors the project is that his son plays baseball at Almansor Park and he has had to drive around trying to find a parking space in the neighborhood because the parking lots are full. He commented that it might be an eyesore but the alternative was more traffic on the streets surrounding the park. Mr. Bodeman stated that from his home he was able to see the mountains until a business near his home built a five story parking structure and blocked the view.

Jeanie Guerrero, resident of Granada Avenue, stated she is a longtime resident of Alhambra and when she purchased her property the neighborhood was very peaceful and now there is so much noise she has to keep her door closed. Adams is a narrow street that is heavily used by the Fire Department Training Facility, City Yard, Act Busses, AYSO and Little League. She understands that the City grows and so do the needs of the City, but they need to take into consideration the impact that all this has on the residents and the neighborhood. Ms. Guerrero stated that when she has company, they often need to park down the street because there is no parking available in front of her home. Ms. Guerrero stated that this is an R-1 neighborhood and she knows of no other park that has as heavily impacted a neighborhood as Almansor Park has. The City also brought in a generator to power temporary lights on a field which she stated was never supposed to have lights. Ms. Guerrero asked if an environmental study had been done for this project. Ms. Guerrero stated that some parents drop off their children across the street from the park and the children have to dash across the street on their own and she is concerned about the safety of the children.

Alex Rivest, resident of 815 South Almansor Street, asked when the project would begin if it is approved. He stated that a parking structure would not alleviate the traffic issue and asked if a traffic study had been done. Mr. Rivest asked if the results of the traffic study would be a factor in the decision to build or not build. Mr. Rivest stated that even at the busiest time of the year the parking lots are not full and there are only a couple of times during the year when the lots are full, such as Fourth of July and picture day for the leagues. Mr. Rivest stated that a study should be conducted on each parking lot to see how many vehicles park there at any given time and for how long. He asked who was going to monitor this structure at night. Mr. Rivest stated if this project moves forward he would move out of Alhambra. Mr. Rivest said the City needs to build smartly based on numbers and not gut feelings.

Gabriela Perez, resident of 801 S. Almansor Street # A, lives across the street from the tennis courts. She stated the parking lots are rarely full and that is not enough to build a parking structure. Ms. Perez thought it was a good idea to have more tennis courts instead of a parking structure. She stated that she has called the Police Department on several occasions regarding things that go on in the park and she feels that a parking structure will bring in more issues and did not feel that a parking structure belongs in a residential area. She moved to this neighborhood because she wanted to live somewhere that was calm and quiet. Ms. Perez stated there is a need for a light so that the kids can cross safely to get to the park.

Lola Armendariz, resident of the Alhambra Park area, thanked the residents for being here tonight and urged them to attend the City Council meetings and voice their objections to this project. Ms. Armendariz commented that she lives within two blocks of Alhambra Park and her neighborhood is impacted by the events that are held at that park. Ms. Armendariz stated that they don't know when construction will begin since it depends on the sale of the Fremont Plaza as the funding source. Ms. Armendariz stated that what they did not hear was the estimated cost of the parking structure and that is important. She further stated she heard there would be security cameras in the structure and asked if that was all there was. She does not park in parking structures and stated she would prefer to have a live person patrolling the parking structure in addition to the cameras being monitored by the Alhambra Police Department. She stated that residents have a right to the enjoyment of their property and not have to deal with noise coming from the park.

Darlene and Marco, residents of 905 S. Almansor Street spoke against the project. Darlene stated that they had moved here because of the park, the ducks and the views of the mountains. Marco stated there are already too many parking structures in the City. Darlene stated that they pay to live here and any projects or changes should be to benefit the residents. She asked why the City was building the parking structure to accommodate other cities or the families who do not live here but bring their children to Almansor Park to play sports. She stated the residents of this neighborhood should have a say in what gets built in their neighborhood and it did not sound as if they had a say so. She asked if this meeting was being hosted because the City had to. She stated that she did not want a parking structure in front of her house and stated that the residents deal with the daily traffic because people have to go to work and come back home and take their children to and from school as well as visit the park. She did not see a reason to add more traffic to what is there already. Marco stated that it seemed counter intuitive to add a parking structure to a park because a park should be restful and relaxing. Marco felt a parking structure would bring more garbage and pollution, traffic and congestion

Magda Ozono, resident of 825 S. Almansor Street, stated that a parking structures does not belong in a park and there will be no way of monitoring and preventing things that go on in there when there are only cameras.

Monica Ma, resident of 721 S. Almansor Street, spoke against the project because she did not feel that a parking structure belongs in a park.

Commissioner Barnett asked if the Adams Street gate was going to be closed again once the parking structure is open.

Mr. Ray stated that it was a possibility but at this time he could not say for sure because this is a decision that the City Council will have to make. Mr. Ray stated that staff would make a recommendation to the City Council that the Adams Street gates get locked again after the parking structure is open. The object is to get as many vehicles off the street and into the parking structure.

Commissioner Whelan asked that other than the overnight parking restrictions were there any other restrictions in the parking lot. She asked if the City or a contractor was going to do the EIR.

Mr. Ray responded that the only restrictions in the parking lot are the overnight parking restrictions and that the California Environmental Quality Assessment will be done by an outside company. She asked if the parking lot was going to be started in May.

Mr. Ray replied that the contract would possibly be awarded in May and the project would most likely begin after July 8th.

In response to a question asked by Commissioner Bodeman, Mr. Ray stated that staff had looked at a one level parking structure but it would not accommodate as many vehicles.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Director Ray updated the Commission on the items listed in the report.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Darlene, resident of asked if overnight parking was going to be permitted in the parking structure and who would be monitoring this.

Mr. Ray replied that there would not be any overnight parking permitted and this applies to all the parking structures and lots that belong to the City. The Police Department would be monitoring this parking structure just like they do the other City parking structures and lots.

Ms. Armendariz commented that she had concerns that the Commissioners were not being informed of events that go on in the City. She watched the Rose Parade and saw that the City of Alhambra float was paying tribute to National Parks and she did not recall staff bringing this up at any Commission meeting. Ms. Armendariz also did not recall that the Commission was told about the Pumpkin Run or the Veterans Memorial ceremony or if they were invited. Ms. Armendariz stated that she did not hear any comments from the staff regarding the parks in the Strategic Planning meetings. Ms. Armendariz stated that one of the items listed in the strategic plan was security in the parks and the second item was options for Story Park Pool. Ms. Armendariz expressed concern about the absence of Commissioners Arroyo and Martinez from several meetings during the past year and said they should step down if they were unable to make the commitment of attending the meetings since their absence did contribute to a lack of quorum at the commission meetings. Ms. Armendariz stated it was her understanding that a prior council had made the decision that the Adams Street gate was to be closed permanently but that staff indicated that may not be the case now.

COMMISSION ORALS

Commissioner Whelan stated that she had attended the Veterans Memorial ceremony at Alhambra Park and it had been very well run.

Mr. Ray commented that several Commissioners were in attendance that morning.

Commissioner Lu welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year and invited the public to attend the festival.

Commissioner Barnett commented that he attended Martha Baldwin Elementary School in the 1950's and he has seen many changes to this neighborhood.

ALHAMBRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ms. Adele Andrade-Stadler was present tonight as the liaison from the AUSD. She welcomed everyone that came to the meeting and thanked everyone on behalf of the school district. The AUSD use the parks for school promotions as well as many other programs that they partner with the City. She stated that residents do have the ability to make and change and work with the City to come up with something that they can agree with.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lu moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Barnett, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.