

MINUTES
ALHAMBRA PARKS AND RECREATION
OCTOBER 5, 2017

The Alhambra Parks and Recreation Commission met at 7:00 p.m. on October 5, 2017 at the Joslyn Adult Center 210 N. Chapel Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91801

Commission members present: Bodeman, Flowers, Guevara, Norrington, Seto, Whelan

Commission members absent: Barnett, Martinez, Mumford

Also attending: Director of Community Services Christopher M. Paulson

Deputy Director Julian Venegas

Deputy Director Michael Macias

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Norrington moved to approve the Minutes of the September 7, 2017 Adjourned Regular Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Seto the motion carried by unanimous vote.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Director Paulson updated the Commission on the following:

- The 4th annual Pumpkin Run will be held on October 22, 2017 in conjunction with Farmers Market. There will be entertainment and other events for all ages and a beer garden for those over 21 years of age.
- The Veterans Day event will be held on Saturday, November 11th and Director Paulson will reach out to Chief Phelps to m.c. the event. Director Paulson would like to reach out to Mr. Larry Stevens, a longtime resident of Alhambra who is also a veteran of WWII to see if he will accept being a special guest speaker. After Mr. Stevens retired from the service, he became a fire fighter with the Alhambra Fire Department. Mr. Stevens was a fire captain when Chief Phelps was a rookie firefighter.
- The Holiday Home Decorating Contest and judging will again be held in December.
- Staff is in talks with the organizers of the Lunar New Year Festival to see if it will remain on Valley Boulevard or move to Main Street next year.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Deputy Director Macias updated the Commission on the progress of the Almansor Park Renovation Project where demolition has begun and should be completed sometime next week. The City Council has accepted the contract for LED field lighting on field # 4 at Almansor Park and the contract is making its way through the city process. The Almansor Park HVAC project is finally complete and the A/C is working very well. The Emery Park restroom project is pending the go ahead. Staff is working with the electrical contractor to replace the lights that are out at the various parks.

Director Paulson stated that staff is very close to identifying how much money will be spent on the Almanson Park Renovation Project and that will determine how much is left over for the Emery Park Restroom Renovation Project. The Almanson Park Renovation Project and the Emery Park Restroom Renovation Project are both using HUD funds. If any additional funds are needed to complete those projects, they will come from the new construction tax fund in the General Fund.

Commissioner Whelan asked if there was a chance that the Story Park Renovation project might be in danger of not being done if the Almanson Park and Emery Park projects require additional funding.

Director Paulson stated that the HUD funding is a one-time allocation for the Almanson Park Renovation Project and the Emery Park Restroom Renovation Project and the new construction tax is allocated every year. If for some reason there is not sufficient funding for the Story Park project, it just means it will get delayed to the next fiscal year when funds are allocated again.

Commissioner Whelan commented that the Story Park community has been waiting for a very long time for resolution of that space.

DISCUSSION OF MEASURE A SUBCOMMITTEE

Commissioner Seto stated that he would continue to track Measure A and would be providing the Commission updates as they came up. He stated he would like to discuss the updates during Commission Orals.

Director Paulson stated that he would also be providing updates as they came up. Director Paulson stated that he attended one of the Measure A 102 meetings and based on what was said at the meeting he attended, the County will be holding community meetings in 30 different cities in early 2018 to see what the needs of those communities are based on their resources or lack of. The first annual allocation of funds will be done in July 2018.

Commissioner Seto asked staff if it was possible to use these funds to purchase park land and asked if it was possible to purchase private property to create park space.

Director Paulson stated the City might be able to bank the funds for several fiscal years to have enough to purchase property.

Commissioner Seto said it would be nice to have pocket parks in those areas that are in need of parks/open space.

Resident Lola Armendariz asked how large a park they are talking about. She asked if more park space was really needed. She did not want a park next door to a residence because there would be too much noise, people and traffic. She said that the City should be looking at creating more field space such as football fields, baseball fields, etc. in the industrial area where there is enough parking area.

Commissioner Guevara asked who owned the easement across the street from Alhambra Park.

Director Paulson replied that Edison owns the easement and the City has an agreement with Edison for the use of it. Edison has restrictions on what is permitted on their property.

Commissioner Guevara suggested that the school district might want to consider trading school district property to the City in exchange for letting them build their stadium.

Commissioner Guevara asked about Moor Field and asked if the City and school district were separate entities.

Director Paulson replied that they are very much separate entities and he did not see the school district giving up any property. In order to build a stadium on 4th Street, the City would need to agree to close 4th Street and that created an issue because 4th Street is one of the few streets that crosses through Mission Drive over the tracks and that might affect emergency safety response.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Armendariz brought up several concerns which included:

- Inappropriate behavior at the Veterans Memorial and the Ryan Stringer Memorial Bench. She stated people are using the bench as a prop, they are sitting on it, eating and doing exercises on it.
- In the children's play area, an adult was using one of the apparatus as exercise equipment. There are adults who climb on the play equipment with their children. She would like to see signage that the play area is specific for children. She asked who checks to see if the playground equipment is not damaged
- Would like additional lighting from east to west on the east side of the playground because the lighting as it is now creates shadows when the children are playing in the playground when it is dark and they cannot see where they are climbing or sliding down.
- The equipment enclosure needs more light because it is very dark in that area. She suggested that the Commissioners visit the parks in the nighttime to see how dark they are.
- At the meeting held at Almanson Park in May she passed out information regarding commissioners who are absent without excuse for more than three months. She commented that Commissioner Martinez has not been in attendance at a meeting for more than a year and this issue needs to be addressed. If she is unable to continue on the Commission because of other obligations, she needs to step down so that someone who is able to serve can do so.
- She stated the City has a formal license agreement with Edison regarding the use of the Edison Easement and to her recollection, the Easement was created as a buffer to the residents on Ethel whose properties abut the easement. Edison needs to have access to their property 24/7.

Director Paulson addressed Ms. Armendariz' concerns. Regarding the signs at the memorial area, too much signage might detract from the memorial. It was the intention of the City Council that people be able to sit on the Ryan Stringer bench and reflect He stated that Alhambra does

not have signs identifying ages on the playground at Alhambra Park. He stated that staff might consider putting solar lights at the tot lot. Regarding Commissioner Martinez, he stated that he would reach out to her and see if she wished to resign her seat.

Ms. Armendariz said it was fine to sit on the memorial bench and reflect but not do exercises.

Commissioner Guevara commented that the Commission cannot enforce good taste or good behavior. He said all that staff can do is to remind people in a nice way and not with large signs.

Ms. Armendariz stated that is the reason she keeps asking for park rangers.

Commissioner Bodeman asked if solar lighting can be installed in place of some of the lights where copper wire was taken from the poles. He asked if the tennis courts could be lit with solar lighting.

Deputy Director Macias stated the solar light is not strong enough. Staff is going to have the electrician weld the access door shut on the light poles.

COMMISSION ORALS

Commissioner Guevara commented that the American Legion hosts a luncheon at their hall after the Veterans Day ceremony. The event is well attended and enjoyed by all.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bodeman moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Norrington the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.