



**Meeting Minutes of the
Parks and Community Enrichment Commission**

September 3, 2020

6:00 p.m.

City Hall – 915 I Street – Council Chambers

Open Session – 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Good at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Aguilar, Flores, Good, Guerrero, Lavelle, Law, Mehta, Murphy, and Rhodes

Absent: Commissioner Kletzman

Public Comments-Matters Not on the Agenda

None.

Consent Calendar

1. Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Meeting Minutes

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Approve Commission meeting minutes for August 6, 2020

Contact: Maggie Le, Support Services Manager, (916) 808-1040, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Action: Motion to approve Commission meeting minutes.

Moved/Seconded (Lavelle/Mehta)

Motion carried 8-Yes 0-No 2-Absent (Kletzman and Guerrero)

Discussion Calendar

2. Park Safety Ranger Unit Update

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Informational.

Contact: Danielle Luther, Park Safety Ranger Supervisor, (916) 808-3815, Robert Conroy, Park Ranger Supervisor, 916-808-3802, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Danielle Luther and Robert Conroy, Park Safety Ranger Supervisors, provided an overview of the Park Safety Ranger Unit and services it provides to the community prior to the pandemic and services they provided during the pandemic.

Commissioner Mehta inquired if the Department does any outreach to inform the community of the services provided by the Park Safety Ranger Unit. Danielle Luther responded that the Department does not have any formal outreach due to staffing challenges; however, the Park Safety Ranger Unit works closely with the Police Department and is invited to their outreach events.

Vice Chair Lavelle inquired about recent protests and how it impacts the Park Safety Ranger Unit. Danielle Luther responded that Police Department responds to these events and takes the lead.

Commissioner Flores inquired regarding the response time of 3.46 minutes for 2020, if the decrease in response time is due to COVID-19 from March through June? Since some Park Safety Rangers are located at community centers due to the pandemic, are they closer in distance to respond quicker to calls for service, and what are some activities that trigger arrests? Robert Conroy responded that the Police Department records all response times for both the Police Department and the Park Safety Ranger Unit and provides the unit with the information. The response time covers January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. In terms of arrests, it is primarily the contact the Park Safety Ranger has made with an individual due to a violation and as part of a records check, the individual comes up as having a warrant which leads to an arrest. Danielle Luther also responded that the largest contributing factor of the decrease in response time is due to COVID-19 as there are not many people out. Park Safety Rangers are citywide and not assigned to specific locations and during the pandemic the nature of day-to-day operations have changed because there are not the same amount of people out in the parks; thus, the volume has decreased which allows Park Safety Rangers to respond quicker.

Chair Good thanked the Park Safety Ranger Unit for their service.

3. Youth Workforce Development Programming Update

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Informational.

Contact: Kris Wimberly, Interim Superintendent, (916) 808-6172, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Kris Wimberly, Interim Superintendent, and her team provided an overview of the Prime Time Teen, Landscape & Learning (L&L), and Workforce Investment & Innovation Act (WIOA) programs.

Commissioner Mehta, Guerrero, Flores, Law, and Chair Good provided positive comments regarding the programs.

Commissioner Flores inquired for staff to share how the L&L program has changed due to COVID-19 and what is the demographic served for WIOA. Davide Gaines, Program Supervisor, explained that the L&L program has implemented stationary crews to comply with social distancing protocols. Ken McColluch, Program Supervisor, provided examples of those who are eligible for the WIOA program and offered to provide specific demographic information later on as that information is not readily available.

Commissioner Law inquired about what vocational skills are becoming more important for youth now due to the pandemic and the virtual environment and how has the programs incorporate this into strategies moving forward. Kris Wimberly explained the technology gap for young people are challenges and how the City staff are considering these barriers in their strategies when developing programs.

4. Recognition of Volunteer Recognition Awardees

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Informational

Contact: Maggie Le, Support Services Manager, (916) 808-1040, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Mario Lara, Director, provided an update regarding the online recognition of the Volunteer Recognition awardees.

Commissioner Mehta provided positive comments regarding the recognition for the awardees for District 1.

Chair Good provided positive comments regarding the recognition program and mentioned the Fosters & Paws organization that was selected to receive an award.

5. Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment Director Report (Oral): Update on COVID-19 Related Impacts

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Informational

Contact: Mario Lara, Director, (916) 808-1041, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Mario Lara, Director, provided an update on Department operations during COVID-19 and mentioned that since Sept. 1st, the County Public Health Order has been amended for the 9th time and now aligns with the State's tiered system.

Vice Chair Lavelle inquired if there is any update on opening up playgrounds. Mario Lara responded that this is something that is being discussed regionally; however, under the current County Public Health Order playgrounds are still off limits.

Chair Good requested that the Department continue to provide updates to the Commission.

6. Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment Director Report (Oral): Review Highlights for August

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Informational

Contact: Mario Lara, Director, (916) 808-1041, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Mario Lara, Director, mentions that in August the City has experienced not only the pandemic, but has also experienced triple digit heat, fires causing poor air quality, social protests, and transitioning from summer programming to fall programming. This highlights the dedication of staff working through these circumstance. He also thanked staff for their work. The Youth Division Manager is currently working behind the scenes at City Hall to assist the meeting, so Mario provided the Youth Division highlights:

- Summer at Virtual City Hall – 55 graduates, 10 graduates were returning youth
- Junior Giants at Home – became virtual program and operated June through July and wrapped up in August
- Sacramento Youth Commission continue to meet virtually and recently had a joint City Council meeting
- STEAM Camps – 7 weeks of programming which wrapped up in August and served 1,683 registered participants
- Essential Worker Childcare – served 386 participants

Jackie Beecham, Community Enrichment Division, provided highlights and mentioned:

- 4 pools operated since July
 - 10,500 swimmers attend recreational swimming,
 - 1,100 youth participated in swim lessons,
 - 1,200 lap swimmers, and
 - 600 water aerobics participants.
- Community Centers

Item #1

- Distributed over 57,000 meals to youth in partnership with Natomas Unified School District
- Youth and Teen Summer Camps provided at six community centers
 - Kids Camp served over 2,092 youth
 - Teen Scene served 321 youth
- Continued mask distribution
- Activated cooling centers and clean air centers
- Reservation office began issuing field use permits for youth sports conditioning
- Virtual programming at centers
- Resume Artist in Residency program at Community Centers in fall
- Older Adults
 - Virtual programming – 510 hours of virtual programming for participants
 - Wellness calls
 - Food delivery for seniors
- Access Leisure
 - Training over 70 participants to learn Zoom
 - Parent and caregiver virtual support groups
- Camp Sacramento
 - Over 131 daily reservations for modified campground program

Tony Ulep, Park Maintenance Manager, provided an update regarding:

- 3 Farmers Markets
- Fitness classes in the parks
- Maintenance staff continue maintain parks
- Challenges with smoke and COVID-19
- Cesar Chavez park was cleaned up due to recent social protest

Raymond Constantino, Park Planning and Development Services Manager, provided an update regarding:

- Launched the online community outreach plan for Park Master Plan Update 2040
 - Goal is to get 3,000 questionnaires filled out

Mario Lara mentions that Administrative team has been working hard to process purchase orders, contracts, and reports with quick turn around to support programming. The Department is also recruiting Recreation Aides.

Chair Good appreciates having staff provide highlights. She also inquired about the cost for cleanup from social protests, if the expenses are General Fund, and how long the childcare program will continue operations. Tony Ulep responded and mentioned that the Cesar Chavez park cleanup expenses are being tracked by a code that may be eligible for reimbursement but are General Fund expenses. Mario Lara responded that Sac CLASS, a CARES Act funded program, is the childcare program that started today and will continue

through late November and Natomas Unified School District also allowed 4th R back on campus. He also thanked the Public Information Officer that has been assisting YPCE with blog posts.

Member Comments-Ideas, Questions and Meeting/Conference Reports

Commissioner Guerrero provided an update on the expansion of the futsal court at Northgate Park. There is a park cleanup on Saturday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Commissioner Law acknowledged Commissioner Murphy and YPCE Parks staff for addressing the lighting issue at Miller park as he saw some people trying to load their boats and had a difficult time due to lack of lighting at night.

Commissioner Mehta thanked Mario Lara and staff for upkeep of parks. She also mentioned that there is still a Farmers Market and yoga in the park in District 1 on Saturday from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Commissioner Murphy encouraged everyone to attend the new Farmers Market at Winn Park on Wednesday nights from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, which will be a year-round market.

Chair Good reminded Commissioners to submit nominations for the upcoming Volunteer Recognition Award for Community Enrichment and YPCE categories by September 30, 2020 and thanked staff for the informative meeting and thanked Commissioners for their dedication to the community.

Adjournment

Chair Good adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

For: 

Maggie Le, Support Services Manager
Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Approved by:

Rita Good, Chair
Parks and Community Enrichment Commission