



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

**February 4, 2021**

**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 6:02 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Aguilar, Flores, Good, Guerrero, Hermann, Lavelle, Law, Loew and Mehta

Absent: Commissioner Kletzman

**Special Presentation/General Communication**

Chair Good gave recognition to outgoing commissioners Julie Murphy and Chinua Rhodes. Both commissioners are appreciated for their years of service. On behalf of the City, a plaque is presented to each outgoing commissioner.

**Discussion Calendar**

**1. Election of Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Chair**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Pass a motion to elect the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Chair for the 2021 calendar year.

**Contact:** Junjie Yu, Administration Analyst (916) 808-6402, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Commissioner Flores would like Chair Good to continue as the chair of commission. Last year in 2020, there were several meetings cancelled due to COVID-19.

Action: Motion to elect Chair Good to continue to serve as the Parks and Community Enrichment Chair for the 2021 calendar year.

Moved/Seconded (Flores/Aguilar)  
Motion carried 9-Yes 0-No 1-Absent (Kletzman)

**2. Election of Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Vice Chair**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Pass a motion to elect the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Vice Chair for the 2021 calendar year.

**Contact:** Junjie Yu, Administration Analyst (916) 808-6402, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Commissioner Flores would like a supportive vice chair for the commission. Vice Chair Lavelle is nominated to resume his role.

Action: Motion to elect Vice Chair Lavelle to continue to serve as the Parks and Community Enrichment Vice Chair for the 2021 calendar year

Moved/Seconded (Flores/Loew)  
Motion carried 9-Yes 0-No 1-Absent (Kletzman)

**3. Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Workplan for 2021 and Parks and Community Enrichment Commission 2021 Meeting Calendar**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Pass a motion to approve the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Workplan for 2021 and the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission 2021 Meeting Calendar

**Contact:** Junjie Yu, Administration Analyst (916) 808-6402, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Commissioner Flores wanted to see deferred maintenance presentation highlighting each district. In addition, maintenance response time upon receiving the neighborhood call.

Commissioner Aguilar wanted to see update on usage of public space. Furthermore, an informational presentation of Gift to Share program.

Vice Chair Lavelle wanted an update on deferred maintenance for completed projects or those pending.

Commissioner Guerrero wanted an update on Prime Time Teen and Landscape & Landing (L&L) program. He mentioned there were over 400 L&L applicants and only 25% are hired because of low number available open vacancy positions.

Sandra Reyez, resident, mentioned two individuals collected over a hundred letters of support to convert a tennis court into a futsal court for the Natomas Regional Park. She asked why the City Council Member did not consider sponsoring this conversion.

Action: Motion to approve the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Workplan for 2021 and the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission 2021 Meeting Calendar

Moved/Seconded (Lavelle/Hermann)  
Motion carried 9-Yes 0-No 1-Absent (Kletzman)

#### 4. Master Plan and Naming of Park in River District

**Location:** District 3

**Recommendation:** Pass a motion to support the City Council's adoption of 1) Park Master Plan for the pocket park in the River District, and 2) naming the pocket park as River District Park

**Contact:** Dennis Day, Landscape Architect, (916) 808-7633, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Dennis Day, Landscape Architect, introduced the location of the park with a map. The Master Plan received feedback from several agencies, consultants and input from the community. A federal grant was awarded to fund this project. Dennis Day explained the proposed park amenities with pictures.

Commissioner Hermann would like a visual on the combination of basketball court and fursel court. People can potentially run into each while sports occurring at once.

Dennis Day responded that the futsal equipment can be uninstalled. Therefore the basketball court will be permanent on site. Staff will send Commissioner Hermann a photograph of the current combination from an existing park.

Commissioner Aguilar asked if this park is located at a highly populated dense area of the City with homelessness. He asked why the roof is transparent and barriers between benches to discourage homeless? Dennis Day responded that transparent roofs and bench with armrests in the middle would prevent camping and sleeping. This has been the standard design throughout the City. Director Lara clarified that design elements are applied to defer negative behavior such as skateboarders grinding on the benches. Commissioner Aguilar commented that preventing homeless use of a park is not proper especially during this pandemic crisis.

Commissioner Aguilar asked if lighting will be available and trash receptacles. Dennis Day responded that there will be trash receptacles but due to budget constraints, there is no electricity for lighting.

Vice Chair Lavelle applauded that a full court basketball will be offered at this park.

Commissioner Guerrero mentioned that he wanted to see a map in the packet in order to make a comment. In the future a project map with major street names or surrounding neighborhood in the community would be helpful.

Action: Motion to support the City Council's adoption of 1) Park Master Plan for the pocket park in the River District, and 2) naming the pocket park as River District Park

Moved/Seconded (Loew/Lavelle)  
Motion carried 9-Yes 0-No 1-Absent (Kletzman)

**5. Review request to place Black Lives Matter sign at McClatchy Park**

**Location:** District 5

**Recommendation:** Pass a motion to recommend to the City Council; a) deny the request, or b) approve the sign placement by accepting the sign as the City of Sacramento's government speech

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

Director Lara provided the background of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) sign. Furthermore he explained, the sign could be adopted by council as government speech. This will be the appropriate process to proceed by not creating a public forum.

Zach Trowbridge, resident, explained the history of his BLM sign, the message arised from the Black community. He pointed out several local organizations in support of the sign placement.

Ms. Jone, resident, stated that the BLM sign would be appropriate on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. The artist should contact local committees for the installation input.

Tonia Faison, resident, stated she is in support of BLM sign at McClatchy Park to remind Oak Park community of the message. She wanted a local black artist to be part of this installation.

Caity Maple, resident, said she is in support of BLM sign as a representative of the Oak Park Neighborhood Association.

Robin, resident, said she wanted a permanent BLM sign in the community.

Jenny Davidson, resident, said she encouraged Sacramento to support the BLM sign.

Commissioner Guerror explained he wanted the local Black Lives Matter organization to be involved. Furthermore, if possible he would like to find a permanent monument for the BLM sign.

Vice Chair Lavelle commented on the potential hazard of the BLM design that could invite kids to climb onto the sign poles. He is in support of a permanent monument.

Commissioner Flores asked what policy is guiding this process? Director Lara explained that there is no definite policy after consulting with internal departments. The City will work on a policy regarding similar artwork/sign placements in parks for the future.

Commissioner Flores wanted the option for the sign placement to extend for more than six months.

Action: Motion to approve the sign placement at McClatchy Park by accepting the sign as the City of Sacramento's government speech.

Moved/Seconded (Flores/Hermann)

Motion carried 9-Yes 0-No 1-Absent (Kletzman)

Commissioner Guerrero introduced a second motion. He wanted BLM representatives to be part of the presentation of this proposal to the City Council.

Moved/Seconded (Guerrero/Aguilar)

Motion carried 6-Yes 3-No 1-Absent (Kletzman)

**6. Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment Director's 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

Director Lara provided information that community centers are operating but are still closed to the public. SacClass, an afterschool and virtual program, is occurring in the centers. Special events are being booked if the county moves into the red-tier.

**7. Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment Director Report (Oral): Review Highlights for December and January**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Informational

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

Shannon Brown, Assistant Director, provided information that warming centers are open right now. Locations included the Library Galleria and Southside Pool House. Department staff are trained and on standby to take shifts.

Tony Ulep, Park Maintenance Manager, provided information that mature trees and limbs fell from the recent rainstorm. Parks are being cleaned up in collaboration with contractors.

Monica Blanco, Youth Division Manager, provided information that the SacClass program is extended until end of the school year. The Sacramento Youth Commission has a new chair and vice chair.

Jackie Beecham, Community Enrichment Manager, provided information that staff are supporting Great Plates Delivered. Access Leisure division continues to support those with disabilities. Aquatics division is hiring over two hundred positions. Community Centers division is hosting several in-person programming and drive-thru events are being rescheduled.

Raymond Constantino, Park Planning Manager, provided information that his team is looking into feedbacks gathered on the Master Plan from the joint meeting last December.

Staff will continue on community outreach. Raymond Constantino added that several park improvement projects were recently completed.

**Public Comments-Matters Not on the Agenda**

Susan Contreras, resident, wanted one tennis court to be converted into a futsal court in Sycamore Park or Burberry Park.

Amy Cote, resident, wanted one futsal court in the heart of District 1. The Community is in support of converting one tennis court to futsal court. Sponsors are willing to contribute to this project.

**Member Comments-Ideas, Questions and Meeting/Conference Reports**

Commissioner Aguilar thanked staff for helping out at the warming centers.

Commissioner Guerrero thanked YPCE for opening up shelters and saving lives. He is excited for the upcoming youth job opportunities.

Commissioner Flores asked who can work at the warming centers? Shannon Brown, Assistant Director, stated 1.0 full-time employees can participate.

Chair Good thanked Monica Blanco for hosting the L&L interviews.

Commissioner Guerrero thanked the Park Maintenance crew for the clean up effort after the storm.

**Adjournment**

Chair Good adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m

This is to certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of February 4, 2021 as approved by the Commission.



Junjie Yu, Administrative Analyst  
Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment