

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Monday, September 27, 2021, Live Teleconference Meeting
401 S. Pavilion Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

The Meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Chair Alcorn and roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL/COMMISSIONERS	PRESENT:	ABSENT:	PRESENT TO DATE:
Jerry Alcorn	X		14
Travis Armstrong	X		13
Johnny Coladonato	X		12
Deiter Crawford	X		13
Jody Diaz	X		14
Michael Finland	X		2
Ellen Goodman	X		13
Susan Meyer	X		2
John Miraglia	X		6
Chris Spellman	X		2

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeannie Kays, Director Library Services, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation
Staci Schafer, Director of Maintenance and Facilities
Don Uyeno, Engineer

III. **REPORT OF POSTING OF AGENDA:**

The Agenda for this meeting was posted at City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way; the Palm Springs Leisure Center, 401 S. Pavilion Way; and the City of Palm Springs' website prior to 5:00 PM on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, as required by established policies and procedures.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Action: Approve the July 26, 2021, Minutes.

Motion: by Commissioner Diaz

Seconded: by Commissioner Goodman

Motion carried Yes: 10 No: 0 Abstain: 0

V. CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence emailed to the Commissioners. A packet will be created and sent at a later date.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Annette Sanders – mentioned taking the Dog Park Survey, discussed trash cans and trees being replaced.
2. Gary Greenbaum- mentioned Dog Park closure, work not being done, the park being a social gathering place, and suggested improvements.
3. John Brown – reiterated the problems of flies and gnats, the park needs to be cleaner, and requested a Dog Splash area
4. Kris McDonald – agreed with others for park improvements, dog owners should be more responsible and diligent, park needs better ground covering and maintenance
5. Paul Foster – had trouble with Zoom sound, will email comments later
6. Richard Haymes – agreed with Gary park is a social place, discussed recommendations for improvements
7. Sean Taroli – discussed needs for tennis at Ruth Hardy Park, events, and tournaments
8. Tim Giuliani – discussed dog park statistics from the survey conducted recently, cleanliness, sustainability, maintenance, socialization, and accountability
9. Gary Johns –supported Mr. Giuliani, discussed needs of park.
10. David Weiner – Thanked people for conducting survey at the Dog Park, discussed socialization, upgrades, and thanked the Commissioners
11. Geoff Kors (City Councilmember) – announced Nov. 18, 19, City Council strategic planning meeting, interested in parks, Measure J priorities, thanked everyone
12. Edi Greenbaum - Discussed making the Dog Park more sustainable rather than shutting down the park for maintenance.
13. Gary Greenbaum – didn't recommend turf for Dog Park

VII. CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

None

VIII. STAFF UPDATES:

Director Kays introduced herself as the Interim Director for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Recreation Department updates:

- Announced staff member Janice Lopez' award nomination for being the Public Employee for the Year
- Showed Hispanic Heritage Month decorations
- Announced Halloween events
 1. Demuth Community Center, October 23
 2. Swim Center, October 24
 3. Library, October 27
 4. VillageFest, October 28
 5. JOJ, October 29

6. Leisure Center, November 1

- Borrego Health Van at JOJ
- Find Food Bank at JOJ
- DCC Homework Hub
- VillageFest hours changing Oct 7 to 6 PM – 10 PM
- Veteran's Day Parade- Commissioners invited to carry a banner during the parade, Janet Burns will send out more information
- Festival of Lights Parade is coming up

VIII. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS:

1. DISCUSSION ON PROJECT UPDATES:

Don Uyeno:

On September 24, 2020, the City Council approved 7 projects from the Parks & Recreation Commission's Priority Projects, only 3 to go:

- Pavilion Sound System – Project was put out to bid. On Thursday we received 1 bid: \$120K
- Playground Surfacing – Under construction. Contractor has started demolition at Desert Highland Park.
- Ballfield Lighting Design– Existing poles were not providing adequate spacing of lights leaving dark areas. They have also come to the end of their useful life. New poles will be installed to provide adequate lighting for the ballfields at Demuth.

Other Park Projects:

- Sunrise Park Restrooms – Contractor working on punch list, but turned over keys to staff.
- Demuth Park and Desert Highland Park Restrooms – Project is still waiting for contracts to be signed.
- Demuth Community Center HVAC – The project is currently out to bid. Bids will be opened on 10/28/21.
- Downtown Park – The contractor continues to work on final details.

Vice Chair Coladonato asked about a resurfacing project in the large Dog Park parking lot. Don responded that it was part of the Dog Park Grant, and that staff would need to look into the status of the gran.

City Hall Dog Park dedication being held in honor of David Ready was announced.

Commissioners responded to announcement about the renaming process.

Director Schafer:

- Discussed Downtown Park dedication being held October 21
- Responded to Public Comments regarding the Dog Parks

- Held discussion with Commissioner Goodman and Vice Chair Coladonato about solutions, signage, and changes with dog owners since the project began three years ago.
- Announced updates on the CVLink
- Discussed Skatepark issues and needs with Chair Alcorn
- Discussed Desert Highland Park playground project and reseeding schedule with Commissioner Crawford, Don added that the playground project was projected to end in December
- Commissioner Armstrong commented on Dog Park issues

No Action Taken.

2. DISCUSSION ON SKATEPARK MAINTENANCE:

Director Schafer was able to answer questions in her updates.

No Action Taken.

3. DISCUSSION ON BALLPARK MAINTENANCE:

Director Schafer was able to answer questions in her updates.

No Action Taken.

4. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION INPUT FOR RELOCATION OF THE SPIDER ART FROM THE PALM SPRINGS SWIM CENTER:

Director Kays showed Commissioners pictures of the proposed TOT statue that would be replacing the Spider Art in from the front of the Palm Springs Swim Center.

Commissioners discussed frustrations of not being consulted regarding the placement of a new statue.

Discussion on relocation of art, need for bike racks, and need for communication between Commissions and Boards.

Action: Replace the broken bike racks on the side of the Pavilion with the Spider Art. It would be used as a bike rack for staff and kids during summer camp.

Motion by Chair Alcorn

Seconded by Commissioner Miraglia

Motion carried Yes: 7 No: 1 Abstain: 2 (Noting the abstention of Armstrong and Diaz)

5. REVIEW AND DISCUSS COMMISSION'S FINAL LIST FOR MEASURE J COMMISSION REVIEW:

List was provided in the Minutes of the Commission April Meeting via screenshare with Director Kays.

Commissioners discussed what the list was, what Measure J is asking to be added to the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year, what items to take off the list after staff

updates, applications available to community, and recommendations from Engineer Don Uyeno.

Measure J AdHoc Committee needed to meet before the next Measure J Meeting.

No Action Taken.

6. DISCUSSION ON DOG PARK GRANT UPDATES:

Director Kays will reach out to the grant writer for updates.

No Action Taken.

7. REPORTS AND UPDATES FROM ADHOC COMMITTEES:

Dog Park AdHoc Committee worked during the month of August. Commissioner Goodman reported on survey and results.

No Action Taken.

IX. REPORTS AND REQUESTS.

A. Commissioner Comments: This portion of the meeting is set aside for brief general comments, and/or issues or concerns from members of the Commission and/or items for future meetings.

Commissioner Meyer: Discussed communication protocol between Commissions and Boards.

Commissioner Spellman: New, so just trying to understand the Commission process and protocols. Interested in working with the Sunrise Committee.

Commissioners Diaz and Goodman stepped down from working with Sunrise.

Commissioner Goodman: Thanked everyone.

Commissioner Armstrong: Asked about plans for new Director. Reminded everyone that (the Commission) is an advisory body.

Commissioner Miraglia: Ellen took the bull by the horns with the Dog Park Survey.

Commissioner Crawford: (spoke earlier) Brought up James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center's Come Ride With Us activity, thanked Jerry for working as Commission Chair.

Action: To adjourn and meet as a Commission on Monday, October 25 , 2021, at our normal scheduled time.

Motion: Vice Chair Coladonato

Seconded: Commissioner Diaz

Motion carried all in favor.

With no other business to attend, Chair Alcorn adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m. with the next Regular Meeting to be held at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, October 25, 2021, via a Zoom meeting facilitated from 401 S. Pavilion Way, Palm Springs, California, 92262.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Burns, Senior Secretary
Department of Parks and Recreation