

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Meeting Agenda Announcement

In-Person Public Comment is now Available

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 361, which allows Brown Act bodies to attend meetings telephonically. Please be advised that some, or all, Whittier Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioners may attend this meeting telephonically.

Speakers must limit their comments to three minutes. Please note, by order of the presiding officer, public comments minutes may be reduced if at their discretion a surplus of public speakers is present at the meeting.

To submit Public Comments/Questions:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400
- Live Audio via Zoom: Only those members of the public who have 'raised their hand' on Zoom will be in the queue for speaking.
- In person at City Hall 13230 Penn St., Whittier, CA 90602, City Council Chamber

To view live meetings remotely:

- Video and audio: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86955588397>
- Audio only: Dial 1 (720) 707-2699 (Meeting ID: 869 5558 8397)

Please submit email comments by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails received by 5:00 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails received after 5:00 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
SEPTEMBER 21, 2022, 6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Elizabeth Apodaca, Commissioner
Delia Morales, Commissioner
Robert Sera, Commissioner
Joseph Westrup, Commissioner
Don Mrla, Vice Chair
Kevin Kennedy, Chair

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to address the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission regarding any item of business, or any matter within the body's subject matter jurisdiction. Consistent with Executive Order No. N-29-20 public comments can be made via:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400

Please submit email and voicemail public comments by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails and voicemails received by 5:00 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails and voicemails received after 5:00 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Pursuant to State law, the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any communications which do not appear on the printed agenda.

5. OATH

Tiffany Givens, Commissioner

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.A. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2022 and Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 25, 2022.

6.B. Parks Master Plan Update

Recommendation: Receive and file the Parks Master Plan update.

7. SECRETARY COMMENTS

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND CONFERENCE REPORTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

The agenda packet is available three days before the meeting in the PRCS Department at City Hall (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) and East Whittier Branch Library (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Additionally, the agenda packet can be viewed on the City's website. Materials distributed to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission within 72 hours of the Commission meeting are available for public inspection in the PRCS Department's Office.

Los servicios relacionados con la discapacidad están disponibles para permitir que las personas con discapacidad participen en esta reunión, de conformidad con la Ley Federal de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990. También hay intérpretes en español disponibles. Para obtener información o para solicitar servicios, comuníquese con el Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad al menos de 24 horas antes de la reunión al (562) 567-9400.

El paquete de la agenda está disponible tres días antes de la reunión con El Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad en el Ayuntamiento (13230 Penn Street), Biblioteca Central de Whittier (7344 Washington Avenue) y Biblioteca sucursal del este de Whittier (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Además, el paquete de la agenda se puede ver en el sitio web de la Ciudad. Los materiales distribuidos al Comisión de parques, recreación y servicios comunitarios dentro de las 72 horas de la reunión del Concejo Municipal están disponibles para inspección pública en la con El Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Regular and Adjourned Regular meeting agendas may be amended up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Dated this 16th day of September 2022.

/s/ Roxanne Gonzalez

Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: September 21, 2022

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2022 and Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 25, 2022.

BACKGROUND

None.

DISCUSSION

Staff prepared draft minutes and hereby submits the minutes for Commission's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2022
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 25, 2022

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
AUGUST 17, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Hardeman called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Delia Morales, Commissioner
Don Mrla, Commissioner
Kevin Kennedy, Commissioner
Jeff Brauckmann, Vice-Chair
Chris Hardeman, Chair

ABSENT: Ray Wong, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager
Margo Diamond, Management Analyst I
Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Hardeman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

5. OATH OF OFFICE

Oath of office was administered to Elizabeth Apodaca
Oath of office was administered to Robert Sera
Oath of office was administered to Joseph Westrup

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.A. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Mrla, and carried 3-0 to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15,

2022, and July 20, 2022. Commissioner Morales abstained from approving the July 20, 2022, meeting minutes (Absent: Commissioner Ray Wong).

6.B. Election of Officers

Commissioner Morales nominated Commissioner Kennedy as Chair for the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission. Commissioner Kennedy accepted the nomination.

It was moved by Commissioner Morales and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy, carried 6-0 to approve the election of Commissioner Kennedy as Chair for the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission.

Commissioner Morales nominated Commissioner Mrla as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Mrla stated that he is open to accepting the position as Vice-Chair but would like to respect Commissioner Morales's experience as well.

It was moved by Commissioner Morales and seconded by Chair Kennedy, carried 6-0 to approve the election of Commissioner Mrla as Vice-Chair for the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission.

Commissioner Sera stated that he is pleased to have Vice-Chair Mrla provide guidance and assist new Commissioners. Both Commissioner Apodaca and Commissioner Westrup concurred those sentiments.

6.C. Sub-Committees

Chair Kennedy asked Commissioners if they would like to volunteer for any of the sub-committees. Following his invitation to Commissioners, Secretary Santana described the Summer Concerts sub-committee and the duties of the committee members. Vice-Chair Mrla added that these are great opportunities for the incoming Commissioners to start serving right away and to become familiar with the role of a Commissioner.

Commissioner Apodaca and Commissioner Westrup volunteered to be Committee members for the Summer Concerts sub-committee.

It was moved by Commissioner Morales and seconded by Chair Kennedy to approve the sub-committee assignments for the Summer Concerts sub-committee.

Secretary Santana explained which non-profit organizations run specific sports programs in the City of Whittier and stated that the Youth Sport Affiliates meet quarterly. She stated that the Committee will discuss items that affect their teams' programs, like space and field usage.

Commissioner Sera and Commissioner Westrup volunteered to be Committee members for the Youth Sport Affiliates

It was moved by Commissioner Morales and seconded by Vice-Chair Mrla to approve the sub-committee assignments for the Youth Sport Affiliates Committee.

Secretary Santana stated that Management Analyst Diamond greatly assisted staff in gathering information for the Whittier Beautification Program. The Whittier Beautification Program intends to recognize families who have enhanced their homes and community by renovating their homes or landscaping. The PRCS sub-committee members along with the CAC sub-committee members will select finalists among residents from all four districts. The finalists will be recognized and received an award from City Council. The application will go out in Spring of 2023.

Commissioner Apodaca and Commissioner Sera volunteered to be Committee members for the Whittier Beautification Program sub-committee.

Commissioner Morales will remain on the Senior Center Renovation Program sub-committee and Commissioner Sera will join her as a committee member as well.

Secretary Santana explained the purpose of the Parks Master Plan sub-committee. We have 23 parks and several facilities, and the Parks Master Plan will help guide staff when deciding which areas to renovate. Staff sent out a notice inviting bids, and two proposals were received which are being reviewed. The selected contractor will have ten days to begin on the Parks Master Plan. The Parks Master Plan sub-committee will assist staff during community meetings to gather information on what are the needs of the community.

Vice-Chair Mrla and Chair Kennedy volunteered to be Committee members for the Parks Master Plan sub-committee and Commissioner Sera and Commissioner Morales volunteered to be alternates.

It was moved by Commissioner Morales and seconded by Commissioner Sera, carried 6-0 to approve the sub-committee assignments and alternates.

6.D. Park Project Updates

Lee and Erika Owens Park splash pad was severely vandalized earlier this year and Staff has had a difficult time completing repairs. We are currently waiting on a part for the splash pad to finish repairs and contact the Public Health Department to inspect the splash pad. Once the Public Health Department determines that the splash pad has passed inspection, we will try to open the splash pad on weekend so long as the weather allows. The restrooms at Lee and Erika Owens Park are also continuously vandalized. Staff is working on getting gates installed at the entrances of the park to deter further vandalism. Also, the locking mechanism has been updated where park staff stores electrical components and chemicals. We plan to install cameras the Lee and Erika Owens Park as well.

Commissioner Sera asked at what time will gates be closed and whether we have installed the new surveillance system at Lee and Erika Owens Park. Secretary Santana informed the Commission that staff is proposing to have the gates be closed at dusk. We are still determining whether staff or the security guard that patrols the Whittier Community Center will lock the gate. She added that staff is still researching security cameras to ensure that we install the appropriate cameras for outdoor use.

Kennedy Park is located along Painter Avenue and has endured vandalism as well. The mural on the restrooms had to be removed due to the severe vandalism it sustained. Community members who live in the cul-de-sac have also endured vandalism as their homes back up into Kennedy Park. We have received a grant to renovate the park, but need additional funding. However, Council did approve additional funding for the renovation of Kennedy Park. Once Council provides direction as to how staff should move forward based on the community meeting survey results, we will move forward with park renovations.

As for Broadway Park, several residents have requested that it be converted into a parking lot. However, staff feels that the park has potential, and the Parks Master Plan will provide direction as to how to update the park. For example, staff visited the City of Santa Fe Springs to look at the new exercise equipment. The company who installed the exercise equipment reached out to Manager Hamilton regarding what they could offer to our City. Manager Hamilton stated that the National Fitness Campaign desires to work with different cities and will typically install exercise equipment that is easily accessible by foot. The exercise equipment has multiple levels and QR codes are displayed allowing patrons to follow a self-led course.

Anaconda Park and Central Park will undergo renovations. Grant funds will allow staff to have rubberized surfacing, the decomposed granite path, and the fitness equipment to be replaced at Anaconda Park. Central Park will have its rubberized surfacing and caps on the playground equipment replaced.

The Penn Park playground will also be updated. The notice inviting bids will go before Council on August 23rd. Secretary Santana described the new concept designs for the Penn Park playground. Commissioner Sera asked if the existing playground location is where the new playground will be installed. Secretary Santana stated that it would.

Senator Archuleta gave the City of Whittier \$5 million dollars to renovate Parnell Park. Council noted that \$5 million would be insufficient to renovate the park according to the community survey results and approved additional funding. The Parnell Park Storybook Zoo will be reconfigured and modernized; soccer fields will be added, and an amphitheater. An Ad Hoc Committee was created to help with this project and staff will go before Council to push a solid design plan. Chair Kennedy asked whether there will be lighting placed at the park.

Secretary Santana stated that yes safety lighting will be placed at the park as well as sports lighting.

It was moved by Commissioner Morales and seconded by Commissioner Westrup, carried 6-0 to receive and file the Park Project Updates.

7. SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Secretary Santana introduced Community Services Manager Hamilton, Management Analyst Diamond, Administrative Secretary Gonzalez and herself to the Commission. Also, she informed the Commission of department programming offered to the public. We operated four (4) summer WYN clubs, two (2) Summer Day Camps which were organized by Supervisor Steele and Coordinator Carrasco. During the pandemic we offered a School Year WYN Club to assist parents. School Year WYN is back and sold out quickly.

The Rec and Read Program was initiated during the pandemic which is operated by the Library and our Department. Movies in the Park are back. Aquatic classes are sold out. This summer we hosted 12-concerts in two different parks.

The Whittier Senior Center is currently closed and awaiting renovations. An Open House was hosted at Parnell Park Senior Activity Center to showcase the programs and activities we offer. Senior Services Division continues to work hard to offer trips, activities, and programming for our seniors.

8. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Westrup stated that he is happy to be here and is excited to learn from incumbent Commissioners. He is excited to be part of decisions to make Whittier a great place to live. Also, he stated that he got a dog about nine months ago and asked why the City does not allow dogs at any of the other parks in Whittier. Secretary Santana stated that the current City ordinance does not allow for dogs to be in the parks. The ordinances are established to help us find a park use balance.

Commissioner Apodaca stated she is thrilled to be here and is looking forward to contributing and learning about Whittier and the park system. She stated she is here to help out in any way she can.

Commissioner Sera is pleased and apprehensive to be on the Commission because it is a big step for him into the public sphere. He has resided in Whittier for 58 years. He made use of parks and resources throughout his time growing up in Whittier and uses them to this day. He is glad to be in a position where he can be directly involved with management of the parks.

Commissioner Morales welcomed the new Commissioners and looks forward to working with them. She also thanked staff for all of their hard work.

Vice-Chair Mrla stated that this is a unique time to be live in this City. The City is in a season of abundance right now and the parks area is a significant aspect of that. He also welcomed the new Commissioners aboard.

Chair Kennedy welcomed that new Commissioners and stated that they will enjoy being on the Commission. They will get a lot of information on what is going on with the City and looks forward to working with them in the coming years.

Secretary Santana asked Commissioner who would be available for the Joint Session, Special Meeting on Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 6:30 PM. The meeting will cover the People Mover Project. She emphasized that their input is important. The meeting will be held in person and via Zoom. Vice-Chair Mrla, Commissioner Sera, Commissioner Morales and Commissioner Apodaca confirmed their attendance.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Parks, Recreation and Community Service Commission
on _____.

Virginia Santana, Secretary

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
JOINT SESSION SPECIAL MEETING
WITH THE
PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
AUGUST 25, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Hardeman called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Elizabeth Apodaca, Commissioner
Delia Morales, Commissioner
Robert Sera, Commissioner
Don Mrla, Vice-Chair
Kevin Kennedy, Chair

Laurie Perschbacher, Vice Chair
David Gonzalez, Commissioner
Alex Mendoza, Commissioner
Ricardo Izquierdo, Commissioner
Art Revueltas, Commissioner

ABSENT: Joseph Westrup, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Margo Diamond, Management Analyst I
Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary

Cesar Rangel, Assistant Director for Public Works
Veronica Barrios, Administrative Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Assistant Director of Public Works Rangel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephanie Vallejo: Hi good afternoon my name is Stephanie Vallejo and I live in Whittier. It is nice to see some of you. I know some of you on the Commission so it's nice to see that you are all together. I want to talk about I guess a survey that was conducted by the company for the trolley or the People Mover. I'm a little concerned that approximately only 200 people were surveyed in this project out of the 85,000

residents. So, I would hope that you take that into consideration. Also, we already have two other bus lines that work in the City of Whittier, like Montebello, and Metro. I believe there is one more, but I am not sure. I just wanted to bring that up to your attention. Thank you for your time.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.A. Whittier People Mover Study Presentation

Steve Wilks with the IBI Group, provided Commissioners with a presentation on the People Mover Project. The IBI Group, a management consultation firm who are retained by the City to undertake the Whittier People Mover Project.

The study is to look at potential routes for a small-scale circulator transit that will connect key destinations in the study area like the Groves, PIH, Whittier College, Uptown Whittier, Hellman Park, and the Quad. The aim is to provide additional mobility options, reduce use of signal occupancy vehicles reductions of vehicles miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions, parking, and traffic congestion.

The overarching elements focus on three key aspects in regard to the investigation. The key aspects are the review and understanding of the unique conditions of the diverse and varied constituencies of the city's study area including the Groves and Uptown Area. It also included the number side of our work plan in terms of looking at demographics, social economic characteristics, traffic counts, and existing transit services. Second element is the innovation side of things is to identify and analyze mobility solutions, what are we really hearing form the community and what the numbers are telling us. Third element is solutions which develop an action plan or a blueprint for implementation.

Community and stakeholder engagement has been an important part of the study work plan. The Community was engaged by including an interactive community survey that had been developed to gain an informed understanding of the local latitudes, community values, travel patterns and behavioral attributes that affect mode of choice. The survey tells us what the community thinks. As mentioned, we received over 200 responses. For a community of this size that would be a statistical valid sample plus or minus five percent.

From the surveys and public meetings, we learned about service gaps in Uptown, along Whittier Blvd., and areas not adequately served by current transit systems in Whittier. The focus group representing stake holder constituents also included people who operate businesses and health offices, and who work in the hospitality sector and own restaurants in Whittier. The interactive virtual posts depict sticky notes that capture the needs, gaps, and challenges in transit. Concerns were expressed and still need to be addressed in the work plan, like safety, accessibility, and congestion.

City Staff and information we've gathered from initial consultation have come up with potential corridors to connect, like the Groves, Uptown, Whittier

College, PIH Health, Hellman Park, and the Quad. Although there are other transit modes of transportation, it is difficult for some to get from their home to the bus stop. We are looking at alternate transit options to provide that connectivity.

Advance technology has allowed for alternative transit options. In developing people mover concepts, we are looking at a range of service types that include autonomous vehicles which are driverless, smaller purpose build vehicles that through roadway and communication interface manage to get from point A to point B. Micro transit driver shuttles are a smaller purpose build type vehicle, typically electric and environmentally friendly, and there is an operator onboard. Large scale driver shuttles, like the trolley in Laguna Beach is a variation of the traditional bus, because it has a higher capacity, able to travel at higher speeds and does not have restrictions on roadways and can travel on major arterials.

An autonomous shuttle would operate in a fixed route mode, limitations on their speeds, typically do not operate more than 25 mph, maintenance costs are on the high-end of the spectrum due to software licensing. The reliability of service is still in its infancy. The micro transit driver shuttle smaller purposeful vehicle like the "Fran" service in Anaheim. Could be operated on hybrid mode (on demand or fixed route mode). They too are governed by speed limitations which could be a challenge to travel on a major arterial which can be an issue when looking at routes. A relatively inexpensive, glorified golf cart, seat 4 to 6 people and been around a long time and proven to be reliable. The large-scale driver shuttle larger capacity is typically a 30 ft bus. These would be operating in fixed route mode and no restrictions where it can travel regarding speeds. Pricing depends on configuration type of vehicle. The trolley is more expensive than a smaller purpose-built bus but have been around for a long time.

Next, steps entail reaching out to stake holders and host additional community meetings. When re-engaging stakeholders and the community we would want to present a number of route configuration concepts to allow stakeholders and community members to translate those concepts into a preferred plan.

Commissioner Izquierdo from the (PTC) asked what the actual survey number was and how the survey was administered. Mr. Wilks stated that the actual survey number was about 210 and stated that the survey was administered by the City. The survey was sent out via Survey Monkey and posted to the City's social media. In addition, the community was informed of the survey at Council meetings. Also, stakeholders were asked to share the survey with their constituents.

Commissioner Gonzalez from the (PTC) asked if stakeholder groups included the Whittier Uptown Association and the Uptown Whittier Improvement Association. Mr. Wilks stated yes, a good section of the business community was included. Commissioner Gonzalez (PTC) asked if we have examples of the downside and upside from the cities listed in the presentation that currently operate alternate forms of transportations. Mr. Wilks stated we've prepared a technical memorandum on state of the industry and have identified several

dozen deployments of autonomous shuttles and following each area there is a section of takeaways for Whittier in terms of lessons learned from that experience. He added that he designed the deployment concept for the “Fran” which operates in Anaheim. It was designed to address the parking congestion. The Fran has helped relieve the parking congestion and provided connectivity from the stacked parking to the Anaheim Packing District and the Boulevard. Whittier community members and stakeholders conveyed similar concerns Anaheim was encountering. Mr. Wilks added that the Festival Trolley in Laguna Beach is successful, however there is still congestion during holiday peak hour. Also, to better serve their community Laguna Beach operates free shuttle services whose routes have been expanded to go into the hills due to its success.

Commissioner Gonzalez (PTC) stated that this shuttle program can be used as a leverage for grants and asked if the cities who have shuttle programs have used their programs as leverage to obtain grants. Secretary Santana stated that there is a grant they are considering through the Affordable Housing Project to see if there is something we can do to connect them. Hopefully the collected surveys and the generated reports will assist us to make this come into fruition. Mr. Wilks added that is a real live opportunity and we are working with the consultant the city is using to obtain the grant. There is other funding available to fund the deployment of shuttle services. At the federal level there is the ITSUS, the Intelligent Transportation System services. There are public and private partnerships where private entities partner with the business community to provide shuttle services. The “Fran” shuttle services in Anaheim, developers have contributed financially to the City of Anaheim so they may run the shuttle operations.

Commissioner Izquierdo from the (PTC) asked what values are used to determine if ridership is a success and how would potential riders know if a ride is available given that there is limited seating. Mr. Wilks responded that measures of success for these services are different than what we would look at in a transit study. Key performance indicators would be different in terms of net impact of vehicle miles traveled, reduction of greenhouse gases, addressing parking challenges and congestion, qualitative aspects like customer perceptions on providing alternatives to the use of the private automobile. In response to the second question, Mr. Wilks stated that availability speaks to the marketing and branding side of the equation. He continued that if on demand the app would indicate the number of seats available instantly similar to an Uber ride pool as ridership would be traced in real time. However, if operating on a fixed route like the Fran in Anaheim then there may be capacity restraints.

Commissioner Revueltas from the (PTC) asked who would operate the transit systems, a City employee or contractor. Mr. Wilks stated that its contracted operations and administered by contractors. Commissioner Mendoza (PTC) asked how many vehicles cities generally have available at any given time. Mr. Wilks responded that San Ramon transit system operates two vehicles in the bishop business district. The “Fran” shuttle service in Anaheim has a total fleet

of eight vehicles that depending on the time of day will affect waiting times. Commissioner Mendoza (PTC) also asked if there were any shuttle options that would allow families with small children, who may still require a car seat to utilize the service. Mr. Wilks stated that certain automated vehicles may not be equipped to fasten a car seat securely, but some vehicles may be equipped with seatbelts. Mr. Wilks continued that as we move forward at looking at alternative vehicle technology, accessibility will be taken into consideration. Commissioner Mendoza (PTC) asked given all three transit examples if anything was implemented in terms of engineering to help improve travel time for these vehicles throughout the City. He added that some cities have implemented transit only lanes. Mr. Wilks stated that the "Fran" in Anaheim operates in mixed traffic, the San Ramon example operated in a business area that had limited traffic, and a non-designated transit lane in Laguna Beach. However, other cities have introduced other engineering or tech applications like signal advancing & transit priority signals.

Vice-Chair Perschbacher (PTC) asked if the City of Whittier has determined how many vehicles will be available for the proposed transit program. Mr. Wilks stated the City have not yet determined how many vehicles will be in operation, but it is an important thing to keep in mind as we will have to determine detail service points like levels of service, days of week, hours of the day which will all influence number of vehicles. Vice Chair Perschbacher (PTC) stated that going from the Groves up Philadelphia to the uptown area, and maybe Hellman and to Whittier College is a good route because of speed to travel through there would not be needed. However, going down Whittier Boulevard to the Quad would present challenges. Also, Vice-Chair Perschbacher (PTC) asked if there is a plan in place to get a better turnout for the survey and to better understand the community's perspective.

Secretary Santana stated that there is a plan in place to push the survey out by getting it to where others gather like the farmers market. She stated that we welcome any recommendations to better reach the community.

Commissioner Sera from the (PRCS) stated that although it was determined that 200 responses is statistically appropriate, the actual demographic appears skewed. Mostly women, people within 35-44 years of age, and economic demographic that earns over 100K of annual income were the ones to have responded to the survey. In comparison to the actual population in Whittier, we are not getting a good cross reference to the actual demographic of participants in Whittier. Hopefully, we will run another survey that will be able to provide a better representation of the population to determine what the actual desires are of the community.

Mr. Wilks stated that the team will look into readministering the survey and whether public meetings should be in person, virtually or hybrid. Vice-Chair Perschbacher (PTC) asked if Secretary Santana could tag Commissioners and Council on the Instagram post so they could share the survey. She also suggested we ask the Chamber of Commerce for assistance, because part of their job is to help with marketing, which will allow us to connect with

businesses. Secretary Santana stated that we can tag Commissioners and Council on the Instagram post and agreed the Chamber is a good recommendation.

Commissioner Morales (PRCS) asked if the people mover would be a combination of a fixed route and call in like Uber. Mr. Wilks stated it may be a hybrid and we are about to embark on that level of advancing the concept. He stated that the plan is to look at alternative vehicle types and the application or deployment of technology and the service planning elements. What service would operate where and in what area whether on demand or fixed route or hybrid operations.

Vice-Chair Mrla (PRCS) asked about safety and security, whether other communities that have implemented a commuter circulator type proposal are aware of any lessons learned or features that had to be added to protect safety of the riders. Mr. Wilks stated that many of the pilots have an attendant or engineer on board. The attendant monitors the performance of the vehicles as well as educate the customers to give them that level of comfort.

Commissioner Apodaca (PRCS) asked if the project focused on using other vehicles or merely eliminating number of cars. Mr. Wilks stated that the use of alternate fuel like electric vehicles is a must in terms of reducing vehicle miles traveled and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Commissioner Izquierdo (PTC) asked how many vehicles would be required to have the program be successful. Mr. Wilks stated we would need to determine what is desirable, for example to connect the Groves to Uptown we would need approximately four vehicles and one spare vehicle.

Chair Kennedy (PRCS) suggested that the survey be added to the activity's brochure. He asked if the Grove's residents were surveyed as well as they are the primary targets. Commissioner Izquierdo (PTC) suggested we reach out to the Groves Homeowners Association. Mr. Wilks showed the Commissioners the area of the respondents and the blue dots indicated several respondents were from the Groves. Commissioner Izquierdo (PTC) asked if there are funding services identified for this kind of project. Secretary Santana stated we may need to use different forms of funding, like grant and City funding given the size of this project. Commissioner Izquierdo (PTC) asked if collaborative funding would be an available option and if the Habitat Authority would be interested in spreading the word for the survey as they are one of the interest points, like the Groves. Secretary Santana stated that is possible. Commissioner Izquierdo (PTC) asked if Mr. Wilks has access to feedback from the community for these types of projects in other cities. Chair Kennedy (PRCS) stated that there is a complete fleet of autonomous vehicles that hold 10 to 15 people. Mr. Wilks stated that we spoke to sponsoring agencies and got their perspectives regarding challenges in deployment, evaluation, and ridership. He added that we did not speak to customers.

Commissioner Mendoza (PTC) suggested use of surveyors to reach people interested in this project by hitting shopping centers and other locations in the City, to help get a diverse sample. Vice-Chair Perschbacher (PTC) stated that the Chamber sends out their business focus every other month and it goes out to 3,500 people. She continues that we take out an ad in the paper to reach the residential community as well, that does not require to stand outside shopping centers.

Mr. Wilks asked Secretary Santana that we discuss additional outreach opportunities at the next biweekly check in meetings.

6. SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Secretary Santana thanked everyone for coming and sharing their input on the People Movers Project.

Assistant Director of Public Works Cesar Rangel thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

7. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Vice Chair Perschbacher stated that this was very informative and that she has been hearing about autonomous vans and cars. When she talked to her staff, they were apprehensive of the idea of getting into a vehicle with no one in the drivers seat. She added that she is really excited about this project because if we can provide alternative transportation to residents at the Groves to the Uptown area where they do not need to drive themselves, will allow those residents to explore more of Whittier.

Commissioner Gonzalez welcomed the new Commissioners from both Commissions. He stated it is good to meet with the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission as well. He encouraged staff to try their best to inform the community and added that there is no perfect survey.

Commissioner Mendoza thanked Mr. Steve Wilks for the presentation as it was very informative, and he is looking forward to hearing more about the project.

Commissioner Izquierdo stated that the program, if implemented, will be valuable because it will serve the community.

Commissioner Revueltas thanked everyone who attended the meeting and stated that although the autonomous option is a bit expensive the idea of an autonomous vehicle 20 years ago was unknown.

Commissioner Apodaca stated she was thankful for the information received and it sounds like a great project. She added that once more people are aware of the project and can express their opinion there will be favorable comments for the project.

Commissioner Morales stated she was thankful for the information and looks forward to the People Mover Project moving forward. She added that she lives near Hellman

and the traffic is terrible and would like to see how this project can help with the parking problem near Hellman.

Commissioner Sera stated that he would like to reinforce that it is intriguing and exciting the direction the City wants to move forward. He added that what the City is trying to accomplish here is create micro connectivity that better suits day in and out needs of the community members.

Chair Kennedy stated that the meeting was very informative.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Parks, Recreation and Community Service Commission on _____.

Virginia Santana, Secretary



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: September 21, 2022

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Parks Master Plan Update

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the Parks Master Plan update.

BACKGROUND

On July 30, 2020, City Council developed its Strategic Planning Goals and supporting objectives. The Strategic Goals include: Provide for Public Safety, Ensure Long-Term Financial Sustainability, Maintain & Enhance Quality of Life, Transparent & Open Government, and Promote a Strong Local Economic Base.

At the July 12, meeting Council approved the specifications for the Parks Master Plan and authorized the City Clerk to advertise for professional service bids.

DISCUSSION

At the August 13, 2022, Council awarded the Professional Services contract to KTUA. Staff will set up a meeting with the Parks Master Plan sub-committee once KTUA is ready to begin the process.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

None.