

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Meeting Agenda Announcement

On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-25-20, which allows Brown Act Body members to attend meetings telephonically. Please be advised that some, or all, Whittier Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioners may attend this meeting telephonically.

Consistent with mandates of Executive Order No. N-29-20, a physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting or offer public comment will not be made available. City Hall will not be open to the public for this meeting; however public comments can be submitted below as instructed.

To submit Public Comments/Questions:

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

To view live meetings remotely:

- Video and audio: <https://zoom.us/j/99778255419>
- Audio only: Dial (669) 900-9128 (Meeting ID: 997 7825 5419)

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 CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
MARCH 17, 2021, 6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Jeff Brauckmann, Commissioner
Kevin Kennedy, Commissioner
Delia Morales, Commissioner
Ray Wong, Commissioner
Chris Hardeman, Vice Chair
Don Mrla, 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: arodriguez@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. STAFF REPORTS

5.A. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2021.

5.B. Annual Tree Maintenance Service Update

Recommendation: Receive and file the update on Annual Tree Maintenance Services.

5.C. Measure A Projects

Recommendation: Receive and file the update on current Measure A Projects.

6. SECRETARY COMMENTS

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND CONFERENCE REPORTS

8. 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 12th day of March 2021.

/s/ Alex Rodriguez

Alex Rodriguez, Office Specialist III



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: March 17, 2021

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 February 17, 2021.

BACKGROUND

None.

DISCUSSION

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

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2021

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
FEBRUARY 17, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Mrla called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 6:01 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California.

2. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager
Justin Steele, Community Services Supervisor
Alex Rodriguez, Office Specialist III

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Mrla stated the public is invited to address the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission regarding any item of business or any matter within the body subject matter jurisdiction consistent with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, public comments can be made via the email and voicemail provided in the agenda. Pursuant to state law the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any communications that do not appear on the printed agenda.

Office Specialist III Rodriguez stated that there were no public comments received.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.A. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Wong, and carried 6 – 0 to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2020 and the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2021.

5.B. Youth Sports Affiliates Updates

Supervisor Steele provided an update on the youth sports activities in the City. Commissioners were informed that we are providing space for teams to begin practicing. Some sports organizations are ready to commence with clinics, while other organizations are taking a more cautious approach to returning. He approximated that most groups would be back out on the field by the beginning of March.

Secretary Santana informed the Commission that the Palm Park pool is available for use at a limited capacity due to safety protocols in place. The pool is being utilized for lap swim and by the Whittier Aquatic Club.

Supervisor Steele reported the Sub-Committee will be ready to present final recommendations for changes or additions to the Youth Sports Affiliates Policy for Commission review at a future meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Hardeman, seconded by Commissioner Brauckmann, and carried 6-0 to receive and file the Youth Sports Affiliates Updates.

5.C. Proposition 68 Statewide Grant Funding – Parnell Park

Manager Hamilton explained to the Commission that the City is seeking to apply for the Proposition 68 Grant Funding with the goal to revitalize Parnell Park. She discussed the application process and displayed a survey that community members have been completing to provide feedback on what they would like to see included in the design.

Parnell Parks playground was last renovated in 2009 and in need of a complete replacement. Staff would appreciate input from the Commissioners on park amenities.

Staff asked the Commission to promote the survey to the community so more feedback could be received, to help us include the communities desires for changes to Parnell Park.

Along with a consensus to share the survey from the Commissioners, Commissioner Wong also suggested we partner with the school district to get more feedback from the parents.

It was moved by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Chair Mrla, and carried 6-0 to receive and file the information provided regarding the Proposition 68 Statewide Grant Funding for Parnell Park.

6. SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Secretary Santana informed the Commission that on February 18, 2021 the rededication of Lee Owens will occur with the unveiling of the new splash pad, that Arbor Day will be celebrated by planting fifty trees with funds donated by the Whittier Conservancy, and that the Salvation Army will continue to utilize the Senior Center for the emergency shelter until June or July.

Commissioner Kennedy voiced his concerns about funds being accepted from the Whittier Conservancy and stated he believed the decision to accept the funds should have been brought to the Commission for approval. He did not agree with taking funds from Lobbyists who have their own political agenda.

Secretary Santana stated City Council had approved the receipt of the Whittier Conservancy funds to be used for the planting of trees in locations throughout the City.

Secretary Santana explained the amount of tree requests have been normal and not as extreme as past seasons. She reminded the Commission that the parks are open, but the Park Facilities remain closed.

Commissioner Wong inquired if there had been any reports of Library Staff using the Depot being harassed by the homeless population in that area.

Secretary Santana assured the Commission that the Library Staff using the Depot have not reported any harassment from the homeless population in the area.

7. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Morales praised City Staff for doing a great job with programing and adapting to the conditions of the pandemic.

Commissioner Hardeman stated his wishes to make the re-opening of the Senior Center very special. He hopes the renovation will modernize the facility and make it a great place for the Seniors to return to.

Commissioner Morales suggested that the Senior Advisory Committee be involved in decision making for the renovations to the Senior Center and voiced her concerns about the lack of meetings held by the Committee.

Chair Mrla commended the City Staff for the ability to adapt and continue to complete work in a timely manner even during the current climate.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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

Virginia Santana, Secretary



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: March 17, 2021

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

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

Subject: Annual Tree Maintenance Service Update

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the update on Annual Tree Maintenance Services.

BACKGROUND

The City of Whittier has a proud heritage of tree planting and preservation that has resulted in an urban forest with an abundance of trees that are both beautiful and exceptionally large. Currently the City has an inventory of approximately 23,000 trees that fall under the jurisdiction and management of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department.

In 1997, City Council directed staff to conduct a study of the City’s urban forest with regard to planting, removal, replacement, and maintenance of the trees. The process included a series of public meetings to gather input. The findings were presented to City Council in April of 1998.

On January 9, 2018, the City Council authorized an agreement with West Coast Arborists to perform tree trimming work in tandem with City Staff’s work to maintain the five-year grid trim schedule.

On July 28, 2020, the City Council approved an addendum to the West Coast Arborists contract to perform all tree maintenance work for the City.

DISCUSSION

The Parks division keeps a tree count of all the trees that are inspected and worked on over the course of the fiscal year. Here are the current numbers for Fiscal Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021 up to present day.

FY 19/20 (Grid 5)		FY 20/21 (Grid1)	
City of Whittier	1,198	City of Whittier	412
West Coast Arborist	2,648	West Coast Arborist	4,260
Total	3,703	Total	4,672

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

None.



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: March 17, 2021
To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission
From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Subject: Measure A Projects

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the update on current Measure A Projects.

BACKGROUND

Measure A Funding was passed by Los Angeles County voters in 2016 to fund park projects and replace the expiring 1992 and 1996 Prop A funding programs. At the November 13, 2019 City Council meeting, Council directed staff to research potential funding mechanisms and playground designs for a new playground and to report back after funds had been secured. While Measure A Funding was adopted in 2016 to assist Los Angeles County cities with funding park projects, the funds were frozen under litigation throughout 2019. Following the finalization of the Measure A Funds Program, the City of Whittier was allocated \$263,000 annually.

DISCUSSION

Staff did a recent assessment of all our parks and found that several locations need to be revitalized and upgraded. Staff also had previous requests for Measure A projects and have included them in this report. Below is the list of recent and previous requests for Measure A Funding to help keep our playgrounds in excellent condition:

Central Park- Replacement of rubberized surfacing at Central Park. Rubberized surface was last replaced in 2011 when the new playground equipment was installed. Heavy use from private parties, Concerts in the Park, and other community events has worn out the surface beyond any further repairs. Additional work will also be done to replace fading pieces of the playground equipment.

Approximate cost: \$34,638

Request Submitted 2/19/2021: Waiting preliminary approval. Next step would be a passed Resolution for final approval.

Penn Park- Replacement of playground equipment and rubberized surfacing at Penn Park. In 2012 the playground equipment and rubberized surfacing was installed. Heavy use from private parties and general use has worn out the equipment and surface beyond any further repairs.

Approximate cost: \$174,414

Submitted 2/19/2021: Waiting preliminary approval. Next step would be a passed Resolution for final approval.

Anaconda Park- Replacement of outdoor fitness stations and upgrade walking trail at Anaconda Park. In 1984 a walking trail with exercise stations were installed with traditional park amenities. These exercise stations are constructed of metal piping and wood. These stations are beyond any further repair and do not meet ADA and current fall zone regulations.

Approximate cost: \$53,468

Submitted 2/19/2021: Waiting preliminary approval. Next step would be a passed Resolution for final approval.

Palm Park- Installation of Shade Sails over the newly constructed outdoor fitness equipment at Palm Park. In 2020 outdoor fitness equipment was installed, replacing older pipe and wood exercise stations. This area receives heavy sun exposure and would benefit from shade sails.

Approximate cost: \$15,000

Submitted 7/14/2020. Waiting preliminary approval. Next step would be a passed Resolution for final approval.

Anaconda Park- Renovation/replacement of playground equipment at Anaconda Park. In 2010, playground equipment was upgraded, with sand and rubber as the base. Currently the playground equipment needs replacement and does not meet current ADA and fall safety standards.

Approximate cost - \$110,000

Submitted 7/9/2019- Received approval and submitted passed Resolution. Installation completed 12/2020.

Submitting final receipts for reimbursement from Measure A on 4/1/2021.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

None.