

**CITY OF FULLERTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FINAL MINUTES**

Council Chambers - Virtual

Monday, January 8, 2024

6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kathy Lira called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

FLAG SALUTE

Vice Chair Lloyd led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Kathy Lira, Vice Chair Damion Lloyd, Commissioner Susan Rhie, Commissioner Adrian Meza, Commissioner Angela Lindstrom, Commissioner Erik Wehn,

Staff: Deputy City Manager Daisy Perez, Parks and Recreation Manager Amanda Arbiso, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Eche Echeverria, Parks and Recreation Senior Administrative Analyst Edgar Rosales

1. DEPARTMENT UPDATE
2. OUTDOOR GRANT UPDATE

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Michael Francis commented on operating hours for Fullerton Dog Park.
- Karl Fairchild, President of the Fullerton Dog Park Foundation shared that the foundation would support the city's needs on the dog park operating hours.
- Curtis Gamble spoke about homeless issues.
- Maureen Milton commented on the community gardens, pickleball courts, and excursions.
- Phylis Blake commented on the operating hours for the dog park.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 3 - 5)

3. MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION FOR NOVEMBER 2023 MEETING

4. PUBLIC WORKS FACILITIES MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023
5. PUBLIC WORKS LANDSCAPE MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023

Commissioner Wehn MADE A MOTION to receive and file items 3 through 5, SECONDED by Vice Chair Lloyd.

VOTE

AYES: Chair Lira, Vice Chair Lloyd, Commissioner Rhie, Commissioner Meza, Commissioner Lindstrom, Commissioner Wehn

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

The MOTION PASSED (6-0)

REGULAR BUSINESS (Item 5 - 6)

5. POOCH PARK UPDATE

Senior Administrative Analyst Edgar Rosales gave a presentation on the relocation of Pooch Park.

Commissioner Meza commented on how much of the dog park space would be reduced if it remained at Hunt Branch and inquired about White Park and Brea Dam.

Commissioner Lindstrom commented on the cost of moving the dog park or enhancing the current location and keeping the dog park where it is.

Commissioner Meza suggested looking into Independence Park as an additional location for the dog park.

Commissioner Lloyd commented on the current location of the dog park, the operating hours, and the cost of improvements.

Commissioner Wehn asked to hear from the Pooch Dog Foundation before making any recommendation on the best location for the dog park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Karla Flores, Treasurer of the Fullerton Dog Park, Foundation spoke in support of keeping the dog park at the Hunt Library and spoke about how the current dog areas are being used at the Hunt Library.

- Karl Fairchild commented that the legal name is Fullerton Dog Park Foundation. Also shared support for the dog park to remain in its current location.
- Curtis Gamble spoke about the homeless issues.
- Curt Johnson spoke in support of Independence Park.
- Maureen Milton commented on public transportation to the dog park.

Commissioner Meza inquired about ADA compliance at the Hunt Branch Library and Independence Park. He also inquired if Independence Park was considered for the dog park and if there were any bus stops located near the park.

Deputy City Manager Perez commented that if the direction received was to incorporate a dog park at Independence Park, we would work on a plan and bring it back to present to the commission.

Commissioner Lindstrom spoke in support of keeping the dog park at the Hunt Branch Library with modest improvements. She encouraged to work with the Fullerton Dog Park Foundation to look for additional locations.

Commissioner Meza, MADE A MOTION for the dog park to remain at the Hunt Branch Library with a reduced footprint and to look at alternate options, working with the Foundation to look at various aspects that would need to be considered including what the minimum footprint would be as well as other amenities, and other potential areas to look at are Independence Park, White Park, and a reduced scope at Brea dam and any other alternate sites. SECONDED by Commissioner Rhie.

VOTE

AYES: Chair Lira, Vice Chair Lloyd, Commissioner Rhie, Commissioner Meza, Commissioner Lindstrom, Commissioner Wehn

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

The MOTION PASSED (6-0)

6. FIELD ALLOCATION ANNUAL REVIEW

Parks & Recreation Supervisor Eche Echeveria gave a presentation on the Partner Leagues Compliance Report for 2023.

Commissioner Lindstrom spoke about non-compliance and the consequences of non-compliance and asked if the policy should be revisited.

Deputy City Manager Perez stated that going forward, a process will be followed, and an annual report will be submitted to the Commission. The report will be posted online to ensure transparency. She also provided a list of the violations as outlined in the policy.

Commissioner Meza inquired if the violations could be changed.

Deputy City Manager Perez stated that we could bring back another staff report with recommendations to amend the policy to the council.

Commissioner Lindstrom stated that safety and equity violations are a top priority in terms of compliance standards.

Commissioner Wehn inquired why the Ranges were separated into categories and the other Partner Leagues were not.

Supervisor Echeveria shared that due to different qualifications and requirements, they are listed separately.

Deputy City Manager Perez stated that if we were to open the Policy to make any changes, we could define the categories and level of play for each Partner League to be treated the same.

Commissioner Wehn shared his concerns regarding the Fullerton Ranges Recreational and the Fullerton Competitive Partner Leagues and identified additional violations that had not been mentioned in the report.

Commissioner Wehn requested a special meeting to be held to review the information and to allow the Rangers to respond.

Commissioner Meza and Chair Lloyd spoke in support of having a special meeting.

Commissioner Lindstrom shared that all teams were in violation and not just one.

Commissioner Meza agreed and stated that all teams should be asked to attend the special meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tim Winters Former President of Golden Hills stated that the team is fully aware of the policy and will follow the policy to the fullest.

- Josh Matthews, Board President of Fullerton Hills Softball shared, as they move forward as a league, they will be committed to adhering to all the regulations. He thanked Supervisor Echeverria for his assistance.
- Commissioner Wehn asked both Mr. Winters and Mr. Matthews if the leagues had been behind in getting billed.
- Josh Matthews responded that he believed that was true, however as soon as they received their bills, payment was made.
- Raymond Kim, resident and President of a new soccer organizer, Fullerton City Football Club. This club is a non-profit organization, and they are applying to be a partner group with the City of Fullerton. The club will be 100% volunteer-based and will comply with the policy. He also asked if the Commission would consider a new organization.
- Deputy City Manager Perez stated this is something that the Commission could not respond to now but added that she had spoken with Mr. Kim regarding starting a new league. She shared with him that as the policy stands, she didn't think that his new organization would qualify.
- Supervisor Echeverria confirmed that the policy states that any new organizations must be different than existing partner groups and since we already have a soccer organization, this new organization would not qualify due to the current policy.
- Deputy City Manager Perez added that she did inform Mr. Kim to submit a request for an exception.
- Doug McKendry shared his concerns about the Rangers League and expressed his support for a full volunteer organization.
- Maureen Milton thanked Commissioner Wehn for his report and how volunteers are legally thanked.
- Jennifer (no last name) shared her support for a new soccer organization.
- Valerie (no last name) commented on the high cost for leagues.
- Brandon (no last name) expressed appreciation for the information that was provided during the meeting and commented on the Ranger fees.

STAFF COMMUNICATION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Meza asked if there was a total outstanding balance.

Supervisor Echeverria responded that all but two leagues have paid their balances in full. The two leagues are on a payment plan.

Commissioner Meza shared that all leagues should be about helping the community and not about money.

Commissioner Lindstrom asked why the policy only allows one partnership.

Supervisor Echeverria shared that he thinks it has to do with the field usage.

Commissioner Lindstrom suggested that we look at and review the policy to allow more leagues of the same sport and we should conduct this investigation fairly and check with the city council before taking action.

Commissioner Meza, MADE A MOTION to Receive and File the Field Allocation Annual Review report. SECONDED by Commissioner Wehn.

VOTE

AYES: Chair Lira, Vice Damion Lloyd, Commissioner Rhie, Commissioner Meza, Commissioner Lindstrom, Commissioner Wehn

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

The MOTION PASSED (6-0)

Chair Lira called for a special meeting with all partner groups to review the policy, and any discrepancies, and respond to violations.

Deputy City Manager Perez shared that this could be scheduled for the next Commission meeting, or earlier if possible.

Commissioner Lindstrom asked if there is a reason why the pooch park cannot be open after park maintenance has been done.

Supervisor Echeverria stated that he would have to check with the landscapers.

Commissioner Meza thanked Manager Arbiso for her work on the First Night event. It was a great success.

Commissioner Meza asked if we could look into establishing programs at Orangethorpe Park.

Deputy City Manager Perez shared that we are currently negotiating with Orangethorpe Park to utilize their center and the Chapman facility will remain in-house and will be available as a rental facility beginning in February.

Commissioner Wehn shared that the First Night event was great.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Administrative Assistant Susie Camarillo, Secretary