



THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023  
701 East Carson Street

Carson Event Center, East Wing Activity Room  
6:30 PM

## **PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA**

### Commissioners

Chair Jesus-Alex Cainglet | Vice-Chair Walter Gonzalez | Secretary Kisa Hilliard | Kim Cortado | Cesar Dahilig | Edwina Hunter | DeAnthony Langston | Oscar Ramos | Shannon Lawrence

### Alternates

Jo Jacqueline Johnson (Alternate 1) | Rudolfo Brillantes (Alternate 2) | Vacant (Alternate 3)

### Staff

Michael Whittiker, Director | Tim Grierson, Recreation Superintendent | Bobby Grove, Community Services Superintendent | Luchie Magante, Principal Administrative Analyst | Kimberly Madrigal, Administrative Secretary

*"In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call the City Clerk's office at 310-952-1720 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting." (Government Code Section 54954.2)*

- 1. Email: You can email comments to [p&rcommission@carsonca.gov](mailto:p&rcommission@carsonca.gov) no later than 3:00 p.m. before the meeting. Please identify the Agenda item you wish to address in your comments. Your comments will be read into the record.*
- 2. Telephone: You can record your comments at (310) 847-3581 no later than 3:00 p.m. before the meeting. Please identify the Agenda item you wish to address in your comments. Your comments will be read into the record.*

### **CALL TO ORDER**

This meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Walter Gonzalez at 6:32 PM.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Jesus Alex Cainglet (entered 6:33 PM), Vice Chair Walter Gonzalez, Secretary Kisa Hilliard (entered 6:36 PM), Kim Cortado, | Edwina Hunter | Oscar Ramos | Shannon Lawrence (entered at 6:42 PM), Rudolfo Brillantes (entered 6:43 PM)

Excused: Commissioners Cesar Dahilig, DeAnthony Langston and Jo Jaqueline Johnson were excused on a motion of Commissioner Gonzalez, seconded by Commissioner Cortado, and unanimously carried by a vote of 5-0.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chair Walter Gonzalez.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **1 FEBRUARY-APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Administrative Secretary Kimberly Madrigal explained that due to a lag in receiving the crystal award trophies, the Employees of the Month from February to July will be honored in the August meeting. Winners from February through June have already been selected. Nomination submissions are due August 1, and the winner will be selected by August 4. To combat future delays, she will purchase 12 awards ahead of time and will ensure the Department carries extras on hand.

Commissioner Cortado asked when athletes would receive their certificates for baseball. Director Whittiker explained that certificates would be distributed in August or September.

## **PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

*The public may address the Commission on any matters within the jurisdiction of the Carson Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Commission or on any items on the agenda of the Carson*

*Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Commission, prior to any action taken on the agenda. Speakers are limited to no more than three minutes, speaking once. Oral communications will be limited to one (1) hour unless extended by order of the Chair with the approval of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Commission. Due to the threat of COVID-19 (aka the "Coronavirus"), you are urged to take all appropriate health safety precautions.*

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **2 2023-033-PRCAC**

**JULY 6, 2023, PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Attachments:** [July 6, 2023 PRCAC Minutes.pdf](#)

### **3 2023-034-PRCAC**

**JUNE 2023 MONTHLY REPORT**

**Attachments:**     [JUNE 2023 MONTHLY REPORT.pdf](#)

**4     2023-036-PRCAC**

**AUG PROGRAMS-AT-A-GLANCE/THE SPOTLIGHT/PARK ASSIGNMENTS**

**Attachments:**     [August Programs At-A-Glance - The Spotlight - Park Assignments.pdf](#)

Vice-Chair Gonzalez requested to pull Item Nos. 2 and 4 on the Consent Calendar.

Action: It was moved to approve Item No. 3 on the Consent Calendar on a motion of Vice-Chair Gonzalez, seconded by Commissioner Hilliard, and carried by a vote of 7-0.

Regarding Item No. 2, Vice-Chair Gonzalez asked about the protocol to add a topic to future agendas. Director Whittiker stated that it must be communicated to the Chair. The Chair will then relay the information to the Community Services, Recreation, and Park Maintenance Department. Chair Cainglet inquired if they can request to push an agenda item to City Council. Director Whittiker confirmed that items can be pushed to Council after the entire Commission votes on the issue.

Action: It was moved to receive and file Item No. 2 on the Consent Calendar on a motion of Commissioner Ramos, seconded by Commissioner Cortado, and carried by a vote of 8-0.

Regarding Item No. 4, Commissioner Ramos raised concerns about the park assignment report. He recommended it be a separate agenda item instead of reporting during Oral Communications. Director Whittiker explained that it is currently on the Consent Calendar because we do not have issues every month under Programs-at-a-Glance. However, if the commissioner would like to move it to a different place, it can be moved to Discussion today. Commissioner Ramos then clarified that he would like to move park assignments to Continued Business so the Commission can discuss further and take action. Director Whittiker suggested that Commissioner Ramos make a motion to move it to Continued Business. Recreation Superintendent Tim Grierson explained that the previous director listed this item under consent for efficiency. Commissioner Cortado added that the Commission would review the agenda line-by-line, but now it is listed under the Consent Calendar where you must pull the item. Commissioner Hilliard and Brillantes suggested to leave the item where it is currently is to save time.

Action: Commissioner Ramos moved to relocate Park Assignment Reports from the Consent Calendar and Oral Communications to Continued Business as a separate agenda item. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Gonzalez and lost by a vote of 2-5-1. 2 votes in favor, 5 against, 1 obtained.

Action: It was moved to receive and file Item No. 4 on a motion of Commissioner Ramos, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, and unanimously carried by a vote of 8-0.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **5 2023-035-PRCAC**

#### **CITY OF CARSON'S 55TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE**

**Recommendation:** RECEIVE and FILE report.

#### Street Fair:

Director Michael Whittiker announced the two remaining events for the City of Carson's 55th Anniversary: The Street Fair and Tour de Carson. All entertainment for the Street Fair has been secured. The Torrance Memorial and Montessori parking lots will be used for the Kids Activities. Public Safety will monitor mobile home residential areas. Director Whittiker is looking forward to seeing everyone at this diverse event. Commissioner Hunter asked where the parking will be. Director Whittiker stated that plenty of parking will be available around the event- the Community Center, Carnegie Middle School, and Bonita Elementary. Chair Cainglet asked if businesses would be affected and if they have been notified. Director Whittiker confirmed that all businesses received hand-delivered letters; businesses will be minimally affected. Vice-Chair Gonzalez inquired about a timeline for the event and entertainment. Director Whittiker responded that there will be a Run of Show posted at the Street Fair. Human Services Manager Dani Cook brought in a Run of Show poster and explained the timeline for the Kids Area. Commissioner Lawrence added that the QR code on the flyer includes a lot more information. Commissioner Cortado asked about the type of street barriers being used. Director Whittiker replied that K rails are going to be used.

#### Tour de Carson:

Recreation Superintendent Tim Grierson shared shirt designs with the Commissioners. There are currently 65 signups between both routes. The team is working on publicizing information on Carson 411 and marquees. Banners are scheduled to be displayed next week. Although there will not be local vendors for bicycles, there will be bicycle repair stations. Four elected officials have confirmed their attendance and will be riding e-bikes. While the event will only impact the road for a few hours, riders must obey all California traffic laws. Carson Sheriffs will be present to escort the ride from both ends and Public Works will display signs to control traffic. There will be plenty of other activities for those who will not participate in the rides including a DJ, bike safety rodeo for kids, and food vendors. Participants will be awarded medals. Superintendent Grierson urged the Commissioners to spread the word to anyone who would be interested in attending this event.

Commissioner Hunter added that the team should reach out to the Chief of Torrance, as he thinks he would be very interested in the event. Director Whittiker stated that he would send him a flyer and clarified that while the event is free, he would have to provide his own bicycle. Commissioner Brillantes asked if the team is still accepting volunteers. Superintendent Grierson confirmed they are.

Commissioner Hilliard inquired about options for those who may suddenly find it difficult to finish the ride. Superintendent Grierson assured there will be a shuttle to pick up riders who cannot continue.

Action: It was moved to receive and file the report on a motion of Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Vice-Chair Gonzalez, and unanimously carried by a vote of 8-0.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

*The public may at this time address the members of the Carson Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Commission on any matters within the jurisdiction of the Carson Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Commission. No action may be taken on non-agendized items except as authorized by law. Speakers are requested to limit their comments to no more than three minutes each, speaking once.*

Administrative Secretary Kimberly Madrigal read four emails sent to p&rcommission@carsonca.gov. The first email, from Daniel Granados inquired about the swings at the parks that were removed during COVID. He wondered when they would be reinstalled. Randy Brown, a longtime resident of Carson expressed his gratitude to Tony Senior, Carson's Pickleball Ambassador. He explained that Mr. Senior spends much of his time cleaning and caring for the courts and teaching lessons. He would like to see more support from the park staff at Hemingway Park. Kaleem Umari acknowledged Mr. Senior's extensive work in the sport of Pickleball. He stated that court maintenance should be taken into the hands of the park staff. To acknowledge Mr. Senior's efforts in this sport, he believes the City should award him a plaque to be displayed on the courts. In the last email, Mr. Tony Senior provided an 18-month review of his experience with the tennis courts at Hemingway Park. He explains that the courts have not been up to par for the last few years. Mr. Senior is at Hemingway Park six days a week- cleaning, teaching, and maintaining the courts. He is thankful that Carson has given him a platform to create a great player experience. However, he feels discouraged that the city has not marketed the sport to the local community and that the staff is uninformed, therefore relaying incorrect information to prospective new players. He believes that with the right personnel, Pickleball can be a very successful program for the City of Carson.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed his appreciation for the passion for Pickleball. He believes it should be a priority and is a great opportunity for Carson to advance the sport and become a flagship for it. Chair Cainglet commented that he believes the City of Carson and staff in general are in fact supportive of the sport. Commissioner Hilliard agreed with Chair Cainglet and feels that these grievances seem personal; the supervisor at Hemingway has tried to champion for the tennis and basketball courts to be fixed. Commissioner Hilliard has always felt welcomed by the supervisor, so much so that she now serves on this commission. The vice-chair asked if the commissioners would receive a copy. Director Whittiker responded that he would review the policies and forward if appropriate. Commissioner Lawrence commented that he doesn't think it would become a legal issue to share the emails since the person addressed it to a city email and is public record. Director Whittiker added that it is now being read into public record and will be available in the notes that are distributed to the commission. However, the secretary can provide a copy if it is needed sooner. Director Whittiker explained that the city nor the park have enough staff to be there at 8 am when Mr. Senior arrives. There are not enough resources for staff to focus primarily on this area. The director and superintendent have spoken to the park supervisor; the superintendent will speak to her again regarding the emails. Commissioner Cainglet asked if Mr. Senior's early sessions create a liability. Director Whittiker assured that it is not a liability, as it is no different from residents walking the track at 6 AM. Commissioner Cainglet asked if Mr. Senior is charging, to which Director Whittiker responded that he has emailed him to ask but has

not received a reply yet. Superintendent Grierson explained that City Council has approved the resurfacing of courts and is working with Public Works to get them back to satisfactory conditions. The colors for the courts have already been chosen. They are looking to upgrade the lighting in the courts this fiscal year. Director Whittiker stated that he will notify the commission when the upgrades are completed and will be invited to the opening. Commissioner Cortado asked whether the email about the swings was recent or old. Director Whittiker confirmed that the email was recent, and most facilities have swings. Swings have been ordered for the facilities that are still missing them.

Action: It was moved to receive and file to report on a motion of Vice-Chair Gonzalez, seconded by Commissioner Hunter, and unanimously carried by a vote of 8-0.

## **COMMISSIONER'S ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PARK REPORT**

Brillantes/Foisia: Announced that the sprinklers are working well and is happy to see healthy, green grass. The weekends have been very busy. He spoke with a few people who walk around the park, and they mentioned they would like a drinking fountain installed.

Hunter/Dominguez: Thanked the team for all the completed requests. There is some graffiti on slides and holes under the swings. The refillable water bottle stations work well but need regular sanitizing maintenance. The restrooms are missing trashcans which leads to toilet paper all over the floor. The large orange cone that covers the uneven grate can create a hazard to those who are not careful. Although the grass is much greener, the gopher holes remain. Dominguez Park will host the Country Western Fair soon. Commissioner Hunter asked whether the park could bring back games like water balloons and hula hoop. She also inquired if the city provided the parks with busses for field trips.

Gonzalez/Carson: Inquired about the splash pad at Carson Park and would like to add scoreboards as an item on the agenda. He would like more microphones for the meetings, as there are only two available. He would like the director to address rumors about the Stroke Center. Commissioner Gonzalez also inquired about election dates for officers as he would like the times to remain consistent.

Commissioner Ramos exited the meeting at 8:32 PM and reentered at 8:34 PM.  
Vice-Chair Gonzalez exited the meeting at 8:35 PM and reentered at 8:37 PM.

Lawrence/Stevenson: Commented that the baseball season has ended. The kids had a great time at the baseball and softball banquet held at the Rancho Dominguez Pool. Everyone is now excited for football and soccer season. Commissioner Lawrence is happy to announce that the CIF recently added girls' flag football as an official sport. The plumbing issue in Stevenson Park's snack bar has not been resolved yet. He would like an update as the park is considering keeping the snack bar open for adult sports.

Ramos/Mills: Relayed that the residents are happy to have Wi-Fi at the park. He enjoys walking at

Veterans Park for 30 minutes every day; it keeps him and many other residents healthy. He witnessed Public Works fixing the playground and hopes they will fix the rubber mat at Mills Park. He also thanked the staff for including the Carson Community Center contact information to the agenda packet.

Cortado/Calas: Inquired options for Tour de Carson participants if they are unable to complete the entire ride. She also asked if there is an age limit for the Kids Zone at the Street fair. Calas Park will be hosting a baseball and softball banquet soon and is preparing for the Car Show on September 24. She inquired about the ticket prices for the Fabela Chavez boxing event.

Hilliard/Hemingway: Informed the staff that a few people have asked for an aquatic schedule. She would also like to know if the commission is able to receive a Community Services Guide as soon as it published. Lastly, she inquired about future pickleball and kickball teams.

Cainglet: Stated that he wishes for the commission to be fair and for everyone to have a voice.

Action: It was moved to receive and file to report on a motion of Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Ramos, and unanimously carried by a vote of 8-0.

## **STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Principle Administrative Analyst Luchie Magante

Nothing to report

Administrative Secretary Kimberly Madrigal

Nothing to report

Human Services Program Manager Dani Cook

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Street Fair this weekend. Please be patient with the team, as this is a new event and there is bound to be some changes and minor issues.

Recreation Superintendent Tim Grierson

Tour de Carson: Hoping to see everyone there.

Drinking fountain at Foisia Park: Fountains have been included in the design phase.

Dominguez Park: Superintendent Grierson will investigate the missing trashcan issue and will talk to Recreation Center Supervisor Nick Reyes about adding more programs/games. Kids Club has all their summer trips planned already, but ideas for next season are welcome. Superintendent Grierson encouraged Commissioner Hunter to share any ideas with the supervisor.

Scoreboards: This item is going to Council on Tuesday. The city has selected Daktronics as the vendor and a deposit has been submitted. The gym scoreboards are a future Council item. There is an option to purchase new ones or move existing ones to different locations.

Snack bar: The department has not had a plumber in six months. Public Works is recruiting for the position, but he will request someone to repair it for now.

Tour de Carson: If a rider is unable to finish the race, Public Safety will pick them up and bring them

back to the event.

Community Services Guide: The Fall guide has been finalized. Commissioners must access the guide on the Carson website or wait until they receive it in the mail as the file is too large to be sent via email.  
Aquatic schedule: The aquatic schedule is currently not available, but he will get back to the commission with more information.

#### Community Services, Recreation and Park Maintenance Director Michael Whittiker

Dominguez Park: The park is in between two schools, so graffiti is very common in that area. The department is working with Sherwin Williams to purchase anti-graffiti paint. Regarding the holes on the playground, staff is aware and is visiting each park to fill them. Superintendent Grierson will relay the information about unsanitary water refill stations to park supervisors. Director Whittiker confirmed that the park has brought back some of the old games. Kids at Day Camp pay for trips and the bus fee is already included. For fieldtrips inside of Carson, there are city vans that can transport the children.

Carson Park: The splash pad is now open to the public. This amenity is very difficult to maintain.

Microphones at meetings: The team will ensure there are more microphones for the next meeting.

Stroke center: This has been an issue for about a year now. The department is not ready to share any information with the public at this time.

Elections: Elections will take place in October or November.

Girls' Flag Football: The department can create a survey to determine if there is an interest in it. With enough support, the parks can open a sports program.

Street Fair Kids' area: This area is open to the public.

Fam Fest: This event was formerly named Faith, Family, and Friends. It will take place on August 26, 2023, from 12PM-6PM at Stevenson Park. Flyers for this event will be available at the Street Fair.

Fabela Chavez Boxing Event: This event will take place August 20, 2023, from 11AM-6PM. Elected officials will speak at 11 AM and the general event begins at 1 PM. Tickets will be \$35.

Pickleball: There will be a presentation upon completion of the court upgrades.

Park Maintenance Division: It has been three weeks since the transition. Recruitment for a new Park Maintenance Superintendent will begin soon.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM on a motion of Commissioner Ramos, seconded by Commissioner Cortado, and unanimously carried by a vote of 8-0.

*This Board/Commission/Committee is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Among other things, the Brown Act requires that the Board/Commission/Committees agenda be posted at least 72 hours in advance of each meeting and that the public be allowed to comment on agenda items before the Board/ Commission/ Committee and items not on the*

*Board/Commission/Committee agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board/ Commission/ Committee. The Board/Commission/Committee may limit public comments to a reasonable amount of time, generally three (3) minutes per person.*