



**GARDEN GROVE**

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMISSION

Community Meeting Center  
11300 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840

April 13, 2023

6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL	PRESENT: (5) Commissioners Cueva, Garcia, Gonzalez, Perez, Stevens
	ABSENT: (1) Commissioner Strickland

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Janet Pelayo

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.
2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 13, 2022.

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Perez that:

The minutes from the October 13, 2022 meeting be received and filed.

The motion carried by a 5-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes:	(5)	Cueva, Garcia, Gonzalez, Perez, Stevens
Noes:	(0)	None
Absent	(1)	Strickland

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

4.a. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

It was moved by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Commissioner Stevens that:

Commissioner Garcia be selected as Chair.

The motion carried by a 5-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (5) Cueva, Garcia, Gonzalez, Perez, Stevens  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent (1) Strickland

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Cueva that:

Commissioner Strickland be selected as Vice Chair.

The motion carried by a 5-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (5) Cueva, Garcia, Gonzalez, Perez, Stevens  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent (1) Strickland

4.b. Receive and File Brown Act and Code of Ethics

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Perez that:

The Brown Act and Code of Ethics be received and filed.

The motion carried by a 5-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (5) Cueva, Garcia, Gonzalez, Perez, Stevens  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent (1) Strickland

4.c. Community Services Department Overview

4.c.1. Department Organizational Chart Review

Staff shared and discussed the organizational chart for Community Services Department.

4.c.2. Recreation Division

Staff shared that the Recreation Division oversees special events; youth sports; aquatics; day camp; contract classes and the Parks and Recreation Guide; and the Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative. Currently, the division is working on the program Garden Grove Gems, a home beautification program formerly known as Garden Grove Pride. This virtual program gives residents the opportunity to nominate their own homes as being the most attractive or having the best curb appeal. Nominations will be accepted from April 10-28. Homes will be vetted and online voting will occur between May 8-21. The top homes from each District will be recognized at the second City Council meeting in June. For more information or to nominate your home, visit [ggcity.org/gems](http://ggcity.org/gems).

Staff are also gearing up for summer programming. Spring Aquatics classes begin May 1 at Gary Hall Pool in Eastgate Park with Summer Aquatics beginning June 5 at Gary Hall Pool and Woodbury Park Pool. The Summer Day Camp program will be

held at Edgar Park this year instead of its usual location, Village Green Park. It'll be a 9-week program with an excursion included in the weekly rate. The outdoor movie series will include *Lightyear* on July 7 at Eastgate Park and *Top Gun: Maverick* will be shown at Garden Grove Park on August 11.

Atlantis Play Center is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. A new logo was created to commemorate this milestone. There will be giveaways throughout the summer at all special events. T-shirts with new logo will be available for purchase throughout the year. All recreation activities, programs, and events, including those discussed during this meeting can be found in the Parks and Recreation Guide on the Community Services webpage.

#### 4.c.3. Human Services Division

Staff explained that the Human Services Division includes two family resource centers, Magnolia Park Family Resource Center (MPFRC) and the Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center (BCYFC). Services provided at BCYFC include community involvement opportunities; youth enrichment including afterschool program; summer day camp; teen leadership; counseling; case management; and linkages to community resources.

MPFRC is primarily funded by the County of Orange under the Families and Communities grant for over 20 years and located at Magnolia Park, providing services to the entire city. Services include counseling; case management; domestic violence support group; teen leadership; emergency assistance; health and wellness support; and linkages to community resources.

The Division also oversees the H. Louis Lake Senior Center (SC) which focuses on providing support to the older adult population ages 55 and older. The SC provides a variety of health and wellness activities, recreational classes, special events, excursions, a meal program, counseling, and case management.

Upcoming summer programs at BCYFC include a teen camp for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and a Volunteen program which provides high school students an opportunity to volunteer in the summer camp for youth by assisting staff with activities to gain job skills for the future. These programs are open to Buena Clinton neighborhood residents.

Spring into Fun event will be hosted by MPFRC. The event commemorates Blue Ribbon Month which represents child abuse prevention and awareness. Throughout the month of April MPFRC provides activities that promote family strengthening and resiliency. Spring into Fun will bring families together for an afternoon of fun while participating in activities, learning about MPFRC services, and other community resources. The event will serve about 80-90 families; activities include a resource fair, crafts and games for children, giveaways, and door prizes. Bracken's Kitchen will be providing free meals to all the families attending the event.

Chair Garcia mentioned that she is a great advocate for children and adults with special needs and inquired if there are programs geared specifically for them. Staff replied that most programs are inclusive to all but will consider the recommendation to offer activities specifically for that particular population.

#### 4.c.4. Facilities Division

Staff shared that the Facilities Division oversees park building and shelter rentals; park patrol; athletic field permits; show mobile; lease agreements with athletic facilities; and both theaters on Main Street, the Gem and the Garden Amp. Elaine Ma'ae is also liaison for the Garden Grove Community Foundation (GGCF). GGCF is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. GGCF is known for its iconic representation of Garden Grove's clock tower at Village Green Park and the annual summer concert series. Staff shared the summer concert lineup for this year. There will be six concerts at three different locations. Another component to the summer concert series is the singing competition, The Voice of Garden Grove which started 11 years ago. It is open to all Garden Grove USD high school students. The winner receives \$500 and \$500 for their school choir program. The runner up will receive \$250 and \$250 for their school choir program. Staff are looking for judges, commissioners are welcome to volunteer. Sugeiry will send out an email with more information about volunteering.

Commissioner Gonzalez inquired where the awarded money goes if the student doesn't attend a school in Garden Grove. Staff replied that in the case a student is home schooled, the money would be awarded to the GGUSD arts program.

#### 4.d. Capital Projects

##### 4.d.1. Civic Center Bridge and Landscape Renovation Project Update

This project was brought forth due to the poor condition of the bridges on the west and east side of the Community Meeting Center/Senior Center building. Both bridges needed to be removed as both were unstable and ready to collapse. Since demolition, staff worked on plans to renovate the spaces with some enhancements, also ensuring everything is ADA compliant. On March 28, the City Council awarded this project to RG General Engineering for a total project amount of \$356,386.

The project consists of

- Demolition of both areas where bridges were located in the exterior walkways of the Community Meeting Center and Senior Center;
- Grading and drainage construction that include irrigation system repairs and replacement to both sides of the building;
- Walkways to be ADA compliant;
- On the CMC side, new bridge façade with grouted cobblestone, DG and drought tolerant planting; including the removal and planting of new trees, brush and plants;
- On the Senior Center side, the area will be graded and leveled for a new walking path using the same path of travel.

Staff are finalizing the agreement with the new contractor and hope to have a preconstruction meeting by the end of April. Staff estimate it will take about four months to complete the project.

##### 4.d.2. Woodbury Park Expansion and Revitalization Project Update

In 2021, the City of Garden Grove was awarded a \$6,000,000 grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation to help fund the revitalization and expansion of Woodbury Park.

Included in the remodel of the 3.3-acre park is the installation of a new walking trail, outdoor fitness equipment, recreational swimming pool, two playground areas, picnic shelters, a skate spot, basketball courts, lighting, restrooms, and a parking lot.

To incorporate ideas from the surrounding community, the City's Community Services Department hosted several multi-lingual community meetings, from 2019 to 2020. In addition, through the collaboration of the Garden Grove Unified School District, parents and students in the surrounding area were involved in the plan development.

After getting notified of receiving the grant, in fall 2022, the City Council awarded a contract to David Volz Design Landscape Architects, Inc. to complete the design plans and specifications for the Woodbury Park Revitalization and Expansion Project. The plans and specifications will be completed by December 2023. Once completed, the City will proceed with a formal bid process to award the construction project to a qualified contractor. Construction of this project is anticipated to start in 2024, and project completion by late 2025. Commissioners will be involved with community outreach for this project. Once design plans are ready, the architect will be providing a presentation to the Commission.

#### 4.d.3. Magnolia Park Project Update

This project is also funded by Prop 68 grant. This was not a competitive grant, but rather a Per Capita Grant awarded to every city based on their size. Magnolia Park was selected for park improvements. Improvements include a new playground; concrete will be added to the perimeter of the park; 12 pieces of outdoor equipment will be added, including ADA components; the picnic shelter will be replaced with better accessibility for the parking lot, and fencing around the perimeter of the Magnolia Park Pool will be replaced.

Renderings of the playground were shared with the commission. The previous playground has been removed. The new playground was purchased through Innovative Playgrounds, the manufacturer is Burke. The playground area will be themed using the history of the land which was a citrus farm owned by the Wakeham family. There will be a school aged playground (ages 5-12) and a preschool aged playground (ages 2-5), ADA elements will be incorporated.

The architect completed the plans which are with Planning and Building for plan checks. Staff estimate the project will go out to bid within a month with construction beginning in May or June.

#### 4.d.4. Community Project Funding Grant

This grant funding was received from Congressman Lou Correa's office for a total amount of \$1,000,000. These funds will be used for park improvements at three city parks that are part of the 46<sup>th</sup> District, Jardin de los Niños, Haster Basin Park, and West Haven Park. Additionally, these park improvements are priorities outlined in the 2019 Parks and Facilities Master Plan.

Jardin de los Niños: located in the Buena Clinton neighborhood. At this park site the current park playground equipment and surface will be replaced with new playground equipment and surface. Outdoor fitness equipment pieces will be installed near the playground area.

Haster Basin Park: at this park site, the current park playground equipment and surface that is located on city property will be replaced with new playground equipment and surface. Additionally, the park restrooms adjacent to this playground area will be demoed and replaced with a pre-fabricated structure that will have two restroom stalls.

West Haven Park: at this park site, the current park restrooms will be demoed and replaced with a new pre-fabricated building that will have four restroom stalls.

Staff are waiting for the contract to be sent to the City for City Council approval. As staff proceed with the project, rendering will be shared with the commission. The total cost for all improvements will exceed the \$1,000,000 award, Park Fee Funds will help offset expenses.

Commissioner Cueva raised his concern on the lack of parking in the Buena Clinton neighborhood and inquired if Jardin de Los Niños is only for neighborhood residents or if additional parking will become available. Staff replied that street parking is out of the control of Community Services. Staff will inquire if temporary parking would be a possibility for those wanting to visit the pocket park amenities.

Commissioner Garcia inquired on what updates were going to be made at the park bathrooms. Staff replied that there will be prefabricated buildings, with individual stalls. Upgrades will help discourage some of the issues with the unhoused.

#### 4.d.5. Civic Center Park and Police Department Project

Staff provided information on this project, in which the Community Services department doesn't have a big role yet. This funding comes from the Measure O proposition giving 1% sales tax for public safety to make sure that police and fire have a modernized building and equipment to do their jobs. After a needs assessment was conducted, it was determined that the police department building had many deficiencies. There isn't sufficient space to house the amount of officers needed for the size of the city. Part of the project will include demolition of the current building and construction of a new building at the corner of Acacia and Euclid where the Civic Center park is currently located. Community Services will be involved with the relocation of the park area. All this information is very preliminary but timelines and developments will be updated on the city webpage [www.ggcity.org/civiccenter](http://www.ggcity.org/civiccenter).

#### 4.e. Public Works Update

Public Works staff thanked John, Janet and their team who have been instrumental over the last 8 years by staying focused, finding funding sources, and getting projects moving.

Staff provided a brief overview of the Public Works Department who oversee the water department, sewer, trash, concrete, trees, engineering, animal control, and building and park maintenance. It's a big department with about 170 employees.

Commissioner Garcia gave kudos to both Community Services Department and Public works. She recently hosted an event in Atlantis Park in March. She pointed out that David, an employee at the park displayed a lot of pride and love for the community while providing service.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked if the mowing of the grass in the parks is on a regular schedule. Staff replied that the weather and being short staffed has created some challenges to stay on track but confident to be on track soon.

5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Stevens recognized Magnolia Park Family Resource Center for helping out an individual who needed rental assistance and day care for his child. Staff were extremely helpful and the individual was very appreciative.

Commissioner Perez thanked staff for going above and beyond. She especially wanted to thank Xavier and Rebecca at the Community Meeting Center for taking such great care of the facility, and for being so accommodating at an event she recently attended.

Commissioner Perez also reminded everyone of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Strawberry Festival on Memorial weekend. "Celebrating Kindness" is the theme this year. The theme Grand Marshall will be Vera Jimenez who grew up in Garden Grove. The parade will be dedicated in memory of Ric Lerma. More information can be found on [strawberryfestival.org](http://strawberryfestival.org); everyone is encouraged to attend.

Commissioner Garcia also agreed with Commissioner Perez on the wonderful service received at CMC whenever she hosts an event there.

Commissioner Cueva mentioned that he works a lot with Public Works. He appreciates all their work throughout the city including maintenance on streets, facilities, and parks.

6. MATTERS FROM STAFF:

6.a. Schedule Commission Park Tour

Staff will coordinate a date and time to offer a park tour of the city facilities. An email will be sent out to see what date works best for most. It can be a weekday evening, or on a Saturday.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:21 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned to Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Eastgate Park, 12001 Saint Mark St., Garden Grove.

SUGEIRY REYNOSO  
Commission Secretary