



Agenda

Council Chamber
1200 Carlsbad Village Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

March 18, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Welcome to the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

We welcome your interest and involvement in the city's legislative process. This agenda includes information about topics coming before the Parks & Recreation Commission and the action recommended by city staff. You can read about each topic in the staff reports, which are available on the city website.

How to watch

In Person



City Council Chamber
1200 Carlsbad Village Drive

Online



Watch the livestream at
carlsbadca.gov/watch

How to participate

If you would like to provide comments to the Commission, please:

- Fill out a speaker request form, located in the foyer.
 - Submit the form to the Clerk before the item begins.
 - When it's your turn, the Clerk will call your name and invite you to the podium.
 - For non-agenda public comment, speakers must confine their remarks to matters within the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction.
 - For public comment on agenda items, speakers must confine their remarks to the question or matter under consideration.
 - Speakers have three minutes, unless the presiding officer (usually the Chair) changes that time.
 - You may not give your time to another person, but can create a group. A group must select a single speaker as long as three other members of your group are present. All forms must be submitted to the Clerk before the item begins and will only be accepted for items listed on the agenda (not for general public comment at the beginning of the meeting). Group representatives have 10 minutes unless that time is changed by the presiding officer or the Commission.
 - Failure to comply with the rules for public participation is disruptive conduct. Continuing disruptive conduct after being asked by the presiding official to cease may result in removal from the meeting.
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- **In writing:** Email comments to parksandrec@carlsbadca.gov. Comments received by 2 p.m. the day of the meeting will be shared with the Commission prior to the meeting. When e-mailing comments, please identify in the subject line the agenda item to which your comments relate. All comments received will be included as part of the official record. **Written comments will not be read out loud.**

Reasonable accommodations

Reasonable Accommodations Persons with a disability may request an agenda packet in appropriate alternative formats as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Reasonable accommodations and auxiliary aids will be provided to effectively allow participation in the meeting. Please contact the City Manager's Office at 442-339-2821 (voice), 711 (free relay service for TTY users), 760-720-9461 (fax) or manager@carlsbadca.gov by noon on the Monday of the meeting to make arrangements. City staff will respond to requests by 4 p.m. on Monday, the day of the meeting, and will seek to resolve requests before the start of the meeting in order to maximize accessibility.

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Feb. 26, 2024.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR: None.

The items listed under Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion as listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to the time the Commission votes on the motion unless members of the Commission or the public request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Brown Act allows any member of the public to comment on items not on the agenda, provided remarks are confined to matters within the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction. Please treat others with courtesy, civility, and respect. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by submitting comments as provided on the front page of this agenda. The Commission will receive comments as requested up to a total of 15 minutes in the beginning of the meeting. All other non-agenda public comments will be heard at the end of the meeting. In conformance with the Brown Act, no action can occur on these items.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

1. NOMINATION OF A SEQUOIA AT 4970 CINDY AVENUE AS A HERITAGE TREE – Accept the nomination of a Sequoia sempervirens (Santa Cruz Redwood) at 4970 Cindy Avenue as a Heritage Tree and recommend the City Council approve its designation. (Staff Contact: Todd Reese, Parks & Recreation Department)

Recommendation: Accept the nomination and recommend City Council Approval.

2. OPTIONS FOR A PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING/TOUR – Discuss scheduling options for a Parks & Recreation special meeting, to tour predetermined parks, recreation facilities and capital improvement program projects. (Staff Contact: Mick Calarco, Parks & Recreation Department)

Recommendation: Discuss potential locations, dates, and times for a Commission tour.

3. PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT – Receive a report on recently completed and upcoming Parks & Recreation Department activities, donations and grants, as well as other topics of interest. (Staff Contact: Mick Calarco, Parks & Recreation Department)

Recommendation: Receive the report.

COMMISSION COMMENTARY AND REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS: *This portion of the agenda is for the Commission to make brief announcements, brief reports of their activities and requests for future agenda items.*

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT



Minutes

Feb. 26, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Council Chamber
1200 Carlsbad Village Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Winston, Allemann, Sander, Gisbert, Knight.

Absent: Bartels, Rasines.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Winston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Jan. 22, 2023

Motion by Chair Winston, second by Vice Chair Allemann, to approve the Minutes as presented.

Motion carried, 4/1/2 (Sander – Abstain, Bartels, Rasines – Absent).

PRESENTATIONS: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

1. **APPEAL OF THE DENIAL TO REMOVE A STREET TREE AT 1768 FOREST AVENUE** – Receive Christine Lakeland's appeal of the denial to remove a city street tree at 1768 Forest Avenue, which was based upon criterion in the Carlsbad Municipal Code and City Council Policy, and determine to deny the appeal. (Staff Contact: Todd Reese, Parks & Recreation Department)

Recommendation: Receive an appeal from the property owner and determine to deny it.

Park Services Manager Todd Reese presented a PowerPoint presentation (on file in the Office of the City Clerk) describing the street tree appeal process, the criterion upon which staff made its decision to deny the removal of a city street tree, and the recommended action.

Ms. Christine Lakeland presented her appeal of the denial to remove a street tree at 1768 Forest Avenue.

Motion by Chair Winston, second by Vice Chair Allemann to deny the appeal. Motion carried, 4/1/2 (Gisbert – No, Bartels, Rasines – Absent).

2. **ROBERTSON RANCH PARK PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONCEPTS** – Receive an informational report on the preliminary design concepts for Robertson Ranch Park. (Staff Contact: Todd Reese, Parks & Recreation Department)

Recommendation: Review the report.

Parks Services Manager Todd Reese, Parks Planning Manager Nick Stupin and Community Relations Manager Natalie Reed presented the item with a PowerPoint presentation (on file in the Office of the City Clerk).

Dan Dearen spoke to encourage a continued discussion with the neighbors on design.

Commission received the report.

3. **PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Receive a report on recently completed and upcoming Parks & Recreation Department activities, donations and grants, as well as other topics of interest. (Staff Contact: Mick Calarco, Parks & Recreation Department)

Recommendation: Receive the report.

Recreation Services Manager Mick Calarco and Parks Services Manager Todd Reese presented the item with a PowerPoint presentation (on file in the Office of the City Clerk).

Commission received the report.

COMMISSION COMMENTARY AND REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS: *This portion of the agenda is for the Commission to make brief announcements, brief reports of their activities and requests for future agenda items.*

Commissioner Sander requested a future agenda item to discuss a park tour.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Parks & Recreation Director Kyle Lancaster welcomed the new Commissioner Julie Knight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Winston adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Charlene Buckalew
Administrative Secretary



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Staff Report

Meeting Date: March 18, 2023

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Kyle Lancaster, Parks & Recreation Director

Staff Contact: Todd Reese, Parks Services Manager
todd.reese@carlsbadca.gov, 442-339-3968

Subject: Nomination of a Sequoia at 4970 Cindy Avenue as a Heritage Tree

Recommended Action

Accept the nomination of a *Sequoia sempervirens* (Santa Cruz Redwood) at 4970 Cindy Avenue as a Heritage Tree and recommend the City Council approve its designation.

Executive Summary

In September 2019, the City Council approved the updated Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan. That plan lists goals and strategies that promote city-wide tree preservation, community education and sustainability, and showcases specimen or heritage trees to generate interest in the diversity of trees. With the approval of the Community Forest Management Plan, the City Council designated 116 previously identified living trees, some of them located on city owned property and some of them located on privately owned property, as Heritage Trees. Those Heritage Trees were determined to be important facets of the community's history, arts and cultural resources.

Since the City Council's approval of the Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan in September 2019, staff has received seven nominations for Heritage Tree designation. The completed nomination forms for each of the Heritage Tree candidates were reviewed by staff and determined to warrant further consideration. The initial six nominations were accepted by the Historic Preservation Commission on March 8, 2021, and the Parks & Recreation Commission on Nov. 20, 2023. The Historic Preservation Commission accepted the seventh nomination on March 11, 2024.

The seventh tree nominated for consideration of Heritage Tree designation is a *Sequoia sempervirens* (Santa Cruz Redwood) at 4970 Cindy Avenue on privately owned property. Staff request that the Parks & Recreation Commission accept this nomination and recommend the City Council approve its designation.

Explanation & Analysis

Carlsbad Municipal Code Section 11.12.02.A.4, Definitions, states “Heritage Tree means any tree existing within the city limits which has been so designated by resolution by the City Council. Heritage Trees shall be trees with notable historic interest or trees of an unusual species or size.” Carlsbad Municipal Code Section 11.12.140.A, Heritage Trees, further states “The City Council recognizes the important role trees have played in the history and development of Carlsbad and recognizes that a wide variety of trees can grow in its unique and temperate climate. The city may officially designate as Heritage Trees those trees in the community which have significant historical or arboricultural interest...” The Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan, Chapter 6 – Heritage Tree Program, indicates that “...these trees are important facets of the City of Carlsbad’s history, arts, and cultural resources...They offer special opportunities for people interested in science and history to learn more about trees outside of the typical arboretum or classroom setting.”

The Historic Preservation Commission and the Parks & Recreation Commission are tasked with making recommendations to the City Council regarding the designation of additional Heritage Trees. The Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan, Chapter 6 - Heritage Tree Program, addresses the following:

- Describes the significance of Heritage Trees in the community
- Lists a brief description of each of the Heritage Trees in Carlsbad
- Provides management recommendations for the Heritage Trees
- Outlines s process for nominating trees for Heritage Tree designation

The process for nominating trees for Heritage Tree designation includes the completion of a nomination form, staff’s review and acceptance of the nomination, and submission of the nomination to the Historic Preservation Commission and to the City Council for action. Specifically, the Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan, Chapter 6 – Heritage Tree Program, Heritage Tree Nomination Process, No. 4 states, “After review by the city staff, all completed applications should be submitted to the Historic Preservation Commission for their review and action to either accept or decline the application.” In addition, Carlsbad Municipal Code Section 2.365.070.C, Duties, states “The Parks & Recreation Commission shall...review all tree-related issues and make recommendations to the City Council regarding the needs of the city with respect to its tree planting, replacement, maintenance and preservation programs.”

Since the City Council’s approval of the Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan in September 2019, staff has received seven nominations for Heritage Tree designation. The completed nomination forms for each of the Heritage Tree candidates were reviewed by staff and determined to warrant further consideration. The initial six nominations were accepted by the Historic Preservation Commission on March 8, 2021, and the Parks & Recreation Commission on Nov. 20, 2023. The seventh nomination was accepted by the Historic Preservation Commission on March 11, 2024.

The current nomination is for:

- One Sequoia sempervirens (Santa Cruz Redwood) at 4970 Cindy Avenue, on privately owned property – within the side yard

The Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan, Chapter 6 – Heritage Tree Program, includes Heritage Tree management recommendations for the health, safety and longevity of the trees. The application of the recommendations is to be mandatory for city owned Heritage Trees, and advisory only for privately owned Heritage Trees.

The owner of the privately owned Heritage Tree candidate has been informed of this nomination. Heritage Tree designations for privately owned trees do not affect private property owners' rights to exercise control of the trees. Similarly, Heritage Tree designations for city owned trees do not affect the city's rights, nor the adjacent private property owners' rights, to exercise control of their properties, including but not limited to, development of their properties.

Per Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan, Chapter 6 – Heritage Tree Program, "Unlike fine artwork, trees do not remain in a static state and are constantly exposed to the elements and biological factors. It is important to preserve heritage trees, but even though the best plant health care practices available may be applied to keep heritage trees in good condition, trees do age and naturally senesce and succumb to factors beyond the control of arboriculture professionals. When a heritage tree reaches the point of needing to be removed out of safety or practicality concerns, the tree may have an extended use and be further memorialized through the Community Green Waste, Wood and Tree Recycling Program."

Next Steps

In accordance with the Carlsbad Community Forest Management Plan, Chapter 6 – Heritage Tree Program, Heritage Tree Nomination Process, No. 5, a nomination accepted by the Historic Preservation Commission and the Parks & Recreation Commission shall be passed along to the City Council for final review and approval. An item for consideration of this Heritage Tree nomination, and the six initial Heritage Tree nominations, has been docketed for the City Council Meeting on March 26, 2024.

Exhibits

1. Heritage Tree nomination form and photograph

Carlsbad Parks & Recreation
1166 Carlsbad Village Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008
(442) 339-2824



HERITAGE TREE NOMINATION FORM

Applicant

Tree nominated by: Property owner: ☒ City: _____ Other: _____
Name: Turnquist, Linda Phone: 760-831-7083
(Last, First, Middle Initial) Email: _____
Address: 4970 Cindy Ave
City: Carlsbad State: CA Zip Code: 92008

Linda Turnquist
Signature of Applicant

4/20/23

Date

Tree Information

Tree Species: Redwood
(Common or botanical name)

Address: 4970 Cindy Ave

Tree location is on: Private Property: ☒ City Property: _____

Approximate Height: 24 ft Canopy Width: 12 ft Trunk Circumference: 100 inches
(Diameter of tree should be measured 4.5 feet above ground.)

Approximate Age: 75 yrs. Condition: stressed, improper

Describe any other qualifying characteristics:

This is a Santa Cruz Redwood. It has
been thinned out, which I understand is
not at all healthy for this kind of tree,
as the trunk will get sunburned. With
all the rain we have had it has not been
so hot for this to happen.
I would like to save this beautiful majestic
tree!

History and Notes

Heritage Trees shall be trees with notable historic interest or trees of an unusual species or size.

Provide background or historical facts and reasons for nominating the tree. Include any photos of the nominated tree with the nomination form.

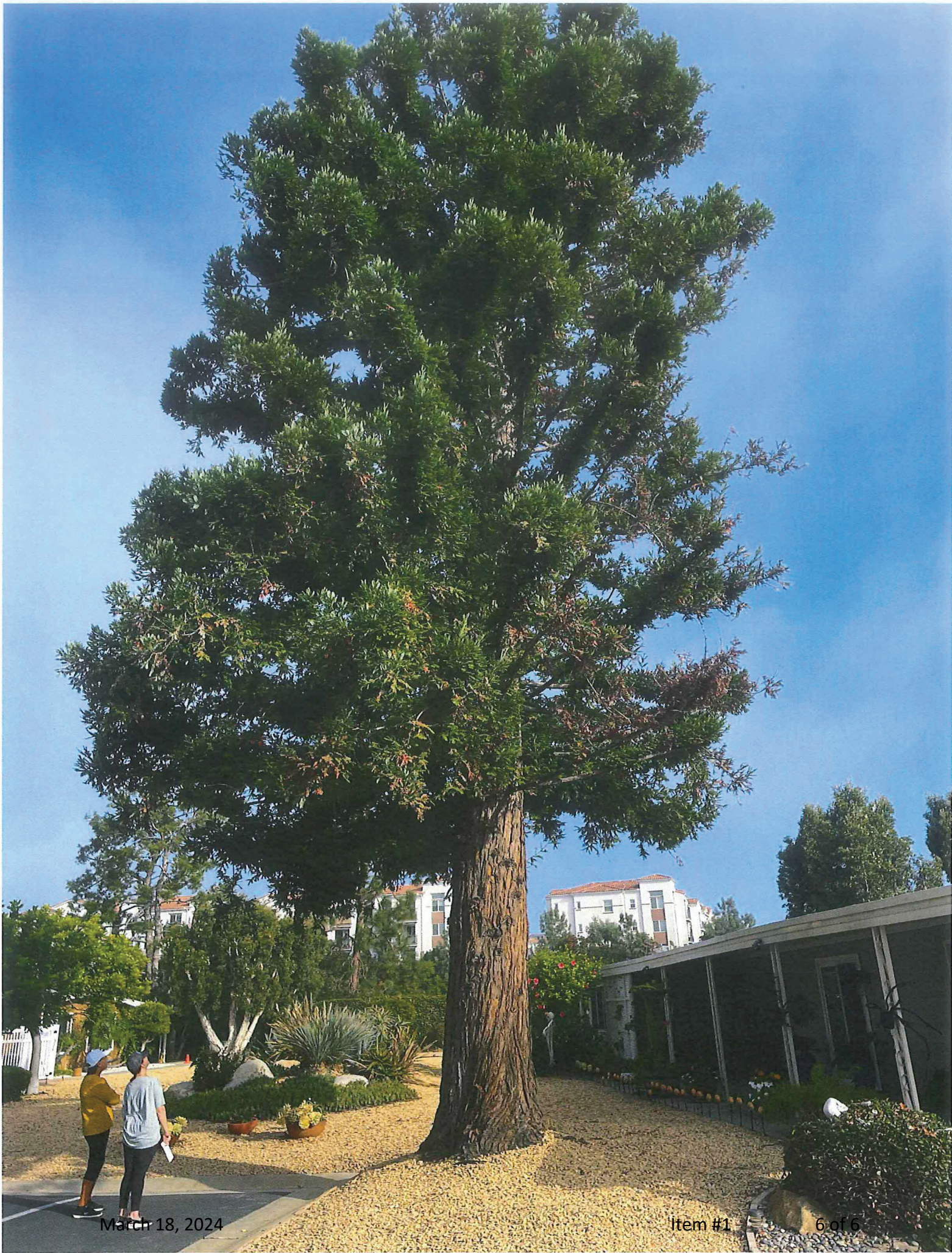
I live in El Camino Estates in Carlsbad, CA.
a small mobile home community of 20
residents. Over 50 years ago several concerned
residents from Rancho Park bought this land
and moved to relocate. This Redwood tree
was here and my home was built around it.
The tree had a large canopy and branches
covered the large trunk. It was thinned &
laid and I am afraid it will be stressed
as our summer begins. This is a beautiful
old tree and our community loves it!

Please submit the completed form by email to parksmaintenance@carlsbadca.gov with subject line "Heritage Tree Nomination" or in person to Parks Maintenance at 1166 Carlsbad Village Drive. Nominations will be reviewed quarterly by the Historic Preservation Commission.

-For Official Use Only-

Date: _____ Accepted by: _____ Declined by: _____

Justification: _____



March 18, 2024

Item #1

6 of 6



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Staff Report

Meeting Date: March 18, 2024
To: Parks & Recreation Commission
From: Kyle Lancaster, Parks & Recreation Director
Staff Contact: Mick Calarco, Recreation Services Manager
mick.calarco@carlsbadca.gov, 442-339-2859
Subject: Options for a Parks & Recreation Commission Special Meeting/Tour

Recommended Action

Discuss scheduling options for a Parks & Recreation Commission special meeting, to tour pre-determined parks, recreation facilities and capital improvement program projects.

Executive Summary

In past years, the Parks & Recreation Commission has opted to hold a special meeting, allowing staff to provide a tour of pre-determined parks, recreation facilities and capital improvement program projects. The Parks & Recreation Commission recently expressed an interest in scheduling a special meeting for such a tour.

Staff will provide the Commissioners with a set of dates and time ranges that are available for consideration based upon staff availability, transportation requirements, and scheduled activities/programs/camps at selective parks and community centers. Should the Commissioners reach a consensus on a date and time range for the tour, staff will proceed with making the corresponding arrangements.

Conducting a tour in this manner will also address the following Goals and Tasks of the Parks & Recreation Commission's 2024 Work Plan (Exhibit 1):

2. *Enhance accessibility, visibility and engagement*
 - a. *Ensure a quorum at all Commission meetings*
 - b. *Have Commissioners conduct site visits to parks, facilities and programs*

Exhibits

1. Parks & Recreation Commission 2024 Work Plan

City of Carlsbad

Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan

2024

I. Mission Statement

The Mission of the Parks & Recreation Commission is to promote community health and wellness while supporting a culture that embraces change and continuous improvement.

II. Composition

Consistent with Chapter 2.36 of the Carlsbad Municipal Code, the Parks & Recreation Commission shall consist of seven members appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council. Members shall serve four-year terms. The Parks & Recreation Commission shall have the power, and it shall be the duty of the commission, to make recommendations to the city council and to advise the council in matters pertaining to the creation, operation, maintenance, management and control of community recreation programs, of playgrounds and indoor and outdoor recreations, activities and facilities. Further, it shall be the duty of the commission to advise and make recommendations to the city council on matters pertaining to planting, trimming, pruning, and care of all trees, shrubs or plants and to the removal of all objectionable trees, shrubs and plants in and upon any park of the city. The parks and recreation commission shall have the additional power, and it shall be the duty of the commission to review tree-related issues and to determine the needs of the city with respect to its tree planting, replacement, maintenance and preservation programs.

The commission will also make recommendations to the city council on policies, regulations or ordinances pertaining to the care and protection of public trees and the selection of specific species of trees for designation along city streets, including the development of a community forest management plan for the city. In addition, in accordance with Section 11.12.150 of the municipal code, the Parks & Recreation Commission shall hear appeals from decisions of the city manager acting through the parks and recreation director or designee, regarding the planting or removal of street trees.

III. 2024 Goals & Tasks

The Parks & Recreation Commission will focus on the following 2024 Goals and Tasks:
(Goals identified in numerals; Tasks to accomplish those Goals identified in alphas)

1. Advise city staff and City Council on projects, plans, events and programs
 - a. Focus on progress, adherence and impact

2023-2030 PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT MASTER PLAN UPDATE: SUPPORT REFERENCE

PARKS STRATEGIES

Short Term (0-3 Years)

- *Seek City Council direction on whether to pursue the construction of outdoor pickleball courts at an existing park to address the current demand*

- *Complete a Parks in Lieu Fee and Parks Impact Fee Study and present its findings to the City Council for review and direction*
- *Complete construction plans, bidding and construction implementation for Stagecoach Park Community Garden*
- *Complete construction plans, bidding and construction implementation for Veterans Memorial Park*
- *Complete community engagement, conceptual design and permitting for Robertson Ranch Community Park*
- *Contribute to completing construction plans, bidding and construction implementation for Monroe Street Pool Renovation/Replacement (in support of project's lead department: Fleet & Facilities)*
- *Contribute to completing construction plans, bidding and construction implementation for Beach Access Repairs and Upgrades (in support of project's lead department: Transportation)*

Ongoing

- *Incorporate environmentally friendly practices into park design and operations, such as drought-tolerant landscaping and energy-efficient lighting*
- *Explore certifications or equivalencies, such as SITES or LEED, for new park designs or renovations*
- *Ensure full ADA access at all parks, with a focus on most immediate needs*
- *Add more trees within parks, where feasible*

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS STRATEGIES

Ongoing

- *Enhance pathway and parking lot lighting, and reduce energy consumption, by converting aging incandescent systems with modern LED systems*

PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND FACILITIES STRATEGIES

Short Term = 0-3 Years

- *Assess current programs and facilities to identify barriers to accessibility and develop plans to address identified barriers (in support of project's lead department: Risk Management)*
- *Explore expansion of scholarship programs and other financial assistance options, such as sliding scale fees, to help reduce barriers to program participation*
- *Evaluate offering programs at the northern, city-controlled beach*
- *Expand program offerings outdoors, including fitness, etc.*
- *Annually evaluate program lifecycles to ensure balance between different stages*
- *Offer multicultural programs that reflect the community's increasing diversity*
- *Provide accommodations, such as sign language interpretation, to make programs and facilities more inclusive*

Ongoing

- *Continue to monitor program trends to ensure ongoing alignment with community needs*
- *Utilize technology, including Augmented Reality, and Virtual Reality to enhance the program experience*

FUNDING AND MARKETING STRATEGIES

Short Term = 0-3 Years

- *Identify potential grant opportunities and develop grant proposals to secure funding*
- *Implement fee study findings to ensure fees are competitive to those fees of surrounding cities for like offerings*
- *Develop a CAPRA compliant department marketing plan to promote the various offerings*

Ongoing

- *Partner with community organizations and businesses to provide additional funding for scholarships and discounted programs*
- *Annually review and adjust program, event and facility fees to ensure they are competitive to the market*
- *Annually review athletic field use fees competitive to the market*

2. Enhance accessibility, visibility and engagement

- a. Ensure a quorum at all Commission meetings
- b. Have Commissioners conduct site visits to parks, facilities and programs
- c. Have individual Commissioners attend at least two Parks & Recreation events

2023-2030 PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT MASTER PLAN UPDATE: SUPPORT REFERENCE

PARKS STRATEGIES

Ongoing

- *Encourage community participation in reporting maintenance or safety concerns*
- *Review the potential for adding park amenities based on the levels of service recommendations*

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS STRATEGIES

Short Term = 0-3 Years

- *Continue to invest in upgrading aging infrastructure with the department's annual operating budget and – as needed – with the capital improvement program budget*

Ongoing

- *Explore grant opportunities to supplement funds for upgrades to aging infrastructure and equipment*

PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND FACILITIES STRATEGIES

Ongoing

- *Encourage feedback and open communication between the department and the community*

FUNDING AND MARKETING STRATEGIES

Short Term = 0-3 Years

- *Develop a CAPRA compliant department marketing plan to promote the various offerings*

3. Broaden outreach and education
 - a. Connect with other relevant agencies and organizations
 - b. Invite educational presentations at Commission meetings

2023-2030 PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT MASTER PLAN UPDATE: SUPPORT REFERENCE

PARKS STRATEGIES

Short Term (0-3 Years)

- *Educate park visitors about sustainable practices and encourage them to participate in environmental initiatives*

Ongoing

- *Encourage community participation in reporting maintenance or safety concerns*

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS STRATEGIES

Short Term = 0-3 Years

- *Explore partnerships with community organizations or individual volunteers to periodically provide additional maintenance support*

PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND FACILITIES STRATEGIES

Short Term = 0-3 Years

- *Partner with local organizations that represent marginalized communities to receive input on program development*

Ongoing

- *Partner with healthcare organizations to provide health screenings and education to the community to the active adult population*
- *Work with community organizations and local businesses to develop partnerships that can help provide or promote new programs and event offerings*

FUNDING AND MARKETING STRATEGIES

Short Term = 0-3 Years

- *Consider revenue generation that includes corporate partnerships, sponsorships, foundations and/or naming rights opportunities*

Ongoing

- *Partner with community organizations and businesses to provide additional funding for scholarships and discounted programs*



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Staff Report

Meeting Date: March 18, 2024
To: Parks & Recreation Commission
From: Kyle Lancaster, Parks & Recreation Director
Staff Contact: Mick Calarco, Recreation Services Manager
mick.calarco@carlsbadca.gov, 442-339-2859
Subject: Parks & Recreation Department Report

Recommended Action

Receive a report on recently completed and upcoming Parks & Recreation Department activities, donations and grants, as well as other topics of interest.

Executive Summary

Mick Calarco, Recreation Services Manager and Todd Reese, Parks Services Manager will report on recently completed and upcoming parks and recreation activities, and other topics of local interest.

Exhibits

1. Department report



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

March 18, 2024

GENERAL & RECREATION

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park Hacienda Reroofing Project

The Hacienda area was closed to the public for a scheduled preservation maintenance and reroofing project from Jan. 22 – Feb. 23, 2024. The Hacienda area includes the Hacienda main and bedroom wings (interior and exterior), courtyard, upper and lower flagstone patios, walkways, lawn area, reflecting pool, Cabana, Wash House. Self-guided walking and monthly botanical tours were modified to avoid the worksite. All other visitor services and programs were unimpacted. On Feb. 15, 2024, work on the Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park preservation and reroofing project successfully concluded, and the Hacienda area was reopened to public visitor access and guided tours.

Registrar of Voters Praise City Staff and Services

Presidential Primary Election (Tuesday, March 5, 2024) activities concluded recently at Calavera Hills, Pine Avenue and Stagecoach Community Centers. All three community centers were used as vote, operations and storage centers from Feb. 16, 2024, through March 6, 2024. Staff ensured daily facility availability, provided room access, set up, and storage, and assisted with Registrar of Voter activities as requested.

Rusty Higgins, technical inspector for the Registrar of voters emailed the department to say that staff, and in particular, Recreation supervisor II, Steve Herrera, had helped to improve the Registrars overall operations:

“On behalf of Voting Center Site Manager Gwen Holm, I would like to thank and commend Steve and his team [Jesse Almada, Anthony Darden and Kevin Gohres] at the Calavera Hills Community Center for their professionalism and responsiveness in support of the March 5 Presidential Primary. Steve and his team were consistently attentive to our every need, want or requirement. Steve expertly and quickly executed an effective and efficient mitigation to an evolving problem which significantly improved our operation. While all of the front desk team were helpful and professional, Anthony’s patient and mature presence was a particular highlight.

Thank you again for hosting and welcoming us at your fantastic facility. You have a great team serving the community at Calavera Hills.”

Parks & Recreation Department Director, Kyle Lancaster, added, “I dropped off my own ballot at the Pine Avenue Community Center activity room yesterday. One of our former Parks & Recreation Department Commissioners, Ron Withal, and his wife were serving as volunteers and invited me in to meet the Registrar of Voter representatives. I received similar praise from Mr. Withal about the Pine Ave Community Center team, as we did about the Calavera Hills CC team. They were also very pleased with the facility, and our willingness to provide them access to the Teen Center upstairs.”

City staff support of the Registrar of Voters vote center activities – and their service to democracy and the community – is greatly appreciated.

USA Swimming Speedos Sectional Swim Meet

From Feb. 29, 2024 – March 3, 2024, more than 800 local and out of state swimmers competed in a USA Swimming sanctioned swim meet hosted by the City of Carlsbad at Alga Norte Aquatic Center and North Coast Aquatics. It was a special long course meet as swimmers raced to qualify for the 2024 Olympic trials in Indianapolis, including previous Olympic medalists. This prestigious meet was exciting for swimmers and spectators alike, showcasing the best of competitive swimming's aquatic talent. With the support of the Carlsbad community, staff welcomed visitors and Alga Norte Aquatic Center served as a premier destination for aquatic sports.

Inaugural Shamrock Social Event

On Saturday March 9, 2024, staff and volunteers hosted the inaugural Shamrock Social event at Pine Avenue Community Center. More than 150 tween and teen participants ages 10 to 14, came dressed in green for a big night of fun games, activities, and enjoyed catered food and snacks.

Activities included laser tag, a video game truck, inflatable obstacle course, table tennis, air hockey, foosball, carnival-style games with prizes and music. Participants had fun in a safe and supervised environment, and made lasting memories and new friends, too.

March Mania Hoop Madness – 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Friday, March 22, 2024

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

\$5 per person entry fee

Think you've got the skills to dominate a 3 on 3 basketball tournament? Staff invites tween and teen players to the Pine Avenue Community Center each Friday to prove (and improve) their skills and participate in a fun competition against other kids in the area.

All team members sign up as individuals and you can partner up with your teammates at the gym. Each team selects a team name and at least three participants with the option of having a 4th teammate who can be used as a sub. The tournament is divided into age-appropriate brackets with younger kids having the option to "play up" if they desire.

Prizes are awarded to the winning teams. Other events available throughout the community center for those individuals who would not like to participate in the tournament(s) (NBA 2k, other video games, ping-pong, crafting, Nerf Wars, etc.).

Upcoming Special Event: EGGstravaganza Spring Festival

Saturday, March 30, 2024

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Poinsettia Community Park

Free Admission. FunZone wristbands and activity cards \$5 each

This Eggstravaganza Spring Festival annual spring event features Carlsbad's largest egg hunt, an ongoing egg scramble where kids race to collect candy-filled eggs, face-painting, crafts, cookie decorating, a fun zone, soak the bunny and more.

Food and beverages are available for purchase. Activity cards can be purchased in advance or at the event. No registration is required to attend.

PARKS

Monroe Street Pool Renovation/Replacement Project

The project team completed review of the 90% construction plans and returned comments to the design consultant (LPA) on Feb. 28, 2024. Staff met with LPA staff on Mar. 6, 2024, to review the comments and address questions. LPA will complete the construction plans and specifications by early Spring 2024. Staff anticipates returning to the City Council with the 100% construction plans and specifications, and an updated cost estimate, by late Spring 2024 for further direction.

Veterans Memorial Park Project

The 100% construction plans and specifications were received from the design consultant (RJM) in December 2023 and were submitted for various agency permits and interdepartmental reviews. The construction plans, specifications and draft standard public works contract are anticipated to be initially reviewed by all applicable departments in Spring 2024.

Stagecoach Park Community Garden Project

The 100% construction plans and specifications were received from the prime consultant (Rick Engineering) in December 2023 and submitted for interdepartmental reviews. On March 26, 2024, the City Council will review staff's request for approval of plans, specifications and contract documents and authorization to advertise for the project for bids. Pending approval, the final construction documents are anticipated to be bid in Spring 2024. Construction commencement is targeted for Summer 2024.

Robertson Ranch Park Project

On Oct. 12, 2023, the Communications & Engagement team forwarded a summary for the first round of public input received in planning Robertson Ranch Park. This summary played a pivotal role in helping the design team make sound decisions for the park's conceptual designs. The design consultant (Schmidt Design Group) completed the conceptual designs in January 2024.

An in-person workshop to present conceptual designs took place on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, a virtual workshop took place on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, and a targeted outreach with the Rancho Carlsbad HOA on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024. Lastly, staff presented the three preliminary concepts to the Parks & Recreation Commission on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, and closed the online survey.

The Communications & Engagement staff will compile a summary from the above noted second round of public input in the following few weeks. The design team will then utilize the information obtained during that round of public input to create a final concept plan to be released for public review in Summer 2024.

Options for Construction of New Outdoor Pickleball Courts at Existing Parks

Staff explored numerous existing park sites throughout the city in all four park districts for the potential construction of new outdoor pickleball courts. Staff then narrowed the assessment to 10 options, ranging from four courts to eight courts each, at five different community parks. Staff's recommendation to the City Council was to approve a Fiscal Year 2023-24 Capital Improvement Program Project Charter for the scoping, initial design and final design of four new pickleball courts at Calavera Hills Community Park and four new pickleball courts at Stagecoach Community Park. The addition of these eight new outdoor pickleball courts will be responsive to the public's current demand for this amenity and will substantially broaden the service area coverage. The Parks & Recreation Commission and the Senior Commission also voted to support staff's recommendation. The City Council voted to approve staff's recommendation on Feb. 13, 2024.

The described project has an estimated total cost of 2 to 2.4 million dollars and an anticipated schedule of 24 to 28 months to design, permit, bid and construct. Once the final designs and cost estimates are completed, staff will return to the City Council for further direction with regard to funding and construction.

Upcoming Trails Volunteers Event

The second Trails Volunteers Event is planned for the Village H North Trail on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 from 8:30 to 10:30a.m. All trails events, held either on the weekends or midweek, are open to the public. The midweek events are generally supported by Trails Captains and a core group of trails volunteers; they are traditionally smaller events that provide direct staff support to targeted areas.

Park Land Dedication and In Lieu Fee Study

The city recently retained NBS Government Finance Group to prepare a Park Land Dedication and In Lieu Fee Study to calculate the updated park land dedication requirements and the fees to be paid in lieu of dedication of park land for residential subdivisions, as authorized by the Quimby Act (Government Code Section 66477). During March 15 and 16, 2024, the Park Land Dedication and In Lieu Fee Study was posted to the city's website, transmitted to the Building Industry Association and other development related entities for their review, and legally noticed in advance of the public hearing scheduled for the City Council Meeting on April 23, 2024. At that time, staff will be recommending that the City Council consider a phased implementation of the proposed park land in lieu fee increase. The public can view the study on the city's website, at www.carlsbadca.gov/departments/parks-recreation.