



CITY OF ONTARIO
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
303 E. B STREET
June 2, 2021 4:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

4:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

- Dean Riley Nelsen Trinidad Binney Ovitt
 Caskey Bravo Escobosa Mayor pro Tem Wapner

STAFF PRESENT

- Nicholas S. Gonzalez, Recreation & Community Services Director
 Helen McAlary, Executive Director Community Life & Culture
 Kathy Hickey, Recreation & Community Services Manager
 Stacy Michalak, Recreation & Community Services Manager
 Ann Huisman, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Public Comment portion of the Commission meeting is limited to 15 minutes total, with each speaker allowed a maximum of 3 minutes. Additional speakers are allowed 3 minutes each at the end of the meeting. Prior to consideration of old or new business agenda items, speakers will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes each to comment on that specific item. Under provisions of the Brown Act, the Commission is prohibited from taking action on oral requests.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ontario Recreation & Parks Master Plan – Nicholas Gonzalez, Recreation & Community Services Director and Jacob Leon, KTU & A

COMMISSIONER/LIASION COMMENTS

As a reminder, please make sure all Commission comments pertain to the business related to the Recreation & Community Services and Parks Departments.

NEXT RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

Next meeting for the Recreation & Parks Commission is June 28, 2021 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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Agenda Report
June 2, 2021

SECTION: OLD BUSINESS

Prepared By: Nicholas Gonzalez

Staff Member Presenting:

Nicholas Gonzalez, Recreation & Community Services Director and Jacob Leon, KTU&A

Action: Approved

SUBJECT

Ontario Recreation & Parks Master Plan

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

The Ontario Recreation & Parks Master Plan ("Master Plan"), on file with the Recording Secretary, is a comprehensive planning effort that provides a vision for the Recreation & Community Services and Parks Departments for the next decade. The Master Plan process has provided a clear set of goals for infrastructure and program improvements to create a premier recreation and parks system in the City. This Master Plan also outlines short, mid, and long-term recommendation in the areas of capital improvement plans; financial strategy plan; prioritization of proposed recommendations; park branding, signage, placemaking; and improvements to the trail network.

The Master Plan was developed by KTU & A (“KTUA”), a planning and landscape architecture firm with a 50-year history in Southern California. KTUA specializes in community planning, transportation planning, park planning, visualization, urban design/placemaking and landscape architecture. KTUA also worked with GreenPlay who provided analysis of Ontario’s recreation programs and also researched recreational and healthy activity trends on a national, statewide and local level. Additionally, KTUA also brought on RRC, who is a national level recreational research and public input specialty firm that was responsible for the survey instruments, statistically valid survey, and demographic analysis. The KTUA, GreenPlay, and RRC team worked closely with City staff in completing this Master Plan.

Ontario currently operates 32 public parks, three dog parks, and seven community centers, totaling approximately 425 acres of parkland. These public parks offer ample opportunities for passive and active recreation. Ontario residents also have access to a regional park that is owned and managed by San Bernardino County Regional Parks Department. The Recreation & Community Services Department also offers a dynamic range of recreation and community services programs. These services range from tots to seniors and provide an array of classes and programs for residents to participate in throughout the City.

The project team conducted an open and transparent community engagement process to ensure that community members were included throughout the entire course of the project. The Master Plan project kicked off in early 2020 with a pop-up event. Shortly after this event, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic triggered necessary safety measures regarding public gatherings of any size. State and local regulations prohibited large social gatherings, which resulted in shifting all community workshops and stakeholder meetings to the online video sharing platform, Zoom. The community engagement strategy utilized for this plan were project branding; a statistically valid survey; social media posts; online story map; one pop-up event; online community workshops; and stakeholder meetings.

The Master Plan also provides a Park Level of Service analysis, which is a type of analysis that compares the geographic distribution of parks to the city’s population. This GIS-based analysis examines different types of accessibility modes (walk, bike, and drive) for the city’s existing park types. Parks are distributed well throughout the city, especially when compared to where people reside per the city’s residential land use. The data indicates that the existing park acreage provides 1.41 acres of park per 1,000 population. Service gaps are most apparent in the south-central region of the city. The Park Level of Service analysis

also assesses how certain park amenities and facilities service specific populations (i.e. youth and seniors). The Master Plan includes recommendations on how schools can contribute to the city's park level of service through joint-use agreement and other related partnerships to help close gaps.

Ontario has a diverse park system with amenities for all ages dispersed throughout the City. There are several recommendations that were received from the community engagement process. These recommendations include more walking paths and trails; linear parks that include natural areas; improve safety including lighting and upgrades; add a splash pad or spray ground; additional park amenities to existing parks; identify locations for a skatepark; and additional dog parks. In the Master Plan, the project team has identified six park infill opportunity areas that could support new park amenities and features. Each opportunity area can be enhanced as funding becomes available, but each identified park will have a matrix that communicates the types of amenities that could be added. The six parks that will receive these conceptualized plans to show potential improvements are De Anza Park, John Galvin Park, the southernmost portion of Whispering Lakes Golf Course, Vineyard Park, Bon View Park and Del Rancho Park.

Since the provision of public parks and recreation services can be influenced by demographic preferences, the Master Plan process identified local and national recreation trends that help define what Ontario residents are seeking. Current trends focused on walking, hiking, and camping; participation in youth activities and sports teams; swimming and aquatic-based activities; and recreation activities and programs for diverse age-based generations. Staff will utilize this information to adapt its park and recreation programs by learning from these new shifts in participation in outdoor recreation, sports, and cultural programs.

Out of the Master Plan, a skatepark focus group was attended by local residents, skatepark advocates, youth and teens, and other influential skaters from the local area. The goal of this meeting was to communicate that Ontario is pursuing the steps to plan, design, and construct a skatepark in the near future. The Master Plan shows conceptualized plans for a skatepark to be built at De Anza Park, John Galvin Park, or the new community park in Ontario Ranch. Staff will continue to have conversations on the design and location of the skatepark and will bring that back to the City Council for approval in the future.

A second listening session was held with staff from the current golf course operator, Donovan Bros. Golf, LLC. The goal of this meeting was to discuss the kinds of short, mid, and long-term improvements that could be made to the golf

course to ensure its success for both the City and the community. Key highlights from this meeting included that updates need to be made to the maintenance equipment and irrigation system; there is a demand for a multi-purpose venue; and there is an opportunity to add new public park amenities in the southwest area of the golf course adjacent to Riverside Drive.

In summary, this comprehensive Master Plan outlines the following priorities and recommendations for the City:

- Maximize active park acreage on city-owned land by adding park amenities to opportunity areas.
- Implement joint-use agreements with school districts for use of amenities such as fields, courts, and walking/running tracks on school sites.
- Continue to work with developers on providing infill parks for future populations.
- Consider other park types such as linear parks when determining park deficiencies in certain areas.
- Consider non-Ontario parks and programs in determining population-based demand and requirements.
- Focus should be given to preschool programming, youth activities, swim lessons, and senior wellness activities.
- Programs that are in high demand should be expanded while programs that have lower participation and service a narrower target market segment should be divested from.
- Demand for adult sports may be met through partnerships with existing providers or the city could provide programs for adults not offered by private providers.
- Continue to enable the Teen Action Committee and shape youth programming.
- Consider developing a walking/hiking/bicycling program that aims to increase awareness of programs, parks, trails, routes, and parks' amenities.

There are also recommendations on wayfinding park signage concepts so there is consistency in branding throughout the parks system; linear park enhancements to the West Cucamonga Trail; and a financial analysis on current programs and related recommendations.

If approved and recommended by the Recreation & Parks Commission, staff will then take the Master Plan for adoption and approval by the Ontario City Council. Staff along with the Recreation & Parks Commission will be working closely together over the years to ensure the successful implementation of the Ontario Recreation & Parks Master Plan for the residents of Ontario.