

**City of Patterson**  
**Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of January 18, 2023**

**1. Call to Order**

Commissioner Adolfo Virgen called the Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission of the City of Patterson to order at the City Hall Council Chambers at 5:06 P.M.

**2. Roll Call**

**Present:** Commissioners: Gabriela Fernandez-Hernandez (Chair), Adolfo Virgen (Commissioner), Renelle Layfield (Commissioner), and Oscar Roman (Commissioner)

City Staff: Deputy Director Robert Andrade (Ex-Officio Member), Xavier Guluarte (Deputy Director) Jason Hayward (Recreation Supervisor) Julienne Flanders (Director of Recreation), Adrian Laurel (Environmental Compliance Specialist), and Brittany Callum (Secretary).

**Absent:** None

**3. Statements of Conflict : None**

**4. Items from the Public:** A community member from the Love Patterson commission would like to partner with Public Works and the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Commission to prepare for Love Patterson day on April 29, 2023. She requested that the commission assist to spearhead the Love Patterson Day with the Love Patterson Committee.

A community member suggested adding a dog waste bag station to the “new park” at Ashwood and Holdenhurst due to excess waste from residents not picking up after their dogs. She would like to see more benches at the new park at Ashwood and Holdenhurst. She also suggested that the commissioners go to each park to note what could be added to beautify them. Additionally, she suggested using the rooms in the library as a place that could be used for future workshops.

**5. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes for the December 14, 2022, special meeting was reviewed and approved by the Commission with a 3-0 vote. Adolfo Virgen motioned and Renelle Layfield 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carries.

**6. Review of Action Items: None**

## 7. Agenda Items

### New & Returning Business

#### **7.a Water Fountain Discussion (Chair Fernandez-Hernandez)**

Chair Fernandez-Hernandez requested to remove this item from the agenda for the time being.

#### **7b. Dog Park Improvement (Commissioner Virgen)**

Commissioner Virgen began with his question for Recreation staff, he was curious if there has been any conclusion regarding the relocation of the dog park. Recreation Director Julianne Flanders informed Commissioner Virgen that the movement of the dog park depends on the relocation of the baseball diamond at the Sports Park. At this time developers have not presented a design for a renovated baseball diamond. She informed the commission that they will not be moving the dog park unless there is a need to move it. She explained that it is extremely costly to move it, so it will stay as is. She did add that they are beginning to make improvements to the dog park. There is no funding for that park right now unless there is an inclined contribution through a developer. Adolfo asked if this park is part of the master plan. Julianne informed him that it is, and it includes more dog parks for the city. They hope to take the Master Plan to City Council in the spring. Once the city knows when the diamond will go in, it'll have to go through engineering for design concepts and take them back to the City Council for approval. She also informed the commission that once it's approved the commission would be able to have input on the designs. Regarding a timeline, it was suggested to remove this topic from the agenda for now since there currently isn't any funding and until the City Council approves, they cannot act on the project. A community member presented the commission with sample images of dog parks in neighboring cities as a reference for future designs. The commission and community were informed that developers are invited to all the City Council meetings so that they can hear input on the design of the developers' plans. Community members discussed recently missed opportunities to require developers to include more dog parks and shady areas in their plans prior to the approval. Robert informed them that they should bring up their suggestions at the next City Council meeting. Julianne also wanted to reinforce that when a master plan is submitted, they now have to meet preliminary criteria such as the inclusion of a dog park for future developments. Renelle suggested getting closer with the City Council members so that they could be informed of the commission's thoughts and future actions. Robert informed the commission that it used to be, and probably still, that each commission is required to report quarterly but no one has not that for some time now. He suggested that they should start going to the City Council to report quarterly.

**7c. Commission Powers and Duties (Commissioner Virgen)**

Commissioner Virgen suggested removing powers and duties from future agendas. He stated that going forward that he would like to discuss the certificate giving process and what the standard would be. The suggestion would be to try to have the public nominate outstanding achievers. It would also be helpful if the city helps with advertising for this program. The certificate process will be added to the next agenda. A community member said that she really supports this idea and that it is a way to get the commission's name out to the community. Adolfo mentioned a time when the City Council recognized some community members for the organization of National Night out at Felipe Garza Park as an example of recent achievements.

**7d. Activities for Teens (Commissioner Virgen)**

During the previous meetings it was mentioned that the commission coordinates with Patterson Joint Unified School District. Commissioner Layfield suggested that the commission and the Recreation Department utilize the Peach Jar software where the school disperses community events or information to parents. Commissioner Virgen stated that he wanted to do some more research and reach out to the school district; he requested that this topic be added to the next agenda.

**7d.1 LGBTQIA+/2S Collaborative**

Adolfo contacted the Advocacy Director of the center; her name is Patty Davis. He requested that we disperse her contact information out to the commissioners so that they may visit the facility when they have time. He feels that it is a good idea to visit the organizations that want to join the Patterson community that bring more opportunities for recreation. Brittany will distribute Patty Davis's email out to the commissioners.

**7d.2 Teen Space Venue**

A community member requested that when the commission goes to council, they will suggest looking into finding a space for the community or teens to rent out so that they are not taking from the senior's space and to have more access than they currently do. She asked where the money went that was funding the Teen Center across the street from the Skate Park. Julienne informed the community that there is a budget for teens. She stated that the community needs and is working toward a Community Center. The Community Center is on the agenda for Council, it is also something that they would like to see. However, when the topic of a Community Center is brought up, the city also needs to adjust the budget for

things such as staffing, a lease, and other things that comes with maintaining an additional building. She stated that when the Teen Center was in operation, the attendance of teens was dwindling. The Recreation Department held numerous programs, but the teens would not attend and financially it was extremely expensive for a small return. There are other avenues to look at, they've tried using Scared Heart for programs but very few kids felt comfortable going to that venue. Julienne asked the commission what it is that they are really trying to accomplish and based on that answer, it should be taken to Council. The community also must take into consideration the plans of the City Council and what their priority is. A Community Center can come to fruition if there is a significant push from the community. A community member asked if the money for the Teen Center is at a surplus because it is not being paid toward a lease. Julienne informed the community that it is not and when the program ended the city went through a dip in funding. At that time the Recreation Department took a \$300,000 hit in their budget. Juliene offered to give a budget presentation to the commission at the March meeting. The commission agreed to add it to the March agenda.

**7e. Mural Project and Funding (Chair Fernandez-Hernandez)**

Gabriela requested permission from the commission to collaborate with Invest in Me and Love Patterson for the benefits of funding and getting student input on the theme of the mural. Invest in Me will work on facilitating focus groups for the theme and design between all three sources. Additionally, the mural can be funded between the committees. The location of the mural is to be determined. It is open for public input, but the list will be condensed down to three choices. The theme will be created by students and participants of Invest in Me. The size of the mural is to be determined after the location is finalized. Regarding cost, Gabriela was thinking of having a subcommittee that can bring more finalized details. Brittany shared with the commission the breakdown of the budget including donations, that was given to her by Sonia Delgado. She stated that the commission must bring to Council how they planned on spending the money and that it would be available for the upcoming fiscal year. Robert explained to the commission that the interest gained on the endowment must be used on the beautification of Patterson. Anything that is received can be applied to the projects and the mural is something that would qualify.

**7f. Vice-Chair Election**

Chairperson Gabriela Fernandez-Hernandez took this time to inform the Commission that she will be stepping down as Chair and asked them to

nominate a new Chairperson. Gabriela nominated Commissioner Adolfo Virgen for Chair; Commissioner Layfield seconded. The vote was unanimous 3-0, for Adolfo Virgen to take the seat as Chairperson. Gabriela nominated herself as Vice-Chair, Commissioner Layfield second the motion. Commissioner Roman agreed. The vote was unanimous 3-0. Motion carries. Gabriela Fernandez-Hernandez is now Vice-Chair.

**7g. Elected Location of Future Committee Meetings**

Chairperson Virgen suggested that the meetings should be hybrid to allow the public to attend the meetings online. He informed the commission that he believes that the City Council approved of only allowing the commissioners to only attend two meetings via hybrid per year and only under emergency circumstances. This information will have to be confirmed by the City Clerk. Chairperson Virgen motioned that the committee hold hybrid meetings going forward so that the public can continue to join via zoom. Gabriela second the motion. The commission voted unanimously. Motion carries.

**8. Items from Committee Members: None**

**9. Adjournment**

With there being no further business, Chairperson Virgen moved to adjourn the City of Patterson Parks, Recreation and Beautification Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Any questions or concerns, please email them to Brittany Callum at [bcallum@ci.patterson.ca.us](mailto:bcallum@ci.patterson.ca.us).

**Minutes Prepared by:**

*Brittany Callum*

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Brittany Callum (Secretary)  
Administrative Assistant I