



**COMMUNITY SERVICES & RECREATION
COMMISSION MINUTES
Teleconference/Web Conference
Monday, March 28, 2022
4:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

POWER, GRAY, DO, NGUYEN, BUI (ALTERNATE)

PRESENT: POWER, GRAY, DO, NGUYEN, BUI (ALTERNATE – joined late)

ABSENT: NONE

Staff Present: Vanessa Johnson, Acting Community Services and Recreation Director; Jake Ngo, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Tammy Huynh, Senior Administrative Assistant.

SALUTE TO FLAG Commissioner Do led all those present in the Salute to the Flag.

INVOCATION Commissioner Nguyen led all those present in the Invocation.

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

E-Comments:

1. Bill Vetter submitted an E-comment stating that the Quang Tri Monument remains incomplete and the Commission should not decide on a location anywhere on public park land; private placement would be the best choice. He addressed his concerns including the lack of adequate park space to place an enormous structure; parking remains critical, children with special needs utilize Westminster Park, and the structure would inhibit usage and space; ball games would be hindered on space and parking; and imagery of a war like monument would be inappropriate for the environment as it distracts from peace and tranquility that families expect at a park.

Oral Comments:

2. Terry Rains, Westminster, thanked Chair Power for adding the item of renaming the commission to the agenda and mentioned she had suggested renaming the commission to the “Parks and Recreation” Commission; she reminded the commission if they don’t make a location recommendation for the Quang Tri Monument by April 14th, then City Council will decide on a location without any input from the commission. She reminded the commission that at recent commission and city council meetings, the only public comments in support of placing the monument in a public park were members of the Quang Tri Monument Committee, and that 100% of general public comments were opposed to placing the monument at a public park or any public land; she reminded the commission they’re appointed to serve all Westminster residents and not just a select few from one special interest group. She mentioned the Quang Tri Monument Committee’s purpose forbids them from recommending a location, yet they still voted to recommend Westminster Park; she attended the Challenger League’s District 62 Opening event at Westminster Park and stated how bad parking was; she expressed that committee members should have been there to observe what the park is all about. She expressed that the size and design elements of the monument would welcome criminal activity and safety hazards for children which would create costs to the city. She reminded the commission that Westminster has the third lowest per capita rate of parkland in Orange County and residents will not tolerate losing any more park space to foreign war monuments, she also stated that the monument does not belong in the Civic Center; the Police Statue is appropriate because the Civic Center is home to the Police Department and the Quang Tri Monument would not help re-envision the Civic Center property to align with the city’s general plan and its mix-use designation, as required. She concluded that the commissioners should listen to their residents and that they don’t have to recommend placing the monument on public land and that it should be on private land, ideally along Bolsa Ave. in conjunction with the city’s Little Saigon Blueprint for Investment Plan; she mentioned the Westminster Cemetery as an alternate private property location.
3. Robert L. Harrison, USMC, Quang Tri Monument Committee Member, expressed that he is not against the Quang Tri Monument, but depiction and placement needs to be correct; the commission should recommend placement of the monument on private land and the monument should not take up park space; placement of the monument should be along Bolsa Ave., in conjunction with the redevelopment of a Vietnamese District. He mentioned there was overwhelming dissention from the public over placing the monument at Westminster Park at the commission meeting on January 31st that should not be ignored. He mentioned a war monument should not be placed in a public park where children play, and that the Vietnamese

community should be able to honor their history and culture, building monuments on private land, where they would not be obligated to give credit to America's contribution to their victory. He mentioned he attended the Challenger League's District 62 Opening event at Westminster Park, and it took him 15 minutes to find parking; he stated parking would be a problem with a monument there and it would take away parking from other activities for children. He complimented the Challenger League's organization for using the public park for its intended purpose; he expressed that if commissioners were at the event, they would see that the monument does not belong there or any public park and asked the commission to vote for placement on private land, not public land.

4. D'vorah Mariscal expressed that there's been too much time spent on the Quang Tri Monument and that she does not want to see the monument on city property.
5. Roger Mindrum, Westminster, agreed with the previous speaker and expressed that the Quang Tri Monument should not be built on public land and there should not be any more public land taken away from Westminster residents for a small fraction of the community; he expressed that if this monument is built on public property, there will be even more monuments in the future.
6. Tony Bui, Westminster, mentioned that he listened to a lot of residents that have raised their concerns about the Quang Tri Monument and expressed that the commission should carefully consider the maintenance costs and reminded that the city is in a deficit; the city should focus on being more constructive and consider all communities within the city and help the city thrive.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 Meeting held on Monday, February 28, 2022

Motion was made by Commissioner Nguyen, and seconded by Vice Chair Gray, to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2022, Community Services and Recreation Commission Meeting. Motion carried 4-0, with the following vote:

AYES: POWER, GRAY, DO, NGUYEN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Update on Location Recommendation of Quang Tri Monument

Staff provided the commission with a staff report and architectural plans for the Quang Tri Monument.

Chair Power thanked members of the public for their comments and thanked Robert Harrison for his service. He expressed that the commission does listen to the public and value their input and pointed out that he had placed the item regarding renaming the commission on the agenda based on Terry Rain's public comments. He mentioned that the commission received a lot of comments opposing the Quang Tri Monument project and wanted to remind the public that the commission does not have the authority or power to decide whether the project moves forward, that decision is made at the City Council level; the commission's task is very limited and its simply to make a recommendation to the city council as to where this monument should be placed.

Commissioners reviewed the updated architectural plans for the monument; Commissioner Nguyen had questions regarding electrical needs for lighting of the monument and expressed his concerns regarding the size, particularly the height of the monument. Commissioners also asked staff about maintenance costs for the monument; Jake Ngo informed the commission that the city would be responsible for any maintenance costs after the monument is built.

Chair Power asked staff if the current vacancy on the commission would be filled by April 14th. If the vacancy is not filled by then, he expressed that the commission may want to consider giving Alternate Tony Bui the ability to vote on the recommendation at their next commission meeting. Chair Power expressed that his preference would be to wait until the Quang Tri Monument Committee meets on April 4th to vote on a final monument design, and then the commission could make a recommendation on a location at their next meeting scheduled for April 14th; this would also allow more time for him to look at additional potential locations for the monument.

Commissioner Nguyen asked staff if Quang Tri Committee members objected to placement of the monument at the Civic Center; staff responded that they had met with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Quang Tri Monument Committee, and they were welcome to any location that the commission recommends. Commissioner Nguyen asked if staff could make a suggestion to the Quang Tri Monument Committee to consider scaling down the height of the monument.

Motion was made by Chair Power, and seconded by Commissioner Nguyen, to defer this item to the April 14th Commission Meeting until a final monument design is approved at the next Quang Tri Monument Committee Meeting. Motion carried 4-0, with the following vote:

AYES: POWER, GRAY, DO, NGUYEN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Alternate Commissioner Bui left the meeting.

3.2 Park Check List Reports

Chair Power asked staff about a slide that was boarded up at Russell C. Paris Park; staff informed him that the slide is currently boarded up for safety reasons and that a new slide has been ordered as a replacement. Chair Power mentioned everything else looked great at the parks and thanked staff for keeping the parks in order.

Chair Power explained the Park Check List process to Commissioner Do; Commissioner Do added Bowling Green Park and Liberty Park Skate Park to his list.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Request from Chair Power to consider modifying the name of the commission and possibly adding the word “Parks” to the name of the commission

Vanessa Johnson provided the commission with information regarding Community Services Department commission names from nearby cities and reported that most of those city Community Services commission names are in line with what their department names are.

Chair Power mentioned he considered Terry Rain’s suggestion of renaming the commission and thought it made sense because most people he speaks to refers to the commission as the “Parks Commission”; he doesn’t have a strong opinion on what the name of the commission should be but believes adding the word “Parks” in the commission name would make a lot of sense; he mentioned the name “Parks and Recreation” is well-known.

Commissioner Nguyen expressed he doesn’t have a preference on changing the name of the commission but suggested if it is changed, it should be short and simple; he brought up the impacts of changing the name of the commission. Chair Power asked staff if this would be a recommendation to City Council and asked if there would be minor fiscal impact; Vanessa Johnson responded that is correct and that the fiscal impact would be minor.

Vice Chair Gray asked if a commission name change would have any hindrance on possible grants; Vanessa Johnson mentioned she could look into that but doesn’t believe there would be any consequences with a name change.

Chair Power asked staff what the best way would be to structure this recommendation; Vanessa Johnson mentioned she could do more research and provide more solid information to the commission, the commission can then recommend a name, make that recommendation to Council, and then that can also possibly be reviewed the next time a full commission is appointed at the next election cycle.

Motion was made by Chair Power, and seconded by Commissioner Nguyen, to defer this item to the next meeting to give staff an opportunity to put together a list of potential names, including the “Parks and Recreation” name. Motion carried 4-0, with the following vote:

AYES: POWER, GRAY, DO, NGUYEN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

4.2 Update on Tony Lam Park Dedication Ceremony

Staff provided the commission with an update on the postponement of the ceremony due to the rain and informed the commission staff is looking into rescheduling the ceremony to the first week in May.

4.3 Next Meeting Date – April 14, 2022

The next Commission meeting will be held on April 14, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

5. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

No items from commissioners.

Staff informed the commission about the Groundbreaking of the Conservation Garden at Coronet Park, scheduled for Friday, April 1, 2022, at 12 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Huynh, Senior Administrative Assistant
Community Services & Recreation