



Agenda Report

Parks and Community Services Commission

File #: 25-260

Meeting Date: 4/10/2025

TITLE: PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PRINCIPLE AND VALUES WORKSHOP

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRESENTED BY: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

CONTACT INFORMATION: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR (714) 754-5009

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission (PACS) engage in a discussion to establish core principles and values for the development and recommendation of future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) park projects.

BACKGROUND:

In previous years, PACS received updates on CIP projects in a quasi pre-approved format, with limited opportunity to contribute to the development of Parks and Community Services CIP initiatives. As a result, Council would often adopt proposed CIP projects without receiving substantial input or recommendations from PACS.

To address this, Commissioners have expressed interest in revising the process—ensuring that PACS recommendations are considered alongside CIP proposals during the budget development cycle.

In response, staff met with the PACS Chair and Vice Chair to establish a CIP evaluation process that allows for the commission to evaluate and make recommendations for parks projects to City Council. The first step in this new approach is to define core principles and values that will guide the process in developing recommendations for future CIP projects.

ANALYSIS:

Our parks serve as vital community spaces, providing recreational opportunities, environmental benefits, and social connections. With limited resources, it's important that the commission have clear principles and values to guide decisions and recommendations to ensure the City invests in projects that have the greatest impact.

Staff have identified areas for the commission to have a discussion that will focus on:

1. Identifying Core Principles and Values – What principles and values drive the commission's decision-making? Examples might include accessibility, sustainability, equity, or community engagement.

2. Defining Key Criteria – What specific factors should be considered when recommending projects? This could include cost-effectiveness, environmental impact, public demand, or long-term benefits.
3. Prioritization – Once values and criteria are established, how does the commission weigh them to make informed decisions?

The purpose is to develop a shared framework that reflects the needs and aspirations of the community to help ensure that park improvements are meaningful, equitable, and aligned with City Council's long-term vision.

In this process, staff will facilitate a series of open dialogue meetings with commission by discussing the three areas mentioned above beginning with core principles and values.

FISCAL REVIEW

There is no fiscal review at this time.

LEGAL REVIEW

There is no legal review required since this item is administrative in nature.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission engage in a discussion to establish core principles and values for the development and recommendation of future CIP park projects.