



City of Costa Mesa

Agenda Report

Parks and Community Services Commission

File #: 25-296

Meeting Date: 5/8/2025

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) review, discuss, and approve core principles and values along with key criteria for the development and recommendation of future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) park projects (Attachment 1).

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 Commission CIP initiatives. As a result, City Council would often adopt proposed CIP projects without receiving substantial input or recommendations from PACS.

In response, staff presented at the April 10, 2025, meeting a workshop to define core principles and values that would guide the process in developing recommendations for future CIP projects in a philosophical framework. In the beginning of the process, staff recommended the commission discuss and identify core principles and values which included questions such as, what principles and values drive the commission's decision-making.

ANALYSIS:

The next step of this process is to finalize the principles and values and to identify key criteria for each. This could include cost-effectiveness, environmental impact, public demand, or long-term benefits.

Staff defined a comprehensive list of principles and values based on the commissioner's discussion at the April 10, 2025, meeting. In addition, staff identified some preliminary key defining criteria for each value and principle. Once finalized staff will develop a rubric and worksheet for prioritization based on these decided elements.

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 (PACS) review, discuss, and approve core principles and values along with key criteria for the development and recommendation of future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) park projects.

Key Criteria for Park Capital Improvements

Equity & Access

I would add: including those parts of the city defined as 'underparked' (i.e. those sections that rely on non-city facilities for open space)

- Serves underserved or marginalized communities.
 - Improves ADA accessibility and reduces disparities.
 - Reflects actual community needs beyond vocal input.
- We need to address the lack of bathrooms around parks and open space plans, for example Long Beach has solutions that are working well

Sustainability

- Uses native plants and climate-resilient infrastructure.
 - Includes solar, stormwater, and water-saving elements.
 - Promotes long-term environmental health.
- I would update this to include plantings reflecting changing climate, as now 'native' plants may not survive the state of climate change nor be safe -I want more flexibility in this statement

Community-Centered Planning

- Incorporates broad, inclusive public engagement.
- Engages youth and multilingual populations.
- Built upon feedback from events, surveys, or local partners.

Safety & Maintenance

- Improves safety features like lighting and signage.
 - Considers long-term maintenance and durability.
 - Addresses current safety concerns in the park.
- Also add in additional needs of health of users: including water stations and shade that meets safety, health, and maintenance

Innovation & Optimization

- Provides multi-use, cross-functional solutions.
- Includes innovative design or technology.
- Leverages partnerships or shared spaces.

Economic and Social Benefit

- Enhances local economic vitality and property values.
- Serves renters, seniors, and lower-income groups.
- Creates inclusive and welcoming community spaces.

Overall: I agree with these 6 core values, I see this as a identified priority as we evaluate the CIP's priorities and projects that come before us from staff - for example: if our priority is are these 6 values, as each project is proposed how does it 'score' on each of these core values - I do see this as evolving depending on the project presented