



DATE: April 14, 2021

AGENDA ITEM # 1

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Donna Legge, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Commission Reorganization

RECOMMENDATION:

Submit nominations and appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for 2021-22 term year

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

The election of a Commission Chair and Vice-Chair are governed by the Commission and Committee Handbook:

To facilitate meetings and the work of the Commission, each Commission appoints a Chair and Vice Chair from the members of the Commission. The positions of Chair and Vice Chair rotate annually. Election of Chair and Vice Chair occurs at the first meeting in April.

The role of the Chair is to preside at Commission meetings and to run a timely and orderly meeting. The Vice Chair is to preside in the absence of the Chair. If both the Chair and Vice Chair are absent, the Commission may elect a Chair Pro Tem to conduct the meeting. It is incumbent upon the Chair to limit discussion and recommendations to those items on the agenda.

Any member of the Commission may serve as Chair and Vice-Chair. The current Chair will ask for nominations for one position at a time. Any member may nominate a commissioner to serve. Nominations do not require a second. Once nominations for the position are closed, the Commission will vote. If a majority of members approve, that member will serve as Chair or Vice Chair for the year.

Upon the conclusion of the election process for Chair and Vice-Chair, the person elected Chair will take over as president of the meeting.

Attachment:

- A. Cheat Sheet for Chair – How to Run a Meeting

Cheat sheet for Chair (and Vice Chair)

(and anyone who may have to run a meeting)

The role of the Chair of a Commission is to preside at meetings and to help move the work of the Commission forward. The Chair (and Vice Chair) does not have any extra authority or power beyond that of his/her fellow Commissioners.

As Chair, you are responsible for conducting meetings of the Commission. It is important to limit discussion to those items on the agenda. For each agenda item, it is suggested that you follow this procedure:

1. Announce what the item being considered is
2. Ask if there is a report for the item – generally, this is provided by the staff liaison but occasionally may be provided by another Commissioner
3. Ask Commissioners if there are any clarifying questions
4. Take public comment – instructions for how to take public comment are included in the “Meeting Procedures” section of the Commission Handbook
5. Facilitate discussion among the Commission – it is important that each Commissioner is given equal chance to speak and express his/her opinion
6. After discussion of the item, ensure that a conclusion is reached – this can be in the form of a motion, direction provided to staff or a subcommittee, or to take no further action.

Applications

On occasion, a Commission may receive an application from a resident or community group which the Commission is to consider. In these instances, applicants are given a total of ten minutes to present their position/input prior to hearing other public comments. This is done after the staff has presented its report. After the applicant(s) has presented, public comment is taken from the audience. Following public comment, the applicant is given five minutes to provide a rebuttal to any issue raised during public comments.

Announcing votes

The Brown Act requires that all votes be clearly noted, both at the meeting and in the record. It is the Chair’s responsibility to ensure that the vote is noted during the meeting. This is done by announcing how each member voted on a particular issue. If the voting is unanimous, it is sufficient to state “passes unanimously.” The staff liaison will ensure that the minutes accurately reflect how each member voted on each issue.

Recess

It is customary to have a short recess two hours after the beginning of a meeting. The established hour after which no new items will be started is four hours after the beginning of the meeting. Remaining items, however, may be considered by consensus of the Commission/Committee.