

M I N U T E S

SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

February 2, 2005

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles convened in special session at the Garland Building at 9:58 a.m. Present were President Mike Roos, Vice-President Christina Sanchez-Camino, Commissioners Christopher Hammond, Mary Luévano, and Candy Spelling. Also present were Jim Combs, Assistant General Manager, and Senior Assistant City Attorney Mark Brown.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

05-44

REVISION OF VENICE BEACH BOARDWALK PUBLIC
EXPRESSION PERMIT RULES

As a result of a final review of the proposed program rules, the City Attorney's Office recommended the following changes to the rules:

1. "Public Expression" is not a defined term in the rules and should not have initial capital letters. Therefore, in each place in the rules where the term public expression appears, the initial caps will be removed. The word "Participant" will also be removed from the phrase "Public Expression Participant Permit Program," for consistency purposes.
2. On page 2, there is a typographical error. The word "not" was inadvertently left out of the sentence that should be amended to read: "Persons who will not be performing will choose a space designated for general use."
3. In the "Boardwalk Regulations" section, the following changes are recommended: a) #9 should be amended to read: "Permit holders must display the Recreation and Parks issued photo identification card at all times when in the assigned space;" b) the phrase "by Lottery" should be deleted from #10; c) #13 should be amended to read: "Permit holders may not physically or verbally abuse or threaten another permit holder, staff member, other departmental or City personnel, store merchant, or any member of the public, or distract listeners by blocking views or using offensive or threatening language;" and, d) a new #15 should be added to read: "The permit holder must be in the space assigned to him or her at all times that expressive activity is taking place in the assigned space."

February 2, 2005

In addition, the rules stated that a copy of Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 42.15 was attached, but there was no attachment. This was a reminder that Section 42.15, as amended by the Council on October 27, 2004 and further amended by the Council on December 7, 2004, must be attached to the rules.

It was moved by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Sanchez-Camino that the amendments be adopted.

Ms. Sandy Kievman, Chief Field Deputy, Council District 11, spoke in support of the report.

In response to an inquiry from President Roos, the Deputy reported that the Council Office held numerous meetings with various groups and individuals to gain input from those who had an interest in the Boardwalk.

The Sr. Assistant City Attorney advised the Board that they had previously adopted program rules to begin the program and the report as submitted was to amend the rules of the adopted program. He further advised that the Council adopted an ordinance to suggest the implementation of the program in January, however, in the absence of implementing the rules, they were basically not enforced.

In response to an inquiry from President Roos, the Sr. Assistant City Attorney advised the Board that they may amend or revoke the rules at any time.

Commissioner Luévano suggested to set a date to review the regulations to see if they were working. The Council Office representative concurred.

Ms. Peggy Lee Kennedy, representing Venice Free Speech Zone Association and Grass Roots Neighborhood Council, referenced letters prepared to the Board and Council from the Association, copies of which are on file in the Board Office. The representative expressed that the West side of the Board Walk felt that they had no real input on the rules, the way that spaces were allocated, and various other issues. The representative expressed concern that the area in question would no longer remain a free-speech zone if the subject rules were to be imposed. The representative further requested the Department to meet with a mediator. The representative was notified that she would be provided with a copy of the report and rules for discussion at the next meeting.

February 2, 2005

Mr. Rishikavi Raghudas, resident, presented his personal perspective on the Venice Boardwalk restrictions and the benefits of mediation with Venice Boardwalk participants.

Mr. Joel Shields, resident, spoke in support of the report. Mr. Shields further presented the issue of tents and canopies being used by public expressionists and how they present a hazard to the public (photos were submitted for the record and are on file in the Board Office).

Senior Lead Officer Theresa Skinner, Pacific Region, Los Angeles Police Department, spoke in support of the report and further requested that the Board act immediately and not hold-off on the approval of the rules, due to deployment issues within the Police Department.

President Roos advised the public to write to the Board via Department staff to present any issues of concern regarding the proposed Venice Beach Boardwalk Public Expression Permit Rules, to allow staff to address the issues of concern prior to the next Board meeting.

Item Held.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, February 16, 2005 at 9:30 a.m., Garland Building Auditorium, 1200 W. 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Special meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

ATTEST



PRESIDENT



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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