

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

Thursday December 16, 2021

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles convened the telephonic Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m. Present were, Vice President Lynn Alvarez, Commissioners Tafarai Bayne, Nicole Chase and Joseph Halper. Also present were Anthony-Paul Diaz, Executive Officer and Chief of Staff, Assistant City Attorney Mike Dundas, and Deputy City Attorney III Steven Hong.

The following Department staff members were also present:

Jimmy Kim, Acting Assistant General Manager, Recreation Services Branch
Cathie Santo Domingo, Assistant General Manager, Planning, Maintenance, and Construction Branch
Noel Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Branch

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Vice President Alvarez called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular and Special Meeting of November 18, 2021. Commissioner Chase made such motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bayne. There being no objections, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

Vice President Alvarez called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 8, 2021. Commissioner Halper made such motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bayne. There being no objections, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments on matters within the Board's jurisdiction were invited, three such requests were submitted.

GENERAL MANAGER'S UPDATE

Anthony-Paul Diaz, Executive Officer and Chief of Staff, began his comments by sharing a few updates from the past year. Mr. Diaz mentioned in our Recreation Branch our fall 2021 all-star City wide minor and major league tournaments took place on December 4th through the 11th. He mentions even in the challenging times of operations the department was able to offer such fall programs as girls' volleyball, girls and coed soccer and coed flag football teams. The ages range from youth to teenagers. The total participation from all of our three active regions was six hundred and ninety-five. Which represented four hundred and thirty-five girls and two hundred and sixty boys. Mr. Diaz mentioned that the departments winter programs were now open for registration on our laparks.org website.

He shared a couple highlights from aquatics the department had its lifeguard and open water academy graduation on December 4th. We had seventy-eight new pool lifeguards and twenty-five of them were female. The top scoring recruit was a female by the name of Tammy Ta and she stood out as an exemplary graduate. He also wanted to share that sixty-eight of the graduates are directly from the Los Angeles area. He mentions that we had graduates that were a part of our pipe line program. And we welcomed graduates from Council District 1, 8, 9 and 13 which are all a part of the Mayors hire LA Youth recruitment program. He felt we had great representation and demographics from these communities and would like to acknowledge the success of the program.

Mr. Diaz mentioned Echo Park Recreation Center playground opening on December 2nd. He also mentioned that Expo Center and Harbor City Recreation hosted some fantastic winter events with snow and a lot of family fun. He thanked the staff that put those programs together.

Mr. Diaz mentioned that the department's Emergency Operations section continues to be activated and supporting COVID related requirements. And are on standby to assist with any new mandates that are being rolled out. Whether it is to serve as places of refuge or places of vaccine distribution.

Mr. Diaz provided an update on the steps RAP has developed to evaluate the current operations of the Pony Rides based on many reports that the department has received. Mr. Diaz stated that the department has hired an independent consultant who will be conducting an evaluation of the pony ride operations independent of the current operator to develop a comprehensive report and an assessment on the animals and to provide some detailed analysis. He also provided an update on Potrero Canyon. He mentioned that the department is working very closely with the community stake holders, Bureau of Engineering and Council District 11 to review several analysis and the environmental review applications and the various coastal permits that were issued on the project. To ensure that the entrance along Friend street that has been raised by community members are part of the process. So, we may better address the concerns of this project.

Mr. Diaz on behalf of the General Manager and all of the Assistant General Managers went on to thank all of our Recreation and Parks staff as well as the Commissioners for all their hard work this year during the pandemic. He went on to say he felt this was another time to highlight the importance of Parks and it amplifies our reach as healing agents. He went on to thank the Commissioners and wish them a very Happy Holidays.

VERBAL REPORT AND FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCING PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953 (AB 361)

Vice President Alvarez reported that the board must consider a determination, Board to Consider a determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members of this Board, and the ability of the members of all of this Board's advisory bodies, including, but not limited to, all park advisory boards, the Greek Theatre Advisory Committee, and the Golf Advisory Committee, as well as the public who might attend these meetings, to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Commissioner Chase made motion for approval of such findings and Commissioner Bayne seconded the motion.

Public comment relevant to this item were invited, with no requests submitted. There being no objection to the motion, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

BOARD REPORTS

21-203 Valley Plaza Park – Electric Upgrades (PRJ21484) Project – Approval of Change Order - Commitment of Park Fees – Statutory Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article II, Section 2(i) of City CEQA Guidelines and Section 21082 of California Public Resources Code

Ligaya Khennavong, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-203.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-204 Parcel Map No. AA-2021-6412-PMLA – Recommendation to The Advisory Agency for Land Dedication or In-Lieu Park Fee Payment

Ligaya Khennavong, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-204.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-205 Vesting Tentative Tract (VTT) No. 73895 – Recommendation to The Advisory Agency for Land Dedication or In-Lieu Park Fee Payment

Ligaya Khennavong, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-205.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-206 Watts Skate Park – New Skate Park (PRJ20577) Project – Approval of Final Plans – Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between The Department of Transportation and The Department of Recreation and Parks for the Joint Use of a Portion of The Watts Skate Park Property – Donation from The Skatepark Project Foundation and The Annenberg Foundation Through the Los Angeles Parks Foundation – Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Related Findings Pursuant to The California Environmental Quality Act

Darryl Ford,. Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-206.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-207 Winnetka Recreation Center – Outdoor Park Improvements (PRJ21539) (Prj21540) Project – Allocation of Quimby Fees and Zone Change Fees – Commitment of Park Fees – Categorically Exempt from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant To Article Iii, Section 1, Class 4(1) [Grading On Land With a Slope of Less Than Ten Percent (10%)], Class 4(3) [New Gardening, and Landscaping], Class 4(12) [Minor Trenching and Backfilling Where the Surface is Restored], and 11(6) [Construction And Placement Of Minor Structures Accessory to (Appurtenant To) Existing Institutional Facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15304(a), 15304(b), 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Darryl Ford,. Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-207.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-208 Ross Snyder Recreation Center – New Dog Park (PRJ21467) Project-Request for Ordinance

Darryl Ford,. Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-208.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-209 As-Needed Park Facility Construction, Retrofit, Maintenance, and/or Repairs – Flatwork Concrete – Award of Contract

John Busby, Sr. Management Analyst, Planning, Special Operations Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-209.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-210 Griffith Park – Greek Theatre – First Amendment to Site Lease Agreement Between the City of Los Angeles and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC; Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 3(4) [Installation of New Equipment Involving Negligible or No Expansion of Use if Required for Safety and The Public Convenience] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15303 of California CEQA Guidelines

Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-210.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-211 Pan Pacific Park – Authorization to Acquire State Owned Property at Pan Pacific Park - Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 25 [Transfers of Ownership of Interests in Land in Order to Preserve Open Space] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15325(f) of California CEQA Guidelines

Bryan Miller, Management Analyst, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-211.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-212 Amendment to Personnel Resolution No. 10592 – Section 1C (One-Time Positions) And Section 1H (Other Special Funded Positions)

Harold Fujita, Personnel Director III, Human Resources Division, presented Board Report No. 21-212.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-213 Vesting Tentative Tract (VTT) No. 83441 – Recommendation to The Advisory Agency for Land Dedication or In-Lieu Park Fee Payment

Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-213.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-214 Chatsworth Park South – Land Use Covenant and Agreement – Environmental Restrictions with California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC); Consideration of Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Approved on June 5, 2013

Ian Kim, Management Analyst, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-214.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-215 Vesting Tentative Tract (VTT) No. 83550 – Recommendation to The Advisory Agency for Land Dedication or In-Lieu Park Fee Payment

Ligaya Khennavong, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-215.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-216 Van Nuys Sherman Oaks War Memorial Park – Naming of Gymnasium Building as “Rafer Johnson Gymnasium” – Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) [Signs Located on City Property Managed by a City Department Which Has a Sign Policy Adopted by its Board of Commissioners] and Class 11(6) [Placement of Minor Structures Accessory to Existing or Institutional Facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Ligaya Khennavong, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-216.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-217 Vesting Tentative Tract (VTT) No. 83510 – Recommendation to The Advisory Agency for Land Dedication or In-Lieu Park Fee Payment

Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-217.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-218 Jim Gilliam Child Care Center and Ralph M. Parsons Preschool at Expo Center – California Department of Education 2022-2023 California State Preschool Program – Approval of Submission of Funding Application; Authorization to Execute Application; Adopt Resolutions

Belinda Jackson, Executive Director, EXPO Center, presented Board Report No. 21-218.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-219 Orchard Avenue Park – Security Improvements (PRJ21537) Project – Allocation of Quimby Fees – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(2) [Minor Alteration of Existing Facilities for Electrical Power, Serving Existing Facilities], Class 1(12) [Outdoor Lighting for Security and Operations] and Class 2(3) [Replacement or Reconstruction Of Existing Utility Systems and/or Facilities Involving Negligible or No Expansion of Use] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301 and 15302(c) of California CEQA Guidelines

Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-219.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-220 Griffith Park – Tom LaBonge Panorama Improvements and Memorial Plaque – Acceptance of Donation – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) [Exterior Alterations Involving Minor Construction Where There be Negligible or No Expansion of Use], Class 2 [Replacement of Existing Structures where the New Structure will be Located on the Same Site and have Substantially The Same Purpose and Capacity as The Structure Replaced], Class 11(5) [Signs Located on City Property Managed by a City Department Which Has a Sign Policy Adopted by Its Board of Commissioners], and Class 11(6) [Placement of Minor Structures Accessory to Existing Institutional Facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(a), 15302 and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-220.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-221 Chase Park – Renaming of Park As “Sean Brown Park” – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) [Installation of Signs Located on City Property Managed by a City Department which has a Sign Policy Adopted by its Board of Commissioners] of City CEQA Guidelines and to Article 19, Section 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Ligaya Khennavong, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-221.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-222 Griffith Park – Greek Theatre – Second Amended and Restated Agreement with SMG for Oversight and Management of the Greek Theatre and Franklin’s Market & Café at the Roosevelt Golf Course and Amendment to the Greek Theatre User Agreement

Rachel Ramos, Sr. Management Analyst II, Special Operations Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-222.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS

There were no comments from Neighborhood Council Representatives relative to the Agenda Items being considered.

BOARD REPORT PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD REPORTS

Public comments relevant to the Board Reports were requested; four such requests were submitted. Vice President Alvarez requested a Motion to approve the Board Reports as presented. It was moved by Commissioner Chase and seconded by Commissioner Bayne that the Board Reports be approved as listed above. There being no objections, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

COMMISSION TASK FORCE UPDATES

Commission Task Force on Concessions

Commissioner Chase reported that this Task Force met and discussed the Sherman Oaks Castle Park being scheduled to re-open. Commissioner Chase also mentioned the renovations being continued at Rancho Cienega Park. Commissioner Chase also mentioned the goal is to reopen Woodley Golf Restaurant. She mentioned Harbor Park Golf which had been closed for some time has reopened with limited hours.

Commission Task Force on Facility Repair and Maintenance

Commission Vice President Alvarez reported that this Task Force met and discussed the Streets along park edges Project, a collaboration with the Street Services department which will be presented to the full Commission soon. Commissioner Alvarez said they discussed a donation of a playground by the Warner family foundation to the Ramon Garcia Recreation Center and a proposed donation plaque.


COMMISSION BUSINESS

Comments from the Commissioners on Matters within the Board's jurisdiction and Requests by Commissioners to Schedule Specific Future Agenda Items were requested. Commissioner Halper requested an update on Potrero Canyon regarding the local access to friend street. Commissioner Chase thanked the department for the update on the Griffith Pony rides.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

ATTEST



PRESIDENT



BOARD SECRETARY