


INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

September 7, 2023

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager   
SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

<u>From</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
Griffith Park Pony Ride comments		Referred to General Manager
1) Paul Taylor comments regarding Stoner Park tennis court repairs	#9260a	Referred to General Manager
2) Sarajane Schwartz comments as Safety Chairperson of Hollywoodland HOA regarding Wildfire Assessment Report	#9436a	Referred to General Manager
3) Dean Dana comments regarding Van Nuys Park tennis courts	#9444	Referred to General Manager
4) Boback Ziaieian comments regarding Stoner Aquatics Permit	#9445	Referred to General Manager
5) Sean Frank as President of Porter Ranch Community Associations comments regarding new 50-acre Park in Porter Ranch	#9446	Referred to General Manager
6) Will Hawkins comments regarding LA Park Arts Opportunity	#9447	Referred to General Manager
7) Sheila Keiter comments regarding Holmby Park	#9448	Referred to General Manager
8) Jenine Giustocomments regarding Crystal Springs walkability	#9449	Referred to General Manager

9) Glenn Bailey of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council comments regarding Dearborn Park	#9450	Referred to General Manager
10) Rick Wilson comments regarding Bond Park	#9451	Referred to General Manager
11) Kevin Mullican comments regarding Riverside Drive Bridge Home	#9452	Referred to General Manager
12) Cameron Flanagan comments regarding Riverside Drive Bridge Home	#9452a	Referred to General Manager
13) Ron Bitzer comments regarding Quimby Park fees	#9453	Referred to General Manager
14) Kevin Rutkowski secretary of Silver Lake Neighborhood Council comments regarding disbursement of Quimby Funds	#9454	Referred to General Manager
15) Danny Boghossian comments regarding Venice Hope Park	#9455	Referred to General Manager
16) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Grove Park Graffiti	#9456	Referred to General Manager
17) Robin Murez comments regarding Venice Lifeguard Station Tower	#9457	Referred to General Manager
18) Patty Shenker comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Ride meeting	#9458	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Carolyn Shannon-Joyner, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: W.L.A. Stoner Park Tennis Court Repairs Neglect -- RAP PRJ21634

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Thu, Aug 24, 2023 at 10:16 AM

To: Paul Taylor &lt; &gt;

Cc: "RAP.STONERRC@LACITY.ORG" &lt;rap.stonerrc@lacity.org&gt;, "ester.alailima@lacity.org" &lt;ester.alailima@lacity.org&gt;, "marc.israel@lacity.org" &lt;marc.israel@lacity.org&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Aug 24, 2023 at 10:04 AM Paul Taylor < > wrote:

Michael Amster - Council Dist. 11:

I and dozens of regular W.L.A. Stoner Park tennis players are troubled by delay-after-delay of the **Sept. 2022 Approved and Funded Demolition and Replacement of Stoner Park tennis Courts 3 and 4 (Brd. of RAP Project PRJ21634)**. Stoner Park Staff have promised these repairs to 2 of the 6 Stoner courts (Courts 3 and 4) that have been closed, neglected and deteriorating for more than a year.

**Note:** Similar such Court repairs of 2 of the 6 Penn Mar Park, Mar Vista tennis courts (Brd. of RAP Project PRJ21691) were **approved Feb. 2023, and expeditiously began repairs in April 2023.**

Why have Stoner Park tennis court long-promised, funded and approved repairs been delayed and neglected while other similar Westside park tennis facilities have enjoyed recent prioritized and expedited tennis court repairs ??

Please prioritize and expedite **Approved and Funded Demolition and Replacement of Stoner Park tennis Courts 3 and 4 (Brd. of RAP Project PRJ21634)**.

**Paul Taylor -- Environmental Scientist**  
**Phone/Text ( ) Los Angeles**

--  
 City of Los Angeles  
 Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
 Figueroa Plaza  
 221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
 Fax: (213) 202-2610  
 Mail Stop: 625/15  
 Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: RAP Commissioners, MAUI' DEADLY FIRES---IS HOLLYWOODLAND NEXT?**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Aug 16, 2023 at 1:46 PM

To: Hollywoodland Homeowners Association &lt;

&gt;

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Aug 16, 2023 at 1:26 PM Official Hollywoodland Homeowners Association eMail <

&gt;

wrote:

"It looked like they were trying to get out, but were stuck in traffic."

"There are bodies everywhere."

"There were so many cars behind me."

[LA Times reporting on the fatality count in Maui.](#)

## MAUI' DEADLY FIRES---IS HOLLYWOODLAND NEXT?

Dear RAP Commissioners,

Last month the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association sent you and other City and State officials our formal Wildfire Assessment Report. Its findings are alarming. **It states a catastrophic wildfire event in Hollywoodland is not a matter of if--but when.** Residents commissioned this report after the Oakland Hills Fire and The Camp Fire where dozens of victims died in their cars trying to escape. Now we are learning the same about the deadly fire in Maui.

We, too, will have no way out as egress and ingress in our community is extremely limited. But the similar conditions in Hollywoodland are much worse! Our main artery dead ends at both ends. Every parked car on our much narrower, substandard residential hillside streets prevents two way traffic. Our neighborhood is 80% surrounded by dry brush in a very high fire severity zone. And add to these fragile conditions, the traffic from thousands of additional tourist vehicles that daily literally gridlock our streets beyond capacity and dwarf the traffic of residents. One disabled or abandoned car can stop all traffic. Also there is no ocean to jump into.

Yet the City persists in promoting and allowing this area for Hollywood Sign tourism. This is not a matter of neglect or ignorance, but a result of definitive actions--some illegal--taken by the City while refusing to do other actions to insure public safety.



We understand the historic significance of the Sign and why tourists and visitors want to see it, but conditions continue to deteriorate. We are a ticking time bomb like these other communities, but unlike them, we have presented you with a detailed fire report that presents not just these problems, but also the solutions which will prevent the next tragedy with its massive loss of life and property and soul searching afterwards. We are asking that tourists view the Sign from safely accessible supervised areas with appropriate infrastructure--not using our narrow streets. The report strongly states that the Hollywoodland community be gated to residents only. Is this too much to ask to avoid another Oakland Hills tragedy? Will you join us in this proactive approach? Will you stop taking actions that make conditions more dangerous? Will you help us make conditions safe? The alternative is unconscionable. All of this is in the public record. Maui is fresh in everyone's mind, and now is the time to act to make Hollywoodland safe.

Sarajane Schwartz  
Safety Chairperson  
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association Inc.

#### The historic 1961 Beachwood Fire

C.C.

***Governor***

Governor Newsom

***CA Senate***

Senator Allen

Senator Portantino

***CA Assembly***

Assembly Member Zbur

***Mayor***

Mayor Bass

***City Attorney***

City Attorney, Feldstein Soto

***Fire***

Chief Crowley

***Police***

Chief Moore

***Rec and Parks***

General Manager, Kim

Superintendent, Smith

RAP Commissioners

***City Controller***

Controller Mejia

***L.A. City Council***

Councilmember Raman

Councilmember Price

Councilmember Park

Councilmember McOsker

Councilmember Lee

Councilmember Krekorian

Councilmember Hernandez

Councilmember Harris-Dawson

Councilmember de León

Councilmember Blumenfield

[Councilmember Hutt](#)  
[Councilmember Rodriguez](#)  
[Councilmember Soto-Martinez](#)  
[Councilmember Yaroslavsky](#)

**EMD**  
[Emergency Medical Dispatch](#)

**Wildfire DefenseWorks**

[David Shew, CEO](#)

[John Vidovich, Former Fire Marshall, City of Los Angeles](#)



Share This Email



Share This Email

Hollywoodland Homeowners Association | 2700 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068

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Sent by [hha@hollywoodland.org](mailto:hha@hollywoodland.org) powered by



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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Van Nuys Park at 14301 Vanowen St**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Aug 14, 2023 at 9:40 AM

To: Dean Dana &lt;

&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Aug 10, 2023 at 7:59 PM Dean Dana < > wrote:

My friends and I frequent the tennis courts at the Van Nuys Park at 14301 Vanowen St, Van Nuys, CA 91405.

There is some serious lack of regular maintenance going on there. I'm not sure who is in charge at that location but it appears that nobody ever cleans the courts. There are weeds growing everywhere, the shrubs and bushes are growing out of control and are rarely trimmed. Human feces and urine are pretty much in every corner of the courts. Broken glass, dirt, litter and debris is commonplace. It's really a shame and as a long time valley resident, I've never seen our city parks in such poor conditions. Is there anything you can do about this ?

--  
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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Stoner Aquatics Permit Debacle**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Aug 15, 2023 at 9:21 AM

To: Boback Ziaeian &lt; &gt;

Cc: Sarah Mourra &lt; &gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Tue, Aug 15, 2023 at 8:22 AM Boback Ziaeian &lt; &gt; wrote:

Dear Commissioners

I planned in June to book Stoner Pool for my son's 8th birthday. After weeks of calling they finally issued me a permit for August 13 to start at 10am until 1pm. We showed up to the pool at 10am with his friends and guests and the pool staff were not there. There was no one call. Nothing for us to do. We had to cancel my son's 8th birthday and it was embarrassing and horrible for him.

The city aquatics program is terrible and people don't even care for the misery they caused. No one reached out to apologize. The whole system needs to change. You need to do something so stuff like this doesn't happen to other families that pay large taxes to support Los Angeles city services.

Sincerely,  
Boback Ziaeian

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: New 50-acre Park in Porter Ranch

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Aug 15, 2023 at 3:21 PM

To: Sean Frank <

Cc: "Councilmember John S. Lee" <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, Mayor Helpdesk <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, "gabby.maarse@lacity.org" <gabby.maarse@lacity.org>, "cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org" <cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org>, dina.elkinawy@lacity.org, "

< >, "apcnorthvalley@lacity.org" <apcnorthvalley@lacity.org>, Brad Watson < >, Nick Norvilas < >, Steve Mikhalevich < >, Brandon Grosh < >, Mikayla Mathews < >

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 15, 2023 at 3:07 PM Sean Frank < > wrote:

Please see the attached letter regarding the new 50-acre Park in Porter Ranch.

Sincerely,  
Sean

**SEAN B. FRANK**

Board of Directors - President

AVILA AT PORTER RANCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

*Managed by PMP Management*

Board of Directors - President

TUSCANY AT PORTER RANCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

*Managed by PMP Management*

Board of Directors – President

PORTER RANCH MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATION

*Managed by Seabreeze Management Company*

--  
City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza



c/o PMP Management, Inc.  
27220 Turnberry Lane  
Suite 150  
Valencia, CA 91355  
(661) 295-4900

**\*\*\*URGENT ATTENTION Regarding new 50-acre Park in Porter Ranch\*\*\***

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August 15, 2023

**John S. Lee**, Councilman for Council District 12, City of Los Angeles City Council

Via email: Councilmember.Lee@lacity.org

**Karen Bass**, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Via email: Mayor.HelpDesk@lacity.org

**Gabby Maarse**, Deputy Press Secretary for Mayor Bass

Via email: Gabby.Maarse@lacity.org

**Cathie Santo-Domingo**, Assistant General Manager, City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks

Via email: Cathie.SantoDomingo@lacity.org

**Dina Elkinawy**, Board of Building & Safety Commissioners Office

Via email: Dina.Elkinawy@lacity.org

**Michel R. Moore**, Chief of Police, LAPD

Via email: Contact.LAPDonline@gmail.com

CC:

Board of Commissioners, City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks

Via email: RAP.Commissioners@lacity.org

Area Planning Commission (APC), North Valley

Via email: APCNorthValley@lacity.org

Brad Watson, President, PMP Management, Inc.

Via email: Brad.Watson@PMPmanage.com

Nick Norvilas, Division President, Toll Brothers, Inc.

Via email: Nick.Norvilas@TollBrothers.com

Steve Mikhalevich, Vice President, Toll Brothers, Inc.

Via email: Smikhalevich@TollBrothers.com

**New 50-acres Park in Porter Ranch**

On behalf of the Avila at Porter Ranch Community Association's membership of 160 homeowners, the Board of Directors request the City of Los Angeles and Toll Brothers immediately stop further construction of the new

50-acres Park located at 11900 Mason Avenue, Porter Ranch, California 91326 because of a huge safety and security concern that needs to be addressed.

In the first quarter of 2023, the developer of the Park installed a solid brick wall from Porter Ranch Drive behind the Villagio gated community. That brick wall ends at the start of the Avila gated community and becomes a standard wrought-iron fence all the way behind Avila until Mason Avenue.

Original plans apparently included a gated entry into the Park from the Avila community. However, on or around May 2023, the association was informed by the developer that such gate was not being installed, as planned, because the City denied it due to safety concerns. The Avila at Porter Ranch Community Association applauds the City for taking such action.

Since such gate is no longer being installed, there is no reason why the solid brick wall already existing behind the Villagio gated community cannot be extended behind the Avila gated community to Mason Avenue. This solid brick wall will help alleviate noise complaints and trespassing into the Avila community. It will also help to prevent any safety and security concerns residents have from the public using the new Park.

Just last night/early this morning (August 15, 2023 at approximately 2:00 A.M.), a man jumped the wrought iron fence from the Park into Avila to break into vehicles parked along Carabela Court. (see photos attached)

**The Avila at Porter Ranch Community Association kindly request that the City of Los Angeles require the developer to extend the solid brick wall all the way from Porter Ranch Drive to Mason Avenue.**

Sincerely yours,

AVILA AT PORTER RANCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
Board of Directors

*Sean B. Frank*

---

Sean B. Frank, Board President on behalf of the association

###

This photograph shows the existing **solid brick wall** from Porter Ranch Drive all the way behind the Villagio community.



These photographs shows the **wrought iron fence** from Mason Ave all the way behind the Avila community.



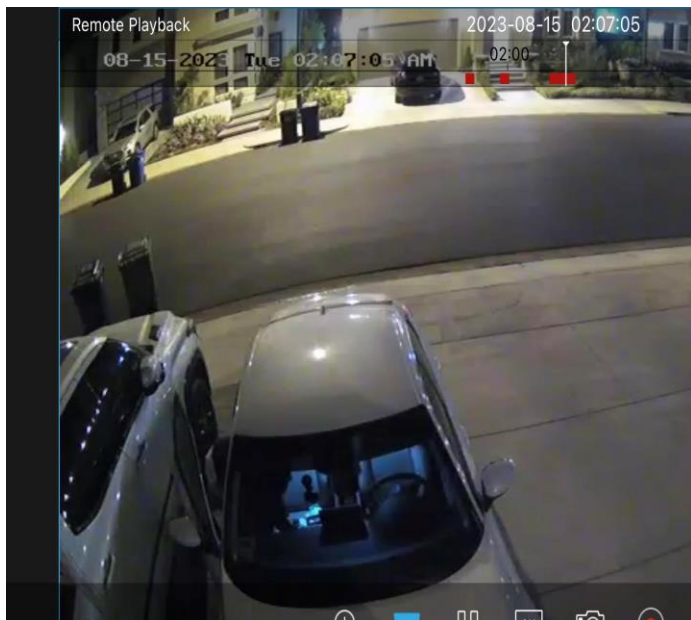




These photographs show the patch of grass inside Avila, where Toll Brothers took out the cement sidewalk leading into the park. And it shows how they left the “cut” wrought iron fence.



These photographs show a man jumping the wrought iron fence into the Avila community on August 15, 2023 at approximately 2:00 A.M. from the Park – and walking along Carabela Court before breaking into vehicles.





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: LA Park Arts Opportunity**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Aug 14, 2023 at 9:43 AM

To: Will Hawkins &lt;

&gt;

Cc: Marianna Varviani &lt;

&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Aug 11, 2023 at 4:21 PM Will Hawkins &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Greetings Commissioner;

My name is Will Hawkins and I'm a former Community Officer with the Venice Neighborhood Council and Chairman of the Venice Homeless Committee. I worked with former Mayor Eric Garcetti to bring Bridge Housing to the Westside. In my non-community organizing life I work as a marketing consultant and performing arts advocate and I'm writing to you today representing a cutting edge and dynamic LA-based dance company called "Selcouth" and we're looking to provide free live music and dance performances to communities in and around Los Angeles.

As an elected official I learned that each council member has discretionary funds to distribute to local programs that serve their districts and commissioners. I was able to take advantage of those types of funds to execute the Venice Family Reunification Program that ultimately assisted over 100 people off the streets and back home with their families.

I also participated in numerous live music performances for Venice, Westchester and Mar Vista neighborhoods that were underwritten by former councilman Mike Bonin's office. I'm hoping that we can create like-minded partnerships with your office to bring modern dance to your constituents. Can you please connect me with your Field Deputy overseeing these types of programs?

Thanks!

Will

Will Hawkins

Director of Operations

--





# ArtTruck/LA

ART TRUCK LA serves as an alternative way to present live artistic performances. Selcouth has created a mobile stage on a flatbed truck. The ART TRUCK hosts live dance, theater, and music performances free for its audiences!

Each event is unique, sharing the works of different artists curated for each specific location. ART TRUCK LA aims to start an artistic dialogue between neighborhoods, communities, and local artists. A community-binding experience, bringing people together to experience art. We have teamed up with some of the most talented artists in LA!

The first Art Truck LA event took place at The Other Art Fair, at Santa Monica's historic Barker Hangar, in April 2023.



Sponsored by Dance Resource Center





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Holmby Park**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To:

Wed, Aug 16, 2023 at 12:43 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Aug 16, 2023 at 11:11 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: < >  
Date: Thu, Aug 10, 2023 at 2:14 PM  
Subject: Holmby Park  
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Hello,

I am a regular user of Holmby Park. I run around the outside perimeter track once or twice a week. I wanted to draw your attention to the fact that the asphalt surface of that track is starting to show its age and really needs to be resurfaced soon. I have tripped and fallen on cracks in the asphalt three times over the past year or so, including this last Sunday. Thankfully, I have suffered no significant injuries – the worst one was a few scrapes and some torn up skin. However, Holmby Park is regularly used by many older patrons, some showing up with physical therapists helping them to regain mobility. A fall for one of these people could prove far more devastating.

Holmby Park is a wonderful resource for our community, and it would be great to see it in top shape for the safety of its users.

By the way, whoever was involved in remodeling the playground, well done!

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sheila Keiter

--

**Department of Recreation and Parks**  
**Public Information Office**  
Email: [rap.publicinfo@lacity.org](mailto:rap.publicinfo@lacity.org)  
Phone: 213-202-2700  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Crystal Springs walkability**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To:

Wed, Aug 16, 2023 at 12:43 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Aug 16, 2023 at 11:12 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jenine Giusto** < >  
Date: Thu, Aug 10, 2023 at 2:39 PM  
Subject: Crystal Springs walkability  
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Hello,

I went for a 30-min walk today on the pavement at Crystal Springs, which afforded me a few loops around. Wanted to submit feedback that it might be nice to make this section of Griffith Park more accessible to those with disabilities.

Perhaps a sidewalk or wooden walking path could be designed to connect the grassy areas and the roadway. This could make it easier for strollers and wheelchairs alike to enjoy the entire breadth of the area!

Thanks for taking the time,

Jenine Giusto  
Burbank resident/ Griffith Park patron

--

**Department of Recreation and Parks**  
**Public Information Office**  
Email: [rap.publicinfo@lacity.org](mailto:rap.publicinfo@lacity.org)  
Phone: 213-202-2700  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!



--  
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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Community Impact Statement - Submission Details

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Tue, Aug 15, 2023 at 9:09 AM

To: Glenn Bailey &lt;

&gt;

Cc:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 15, 2023 at 12:43 AM LA City SNow &lt;

&gt; wrote:

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enable by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or rResolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website.Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Councils rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [empowerla@lacity.org](mailto:empowerla@lacity.org).

\*\*\*\*\* This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. \*\*\*\*\*

### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Northridge East

Name: Glenn Bailey

Email:

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(10) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 06/21/2023

Type of NC Board Action: For

### Impact Information

Date: 08/15/2023

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Council File Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Following six months of outreach efforts\* at Dearborn Park, the Northridge East Neighborhood Council

requests that the Department of Recreation and Parks enforce the existing Dearborn Park regulations and rules, including orders to cease and desist and the issuance of citations (fines) to violating vendors and individuals.

\*Regarding the outreach efforts, please see attached flyer.

Ref:MSG8828051

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City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

DEARBORN PARK  
17141 Nordhoff St. Northridge, CA 91325



# DEARBORN PARK

## No Permits are issued for Dearborn Park.

All picnic areas are first come, first serve.




You may get a picnic permit with Jumpers at the following parks:

**Granada Hills RC (818) 363-3556**  
16730 Chatsworth St. Granada Hills, CA 91344

**Northridge RC (818) 349-7341**  
18300 Lemarsh St. Northridge, CA 91324

Please clean up after yourself.

## REGULATIONS

-  Jumpers, Moonbounces
-  Amplified sound or Live bands
-  Alcohol and Drugs
-  Driving on grounds
-  BBQ's, Charcoal Grills
-  Large canopies or tents
-  Loitering

LAMC 63.44

**RULES will be enforced!** Respect the neighbors and the park grounds





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Bond Park Dog Park?

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Aug 17, 2023 at 3:49 PM

To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Thu, Aug 17, 2023 at 3:20 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rick Wilson** < >

Date: Thu, Aug 17, 2023 at 12:41 PM

Subject: Bond Park Dog Park?

To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Hello!

I'm an Atwater Village resident, I was thinking it would be great if there was a dog park at the bond area/park, it seems very unused at the moment.

<https://www.laparks.org/park/bond-area>

Is there a way to get the ball rolling on that or something? Also forgive me if this is a naive idea, I just have walked by that park a bunch and it seems like it is under used and has potential for something small like that, I don't even have a dog... yet!

I've found that dog parks can really bring the community together, and it would be nice for Atwater Village to have some of that too.

Thanks,

**Rick Wilson**

--

**Department of Recreation and Parks  
Public Information Office**

Email: [rap.publicinfo@lacity.org](mailto:rap.publicinfo@lacity.org)

Phone: 213-202-2700

Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Request to add an agenda item to receive an update from the Council District 4 Office on the progress to decommission the Riverside Drive Bridge Home shelter

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Mon, Aug 21, 2023 at 8:10 AM

To: Kevin Mullican <>  
Cc: RAP PublicInfo <rap.publicinfo@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Aug 18, 2023 at 4:15 PM Kevin Mullican <> wrote:

Dear Recreation and Parks Commission Board Members,

On June 1, 2023, this Recreation and Parks Commission voted to allow the extension of the Riverside Drive Bridge Home lease for an additional year, beyond the original three year lease, in opposition to public outcry. As part of this concession, the Commission was promised by the Council District 4 representative, Geoff Kees Thompson, that the Council District 4 Office would collaborate with the Riverside Drive Bridge Home operator, PATH Metro, to create and communicate a plan to the community to achieve shelter closure within the year timeframe (by June 2024), as well as report back to the Recreation and Parks Commission with said plan at an upcoming Board meeting.

As a resident of the Los Feliz neighborhood in which the Riverside Drive Bridge Home is located, I am requesting that this plan be devised and communicated to the community asap.

Through the "*Friends of Waverly*" lawsuit, the courts have confirmed that this Recreation and Parks Commission is the sole body with the authority to authorize the lease extension. Additionally, in such capacity, this Commission has a responsibility to monitor the progress of the shelter closure plans as promised by Council District 4 representative Kees Thompson in the June 2023 Commission Board meeting.

Since installation of the Riverside Drive Bridge Home, both crime and homelessness in the area immediately around the shelter have increased at three times the rate as in the surrounding Los Feliz community since the shelter was placed in the south Griffith Park area. This has had and continues to have a substantial negative impact on the public's ability to enjoy the public Griffith Park recreation facilities located in the same area as the shelter. This Commission is tasked with ensuring that the Park lands remain accessible to the entire public, not just a select few criminals and private drug dealers and gang members making their homes on Griffith Park lands.

I implore this Commission to confirm that the Council District 4 Office has engaged in plans to close the shelter, so that the public may once again enjoy the public Griffith Park facilities, and not live in fear that their children may be exposed to open drug use and smoke, violent acts, and ongoing gang member illegal and dangerous activities.

I anticipate a reply from the Board of Recreation and Parks Commission as to when the shelter closure will be agendized for community input and information dissemination. I may be reached at

or ( ) .

Sincerely,  
Kevin Mullican  
20+ year resident and volunteer in Los Feliz

Today's the day.

--

City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
Fax: (213) 202-2610  
Mail Stop: 625/15  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners  
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 350  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via mail and email:  
rap.publicinfo@lacity.org  
rap.commissioners@lacity.org

August 18, 2023

RE: Request to add an agenda item to receive an update from the Council District 4 Office on the progress to decommission the Riverside Drive Bridge Home shelter

Dear Recreation and Parks Commission Board Members,

On June 1, 2023, this Recreation and Parks Commission voted to allow the extension of the Riverside Drive Bridge Home lease for an additional year, beyond the original three year lease, in opposition to public outcry. As part of this concession, the Commission was promised by the Council District 4 representative, Geoff Kees Thompson, that the Council District 4 Office would collaborate with the Riverside Drive Bridge Home operator, PATH Metro, to create and communicate a plan to the community to achieve shelter closure within the year timeframe (by June 2024), as well as report back to the Recreation and Parks Commission with said plan at an upcoming Board meeting.

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I implore this Commission to confirm that the Council District 4 Office has engaged in plans to close the shelter, so that the public may once again enjoy the public Griffith Park facilities, and

not live in fear that their children may be exposed to open drug use and smoke, violent acts, and ongoing gang member illegal and dangerous activities.

I anticipate a reply from the Board of Recreation and Parks Commission as to when the shelter closure will be agendized for community input and information dissemination. I may be reached at \_\_\_\_\_ or ( ) .

Sincerely,  
Kevin Mullican  
20+ year resident and volunteer in Los Feliz

cc:  
Los Angeles City Attorney, Hydee Feldstein Soto office and Deputy City Attorney Steven Hong  
Los Feliz Improvement Association  
Friends of Griffith Park  
Griffith Park Advisory Board  
Los Feliz Neighborhood Council  
Northeast LAPD Senior Lead Officers Leo Rey and Gina Pailii  
Office of Council District 4 Representative Nithya Raman



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Please agendize the Riverside A Bridge Home shelter at every RAP Commission meeting

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Aug 21, 2023 at 8:09 AM

To: Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>

Cc: Cameron Flanagan <

Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Aug 18, 2023 at 4:03 PM Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Cameron,

Thank you for your email. I am not able to agendize items for the commission meetings. Any requests for our Board of Commissioners can be sent to this email [+Rap Commissioners](mailto:+RapCommissioners). I am also forwarding this request for you to them.

 LA Parks



### Brenda D Aguirre MPA

Assistant General Manager, City of Los Angeles

Department of Recreation and Parks

**(213) 202-2633**

221 N Figueroa St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

[www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org) AND [www.SwimLA.org](http://www.SwimLA.org)

On Fri, 18 Aug 2023 at 15:51, Cameron Flanagan <

> wrote:

Dear Ms. Aguirre, Dear Mr. Kim,

Please place the Riverside Drive Bridge Home shelter on the Rec & Parks (RAP) Commission meeting agendas until the public and the Commission can hear a report and regular reports from the Council District 4 as per Geoff Kees Thompson's agreement at the June 1 RAP Board Commission meeting about a timeline for decommissioning the Bridge Home shelter.

If there are any questions or concerns, please let me know. I appreciate in advance your agreement to complete this request and look forward to a more open public discussion about the shelter at future RAP Board meetings.

Sincerely,  
Cmeron

--

City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Pending City Council Action on Quimby Funds for a CD#10 Project**

1 message

---

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Aug 21, 2023 at 8:12 AM

To: Ron Bitzer &lt;

&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Aug 20, 2023 at 4:20 PM Ron Bitzer &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Sir or Madam,

Please refer to the attachment. This is not a public records request. Ron Bitzer, North Hollywood

--

City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Fax: (213) 202-2610  
Mail Stop: 625/15  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



DATE: August 19, 2023  
 TO: File  
 cc: Van Nuys NC, RAP Commissioners  
 FROM: Ron Bitzer, North Hollywood ( )  
 RE: City Councilmember Employs a 115 Word Motion  
 To Direct \$700K in Restricted Quimby Park Fees  
 From Recreation and Parks to a New CD#10 Project

City fees charged to developers of nonexempt residential units (called Development Fees or Quimby Park Fees) are managed by City Planning when calculated for larger projects and by Recreation and Parks when disbursed for capital improvements or new park land.

**Example: City Practice of Accessing Quimby Capital Improvement Funds (2020-2023)**

North Hollywood residents conducted in 2020-23 a conventional lobbying effort to encourage Councilmember Paul Krekorian to access City Quimby Park Fees for a capital improvement project located near a new major 642 unit residential development. Months later, a \$1,500,000 park project at Laurel Grove Park is currently underway resulting from cooperation among Krekorian’s staff, Recreation and Parks and the neighborhood association (May 15, 2023, press release attached).

The November 17, 2022, Department of Recreation and Parks 5 year Quimby Park Fee report showed the following allocation for **Laurel Grove Park** (see excerpt below)

2	Valley Plaza Park	Laurel Grove Playground Replacement	PRJ21448/PRJ21476	\$349,691.00	\$673,740.61	\$273,740.99	\$202,827.40	<b>\$1,500,000.00</b>
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**A New Model for Accessing Quimby Funds in 2023?**

Councilwoman Heather Hutt for CD#10 has requested City Council assistance in allocation of \$700,000.00 for specified capital improvements to a CD#10 park, **Reynier Park**.

Recreation and Parks would be tasked with providing “... a comprehensive and detailed work plan and schedule for making capital improvements at Reynier Park ... to be funded with \$700,000 in CD-10 Quimby funds,” CF 23-0866 Motion. Unknown is whether Councilwoman Hutt’s motion represents dissatisfaction with the current Quimby Park Fee process or only a single fact pattern.

# MOTION

Reynier Park in Council District 10 is in need of many capital improvements including cameras and lighting, removing and replacing pergolas, replacing drinking fountains with sport bottle fills, replacing the playground equipment, installing new benches, relocating existing benches, and installing exercise equipment.

This effort is of vital benefit to the community which is served by Reynier Park and there are Council District 10 Quimby Funds which could be designated for this purpose.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks be directed to report with a comprehensive and detailed work plan and schedule for making capital improvements at Reynier Park in Council District 10 to be funded by \$700,000 in CD-10 Quimby Funds.

PRESENTED **BY** \_\_\_\_\_

HEATHER HUTT

Councilwoman, 10<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



ORIGINAL

Meanwhile, Councilwoman Hutt’s way of promoting a park project in underserved communities in the City raises questions pertinent to Quimby Park Fee reform as enacted in 2016 by City Council (Municipal Ordinance 184,505).

For example, Quimby Park Fee payments to the City establish a “fee expenditure radius,” or a distance from the residential development project for use of fees (namely a 2, 5 or 10 mile radius). In August 2020 a maximum of \$767,188.66 had accrued in restricted Quimby Park Fees for financing capital improvements at Reynier Park.

- What is the maximum funding the “fee expenditure radius” currently allows for Reynier Park to satisfy the “nexus” argument for nearby projects?
- Do pending projects have a claim on any of this current maximum value?
- How will inflation impact any future requests to authorize additional financing, given the current value of maximum funding?
- Will City Council consider State-allowed modifications to a 2-mile “fee expenditure radius” for neighborhood parks? This change has been recommended by expert observers of Quimby reform and would potentially benefit underserved communities in the City.

The Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission, which makes decisions about allocation of park fees, does not have an equity framework or formal process that considers equity to guide its decisions, “Development Fees and Park Equity in Los Angeles,” Rigolon, Giamarino & Christensen, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 2023, p. 10.

- Assuming Council approves the CD#10 Motion, how does this new project (i.e. a project not named in the Recreation and Parks Quimby Park Fee report 22-288) affect the progress of pending projects in that Council District? Recreation and Parks reported several CD#10 projects in progress in the November 17, 2022, report.

CD	Park	Project with Committed Funds
10	Baldwin Hills Recreation Center	New Batting Cages
10	Baldwin Hills Recreation Center	Outdoor Park Improvements
10	Baldwin Hills Recreation Center	Play Area Renovation Project

10	Benny H Potter West Adams Avenues Memorial Park (Second Ave Park)	Lighting and Security Cameras
10	Claude Pepper Senior Citizens Center	Senior Center Improvements
10	Eleanor Green Roberts Aquatic Center	Pool Improvements
10	Jim Gilliam Recreation Center	New Play Area and Splash Pad
10	Lafayette Park	Outdoor Park Improvements
10	Pio Pico Park (Future)	Park Lease and Development
10	Queen Anne Recreation Center	Lighting and Security Cameras
10	Queen Anne Recreation Center	Roof Renovation
10	Rancho Cienega Sports Complex	Ballfield Fencing and Netting
10	Rancho Cienega Sports Complex	Celes King III Pool Demolition
10	Rancho Cienega Sports Complex	Phase 1B

**Self-help by City Council District  
for the Current Operation of Quimby Park Fees**

Councilmembers do the bidding of constituents by leapfrogging City practices and seeking City Council action. Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky of CD#5, for example, seconded the Councilwoman Hutt's CF 23-0866 motion and herself seeks Council action in securing funding for purchase of 260+ acres of open space near Bel Air (CF 23-0129).

Called Senderos Canyon, this project did not appear on Recreation and Parks' Active Project list in the November 17, 2022, report for CD#5.

**Public Information** in Annual Reports by the Department of Recreation and Parks

The Board of Recreation and Parks commissioners receive and publish annual updates for Quimby as follows:

1. Fees Collected (by Council District)
2. Total Expenditures (by CD)
3. Active Projects with Committed Fund Balance (by CD) --- *Every 5 Years*
4. Uncommitted Funds (Total)

Public records act requests have been sent to [RAP.Commissioners@lacity.org](mailto:RAP.Commissioners@lacity.org) for the following Quimby issues:

- Uncommitted funds by Council District
- My November 2022 request for clarification of how the City promotes and responds to developers' asking for a refund of Quimby Park Fees that remain uncommitted after 5 years.

Attachment: May 15, 2023, press release, Laurel Grove Park project, North Hollywood

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 15, 2023



CONTACT: Diann Corral  
LGNA  
818-209-1388

**A COOPERATIVE EFFORT BY COUNCIL DISTRICT #2, LAUREL GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS**

North Hollywood .... The Laurel Grove Neighborhood Association’s members and residents invite you to visit this park before you leave today and to return when major park amenities have been added.

The community gratefully appreciates plans for:

- Walking and wheelchair trails that are American with Disabilities Act compliant with new outdoor fitness stations.
- New playground equipment with safe and clean resilient surfacing and shade.
- New group picnic area with picnic tables, hydration station, pet fountain, shade canopy, and game tables.
- New butterfly garden
- New shrub, ground cover and visually pleasing hedge plantings.
- New LED lighting

As conservationist John Muir said about his time away from nature, “I am degenerating into a machine for making money.” We need nature.

As new residents move into this North Hollywood neighborhood, this groundbreaking ceremony shows that the City is seeking to do more than just keeping pace with population growth.

I would like to acknowledge specifically the cooperative planning and funding efforts that have preceded today’s ceremony. **Jackie Keene**, Director of Community Improvements for Council President Paul Krekorian, and **General Manager Jimmy Kim** and his senior managers at Recreation and Parks listen to our suggestions for this park. Thank you.

**Council President Paul Krekorian** himself has led major park and environmental capital improvements within a half mile of this project; City-wide as Chairperson of the Budget Committee he led a successful effort to add \$75 million to the current Recreation and Parks deferred maintenance account and to re-open City Childcare centers, including **Valley Plaza Childcare**.

*Over, please*

Council President Krekorian's projects in this neighborhood include (partial list):

1. Artificial Turf Soccer Fields at Whitsett Ave.
2. Sound wall construction along the 170 Freeway
3. Rhode Avenue Park Installation
4. New Valley Plaza Playground
5. US Attorney Measures to Counter MS-13 Gang Recruitment
6. Stormwater Capture at Ben Ave. and Victory Blvd.
7. Community Beautification within 1 Mile of NoHo West

Thank you, Paul.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Letter from Silver Lake Neighborhood Council**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Aug 22, 2023 at 9:15 AM

To: Kevin Rutkowski <

>

Cc: Ianthe Zevos <

>, Kristen Egermeier <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 22, 2023 at 8:56 AM Kevin Rutkowski <

> wrote:

Dear city officials,

Please find attached a letter from the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council requesting transparency for and community input into the disbursement of Quimby Funds within our neighborhood.

We look forward to your response and partnership.

--

**Kevin Rutkowski**, Region 2

Secretary, Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

[Website](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Newsletter](#)

*E-mail correspondence with me (including any attachments) may be subject to public disclosure under the California Public Records Act.*

--

City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
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Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)





### Serving the Silver Lake Community Since 2003

P.O. Box 26385  
Los Angeles, California 90026

Phone 323-413-SLNC (7562)  
Email [board@silverlakenc.org](mailto:board@silverlakenc.org)  
[www.silverlakenc.org](http://www.silverlakenc.org)

<b>Co-Chairs</b>	David Omenn Gloria E. Morales
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Joy Taira
<b>Treasurer</b>	Maebe A. Girl
<b>Secretary</b>	Kevin Rutowski

June 15th, 2023

[Darryl.Ford@lacity.org](mailto:Darryl.Ford@lacity.org)  
[rap.parkfees@lacity.org](mailto:rap.parkfees@lacity.org)  
[rap.comissioners@lacity.org](mailto:rap.comissioners@lacity.org)

re: Silver Lake Allocation of Quimby Funds | Request for audit

Dear City Officials:

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council is requesting transparency for and community input into the disbursement of Quimby Funds within our neighborhood.

Silver Lake has many development projects underway, some of which will trigger payments (park fees, or Quimby Funds) under Los Angeles Municipal Code. In conversations with the developers of one such project, Ryda, regarding the project underway at 3225 Sunset Boulevard, we understand that the fees generated could be as much as 2 million dollars, payable at the granting of Certificates of Occupancy for that project. This is one of many TOC projects currently slated for Sunset Boulevard within the boundaries of Silver Lake.

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council believes that Bellevue Park, a RAP property within the 2-mile distance required by code, would be a perfect recipient for Quimby funds. These funds could finance much-needed capital improvements at Bellevue such as:

- Repaving the basketball court
- Installing a shade structure for baseball bleachers
- Installing field lights
- Building a restroom by the baseball field
- Planting more trees by the bathrooms at Lucille, and planting more trees and plants, including natives, elsewhere in the park
- Installing adjustable backboards for the six basketball hoops
- Installing new and refurbishing current drinking fountains
- Repainting and varnishing the basketball floor

The Co-Chairs of the Green Committee have been attempting to discuss the upcoming payments into the Park Funds, mechanisms for directing expenditures of the funds according to the community's wishes, to no avail. The SLNC would like to have an accounting of Quimby Funds paid into the city, disbursements of those funds, and records of funds returned to developers after NOT being disbursed in the mandated 5-year period after receipt for the Silver Lake neighborhood.

The project mentioned above is one project out of many underway in our neighborhood. The SLNC would like to forge a relationship with RAP to ensure that additional funds are spent in the community according to community feedback. Ideas and funds for Laurel and Hardy Park, the Larissa Parkway and open-space acquisition are all topics we would like to explore.

Sincerely,



Kevin Rutkowski, Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Secretary

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

cc:

Mayor Karen Bass  
Controller Kenneth Mejia, Controller, City of LA  
Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, CD13  
Councilmember Nithya Raman, CD4  
City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto  
Department of City Planning

PRESENTED BY: SLNC Green Committee

SECONDED BY: CARLOS HURTADO

YES: 14 (Unanimous)

ON THIS DATE: 8/2/2023



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Venice Hope Park**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Aug 23, 2023 at 12:52 PM

To: dan &lt; &gt;

Cc: RAP PublicInfo &lt;RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org&gt;

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Aug 23, 2023 at 12:35 PM dan &lt; &gt; wrote:

Hello,

I was given this email address in regards to a specific park - Venice Hope Park. This park has been shut down/ locked up for a couple of years now. It has been well kept and it would be of great use to the local residents near and around it.

Would you be able to provide more information on when it will be opening up ?

Thank you very much,

Danny Boghossian

--

City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
Fax: (213) 202-2610  
Mail Stop: 625/15  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GANG GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Aug 24, 2023 at 1:12 PM

To: Garcia Incareal <

>

Cc: Valentine Brown <valentine.brown@lacity.org>, Yovonte Robinson <yovonte.robinson@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Aug 24, 2023 at 10:59 AM Garcia Incareal <

> wrote:

AUGUST 24

Council member Eunisses Hernandez

The Sycamore Grove Park has gang graffiti and several tree branches down.

Attach some pictures.

Mauro Garcia

--

City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Handwritten yellow graffiti on the wall, possibly reading "BK NE 4/19".





2VSS







Small green sign with white text, possibly a logo or name, located on the wall below the central window row.

Handwritten graffiti in brown paint, including the words "VAISON" and "DOKZIA" with a stylized signature.





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Venice Lifeguard Station Tower - Immediate Attention Required

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Tue, Aug 29, 2023 at 1:44 PM

To: Preserving Public Places Committee &lt;

&gt;

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" &lt;jimmy.kim@lacity.org&gt;, "matthew.Rudnick@lacity.org" &lt;matthew.Rudnick@lacity.org&gt;,

"noel.Williams@lacity.org" &lt;noel.Williams@lacity.org&gt;, "darryl.Ford@lacity.org" &lt;darryl.Ford@lacity.org&gt;,

cityatty.help@lacity.org, "Controller.mejia@lacity.org" &lt;Controller.mejia@lacity.org&gt;, "Councilmember.Park@lacity.org"

&lt;Councilmember.Park@lacity.org&gt;, Jeff Khau Traci Planning &lt;jeff.khau@lacity.org&gt;, "sean.Silva@lacity.org"

&lt;sean.Silva@lacity.org&gt;, thirddistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, Lambert Giessinger &lt;lambert.giessinger@lacity.org&gt;,

, Lindsay Mulcahy

&gt;, Donne.Brownsey@coastal.ca.gov,

kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov, Steve.Hudson@coastal.ca.gov, GJones@bh.lacounty.gov, wontiveros@bh.lacounty.gov,

cbaker@bh.lacounty.gov, "project.Restore@lacity.org" &lt;project.Restore@lacity.org&gt;, "nancy.Lopez@lacity.org"

&lt;nancy.Lopez@lacity.org&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 29, 2023 at 12:29 PM Preserving Public Places Committee &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Commissioners Simril, Sanchez, Lloyd, Hutton and Tran,

The previous RAP Commissioners halted the LA County Department of Beaches and Harbors DBH proposed demolition of our City owned iconic Venice Lifeguard Station Tower. City Council District 11 concurred.

DBH had misrepresented both the ownership of the building as well as its condition. The building is City owned and leased to DBH for \$1/year as part of the Joint Powers Agreement. This agreement requires DBH to maintain the building.

While the entire building is in need of significant repairs and maintenance, having been deferred by DBH for 20 years, the Tower portion requires a fraction of the overall building repairs. The cost of the Towers repairs is one quarter the \$1.2Million cost that DBH was planning for its demolition. The building is in use 24/7 for both beach maintenance and lifeguard services. The Tower portion needs repairs before it can again be utilized. Lifeguards and the community are eager to use it.

Over 1500 neighbors petitioned to save the Tower and, if not needed by Lifeguards, to enable it to be repurposed as a public venue such as an observation tower, Lifeguards and/or Oceanarium Museum.

Following through on the request from the previous RAP Commissioners the Venice Neighborhood Council, community, lifeguards, and the Los Angeles Conservancy commissioned the following reports:

**2023 Update of Building Repairs Assessment** - Conducted by the same firm previously commissioned by DBH in 2014. This is a comprehensive engineering and architectural analysis. The findings are summarized on its cover page including:

“If 1st floor improvements that are required for the entire building are addressed, the estimated cost for the 2nd and 3rd floor work may be reduced to \$275,480”.

**Historic Cultural Monument Nomination** - Application has been filed by the Los Angeles Conservancy in conjunction with the Venice Neighborhood Council. The merits are outstanding both for its architectural and cultural attributes.

**The community hopes that RAP and the City will enforce the requirements that DBH fulfill its maintenance responsibilities *immediately*, or take whatever steps are necessary, so as to prevent further degradation and enable use of this valuable and irreplaceable City asset.**

If the community is given the opportunity to repurpose the Tower portion, it will be a fabulous venue enabling public observation, access, research and appreciation of our coastline by the entire public, including underserved communities, residents and visitors to Venice Beach.

**Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please acknowledge your receipt and inform us of future developments.**

Sincerely,

Robin Murez

Chair, Preserving Public Places Committee Venice Neighborhood Council

LINKS:

**Joint Powers Agreement:** <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee64e79c7050cb2.pdf>

**2023 Venice Lifeguard Station Building Assessment:** <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee64e7978329443.pdf>

**Venice Lifeguard Station HCM Nomination Application:** <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee64e799294d4fb.pdf>

cc:

RAP Executive Staff: jimmy.Kim@LACity.org, matthew.Rudnick@LACity.org, noel.Williams@LACity.org, darryl.Ford@LACity.org

LA City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto [cityatty.help@lacity.org](mailto:cityatty.help@lacity.org)

LA City Controller Kenneth Mejia [controller.mejia@lacity.org](mailto:controller.mejia@lacity.org)

LA City Councilwoman District 11 [councilmember.park@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.park@lacity.org), jeff.Khau@LACity.org, sean.Silva@LACity.org

LA County Supervisor Lindsay Horvath [thirddistrict@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:thirddistrict@bos.lacounty.gov)

LA City Department of Planning, Office of Historic Resources [lambert.giessinger@lacity.org](mailto:lambert.giessinger@lacity.org)

LA Conservancy [afine@laconservancy.org](mailto:afine@laconservancy.org), [LMulcahy@laconservancy.org](mailto:LMulcahy@laconservancy.org)

CA Coastal Commission [Donne.Brownsey@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Donne.Brownsey@coastal.ca.gov), [kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov), [Steve.Hudson@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Steve.Hudson@coastal.ca.gov)

LA Department of Beaches & Harbors [GJones@bh.lacounty.gov](mailto:GJones@bh.lacounty.gov), [wontiveros@bh.lacounty.gov](mailto:wontiveros@bh.lacounty.gov), [cbaker@bh.lacounty.gov](mailto:cbaker@bh.lacounty.gov)

[project.Restore@LACity.org](mailto:project.Restore@LACity.org), [nancy.Lopez@LACity.org](mailto:nancy.Lopez@LACity.org)

Robin Murez  
Chair, Preserving Public Places Committee

--

City of Los Angeles  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
Fax: (213) 202-2610  
Mail Stop: 625/15  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

Date: August 29, 2023

Subject: Venice Lifeguard Station Tower - Immediate Attention Required

Dear Commissioners Simril, Sanchez, Lloyd, Hutton and Tran,

The previous RAP Commissioners halted the LA County Department of Beaches and Harbors DBH proposed demolition of our City owned iconic Venice Lifeguard Station Tower. City Council District 11 concurred.

DBH had misrepresented both the ownership of the building as well as its condition. The building is City owned and leased to DBH for \$1/year as part of the Joint Powers Agreement. This agreement requires DBH to maintain the building.

While the entire building is in need of significant repairs and maintenance, having been deferred by DBH for 20 years, the Tower portion requires a fraction of the overall building repairs. The cost of the Towers repairs is one quarter the \$1.2Million cost that DBH was planning for its demolition. The building is in use 24/7 for both beach maintenance and lifeguard services. The Tower portion needs repairs before it can again be utilized. Lifeguards and the community are eager to use it.

Over 1500 neighbors petitioned to save the Tower and, if not needed by Lifeguards, to enable it to be repurposed as a public venue such as an observation tower, Lifeguards and/or Oceanarium Museum.

Following through on the request from the previous RAP Commissioners the Venice Neighborhood Council, community, lifeguards, and the Los Angeles Conservancy commissioned the following reports:

**2023 Update of Building Repairs Assessment** - Conducted by the same firm previously commissioned by DBH in 2014. This is a comprehensive engineering and architectural analysis. The findings are summarized on its cover page including:

“If 1st floor improvements that are required for the entire building are addressed, the estimated cost for the 2nd and 3rd floor work may be reduced to \$275,480”.

**Historic Cultural Monument Nomination** - Application has been filed by the Los Angeles Conservancy in conjunction with the Venice Neighborhood Council. The merits are outstanding both for its architectural and cultural attributes.

**The community hopes that RAP and the City will enforce the requirements that DBH fulfill its maintenance responsibilities *immediately*, so as to prevent further degradation and enable use of this valuable and irreplaceable City asset.**

If the community is given the opportunity to repurpose the Tower portion, it will be a fabulous venue enabling public observation, access, research and appreciation of our coastline by the entire public, including underserved communities, residents and visitors to Venice Beach.

**Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please acknowledge your receipt and inform us of future developments.**

Sincerely, 

Robin Murez  
Chair, Preserving Public Places Committee  
of Council

LINKS:

**Joint Powers Agreement:** <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee64e79c7050cb2.pdf>

**2023 Venice Lifeguard Station Building Assessment:** <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee64e7978329443.pdf>

**Venice Lifeguard Station HCM Nomination Application:** <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee64e799294d4fb.pdf>

cc:

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LA City Controller Kenneth Mejia [controller.mejia@lacity.org](mailto:controller.mejia@lacity.org)

LA City Councilwoman District 11 [councilmember.park@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.park@lacity.org),  
[jeff.Khau@LACity.org](mailto:jeff.Khau@LACity.org), [sean.Silva@LACity.org](mailto:sean.Silva@LACity.org)

LA County Supervisor Lindsay Horvath [thirddistrict@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:thirddistrict@bos.lacounty.gov)

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[project.Restore@LACity.org](mailto:project.Restore@LACity.org) , [nancy.Lopez@LACity.org](mailto:nancy.Lopez@LACity.org)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Replacing the Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

---

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Patty Shenker <>

Fri, Sep 1, 2023 at 9:01 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Aug 31, 2023 at 9:18 AM Patty Shenker <> wrote:

Dear commissioners-  
This is my third attempt to get in touch with you and to schedule a meeting.  
I would appreciate hearing from you.  
Patty Shenker

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 14, 2023, at 1:02 PM, Patty Shenker <> wrote:

Hello again-  
I would appreciate hearing from you and setting up a meeting. **I learned in the last meeting that you are meeting with the horse people and I found that very disconcerting and unfair and I am therefore requesting that we animal activists get the same time and attention.**  
Thank you.  
Patty Shenker  
LA, Ca.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Patty Shenker <>  
**Date:** August 2, 2023 at 10:20:14 AM PDT  
**To:** Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
**Subject:** Replacing the Griffith Park Pony Rides

Dear Commissioners Jimmy Kim & others-

**I want to thank you again for ending the cruel pony rides and petting zoo. While this may have been acceptable in 1948 when it started, we have changed our attitude and treatment towards animals & this is outdated & needs to be replaced. I learned in the last meeting that you are meeting with the horse people and I found that very disconcerting and unfair and I am therefore requesting that we animal activists get the same time and attention. Please let me know when we can meet with you to discuss our ideas. I have repeatedly suggested Funbox.com. There are definitely BETTER options for kids of all ages than this antediluvian pony rides.**

**I want to tell you that the mini-horse sanctuary that adopted one of the ponies has had his full work up, his teeth floated & hooves trimmed on a regular rotation & is on a worming schedule. They noticed right away the pony was tripping a lot because he suffers from cataracts in both eyes. He is basically blind but luckily, the sanctuary knows the challenges that face their blind ponies.**

**So basically, an elderly, blind pony was forced to stand in the heat, wearing a saddle, pad and bit to carry kids, which is not humane or safe at all for the ponies or the children. Besides the pony's safety being compromised, his blindness compromised the kids' safety and the city could have faced liability for accidents.**

**I urge you to stick to your compassionate decision, despite complaints by the LA Equine community, which respectfully, does not have equines' best interests & will not accept the decision made. If they did, they would not only be glad about this decision but they would be outraged with the 45 horses who have been killed this year on Ca. race tracks and the other horses who are often severely hurt and killed in rodeos and support the LA ordinance to ban the tools used in rodeos.**

**In the last meeting in July, I wrote- "This summer of persistent heat waves daily with temperatures reaching triple digits should make it easier for you to decide to not bring in animals to replace the pony rides.**

**University researchers determined that horses succumb to heat stress 3-10 times faster than two-legged animals because they use a higher percentage of active muscles than two-leggeds do during exercise-muscles that produce a lot of heat during use.**

**Veterinarian Dr. David Ramey wrote- "People interested in riding the poor, hot critters then take the added step of covering up the body surface with a saddle & pad, which further reduces the area from which heat can be lost."**

**This heat is also dangerous to the families, posing an extreme risk for heat-related illnesses. High temperatures kill more Californians annually than any other type of natural disaster.**

**So let's put an end to the idea of bringing ponies back- or any other animals because that would be careless, crazy and inhumane and let's figure out the best activity to offer kids and their families!"**

**A reminder- On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Councilmember Nithya Raman, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember Paul Koretz, and Councilmember Curren Price submitted a motion that stated that although Stephen Weeks made some improvements the Griffith Park and Pony Rides continues to receive complaints of critical measures that did not ensure the well-being of the elderly ponies. This includes pushing elderly ponies in 100-degree temperature. With such knowledge, it is clear that the city cannot reform such**

**industries and ensure the safety and well being of children interacting/riding animals, or ensure that an operator is meeting guidelines that relate to California animal cruelty laws."**

**I look forward to hearing from you and meeting with you.  
Thank you for your time and attention.  
Patty Shenker**

--

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Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Adventure Playground Park**

1 message

---

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: BETSY BURMEISTER <

Mon, Aug 21, 2023 at 8:13 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Aug 20, 2023 at 5:19 PM BETSY BURMEISTER < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I thought that you might be interested to see this wonderful Adventure Playground on Long Island. It is geared to young children 3-6 years old. They love it!

This would be a wonderful activity to replace the ponies.

The older children could have Go carts which they would enjoy tremendously.

Thank you for allowing the ponies to enjoy their lives on farms and at sanctuaries.

Sincerely,

Betsy Burmeister

--

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# Adventure Playground



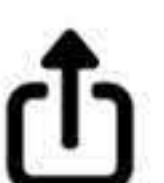
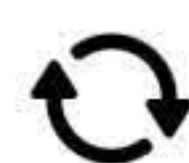
## Ideal for young climbers!

The Adventure Playground allows children ages 3-6, to navigate scaled down versions of The Adventure Park's full-size bridges and challenges.

With the highest element only 24 inches off the ground, grown ups can give their young climber the level of encouragement or support they may need.



BOOK NOW





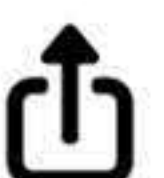
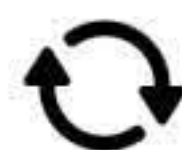
# The Adventure Park™

AT LONG ISLAND



983-3844

BOOK NOW







Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Animal-free entertainment, please**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Aug 15, 2023 at 9:01 AM

To: Jill Henderlight &lt;

&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Aug 14, 2023 at 3:27 PM Jill Henderlight &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear commissioners,

I greatly applaud your courage to do what was right and to permanently close the Griffith Park pony rides.

Animals are not ours to experiment on, eat, wear, **use for entertainment**, or abuse in any other way. All beings desire freedom to live a natural life, according to their inherent desires and instincts.

So, with that, I respectfully request that you find non-animal forms of entertainment for the park. The train rides are great and other things like arts and crafts, jungle gyms, etc are all ways kids can learn and explore with their families without subjugating animals to work and potential abuse.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jill Henderlight

--  
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: August 17th meeting for Griffith park non animal model**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Ruta Soltanpour <

Mon, Aug 14, 2023 at 2:03 PM

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Aug 14, 2023 at 1:08 PM Ruta Soltanpour <

> wrote:

**To whom it may concern**

**I urge you to replace the former Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo with a non-animal model. There are many options to consider that do not involve harming and exploiting animals, including environmental education programs, recreational activities, and entertainment. Please take a stand for animals and make the compassionate choice.**

**Thank you for taking action on this issue!**

**Sincerely,**

**Ruta Soltanpour**

--  
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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Children's pony rides banned in Paris following animal rights campaign - CBS News**

1 message

---

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Betsy Burmeister <

Mon, Aug 21, 2023 at 8:56 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Aug 21, 2023 at 8:46 AM Betsy Burmeister < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I am sending an article about the ponies in Paris that are being retired from giving rides in the city. The people are realizing that this is no way to treat animals. They are not toys or machines, but sentient beings who need to be treated with love and kindness. Ponies need to run and play in fields and enjoy the company of their fellow animals. They need to have an enriching environment, water, shade and grass to roll in every day. They should not be forced to walk in circles hour after hour with broken spirits. Thank you for recognizing their right to enjoy their lives.

Thank you so much for retiring the Griffith Park ponies and replacing them with a non animal model.

Sincerely,

Betsy Burmeister

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/paris-france-children-pony-ride-ban-animal-rights-campaign/>

Betsy Burmeister

--  
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides & Petting Zoo

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Aug 14, 2023 at 2:04 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Aug 14, 2023 at 1:35 PM <

> wrote:

**I urge you to replace the former Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo with a non-animal model. There are many options to consider that do not involve harming and exploiting animals, including environmental education programs, recreational activities, and entertainment. Please take a stand for animals and make the compassionate choice.**

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

**Re: Griffith Park**

1 message

---

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: " " < >

Tue, Aug 15, 2023 at 3:23 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 15, 2023 at 3:18 PM < > wrote:

Please replace the Griffith Park Pony Rides with a form of non-animal entertainment. Also re-open the Merry-go-round.

--  
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Re: Pony Rides at Griffith Park

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Aug 18, 2023 at 7:28 AM

To: David Soyka <

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Aug 17, 2023 at 6:34 PM David Soyka < > wrote:

I would like to express my support to have live ponies back at Griffith Park.

I am a native Angelino and resent the paid shills who are opposing this effort. The kids LOVE the ponies!

Please bring them back.

Best regards,

David Soyka

--

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Pony Rides**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Amanda >

Thu, Aug 17, 2023 at 3:09 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Aug 17, 2023 at 10:12 AM Amanda &lt;

&gt; wrote:

The city is a business and the pony rides are a huge liability for the city, it just doesn't make good business sense. Just because something was done for decades does not make it a good practice or ethical.

thank you General Manager Jimmy Kim for not renewing the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract, and for shutting the pony rides down. Please push his humane policies forward, and completely eliminate animal models from Griffith Park! please replace the Griffith Park and Pony Rides with a non-animal model.

Animal interactions can cause transfer of illness. Petting zoos are hotbeds of E. coli bacteria, (<https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/petting-zoo-factsheet.pdf>) and numerous children have been infected with the potentially deadly bug after visiting such displays. Infections can spread through direct animal contact or mere touching of the surroundings near an animal exhibit.

Pony rides, and any animals on display places the lives of children at risk. In 2018 a child was ejected from a pony, then her body was dragged, and another child's body was also dragged in 2021.

A non-animal model is the only choice.

Amanda Turner

--

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Replacement of the former Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

---

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Aug 15, 2023 at 9:02 AM

To: Elaine Livesey-Fassel &lt;

&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Aug 14, 2023 at 4:03 PM Elaine Livesey-Fassel &lt;

&gt; wrote:

With great respect for your office and the decisions that have to be made of the choice what the most appropriate replacement of the former Griffith Park Pony Rides, may I please add to my previous pleas for one that is not based on an animal model. For some years I was deeply concerned with the health of the older ponies on this site especially during the hotter months of the year and found that this entertainment venue for young people was not serving the sentient ponies well, in fact was only adding to their ill- health. Wisely this venue was closed down in 2022. Now that our weather patterns are becoming even more heated, it would be foolish and even cruel to have another animal suffer under such conditions. Citizens who cared about their welfare protested for years to no avail. I am also joining other in worrying about the possibility of e-coli bacteria now abroad in our society as we are aware that contact with certain animals especially through such contact as a pony ride or another petting situation might lead down this dangerous path.

Please, I beg you to find another more appropriate choice of the many choices that might be on offer.

With thanks,

Elaine Livesey-Fassel

--

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Replacing the Griffith Park Pony Rides**

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Patty Shenker < >

Mon, Aug 14, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Aug 14, 2023 at 1:02 PM Patty Shenker &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Hello again-

**I would appreciate hearing from you and setting up a meeting. I learned in the last meeting that you are meeting with the horse people and I found that very disconcerting and unfair and I am therefore requesting that we animal activists get the same time and attention.**

Thank you.

Patty Shenker  
LA, Ca.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Patty Shenker < >  
**Date:** August 2, 2023 at 10:20:14 AM PDT  
**To:** Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
**Subject:** Replacing the Griffith Park Pony Rides

Dear Commissioners Jimmy Kim &amp; others-

**I want to thank you again for ending the cruel pony rides and petting zoo. While this may have been acceptable in 1948 when it started, we have changed our attitude and treatment towards animals & this is outdated & needs to be replaced. I learned in the last meeting that you are meeting with the horse people and I found that very disconcerting and unfair and I am therefore requesting that we animal activists get the same time and attention. Please let me know when we can meet with you to discuss our ideas. I have repeatedly suggested Funbox.com. There are definitely BETTER options for kids of all ages than this antediluvian pony rides.**

**I want to tell you that the mini-horse sanctuary that adopted one of the ponies has had his full work up, his teeth floated & hooves trimmed on a regular rotation & is on a worming schedule. They noticed right away the pony was tripping a lot because he suffers from cataracts in both eyes. He is basically blind but luckily, the sanctuary knows the challenges that face their blind ponies.**

**So basically, an elderly, blind pony was forced to stand in the heat, wearing a saddle, pad and bit to carry kids, which is not humane or safe at all for the**

ponies or the children. Besides the pony's safety being compromised, his blindness compromised the kids' safety and the city could have faced liability for accidents.

I urge you to stick to your compassionate decision, despite complaints by the LA Equine community, which respectfully, does not have equines' best interests & will not accept the decision made.

If they did, they would not only be glad about this decision but they would be outraged with the 45 horses who have been killed this year on Ca. race tracks and the other horses who are often severely hurt and killed in rodeos and support the LA ordinance to ban the tools used in rodeos.

In the last meeting in July, I wrote- "This summer of persistent heat waves daily with temperatures reaching triple digits should make it easier for you to decide to not bring in animals to replace the pony rides.

University researchers determined that horses succumb to heat stress 3-10 times faster than two-legged animals because they use a higher percentage of active muscles than two-leggeds do during exercise-muscles that produce a lot of heat during use.

Veterinarian Dr. David Ramey wrote- "People interested in riding the poor, hot critters then take the added step of covering up the body surface with a saddle & pad, which further reduces the area from which heat can be lost."

This heat is also dangerous to the families, posing an extreme risk for heat-related illnesses. High temperatures kill more Californians annually than any other type of natural disaster.

So let's put an end to the idea of bringing ponies back- or any other animals because that would be careless, crazy and inhumane and let's figure out the best activity to offer kids and their families!"

A reminder- On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Councilmember Nithya Raman, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember Paul Koretz, and Councilmember Curren Price submitted a motion that stated that although Stephen Weeks made some improvements the Griffith Park and Pony Rides continues to receive complaints of critical measures that did not ensure the well-being of the elderly ponies. This includes pushing elderly ponies in 100-degree temperature. With such knowledge, it is clear that the city cannot reform such industries and ensure the safety and well being of children interacting/riding animals, or ensure that an operator is meeting guidelines that relate to California animal cruelty laws."

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting with you.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Patty Shenker



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: supporting Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Aug 21, 2023 at 8:13 AM

To: "Jageck(Toni)" <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Aug 21, 2023 at 2:44 AM Jageck(Toni) <

> wrote:

Hello Council-

I would like to again voice support for bringing back the Pony Rides to Griffith Park.

I do own a home and am a avid equestrian in this area.

I would like to see the Council meet with the Horse Forum to get thoughts on when a new vendor is brought back to the Park what can be done between the Park and Vendor that will make it a Gold Standard of care.

The previous management Steven Weeks has nothing against him to exhibit being a poor management of the rides or ponies that were kept there and used. I have read all the documents, vet reports, that lead up to all of this. Again it shows zero that he had done wrong with the contract that was in place then. It seems very wrong that he was evicted off the property, but it seems even more wrong that if? the council sees things they feel could be done better, or additional things written in to secure needs of the ponies...Why do they not just update a contract for a potential new vendor to abide by for The Pony Rides in Griffith Park?

In any normal business that has ran effortlessly for the amount of years this has done so, with the records it had had, that were positive, NOT negative, as the Animal Rights Group keep trying to express, which is truly lies, records prove other wise. If a business management company had things that they did or didn't do that Council wanted to update, this is no reason to actually totally shut down the whole aspect of the Griffith Park Pony Rides.It was only when this crazies group, who is 1000% over board on their thoughts period on riding horses-ponies period....for some reason you are choosing to put their over the top ideas before true horse-equestrian people in this area, and the real truth of how this unfolded with Steve Weeks.

Did you ever think to realize that the reason these ponies were the ages they were is due to being taken such good care of?? Otherwise animals/ponies would not live to be those ages period.

Please rewind your thoughts...They are not a huge liability...look at the amount of insurance issues over the amount of years they had been there....Compare that to realistic liability of other sports/activites that are in our parks....skateboarders, bikes, etc....

I ask you to truly thing this thru....You are punishing the children-kids in LA by now having the Pony Rides for them to enjoy in the park. I have spoke to so many kids that are so upset that they are now not there for them, and their families to enjoy together.They are a positive for a lot of different reasons in a Childs life, all positive -so many children have learned respect, love, care from this evolving at a young age.

Thanks for listening to knowledgable Animal Equestrians in this community

Toni Osseck  
in Burbank

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City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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