



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Council Chambers, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Santa Monica CA 90401

A special meeting of the Recreation & Parks Commission was called to order by Chair Smith at 7:35pm on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 in Council Chambers, City Hall, with Vice Chair Brown absent.

- 1. Roll Call**
 - Present** Chair John Smith
Commissioner Deborah Cohen
Commissioner Albin Gielicz
Commissioner Maryanne LaGuardia
Commissioner Kurt Schwengel
Commissioner Alan Toy
 - Absent** Vice Chair Brown
 - Also Present** Karen Ginsberg, Director, Community & Cultural Services
Anne Deasey, Exec. Admin. Asst., Community & Cultural Services

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Commissioner Toy, seconded by Commissioner Gielicz, to approve the December 15, 2016 meeting minutes passed by the following vote:

AYES: Chair Smith, Commissioner Cohen, Commissioner Gielicz, Commissioner LaGuardia, Commissioner Schwengel and Commissioner Toy

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Vice Chair Brown

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Ginsberg reviewed items of interest on the Council agenda and reported that Council approved the Ordinance revising the parks code on January 10. She also reported that hardscape space at the Airport should be available for interim recreational use in the spring and that an Information Item on the Civic field was released on January 17. Upcoming events include Fireside at the Miles Theatre, and a celebration on February 25 of the opening of Ishihara Park, renaming of Gandara Park, and the re-opening of the northeast quadrant of Reed Park and Los Amigos Park.

4. CHAIR REPORT:

A. Park Creation Opportunities – was presented by Chair Smith who showed pictures of various opportunities around the City to create or activate open space opportunities for public use. Options range from small privately owned spaces such as the courtyards of large office buildings to large publicly owned land such as the expansion of Memorial Park and the development site at 4th, 5th and Arizona. Chair Smith suggested that approval of a parks bond by voters in 2018 could raise the needed funding for these projects and a survey to gain input on citizens' needs and desires might be helpful.

Commission comment included: funding options such as bond measures and a soda tax; ideas for stimulating the passing of a bond measure; a request for data on current spending per capita on parks and upkeep in Santa Monica; the suggestion to add putting greens as a way to activate small park spaces; and evaluating the Reed Park renovations as an indicator of how successful activating parks can be.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

A. **Overview of the FY17-19 Budget process, Commission discussion including possible formulation of comments for transmittal to the City Council** – was presented by Melissa Spagnuolo, Principal Administrative Analyst, who explained the process for the development and adoption of the FY17-19 Budget and the current status of FY16-18 Capital Improvement Program as it relates to capital projects for parks and the beach.

Commission discussion included: setting priorities for projects to advocate for while funding is limited; options for funding for more small and large events and programming in parks; options for funding future capital improvement projects; the merits of asphalt and decomposed granite for park pathways; and enhanced security and the deployment of Public Service Officers in parks.

Motion by Commissioner Toy, seconded by Commissioner Gielicz, to continue the budget discussion to the February meeting, at which the Commissioners will consider a draft letter and information on current spending in more detail, and formulate comments for transmittal to Council. The motion passed by the following voice vote:

AYES: Chair Smith, Commissioner Cohen, Commissioner Gielicz, Commissioner LaGuardia, Commissioner Schwengel, Commissioner Toy

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Vice Chair Brown

B. **Commission discussion and possible action on expenditure of Commission funds for some Commissioners to attend the California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) Conference in Sacramento in March 2017** – was introduced by Chair Smith. Commissioners Gielicz and Toy expressed interest in attending the conference.

Motion by Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Cohen to authorize expenditure of Commission funds for two Commissioners to attend the March 2017 CPRS Conference in Sacramento. The motion passed by the following voice vote:

AYES: Chair Smith, Commissioner Cohen, Commissioner Gielicz, Commissioner LaGuardia, Commissioner Schwengel, Commissioner Toy

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Vice Chair Brown

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. **Review of Long Range Agenda** – The February meeting will include further budget discussion and a presentation on palm tree planting in Palisades Park. Items tentatively added to the long range agenda: a presentation on sports, recreation and Police Activity League (PAL) activities at Memorial Park; and discussion on advocating for a Parks Bond in 2018.

6. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

A. **COMMUNITY GARDENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Toy noted that gardeners are coping with an abundance of weeds due to recent rain.

B. **PLANNING COMMISSION:** No report

C. **FIELD SPORTS ADVISORY COUNCIL:** Commissioner LaGuardia reported that the new softball field at Santa Monica High School will not be constructed until summer, so baseball and softball players will not have to temporarily share a field.

D. VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK ADVISORY BOARD: Commissioner Gielicz reported on upcoming events such as the Parent Appreciation Dinner, the Greens Fest, and the annual college visit, which will be at Pepperdine this year.

E. CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF PARK & RECREATION COMMISSIONERS AND BOARD MEMBERS (CAPRCBM): No report

F. URBAN FOREST TASK FORCE: No report

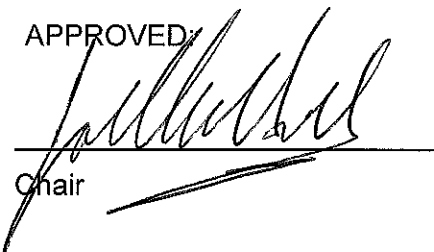
G. PARK CREATION COMMITTEE: Reported in item 4A.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no one present for public comment.

9. **Adjournment** – On order of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36pm, with Vice Chair Brown absent.

APPROVED:


Chair

ATTEST:


Commission Secretary

