



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 16, 2017

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

A regular meeting of the Recreation & Parks Commission was called to order by Chair Smith at 7:35pm on Thursday, February 16, 2017 in Council Chambers, City Hall, with Commissioner LaGuardia absent.

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

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Commissioner Gielicz, seconded by Commissioner Toy, to approve the January 17, 2017 special meeting minutes passed by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Vice Chair Brown

ABSENT: Commissioner LaGuardia

3. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Ms. Ginsberg reviewed items of interest on the Council agenda and noted highlights of the 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. She also notified the Commissioners that as part of the EIR for the 4th, 5th & Arizona site, the public park alternative will be studied at the same level of specificity as the proposed project. Ms. Ginsberg then updated the Commission on measures taken to address recent flooding on Ocean Front Walk and the current status of the North Beach Trail Project.

In answer to questions, Ms. Ginsberg stated that staff will follow up with the City Attorney on the possibility of declaring the area of Palisades Park adjacent to the Pier a Public Safety Zone to further regulate the proliferation of performers and vendors to address safety concerns caused by them. The recent launch of the Ambassadors program in Palisades Park between the entrance to the Pier and the California Incline and in Tongva Park will be monitored over the next several months to assess the impact of this program on these areas.

5. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Commission discussion and review and approval of draft letter for transmittal to the City Council on FY17-19 Budget** – was introduced by Chair Smith.

Commission discussion centered on the suggestion to place stronger emphasis on the need for more security in parks and the idea of a bond measure in 2018. Chair Smith and Commissioner Toy will collaborate on a revision of the letter.

In Public Comment on this item, Anthony Yannatta spoke on issues regarding the Memorial Park gym and requested it be open longer hours.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. **Update on Public Landscape Division activities at City parks** – was presented by Hector Kistemann, Public Landscape Manager, and Wister Dorta, Urban Forest Supervisor. Mr. Kistemann detailed the maintenance management protocols for sports fields and playgrounds and water conservation efforts, and updated the Commissioners on the Urban Forest Master Plan which now includes protocols for park trees. As part of the tree replacement program, 56 palm trees will be planted in Palisades Park, honoring the park's historic landmark status. Mr. Dorta reviewed strategies to eventually develop planting plans for all City parks. In conclusion, Mr. Kistemann noted future projects and mentioned that Arbor Day celebrations will be held in Palisades Park this year.

Commission discussion included: concern regarding the condition of the Memorial Park baseball field, the current status on filling tree well vacancies, and concern regarding large amounts of trash on the Palisades bluffs.

B. **Review of Long Range Agenda** – The March agenda will include a presentation and overview of the recreational activities at Memorial Park. Items added to the long range agenda include: planning for update of Parks and Recreation Master Plan, outreach strategies for the Commission, and a discussion on ziplines.

6. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

A. COMMUNITY GARDENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No report

B. PLANNING COMMISSION: Chair Smith reported that several large development projects on Lincoln Blvd. will be considered over the next few years.

C. FIELD SPORTS ADVISORY COUNCIL: Vice Chair Brown read a report from Commissioner LaGuardia that problems with homelessness still exist at Memorial Park, and that batting cages could be an inexpensive feature for activating the hardscape space opening up at Airport Park.

D. VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK ADVISORY BOARD: No report

E. CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF PARK & RECREATION COMMISSIONERS AND BOARD MEMBERS (CAPRCBM): Commissioners Gielicz and Toy will attend the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) conference in Sacramento in March.

F. URBAN FOREST TASK FORCE: No report

G. PARK CREATION COMMITTEE: No report

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Smith showed pictures of the Reed Park renovation and announced he had been in contact with the City engineer to clarify that the California Incline and Palisades bluffs are stable after the recent rains.

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 Commissioner LaGuardia absent.

APPROVED:


Chair

ATTEST:


Commission Secretary