



**MINUTES  
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER  
7:30PM**

**Call to Order**

Chair John Smith called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call** - The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

Present: Chair John Smith, Vice Chair Lori Brown, Commissioner Deborah Cohen, Commissioner Maryanne LaGuardia, Commissioner Kurt Schwengel, Commissioner Alan Toy

Absent: Commissioner Albin Gielicz

Also present: Karen Ginsberg, Director, Community & Cultural Services  
Danielle Noble, Assistant Director, Community & Cultural Services  
Anne Deasey, Executive Administrative Assistant

1. **Special Agenda Items** – None.
2. **Reports of Staff/Members** -
  - A. Director's Report: Ms. Ginsberg reviewed items of interest on the Council agenda and upcoming events, including a press event on April 24 to celebrate a grant award of \$40,000 from Miracle Gro for Ishihara Park Learning Garden. She also updated the Commissioners on the status of the Main Street parklets, Reed Park activation activities, and the north beach trail improvements, for which an open house community outreach event is planned on May 20 at Ocean Front Walk and California Avenue.
  - B. Chair Report: Chair Smith highlighted issues regarding open space and parkland in the draft Downtown Community Plan and urged Commissioners to participate in the approval process.

3. **Public Input -**  
Richard King voiced concerns regarding availability of volleyball courts for residents in the south beach area due to tournaments and permit groups.
4. **Consent Calendar -**  
The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:
  - A. Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2017 meeting  
Recommended Action – review and approve the March 20, 2017 meeting minutes

#### MOTION

Commissioner Toy moved and Vice Chair Brown seconded a motion to approve the February 16, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Commissioner Cohen, Commissioner LaGuardia, Commissioner Schwengel, Vice Chair Brown, Chair Smith

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Gielicz

ABSTAIN: None

5. **New Business**

- A. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Staff presentation on the concept of a potential park funding measure for Commission discussion and possible action for transmittal to City Council – was introduced by Director Ginsberg, who reviewed information regarding exploring the potential for placing a bond measure on the 2018 local ballot in order to provide funding for future park expansion and renovation projects. Santa Monica's park acreage of 1.4 acres per 1,000 residents is below the Los Angeles County average of 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents, and current funding levels will not meet the needs for expansion.

Discussion focused on potential projects and costs; the merits of 2018 versus 2020; and consideration for the poll to include questions regarding the viability of a soda tax to fund maintenance projects.

#### MOTION

Vice Chair Brown moved and Commissioner Cohen seconded a motion to support staff's recommendation to Council to enter into agreements with two consultant firms to provide polling services and strategic planning in exploring the potential for placing a bond measure for park funding on the 2018 local ballot. Further, the Commission recommended that the City Council consider providing direction to incorporate questions regarding the viability of a soda tax in the poll. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote with Commissioner Gielicz absent.

6. **Continued Items –**

A. Committee & Liaison Reports:

- a. Community Gardens Advisory Committee: Commissioner Toy reported that flowers are in full bloom.
- b. Planning Commission: No report
- c. FSAC: Commissioner LaGuardia reported that at the latest meeting, they reviewed the Memorial Park discussion held at the March Recreation & Parks Commission meeting.
- d. Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board (VAPAB): No report
- e. California Park & Recreation Commission & Board Members (CAPRCBM): No report
- f. Urban Forest Task Force: No report
- g. Park Creation Committee: No report

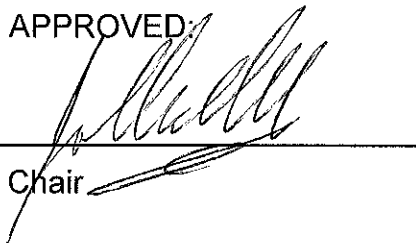
7. **Written Communication –** There were no written communications

8. **Future Agenda Items –** Items on beach volleyball, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, and Reed Park activation were added to the long range agenda.

**Adjournment –**

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:39pm.

APPROVED:

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Commission Secretary

