



**MINUTES  
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017**

**THELMA TERRY AUDITORIUM, VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK  
7:30PM**

**Call to Order**

Chair John Smith called the meeting to order at 7:36pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Melissa Spagnuolo led assemblage in 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 Albin Gielicz, Commissioner Maryanne LaGuardia, Commissioner Kurt Schwengel,

Absent: Commissioner Alan Toy

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

1. **Special Agenda Items** – None.

2. **Reports of Staff/Members** -

A. Director's Report: Ms. Ginsberg reviewed items of interest on the Council agenda, invited everyone to the North Beach Trail Improvements community outreach open house on May 20, and noted the successful Tongva Park Great Expectations arts event on Saturday, 5/13. Following up on the April meeting, Ms. Ginsberg informed the Commissioners that staff has been in contact with Richard King regarding beach volleyball issues and will include the item in the June agenda. Ms. Noble reviewed the programming scheduled for the activation of Reed Park and for Parks & Recreation Month in July.

Questions asked and answered of staff regarding Reed Park activation included but were not limited to: the benefits of maintaining a consistent schedule of activities; the cost for musical events; whether food trucks will be permitted; if chess lessons are a viable option; public safety presence in the park; and the

communications strategy to notify the community about the new programming, including suggestions for a digital flyer and a bulletin board at the park.

- B. Chair Report: Chair Smith encouraged the Commissioners to take every opportunity to use social media and to participate in community meetings and events to further the Commission's causes.

- 3. **Public Input -**  
No public comment.

- 4. **Consent Calendar -**  
The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2017 meeting

In public comment on this item, Richard King noted that the minutes for the March 20 meeting reflected his request for the Commission to agendaize a discussion on availability of beach volleyball courts and requested that the topic be added to the June agenda.

Recommended Action – review and approve the March 20, 2017 meeting minutes

#### MOTION

Vice Chair Brown moved and Commissioner LaGuardia seconded a motion to approve the March 20, 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 Toy

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Gielicz

- 5. **New Business**

- A. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. **Review of proposed FY17-19 budget for discussion and possible formulation of recommendations for transmittal to City Council** – was presented by Danielle Noble, who summarized the CCS department's budget and goals. She also reported on the progress made on Commission priorities for the FY17-19 budget, which the Commissioners identified and forwarded to Council in February. In highlighting current unmet needs, Ms. Noble suggested the Commission advocate for funding to continue two important pilot programs: The Homeless Multidisciplinary Street Team and the Ambassador Program in select parks.

Discussion focused on identifying items to recommend to Council given the current economic climate and challenges caused by homelessness. The Commissioners also expressed interest in joining forces with other Commissions for greater impact.

MOTION by Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Cohen, to write a supplementary letter to Council expressing appreciation for the progress made on previous requests and recommending that consideration be given to expanding the Ambassador program to additional sites such as Reed Park, and that funding be identified to extend the Homeless Multi-Disciplinary Street Team beyond December 2017. Additionally, to advocate for continuing the constant presence of Public Service Officers during prime hours at Memorial Park and expanding Public Service Officer presence at other parks including Virginia Avenue Park. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote with Commissioner Toy absent.

- b. **Discussion of plans for Parks and Recreation Master Plan update including recommendations for Commission participation for Commission discussion and input and possible action** – was presented by Olga Ruano, Senior Administrative Analyst, CCS. Ms. Ruano explained the goals and components of an updated plan and provided a draft timeline for completion, beginning in summer 2017 with the issuance of a Request for Proposals, and with the goal of hiring a consultant team in the fall of 2017.

Discussion focused on the merits of forming an ad hoc committee to work with staff on the project, and how the timeline aligns with the goal of floating a parks bond in 2018.

MOTION by Vice Chair Brown, seconded by Commissioner Cohen, to form an ad hoc committee to work with staff on updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with Commissioner Toy absent.

**B. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- a. Discussion of Commission participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade – was introduced by Chair Smith. Several of the Commissioners will participate, and will decide on a mode of transport and whether to include music.

**6. Continued Items –**

**A. Committee & Liaison Reports:**

- a. Community Gardens Advisory Committee: No report
- b. Planning Commission: Chair Smith attended a recent meeting on the Downtown Community Plan and reported that he thinks there is not enough park space in the plan.
- c. FSAC: Commissioner LaGuardia reported that they are preparing for the Civic field report at the June 27 City Council 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: Chair Smith reported that the Heritage Tree Program is now in operation. It is possible to nominate culturally significant public trees for the program.
- g. Park Creation Committee: Chair Smith reported that he has contacted the YMCA on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and the owners of a building with a plaza at Wilshire and 4<sup>th</sup> regarding opening up and activating some of their space for use by the public. The YMCA has expressed interest in creating a garden in that space.

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

8. **Future Agenda Items** – Items scheduled for June include presentations on the North Beach Trail concept design, the Civic field, and beach volleyball. A comprehensive analysis of block parties was tentatively added to the long range agenda.

MOTION Due to the heavy agenda, motion by Vice Chair Brown, seconded by Commissioner Cohen, to convene a special meeting at the earlier time of 6:30pm on June 15, 2017. The motion passed by the following voice vote:

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

NOES: Commissioner Cohen

ABSENT: Commissioner Toy

ABSTAIN: None

**Adjournment –**

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:25pm.

APPROVED



Chair

ATTEST:



Commission Secretary