



**MINUTES  
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
6:30PM**

**Call to Order**

Chair John Smith called the meeting to order at 6:40pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Brad Albert 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 (arrived 6:44pm), Commissioner Albin Gielicz, Commissioner Kurt Schwengel, Commissioner Alan Toy

**Absent:** Commissioner Maryanne LaGuardia

**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, and noted that pickleball lines at Memorial Park are now permanent to the delight of the players. She also called attention to various upcoming events such as the Juneteenth celebration in Virginia Avenue Park and the Make Music LA events.

Ms. Noble briefed the Commissioners on events and outreach plans scheduled for Parks and Recreation Month in July and the Reed Park activation project. It has been determined that it is cost prohibitive to increase the Ambassador Program to include Reed Park.

In answer to questions, Ms. Noble provided information on an upcoming homeless task force meeting which will include stakeholders such as members of the business, travel industry, non-profit, and faith-based communities.

Commissioners requested that notices regarding the Reed Park events be posted on bulletin boards there and suggested a comments box be placed there.

- B. Chair Report: No report
- 3. **Public Input** - No public comment.
- 4. **Consent Calendar** -
  - A. Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2017 meeting

Recommended Action – review and approve the May 18, 2017 meeting minutes

**MOTION**

Commissioner Cohen moved and Commissioner Brown 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 LaGuardia

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Toy

- 5. **New Business**
  - A. ACTION ITEMS:
    - a. **Presentation on North Beach Trail Improvements concept design options for discussion and comment** – was presented by Judith Meister, Beach Administrator, who explained the plans to address safety issues on the bike path and create a separate walking path north of the Pier. She introduced consultants from KPFF Consulting Engineers, Alta Planning & Design, and SWA Landscape Architecture, who outlined the significant community outreach, design concepts, and the preferred improvements planned to address the safety issues, including wider pathways and plaza crossings in some congested areas, raised crossings, bike parking hubs, and low barriers.

**Public Comment:** Malin Svensson suggested adding mile markers and inspirational signage to encourage walking.

Discussion ensued on topics including but not limited to: methods for curbing speed and traffic calming strategies; the merits of placing the new walking path to the east or west of the bike path; plans for the area under the Pier; options for seating and decorative elements; safety concerns around the busy cafes; the possibility of lighting the bike path; being mindful of costs; the need for more signage and whether signage on poles or on the ground works best.

- b. **Civic Field presentation for discussion and possible recommendations for transmittal to City Council** – was presented by Melissa Spagnuolo, Principal Analyst, who showed the plans for the development of either a temporary or permanent sports field on the Civic Auditorium parking lot. The temporary option could include a softball field overlay. The temporary field would incur a loss of 600 hundred parking spaces

while the permanent field would provide an additional 700 spaces in subterranean parking. Both options are subject to Coastal Commission and other regulatory reviews. Ms. Spagnuolo also reviewed costs and potential funding sources and next steps, which include a comprehensive parking study.

Discussion ensued on topics including but not limited to: whether a softball overlay is needed; the possibility of a field on top of a new above ground structure; options for parking and funding; and whether a future park bond should include funding for the subterranean parking structure.

MOTION by Commissioner Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Toy, to recommend to Council not to pursue the option for the permanent field, but to move forward with the temporary field at the Civic Auditorium site. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner LaGuardia

ABSTAIN: None

*On order of the Chair, Item 5Ba was heard before Item 5Ac.*

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. **Presentation on beach volleyball permitting and tournament protocols** – was presented by Heath Hamilton, Beach Recreation Supervisor, who provided a summary of the permitting process and the amenities and programming available for the nearly 60 volleyball courts on Santa Monica beach. Plans to alleviate crowding in Ocean Park areas include the installation of 12 temporary courts at the southern end of the City and the relocation of some user groups to other areas.

**Public Comment:** Rick King, Larry Graber, Denny Cline, Joel Koury, Andrea Ventura, Adrian Maher, Bruce Laffey, Michael Sheard, Hubert Hodgins, Matthew Rasmussen, Scott Carlson, and Glenn Morgan spoke on various issues regarding availability of courts for local residents.

Discussion ensued on topics including but not limited to: maintenance schedules for the courts; lighting for courts other than those at the Pier; monitoring the user groups and educating them regarding availability of courts; making online reservations available; revising guidelines and decreasing the number of permits issued; creating more courts; and reorganizing tournaments and private companies to other areas.

A. ACTION ITEMS continued:

c. **Formation of ad hoc committee to work with staff on the update of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan** – was introduced by Chair Smith. Commissioner Cohen and Vice Chair Brown volunteered to be members of the committee.

d. **Commission discussion regarding open space concepts in the Draft Downtown Community Plan (DCP) with the development of possible recommendations for transmittal to City Council** – was presented by Chair Smith who noted that there is a lack of parkland in the plans for the future of the downtown area.

**Public Comment:** Denise Barton spoke in support of a park for the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> and Arizona location.

Motion by Chair Smith, seconded by Vice Chair Brown, to recommend to Council that they consider incorporating language into the DCP to require that two-thirds of the public property located at 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> and Arizona be devoted to ground level public park space. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner LaGuardia

ABSTAIN: None

e. **Selection of volunteer to manage Commission participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade** – Chair Smith and Vice Chair Brown will determine further details for the Commission's participation.

6. **Continued Items –**

A. Committee & Liaison Reports:

- a. Community Gardens Advisory Committee: No report
- b. Planning Commission: No report
- c. Field Sports Advisory Council (FSAC): No report
- d. Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board (VAPAB): No report
- e. Urban Forest Task Force (UFTF): No report
- f. Park Creation Committee: No report


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

8. **Future Agenda Items** – Items scheduled for July include the proposed changes for trainer permit fees at Reed Park.

**Adjournment –**

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:35pm.

APPROVED:

  
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Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Commission Secretary