



**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
RECREATION AND PARKS
COMMISSION**

**Via Teleconference
Pursuant To
Executive Order N-29-20
Issued By Governor Gavin Newsom**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021
MEETING STARTING TIME 7:30pm**

LIVE STREAM

<https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/vdxutpya>

MOBILE APP

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Enter event ID: vdxutpya

AND DIAL-IN NUMBER

+1 (415) 466-7000 (US)

Meeting ID: 346611213

PIN: 7854 #

THOSE WISHING TO GIVE PUBLIC COMMENT MAY DO SO VIA EMAIL TO CCS@SMGOV.NET. PLEASE NOTE THE AGENDA ITEM IN YOUR COMMENTS. ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED BY NOON ON THE MEETING DAY WILL BE POSTED ONLINE. COMMENTS RECEIVED AFTER WILL BE READ OUT LOUD AT THE MEETING.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION IS CALLED FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2021 AT 7:30 P.M. IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SPREADING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19), THE MEMBERS OF THE RECREATION AND



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PARKS COMMISSION WILL PARTICIPATE VIA TELECONFERENCE. PARTICIPANTS MAY JOIN VIA THE TELECONFERENCE LINK ABOVE OR DIAL-IN NUMBER.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

(Please note that Agenda Items may be reordered during the meeting at the discretion of the body.)

1. Director's Report – *Andy Agle, Director, Community Services*
2. Public Input – Public Input is permitted only on items not on the agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Recreation and Parks Commission. State law prohibits the body from taking any action on items not listed on the agenda, including issues raised under this agenda item.
3. New Business –
 - A. ACTION ITEMS:
 - a. SMMUSD Capital Projects and Plans
Presentation by Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, regarding recently completed projects, projects in construction, projects in design, and campus plans for Santa Monica public schools, for Commission discussion and possible action.
 - b. Efforts to Address Homelessness including impacts on Open Spaces
Commission discussion and possible action regarding Homelessness agenda item to be discussed by the City Council on February 23, 2021 – *Maggie Willis, Human Services Administrator, Community Services*
 - c. Budget Priorities
Commission discussion and possible action regarding Budget Priorities agenda item expected to be discussed by the City Council on March 13, 2021.
4. Continued items –
 - A. ACTION ITEMS:
 - a. City-owned property at 2018 19th Street



Commission discussion and possible action regarding open space opportunities at the City-owned property.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS -
 - a. Monthly reports from Commission liaisons:
 1. Community Gardens Advisory Committee – Commissioner Gomez, alternate Chair Brown
 2. Field Sports Advisory Committee (FSAC) – Vice Chair LaGuardia, Commissioner Gomez
 3. Aquatics Advisory Committee – Commissioner Desai Wagabaza
 4. Planning Commission – Commissioner Smith
 5. Reports from Commissioners on park visits
6. Written Communication – Review of any written communications received from the public
7. Future Convenings of the Recreation and Parks Commission – Discussion of future meetings and agenda items.

Adjournment

This agenda is available in alternate format upon request. If you require any special disability related accommodations (i.e. sign language interpreting, access to an amplified sound system, are not able to provide public comment via email, etc.), please contact the Community Services office at (310) 458 8310 or Email: ccs@smgov.net at least 2 days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Community Services, 1685 Main Street, Room 210, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Phone: (310) 458 8310 Email: ccs@smgov.net Website: www.smgovnet/ccs

PUBLIC INPUT GUIDELINES: Public attendance and comment at Commission meetings are welcomed and encouraged. THOSE WISHING TO GIVE PUBLIC COMMENT MAY DO SO VIA EMAIL TO CCS@SMGOV.NET. PLEASE NOTE THE AGENDA ITEM IN YOUR COMMENTS. ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED BY NOON ON THE MEETING DAY WILL BE POSTED ONLINE. COMMENTS RECEIVED AFTER WILL BE READ OUT LOUD AT THE MEETING (3-minute limit per comment.)



STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR THAT PROMOTE CIVILITY AT ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS:

- Treat everyone courteously
- Listen to others respectfully
- Give open-minded consideration to all viewpoints
- Focus on the issues and avoid personalizing debate
- Embrace respectful disagreement and dissent as democratic rights, inherent components of an inclusive public process, and tools for forging sound decisions



From: [Karen Melick](#)
To: [Community & Cultural Services](#)
Cc: triguyla@yahoo.com; [Jeanette Gant](#)
Subject: Recreation and Parks Commission Feb 18 meeting comments
Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:27:25 PM

EXTERNAL

Hello,

I would like to comment on item 3.A.c Budget Priorities for the Feb 18 Recreation and Parks Commission meeting.

I ask that you consider recommending to City Council that the full return of hours and services of the Santa Monica Swim Center be a high priority for the City. The Swim Center provides life saving swim classes and fitness programs that significantly contribute to the physical and mental health of a very diverse set of residents, from infants to seniors, and all levels of abilities. Personally, as a female senior, swimming is the best form of exercise to help keep me fit and healthy.

Thank you.

Karen Melick
Chair of the Santa Monica Aquatics Advisory Council
Sunset Park resident

From: [Ann Hoover](#)
To: [Lori Brown](#); [Maryanne LaGuardia](#); [Marcy Kaplan](#); [John Smith](#); [Albin Gielicz](#); [Andrew Gomez](#); [Arati Desai Wagabaza](#)
Cc: [Andy Agle](#); [Claudia Kompa](#)
Subject: Thursday, 2/18 R & P Meeting - Item 3.A.a. - SMMUSD Campus Planning / Impact on Community Recreational Space
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021 2:36:47 PM

EXTERNAL

PLEASE INCLUDE THIS COMMUNICATION IN THE RECORD OF TONIGHT'S RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING - THANK YOU!

Dear Chair Brown, Esteemed Commissioners, and Mr. Agle -

I write you in regard to Item 3.A.a. of tonight's Recreation and Parks meeting.

I am hopeful that you each will be a community "voice" for preservation of outdoor and recreational space on our elementary and middle school campuses, as the district launches new construction plans and projects on all of the campuses. These space serve not only the public school students of Santa Monica, but function as our neighborhood parks under the City-District Playground Partnership.

As I've communicated to you in emails these last several months, the current proposed long-range campus plans for SMMUSD middle and elementary school campuses overall tend to shrink the large, open outdoor spaces, black top spaces, and also, it appears, some of the functionality. In some cases, playing fields get smaller and the final plans may host fewer of things like handball and basketball courts than before. Functions get much more crowded together. While there may be no "net" change in square footage of outdoor space, it becomes more chopped up in many instances, with things like "reading gardens" and "maker space yards" added and which become "academic" rather than "recreational" outdoor spaces. McKinley Elementary, for instance, looks to lose almost 2/3rds of it's current large open field and black top space.

Preschools and more on-campus parking are being added or expanded in some instances as well.

All of these outdoor open spaces are key both to student recreation needs during school and to the community's use of these spaces during non-school hours. As you know the City contracts with the School District to make these playgrounds and "parks" available to the community during non-school hours and therefor the community (and the City) have a vested interest in these spaces being preserved for recreational use to as great an extent as possible, despite the coming campus upgrades. The community's use of these spaces is reflected in the various City-District Joint Use Agreements.

Carey and Steve Massetti (the School District's bond manager who manages all of these facilities improvement projects) are currently going back to each school site to review plans with those communities. But I do not believe any members from the surrounding neighborhoods and Santa Monica community have been invited (**** actually yesterday around 4pm Gail Pinsker did sent out notice to neighborhood group chairs about the remining meetings). Hence, again, the importance of R&P examining the issue of how open and recreational space gets treated under the new plans.

R&P has an important opportunity now, as these plans are being reviewed again at campuses around town, to ask some meaningful questions and possibly have an impact before each plan is deemed "final".

Have provided a lot of information provided below, which I hope is helpful, including some questions you might want to consider asking Carey tonight.

MANY THANKS!!! ~ Ann

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## **FACTORS IMPACTING THE INITIAL CAMPUS DESIGNS:**

At least five design teams have been developing the new proposed campus plans for the past year. The teams were asked to review existing campuses and design plans that reflect the "Educational Specifications" (Ed Specs, approved by the Board in 2019), which are the district's template for new classroom spaces that facilitate "21st Century Learning". "21st Century Learning", per Dr. Drati and the Board, focuses in large part on "project based learning (PBL)", which is a more Reggio Emilia approach to student learning than traditional models of instruction. PBL also apparently requires quite a bit of new building in order to implement it! ; )

The design teams also were asked to factor in the District's "Sustainability Plan" (Sustainability Plan, also approved by the Board in 2019). The Sustainability Plan discusses Green Building, but only with respect to new construction, and does not mention how "green" adaptive re-use of existing structures actually can be and how significantly less construction waste is generated when you're not doing significant new grading, foundation work, and completely tearing down existing buildings.

Links to the Ed Specs and the Sustainability Plan are found here, along with other information about the campus assessments process:

<https://www.smmusd.org/campusassessments>

Carey has confirmed both to me by email and also at the January PTA Council meeting, to that group, that outdoor and recreational space issues really were not considered much if at all when developing the plans the Board was given in December, since the Ed Specs barely mention student P.E., recess, and recreational requirements and the Sustainability Plan does not address those issues at all. Community use during non-school hours was not factored into the proposed plans either.

**So this crucial design consideration was completely missing from the process.**

In contrast, the District advocated (obviously) for all of the academic considerations & student needs.

Likewise, The Santa Monica Conservancy (with the adoption by the Board last Tuesday, Feb 9th of a Historic Resources Board Policy and Administrative Regulation) is watching out for the historical resources / adaptive reuse piece.

But there is no institution officially looking out for the outdoor & recreational space piece. Here, again, is where R&P hopefully can help be a voice.

## **QUESTIONS TO ASK CAREY:**

1. We understand that a set of plans was presented to the Board back in December. Are these the most current plans for each campus?
2. We understand that you met with Andy, Susan Cline, and other staff about the District's campus planning process back in early September. Has City Staff seen the plans since then?
3. What feedback did City Staff give to you in September? Any feedback or meetings since that time?
4. Do you have overlays you can show us of the new campus plans onto each of the existing campus lay-outs? [This would help us really see what is planned to happen at each site]
5. How did the architects factor in student P.E. and recreational needs into the plans?
6. Did the architects consider community use of the campuses during non-school hours at all?
7. Were the architects made aware of the Joint Use Agreements between the District and the City?
8. Do these plans preserve existing square footage of open space?
9. Do these plans preserve existing functionality? e.g., if 4 basketball courts exist now, will there be four when plans are fully implemented?
10. What happens with field size? Do fields shrink? If so, where?
11. What happens to black-top spaces? It seems a lot of it gets eliminated in most of these plans.
12. We understand that you are doing a round of site meetings about these plans right now. Have the meetings been noticed to the wider community?
13. If so, are you seeing participation from Santa Monica residents who live near the schools?
14. Are all sites being given an opportunity to ask for different plans if site communities have issues with the current proposed plans?

15. Can you explain to us about the preschools that we're seeing added on most campuses?
16. What is happening with parking and how do parking issues impact open space?
17. When these plans are fully-realized, where will the fences go to keep the public out of what is considered "academic" space?
18. Will the Board officially approved each of these plans?
19. If not, why not?
20. Is the District putting together a Master Facilities Improvement Plan for its campuses?
21. If not, why not?
22. When will the District / Board be moving forward with projects under these plans? What is "the timetable"?
23. When can you come back to us with more information (see "the Ask", below)?

#### **RANDOM INFORMATION:**

- **Recreation functions already have been lost to construction and parking needs on the school campuses.** For instance, both Franklin Elementary and Lincoln Middle School used to have tennis courts. Franklin's courts are where the teacher parking lot is now. Lincoln's courts (and basket ball hoops) have been used for parking ever since the Lincoln Library was modernized this past decade and expanded to eliminate the teacher parking that ran along 14th Street between California and Washington.
- **Roosevelt is being given new options right now for its campus plan. Are other schools?** As mentioned, Carey (and possibly Steve) are doing another round of site meetings at each campus. For whatever reason, possibly because it is well-represented on both PTA Council and on the School Board, Roosevelt is being given 4-5 new options for its campus layout, which do a better job with open space / recreation space. Are other schools being treated the same way? If not, is that equitable?
- **The Conservancy advocated for and got a Historical Resources policy.** Last Tuesday, February 9th, the Board approved the District's new historical resources board policy and administrative regulation, at the urging of The Santa Monica Conservancy. Under the AR, the District must do a historical resources inventory for each school ASAP, and supposedly before they approve any projects per the campus plans. Carey is moving fast to get this inventory done so that District can move ahead with the projects. District is working with Nina Fresco and Ruthann Lehrer of The Santa Monica Conservancy on this.
- **If you have any interest in attending, there are still a few campus plans Zooms coming up - see "Winter 2021 Presentations", below.**

#### **RESOURCES:**

- The "Campus Assessments presentation made to the Board on Dec 9th - this document shows the **proposed campus plans:**  
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/Attachment.aspx?S=36030435&AID=83633&MID=4504>
- The Proposed Projects list (for immediate implementation) from Dec 17th Board meeting - [https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB\\_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=36030435&MID=4723](https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=36030435&MID=4723)
- The proposed projects to move forward immediately with (as of December 17th) are:
  - Grant Elementary School - Library Renovation and Expansion; Courtyard Renovation; and PreK/Kindergarten Consolidation
  - Will Rogers Learning Center - Classroom Building, Field, and Playgrounds (the classroom building is just for K - PreK/Tk)
  - Franklin Elementary School - Makerspace; and Patio/Outdoor Classroom Improvements
  - McKinley Elementary School - New Classroom/School Support Building
  - Roosevelt Elementary School - PK/TK/K Classrooms and Play Areas (Phase 1)
  - John Adams Middle School - Library and Courtyard Improvements



- Lincoln Middle School - East Wing/300s Renovation

- **Winter 2021 Presentations**

- **Roosevelt Elementary School**

- Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021 Roosevelt Community Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

- [Zoom Login](#)

- Meeting ID: 867 3105 2598

- Passcode: 787269

- **Grant Elementary School**

- Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021 Grant PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

- [Zoom Login](#)

- **Rogers Learning Community**

- Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 Rogers PTA & Staff Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

- [Zoom Login](#)

- Meeting ID: 824 2821 8441

- Passcode: 512147

- **Lincoln Middle School**

- Monday, February 22, 2021 Lincoln Campus Plan Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

- [Zoom Login](#)

- Meeting ID: 827 9468 9511

- **McKinley Elementary School**

- Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021 McKinley Community Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

- [Zoom Login](#)

- Meeting ID: 895 3664 7609

- Passcode: 146777