

REGULAR MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

Ken Edwards Center
1527 4th Street
Santa Monica, CA
Thursday, March 21, 2002
Minutes

The meeting of the Recreation and Parks Commission was held at the above named place and time. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Frank Schwengel
Vice-Chairperson Conway Collis
Commissioner Neil Carrey
Commissioner Susan Cloke
Commissioner Lori Nafshun
Commissioner Doris Sosin

Absent: Commissioner Steven Mount

Also Present: Barbara Stinchfield – Director, Community and Cultural Services Department

4. **Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 21, 2002** Commissioner Nafshun made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2002 as written. Commissioner Carrey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote in the absence of Commissioner Mount.

5. Correspondence and Announcements

Director Stinchfield made mention of the following: Mr. Buskirk's letter urging Commission support of open space at the Civic Center; and a memo from a concerned resident requesting that the Commission review field-use policies.

Director Stinchfield reported that City staff met with the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board focus group regarding the Virginia Avenue Park playground design which was forwarded to the architect for review.

Director Stinchfield made the following announcements: “Senior Prom” hosted by the Community Programs Division, scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2002; CPRS (California Parks and Recreation Society) Conference, April 3 – 6, 2002; the Civic Center Conceptual Plan will be presented to Council for action on Tuesday, April 23, 2002.

Director Stinchfield recognized Commissioner Cloke who presented Chairperson Schwengel with a landscape architect design book highlighting the work of Frederick Law Olmsted as a “welcome back” from his recent absence.

6. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports

- A. **Aquatics (Chairperson Schwengel)** – Chairperson Schwengel reported that a meeting was held on Saturday, March 16, 2002 and information will be presented under Item 8A.
- B. **Budget Committee (Chairperson Schwengel)** – Chairperson Schwengel advised that he would report on available budget funds after the CPRS expenses are recorded.
- C. **ChildCare Task Force (Commissioner Collis)** – No report
- D. **Community Events (Commissioner Nafshun)** – No report
- E. **Disability Community Accessibility Committee (Commissioner Carrey)** – Commissioner Carrey reported that the DCAC (Disability Community Accessibility Committee) recommendations will be presented before City Council on Tuesday, April 9, 2002 requesting the formation of a Commission. Discussion followed. Commissioner Collis made a motion to agendize this issue as Item 7.C. Commissioner Nafshun seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote in the absence of Commissioner Mount.
- F. **Environmental Task Force (Commissioner Nafshun)** – Commission Nafshun reported that focus of discussion was on the pollution caused by the jets at Santa Monica Airport. Commissioner Nafshun will advise the Commissioners when the Airport Park is agendized and encouraged their attendance.
- G. **Fields Committee (Commissioner(s) Collis and Mount)** – No report.
- H. **Parks and Recreation Master Plan Review Committee (Chairperson Schwengel, Commissioner Mount)** – No report.
- I. **Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District (S.M.M.U.S.D.) (Commissioner(s) Carrey and Collis)** – Commissioner Carrey reported that based upon City Council’s direction to explore the development of playing fields in the Civic Center Conceptual Plan, S.M.M.U.S.D. is reviewing the possibility of participating.

- J. **Sports Advisory Council (SAC) (Commissioner(s), Carrey and Mount)** – Commissioner Carrey reported that SAC is requesting to review Civic Center field “overlays.” Commissioner Carrey reported on Marine Park field conditions, the status of elementary school play fields and a reduction of problems at the fields attributable to the presence of field monitors and cooperation of user groups
- K. **Temporary Arts Program (Commissioner Nafshun)** – No report
- L. **Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board (Commissioner Cloke)** – Commissioner Cloke announced that members of the VAPAB would be visiting the muralists’ studio on Saturday, April 20, 2002. Commissioner Cloke reported on the escalation of shootings in the community and the responsive action by the Alliance Subcommittee.
- M. **Civic Center Specific Plan Working Group Update (Chairperson Schwengel)** - No report.
- N. **Sustainable City Working Group (Commissioner Nafshun)** – Commissioner Nafshun recognized Director Stinchfield who reported that the group is working on measures to monitor progress on sustainable practices in open space and parks.

Chairperson Schwengel advised Commissioner Sosin to review subcommittee/liason assignments list and respond with her preferred assignments. Commissioner Cloke made a motion to address Item 8.A. followed by Item 7.A. Commissioner Sosin seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote in the absence of Commissioner Mount.

8. Old Business

- A. **Status Report on the New Municipal Pool and Recommendation to Provide Comments on Proposed Pool User Fees** – Robin Davidson, Youth and Family Supervisor of the Human Services Division, recognized Evelyn Lim, Community Services Specialist IV of the Aquatics Program, who received the CPRS Outstanding Professional Award and; Clark Dikeman, Aquatics Program Supervisor, who received the CPRS District 9 Merit Award and an Award of Excellence for the Aquatics Website. Jeanine Houchen, Chief Lifeguard and Richard Mollica, Pool Lifeguard, gave a presentation of the Aquatics website. Clark Dikeman gave a slide presentation on the Municipal Pool construction and a report of proposed fee increases. Discussion followed.

Chairperson Schwengel opened the floor for public comment. Given the number of speakers, Commissioner Carrey made a motion to reduce the 3-minute public comment time to a 2-minute segment for each member of the public. Commissioner Nafshun seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote in absence of Commissioner Mount.

Sandy Young, Brendan McBreen, Rocky Stickloz, Maureen Bradford, Jeanne Baruch, Jay Kreutzer, Kalia and Jenn Kreutzer, Alex Gray, Lynda Rush, Bob Wong, Penny Parrish, Lydia Magyar, Dezso Magyar, Melanie Murez, Andi Murez, Zak Murez, Jim Murez, Kathleen Alexander Pinzon, Lorraine Alexander, Max Goldstein, Dana Gray, Craig Nadel, expressed

their support and the benefits derived from Team Santa Monica. They feel that the proposed pool fees are not financially feasible for Team Santa Monica.

Rocky Stickloz of Scuba House in Santa Monica, expressed that the pool should be accessible to all Santa Monica residents.

Clay Evans requested that the new pool will allow the Masters Swim Team to keep the same amount of pool time as they had in the past.

Roman Bruno suggested that seniors have access to the pool at no charge or pay a maximum of \$.50.

Jonathan Persky expressed concern regarding fee structures and parking availability.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Carrey made a motion to adopt the proposed fee structure as set forth in Item 8.A. excluding non-profit Santa Monica based user groups. Commissioner Sosin seconded the motion.

Commissioner Cloke made a motion to keep the Children Use Fee at \$.50. The motion was not carried for lack of a second.

Commissioner Nafshun made a motion to amend the original motion as follows: private parties and special events will be required to pay for a lifeguard. Commissioner Carrey seconded the motion.

Chairperson Schwengel called for a vote on the original motion with the added amendment as follows:

The Commission supports the proposed fee structure as proposed by City staff with the following recommended changes: the fee structure for non-profit Santa Monica-based user group fees will need to be determined; in addition to room rental fees for birthday parties and other activities, a fee will be required to pay for a lifeguard. The motion carried by voice vote in the absence of Commissioner Mount. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Carrey made a motion to allow a one-year grace period for non-profit Santa Monica-based user groups to have memberships consisting of at least 50% residents. Commissioner Nafshun seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Carrey withdrew the motion to allow a one-year grace period for non-profit Santa Monica based user groups to have memberships consisting of at least 50% residents. Commissioner Nafshun withdrew the second to the motion.

Commissioner Collis made a motion to allow a one-year grace period for non-profit Santa Monica-based youth user groups to attain a 50% resident membership level and during the

grace period, the fees would approximate their current fees at other locations based on a unit price. Commissioner Nafshun seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote in the absence of Commissioner Mount.

7. **New Business**

- A. **Presentation by Committee for Smoke-Free Parks and Recommendation to Hold a Public Hearing in June 2002** – Mr. Robert Berger, President of Healthier Solutions, presented information from research conducted with the City of Beverly Hills. Commissioner Collis made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on Smoke-Free Parks in June 2002. Commissioner Nafshun seconded the motion. The motion carried in the absence of Commissioner Mount.
- B. **Update On Crescent Bay Park Renewal and Completion Time** – Director Stinchfield reported on the pergola rehabilitation scheduled for completion by May 2002. City staff is researching funding opportunities for lighting at the pergola. Proposals for improving the condition/appearance of the slope and deterring vehicle access are being reviewed.
- C. **Recommendation to City Council that the Disability Community Accessibility Committee (DCAC) be recognized as a Commission** – Commissioner Collis made a motion to recommend that the City Council recognize the DCAC as a commission. Commissioner Nafshun seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote in the absence of Commissioner Mount. This motion will be transmitted to Council, contingent upon the City Attorney reviewing the action's compliance with the Brown Act.

8. **Old Business**

- B. **Recommendation from the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board (VAPAB) Membership Interview Committee for the Appointment of Three New VAPAB Members** – Commissioner Nafshun made a motion to appoint the following persons to the VAPAB: Ms. Florence Benjamin, Ms. Lupita Dixon, Ms. Cynthia Santiago. Commissioner Collis seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote in the absence of Commissioner Mount.

9. **Public Input** - None

- 10. **Adjournment** – Commissioner Collis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Carrey seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote in absence of Commissioner Mount. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.