



## **RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION**

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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ken Edwards Center

1527 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

1. **Call to Order** – Chairperson Cloke called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

**Present:** Chairperson Cloke  
Vice Chairperson Carrey  
Commissioner Brock  
Commissioner Deutsch  
Commissioner Nafshun  
Commissioner Schwengel  
Commissioner Winterer

**Also Present:**

Barbara Stinchfield, Director of Community & Cultural Services  
Karen Ginsberg, Assistant Director of Community & Cultural Services  
Anne Deasey, Community & Cultural Services  
Libby Carlson, Community & Cultural Services

4. **Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of April 19, 2007** – Commissioner Brock moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 19, 2007. Commissioner Schwengel seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. Vice Chairperson Carrey abstained.

5. **Director's Report** – Assistant Director Ginsberg provided a status update on various Capital Improvement Projects, specifically:

- Airport Park: Grand opening celebration was held on April 29. The Commission commended staff on the park and the opening event.
- Bluff Stabilization: City Council is tentatively scheduled to consider the CEQA documents (Mitigated Negative Declaration) on June 12<sup>th</sup>. A 12 month construction period is anticipated to begin in early 2008.
- Euclid Park: The opening is tentatively scheduled for July 15.
- Skatepark Lighting: A small lighting ceremony was held on April 14. Vice Chairperson Carrey attended and thanked staff for their hard work.
- South Beach Park: playground equipment has been removed and will be replaced on an interim basis with swings and other equipment until funding can be secured for a full playground upgrade here and at other playgrounds in the city.

Additionally, the 2007 Festival will be held at Clover Park on May 20 from 9:30 am – 5:30 pm.

Director Stinchfield referred the Commission to the materials that they were provided to educate the public on alternative ways to give to the homeless, as a result of the recent evaluation of the City's homeless services.

## 6. **Committee and Liaison Reports**

- A. **Community Gardens Advisory Committee** – Commissioner Winterer reported on the recent committee meeting, stating that the proposed plot layout for Park Drive was unanimously approved. The committee also made recommendations on signage, locks and pathway materials. The committee expressed an interest in keeping the current fencing at the Main Street site. Staff will return with recommendations to the Commission in June. The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Jerry Rubin, a member of the public, spoke in support of additional garden plots and suggested that they be added to the open space proposed in the Civic Center Specific Plan. Mr. Rubin also suggested collaborating with Santa Monica College on garden programs and partnering with the Farmer's Market to provide a booth where gardeners could sell their products.
- B. **Palisades Park Committee** –Chairperson Cloke reported that the Landmarks Commission will consider the designation at their June meeting and reminded the Commission of their previous recommendation regarding this matter. Jerry Rubin, a member of the public, spoke in opposition to widening the Pier Bridge for traffic purposes.
- C. **Environmental and Sustainable City Task Forces Liaison** – Commissioner Deutsch reported on the SCTF meeting, stating that a community liaison has been hired to connect with the public and promote sustainability throughout the city. SCTF discussed a possible summit on issues of mutual interest to City commissions, such as green streets.
- D. **Planning Commission Liaison on Land Use & Circulation Element Update** – Chairperson Cloke stated that the Planning Commission has invited her to make a presentation on the Commission's ideas regarding complete/green streets.
- E. **SMMUSD/SMC Liaison** – No report
- F. **Sports Advisory Council Liaison** – Commissioner Schwengel reported that the Santa Monica Youth Athletic Foundation (SMYAF) sent a letter to City Council and the School Board in support of additional recreation space for the high school. A planning meeting will be held during the last week of May.
- G. **Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board Liaison** – Commissioner Nafshun reported on the Board's productive retreat, stating that they plan to focus on park safety, utilization of park space, and additional programs for youth. Director Stinchfield reported on the Cinco de Mayo celebration, which was attended by approximately 1,000 people.
- H. **Events Committee** – No report.

## 7. Action Items

- A. **Review of Beach Greening Project and Formulation of Commission Recommendations** – Brett Horner, Senior Administrative Analyst, summarized the goals of the project, both environmental and recreational. The 0.6 acre pilot project will be located in the 2030 beach lot, north of Ocean Park Blvd. Initial design concepts were presented at a community meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The project will be presented to the Coastal Commission in July. The California Department of Parks & Recreation has written a letter in support of the project.

Neil Shapiro, Senior Administrative Analyst, Environmental Programs, provided further technical information on the project, which will incorporate monitoring wells for sampling in order to determine the project's effect on water quality. The report to the State for this grant-funded project is due in early 2009.

The design consultant presented materials that will be used and site layout options. The graphics consultant presented schemes for signage.

Several members of the public spoke in opposition to the use of bright colors and the placement of trees that would disrupt view corridors. Possible noise resulting from use of the site was also brought up.

Chairperson Cloke moved to support option 2 for the Beach Greening Project, with recommendations for the use of a soft edge along the bike path, protection of view corridors, maximized use of native plants and possible replacement of existing New Zealand pines. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Commission requested staff explore funding to expand the project and incorporate use of reclaimed water in Phase 2.

- B. **Formulation of FYs07 – 09 Budget Recommendations to City Council** – Director Stinchfield presented Community & Cultural Services proposed objectives and budget priorities as outlined in the proposed FYs07-09 budget. Director Stinchfield also reviewed the capital project priorities for the next 3 years, which include completing the community garden improvements; improvements to the Joslyn Park off-leash area, upgrading park signage and park restrooms, and “Best at the Beach” projects. Ms. Stinchfield also indicated that programs focused on youth and active living are proposed for funding. No capital improvement money is identified in the proposed budget for the Green Street initiative, but the concept of Green Streets is a constant theme in LUCE planning discussions.

Ted Winterer moved to send a letter from the Commission to the City Manager thanking Director Stinchfield and Assistant Director Ginsberg and their staff for their hard work and Lamont Ewell for supporting so many of the Commission's objectives. The letter should also request that the City Manager find funding in the budget to initiate a Memorial Park Master Plan including the former Fisher Lumber site; funding to implement a pilot Green Streets prototype; implementation of solar lighting in parks and a recommendation to raise dog license fees to offset maintenance costs of off-leash dog areas. Commissioner Brock seconded and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**8. Discussion Items**

A. **Review of Commission Long Range Agenda** – The Long Range Agenda was reviewed. Items tentatively placed on the JUNE agenda include, review of the proposed improvements to the Community Gardens, and a public hearing regarding usage of the Airport Park off-leash dog area by neighboring L.A. residents. Staff will follow up to see when several projects will be ready for presentation to the Commission and tentative dates will be reflected on the next Long Range Agenda.

**9. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm