



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

1. **Call to Order** – Chairperson Cloke called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

Present: Chairperson Cloke
Commissioner Brock
Commissioner Carrey
Commissioner Deutsch
Commissioner Nafshun

Also Present:

Bob Holbrook, Santa Monica City Council
Karen Ginsberg, Assistant Director of Community & Cultural Services
Anne Deasey, Community & Cultural Services

4. **Administration of the Oath of Office to Reappointed Commissioner** - Chairperson Cloke administered the Oath of Office to recently re-appointed Commissioner Neil Carrey and welcomed Council Member Holbrook to the meeting.

5. **Approval of Minutes from the meeting of August 16, 2007** – Commissioner Brock moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting of June 21, 2007. Commissioner Carrey seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

6. **Director's Report** – Assistant Director Ginsberg reported that the video produced by the Santa Monica Recreation & Parks Commission in honor of Park(ing) Day 2006 has been posted on the Los Angeles Park(ing) Day website. The video was played for the enjoyment of everyone at the meeting. Ms. Ginsberg invited the Commissioners to attend the Beach Summit meeting, sponsored by the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, on September 25, and encouraged everyone's participation in the next LUCE workshop focusing on transportation, scheduled for October 6. Staff will forward information to the Commissioners regarding the California Park & Recreation Society's annual conference to be held in Long Beach in February 2008.

Item 9 was addressed before item 7.

7. **Committee and Liaison Reports**

A. **Community Gardens Advisory Committee** – The Commissioners will ensure that a representative attends the regular meetings.

B. **Palisades Park Committee** – No report.

C. **Environmental and Sustainable City Task Force Liaison** – Chairperson Cloke has been invited to give her "City as Park" presentation to the Sustainable City Task Force.

- D. **Planning Commission Liaison on Land Use & Circulation Element Update** – Chairperson Cloke’s letter on behalf of RPC to the Planning Commission summarizing the presentation she made at their meeting on September 5, and requesting specific actions, was circulated at the meeting and a final copy will be distributed to all Commissioners.
- E. **SMMUSD/SMC Liaison** – Commissioner Carrey mentioned that the Santa Monica Youth Athletic Foundation (SMYAF) is focusing on the amount of money that will be allocated from measure BB to district athletic facilities.
- F. **Sports Advisory Council Liaison** – Commissioner Brock reported that based upon the discussion at SAC, better coordination between field maintenance activities and permitting to field users is needed to eliminate the frustration felt by some field users this fall.
- G. **Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board Liaison** – No report.
- H. **Event Committee** – No report.

8. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Presentation of Recreation & Parks Commission’s LUCE concepts and approval of additional presentations – Chairperson Cloke presented the “City as Park” presentation developed for the Planning Commission, which conveys the Recreation & Park’s Commission’s vision for the LUCE and makes the following specific requests:

- Create a special beach zone for all of the area west of Barnard Way, Ocean Avenue and PCH and that area be zoned as beach zone parkland; and that the vision and the iconic and practical value of the beach be spelled out in the LUCE and in the accompanying zoning code.
- Set a standard of not more than ¼ mile from any residence to a public park; and create a mechanism in the zoning code whereby any property in the city could be used as park, given the appropriate public process and opportunity.
- Set standards for new multi-family residential buildings that require a minimum % or a minimum square footage (depending on the number of units) of common green space for active and/or passive recreational use by building residents. These garden areas could also provide ideal opportunities for stormwater infiltration.
- Recognize the importance of the community forest to the urban design of the city, its importance for quality of life, contributions to public health, air quality and water quality and quantity; that you set standards for creating a sustainable tree canopy; and that you incorporate the community forest plan into the LUCE.
- Map a hierarchy of streets with arterial boulevards to be designed to facilitate auto and bus vehicles, provide safe pedestrian crossings and provide pleasant walking experiences on broad, tree-lined sidewalks; that you map a hierarchy of connector streets designed to facilitate safe bicycle routes as well as allowing for auto and bus vehicles; that all streets be planted with trees that contribute to the beauty and the environmental stewardship of the city; and that you create a blueprint for implementation over the coming 20 years.

In order to promote this message more extensively, Commissioner Nafshun will provide a DVD for posting on the website and for distribution. Council member Holbrook commended the Commission and staff on their hard work and valuable contributions to the City.

B. Presentation of Reed Park Improvement Plans for the purpose of formulating recommendations – After reporting that the updated design was the culmination of extensive community research and input, Brett Horner introduced landscape architects, Katherine Spitz & Associates. The designers summarized the project goals to enhance the identity and sense of history of the park; improve wayfinding; provide greater sustainability and accessibility; build community and increase safety.

- They presented the schematic design which will result in the expansion of the children's playground; landscape and pathway improvements between Miles Playhouse and the tennis courts; landscape improvements to the Wilshire Blvd. frontage and park entry signage.

Commission comments focused on exploring further ideas to depict the historical significance of the park, and a desire to expand the scope of work to formulate a master plan for the entire park. Commissioner Ginsberg indicated that current funding would preclude expansion of the scope of work at this time.

Chairperson Cloke moved to support the plan as presented for the improvement of Reed Park, commend the landscape architects for their sensitivity to issues of community, placemaking and sustainability, and recommend that the planning process be expanded to create a master plan for the whole park, recognizing that implementation may need to be phased. Commissioner Nafshun seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

C. Consideration of Special Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on November 3, 2007 for the purposes of formulating initial recommendations on the operating plan for the Annenberg Community Beach Club and cancellation of Regular Meeting of November 15 2007 –

Chairperson Cloke moved to cancel the regular meeting of November 15, 2007, and hold a special meeting on November 3, 2007, for the purposes of gaining community input on the operating plan for the Annenberg Community Beach Club and formulating recommendations. Commissioner Carrey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote.

D. Discussion on Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board request to enclose the small children's playground at VAP and formulation of comments to staff - Assistant Director Ginsberg showed pictures highlighting the playground, and reviewed the original design concepts.

Chairperson Cloke moved to thank the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board for their attention to the park, but to notify them that the Commission does not agree that there has been a sufficient demonstration of need to pursue their request. Commissioner Carrey seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Report on action of Landmarks Commission to designate Palisades Park as a Landmark and direction to meet jointly with the Landmarks Commission to develop a Regulatory Review Program - Chairperson Cloke reported that the Landmarks Commission agreed with every point in the Recreation and Parks Commission's letter and

unanimously voted to designate the park as a landmark. A statement of findings and their determination will be brought back to the Landmarks Commission for adoption at their next meeting. Vice Chairperson Carrey is consulting with the Santa Monica City Attorney's office regarding the possibility of convening a joint subcommittee of Recreation and Parks and Landmarks Commissioners to formulate the Regulatory Review Program, and will report back to the Commission on the results of his discussions.

B. Review of Commission Long Range Agenda - The Commission requested that an overview of the beach budget, with particular emphasis on revenues, be added to the October meeting agenda.

Commissioner Cloke motioned that the Commission rescind the motion to cancel the regular November 15th meeting. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Discussion on whether to hold a retreat in early 2008 was placed on the November agenda and the cancellation of the regular December meeting will be voted on in October. In reviewing pending items, Commissioner Carrey asked for a copy of the SAC bylaws so he can evaluate them, and Commissioner Brock suggested that efforts to enhance the Community Forest be tied into Arbor Day. Planning for a 2008 Park(ing) Day event was added to the pending items. Chairperson Cloke stated that Craig Perkins, Director, EPWM is preparing a report on Watershed funding, which staff will forward to the Commissioners as soon as it is available.

9. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.