



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 15, 2007

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

1. **Call to Order** – Chairperson Cloke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

Present:

Chairperson Cloke
Commissioner Brock
Commissioner Carrey
Commissioner Deutsch (arrived 7:35pm)
Commissioner Nafshun
Commissioner Schwengel
Commissioner Winterer (arrived 7:40pm)

Also Present: Karen Ginsberg, Assistant Director of Community & Cultural Services
Anne Deasey, Community & Cultural Services

4. **Approval of Minutes from the meeting of October 18, 2007** – Commissioner Brock moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 18, 2007. Commissioner Schwengel seconded the motion. The motion carried with Commissioner Carrey abstaining.

5. **Director's Report** – In response to questions from the October meeting, Assistant Director Ginsberg informed the Commission that there are 208.70 acres of sand and 36.80 acres of parking lot at Santa Monica beach, and that the empty tree wells at the beach will be planted with Royal Palms in April/May 2008. The Commissioners requested that Community Maintenance Department staff be invited to a future meeting for further discussion regarding the selection of trees. Ms. Ginsberg also reported that Council awarded the design contract for the beach restrooms.

6. ACTION ITEMS:

A. **Discussion of Commission Retreat and Agenda** – The goal of the retreat is to create a workplan for the coming year and formulate budget recommendations for FY 08/09. Possible capital budget related items for discussion at the retreat include:

- Green Streets
- Beach Greening
- Civic Center recreation and playing fields
- High School athletic facility upgrade
- Safety issues at Virginia Avenue Park
- Developing playgrounds, and issues such as shading and suitability for various ages
- Community forest and native species
- Development of parkland at the Fisher Lumber site and in underserved areas
- Additional revenue sources for parks and recreation projects

Other suggested items include a review of last year's retreat goals.

Chair Cloke will work with staff to develop the retreat meeting agenda.

Commissioner Schwengel moved that the Commission hold a special meeting on December 8 at Euclid Park from 10am to 4pm. Commissioner Carrey moved to amend the time to 9am to 3pm. The motion carried by voice vote.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update and Discussion of Annenberg Community Beach Club Operations Plan – Assistant Director Ginsberg reported that approximately 40 people attended the recent community meeting for the Annenberg Community Beach Club operations plan. The meeting included a status update on the project and solicited public input on various operational aspects of the site. A follow up report, including questions from the public that could not be answered at the workshop, is available online at 415pch.smgov.net. Commissioners who attended the meeting commented on the positive response by the community, and Commissioner Winterer suggested that the near-by plover habitat creates an excellent opportunity for an educational forum.

B. Update and Discussion on Staff Proposals to Modify Regulations Governing Surf Instruction at Santa Monica State Beach and Tennis Instruction in City Parks - Assistant Director Ginsberg provided background on the proposed Ordinance regarding tennis instruction in City parks. Callie Hurd, Open Space Manager, outlined a proposed Ordinance to regulate surf instruction at the beach. The Commission requested that staff return at a future date with additional information and draft ordinances for review.

Five members of the public spoke expressing their support of allowing permit instructors to be allowed to teach doubles rather than limiting them to only two pupils at one time as currently proposed.

C. Update and Discussion on Recycling in Parks – Discussion was continued to January.

D. Review of Commission Long Range Agenda - Discussion was continued to the Retreat.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Community Gardens Advisory Committee – Commissioner Carrey reported that new bylaws are under development.

B. Palisades Park Committee – No report.

C. Environmental and Sustainable City Task Force Liaison – Chairperson Cloke reported that she was invited to give the “City As Park” presentation at a Task Force meeting.

D. Planning Commission Liaison on Land Use & Circulation Element Update – Commissioner Brock attended the community meeting on the Industrial Lands and reported that open space and parkland are a key element of the plans.

E. SMMUSD/SMC Liaison – Commissioner Carrey reported that discussions regarding maximizing use of the bond funds are underway.

F. Sports Advisory Council Liaison – Commissioner Carrey reported that a draft of the new bylaws has been completed and that SAC’s overall role is being reviewed.

- G. **Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board Liaison** – Commissioner Nafshun reported that the Board is accepting applications for two positions and efforts are underway with the Board to encourage sustained participation.
- H. **Event Committee** – No report.
- 9. **Public Comment** – One citizen voiced concern about safety issues at Virginia Avenue Park.
- 10. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.