



## **RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION**

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### **Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

1. **Call to Order** – Chairperson Cloke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

**Present:** Chairperson Cloke  
Commissioner Brock  
Commissioner Carrey  
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

4. **Approval of Minutes from the meeting of March 17, 2008** – Commissioner Schwengel moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 17, 2008. Commissioner Winterer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. **Director's Report** – Director Stinchfield reported on the Beach Green opening event scheduled for Sunday, May 18. Chair Cloke reviewed the activities and speakers lined up and reported on the event committee's outreach efforts. Commissioners commended staff for their hard work on the event and spoke highly of the Community Maintenance Department regarding the excellent condition of the lot. Comment cards will be developed to assist in promoting the benefits of the project and gathering feedback.

Item 7A was heard before item 6A.

A. **Staff Presentation on Bicknell Streetscape Plant Palette** – Following up on his presentation in February, Mark Cuneo, Principal Civil Engineer, Environmental and Public Works Management, updated the Commission on the \$800,000 project. After taking 3 options to Council, the resulting design favors wider parkways and swales on each side, and features several species of trees and mostly drought tolerant plants of fairly low height to preserve the view corridor. In answer to questions, Mr. Cuneo informed the Commission that the street will require increased maintenance and that the catch basin will capture approximately the first ¾" of storm rainwater. Chair Cloke asked Mr. Cuneo to research how well magnolia trees can thrive so close to the ocean and offered the Commission's support for future projects.

6. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Staff Presentation and Formulation of Commission Comments Regarding Proposed City Budget** – Director Stinchfield reported that, due to current economic uncertainty, most of the approved enhancement requests will be those that are cost-covering. Director Stinchfield

also noted that funding for development of the Memorial Park Master Plan has been approved for the next fiscal year. Commission comments on the Community & Cultural Services workplan included partnering with the Convention and Visitors Bureau regarding funding for signage at the beach and providing all-night shuttles for the "Glow" festival.

Kathy LePrevost, Manager of Community Programs, outlined strategies for increasing and standardizing fees for recreation users, which will cover the cost of increased staff to provide further services for customers. Commissioners commended staff on a thorough analysis of the issues and solutions.

Commissioner Schwengel moved in support of the recommended revised fee schedule. Vice Chairperson Carrey seconded the motion. Chairperson Cloke's suggested amendment to the motion to exclude youth fees was not carried. The original motion carried with Chair Cloke and Commissioner Deutsch abstaining.

After further examination of the budget recommendations, Commissioners compiled the issues of highest priority to them.

Chair Cloke moved in support of staff recommendations, including the proposed recreation user fee structure, and highlighting the importance of the following items:

- Annenberg Community Beach House
- The South Beach Green
- Civic Center Planning
- Park Revitalization
- Active Living

Commissioner Schwengel seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote.

Chairperson Cloke will draft a letter to Council on behalf of the Commission.

Council will adopt the final budget on June 17.

**B. Staff Presentation and Formulation of Commission Recommendation to Council in Support of Proposed Senate.S.2686 Complete Streets Act of 2008 – Commissioner Schwengel moved to not recommend Council support of the bill. Vice Chairperson Carrey seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

**B. Review of Commission Long Range Agenda –** A review of the surf permit program was placed on the agenda for fall.

## 8. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

**A. Community Gardens Advisory Committee –** Kathy LePrevost, Community Programs Manager, reported that 25 new spaces at Park Drive are now being assigned and that staff is looking at inventive ways to create new garden space.

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

**C. Environmental and Sustainable City Task Force Liaison –** No report.

**D. Planning Commission Liaison on Land Use & Circulation Element Update –** No report.

E. **SMMUSD/SMC Liaison** – No report.

F. **Sports Advisory Council Liaison** – Commissioner Brock reported on the continued concern of football groups about the regular closing of sports fields for maintenance. He also stated that SAC would like to revisit the issue of inequity of fees with regard to lawn bowling in comparison with other sports.

G. **Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board Liaison** – Commissioner Nafshun reported on the upcoming retreat at which Board members will discuss their direction for the next 5 years.

H. **Event Committee** – No report.

7. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

9. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.