



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St., 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 Carrey
Commissioner Cohen
Commissioner Deutsch
Commissioner Nafshun
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 September 4, 2008** – Commissioner Nafshun moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 18, 2008. Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion. The motion carried with Commissioners Winterer, Carrey and Cohen abstaining.

5. **Director's Report** – Assistant Director Ginsberg briefed the Commission on the Give Santa Monica program through which members of the public may contribute to various open space improvements in honor of a person or occasion. Opportunities range from \$25 to approximately \$25,000 for general improvements, trees and specific amenities such as benches or shade structures. Available options are consistent with existing amenities. The Commission suggested that events and concerts be added to the list. A more detailed presentation on the program will be added to the long range agenda.

In answer to questions regarding the proposed Ocean Park Boulevard improvement project, Director Stinchfield reported that City Council will review concept designs for capital improvement projects before they are presented to boards, commissions and the community.

6. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Formulation of comments on the Proposed Annenberg Community Beach House Operations Plan** – Open Space Manager Callie Hurd provided the following update to the proposed operations plan for the first season since last reviewed by the Commission:

- Addition of short-term parking rates of \$3 - \$4 per hour
- Free advance online parking reservations during peak season
- Ability to pay for parking on site with credit cards
- The Tide Shuttle will provide service to the Beach House on weekends between May-Sept. along with Big Blue Bus Line #9
- The children's splash pad will be free during non-peak periods

- Recreational swim periods will be available on weekdays between 10 am and 6 pm from late June through August
- Dollar Days will provide entry for \$1 one day per week during from 10 am to noon
- Youth Financial Assistance Program will be available for youth pool passes and classes
- Reservations will be available 3 days in advance
- Three beach volleyball/tennis courts will be available for advance reservation with a \$5 fee; Drop in use will be free
- 100 parking spaces and 50 – 75% of pool passes will be available for reservation
- The maximum reservation by one individual will be for 1 car, 6 pool passes and 1.5 hours of court time

After Commission discussion on the advance reservation policy, a member of the public spoke in support of increasing the advance reservation period to one month rather than 3 days as proposed. Mr. Fred Deni, concessionaire for Back on the Beach, spoke in support of the proposed 3-day advance reservation plan.

Chairperson Cloke moved to support the proposed Annenberg Community Beach House operations plan Commissioner Carrey seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Nafshun moved to recommend that 50% of pool capacity be available for advance reservation, rather than 75%, to accommodate visitors from out of town. Commissioner Carrey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Nafshun moved to recommend that the Big Blue Bus shuttle run in opposite direction in order to cut down on travel time for users coming from either Ocean Park or North of Montana. Commissioner Winterer seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Carrey abstaining.

Chairperson Cloke moved to encourage staff to provide for maximum flexibility in planning for operations at the Beach House to allow for a quick response to prevailing conditions. Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

B. Approval of Admission of Pacifica Christian High School Soccer Club to the Sports Advisory Council – In answer to questions, Commissioner Carrey stated that membership in the Sports Advisory Council does not provide any advantage regarding field allocation.

Commissioner Carrey moved to recommend the admission of Pacifica Christian High School to the Sports Advisory Council. Commissioner Winterer seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

C. Presentation on Joslyn Park Off-Leash Area Improvements – Julie Silliman, Senior Administrative Analyst for Parks & Facility Planning, reported on the results of a recent survey of Joslyn dog park users. Priority amenities for the Joslyn Park off-leash dog area are shade, access to water for dogs, seating, agility equipment for dogs, and an alternative to wood chips ground cover. While many improvements can be implemented by staff, a landscape architect

will be consulted on optimal overall design of the park. Staff is researching a faucet attachment to the water fountains so that users can fill up drinking bowls for the dogs.

Chairperson Cloke moved in support of the process to date and the concepts developed. Commissioner Winterer seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Item 7B was heard before item 6D.

7B. Presentation by Community Maintenance Department staff on the planned replacement of diseased date palm trees in Palisades Park – Walt Warriner, Community Forest & Public Landscape Superintendent, briefed the Commission on the diseased date palm trees in Palisades Park and other park areas near the beach. He showed pictures of the replacement royal palms, chosen for their suitability to the local climate and their similarity to the existing canopy. In developing a long-range master plan for the community forest, the Public Landscape division is researching a variety of appropriate species, including native plants, for different locations around the City, to alleviate the problems of a mono-culture.

The Commissioners commented that it is not always necessary to replace a palm tree with a palm tree, and that native species are advisable wherever possible.

D. Discussion of Commission Retreat in January, focusing on a tentative agenda that includes the Commission budget and workplan – Topics identified for the retreat on January 24 include:

- Commission workplan
- Commission budget and funding allocation
- Liaison appointments and projects
- Beach Green and Green Street projects
- Watershed
- Mini parks and playgrounds – innovative ways to achieve more parkland & children's playgrounds

The Commission determined that the retreat should be held from 8:30 am to 2 pm.

E. Discussion of a possible action on cancellation of regular meeting in December – Commissioner Winterer moved to hold the December meeting as scheduled. Commissioner Carrey seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Report by Chairperson Cloke on "Children in Nature" Conference – Chairperson Cloke reported on the "Children in Nature" Conference, which focused on how land management agencies can address the critical issue that children are less connected to the natural world than at any other time in history. Ms. Cloke presented a compilation of pictures and passed around brochures highlighting programs such as "River of Words," which integrates art and poetry to promote literacy, creative expression and community awareness in children of our most critical environmental concern: water. Of particular interest were pictures portraying separate pedestrian and bike paths along a large body of water, and a state-of-the-art dog park.

C. Review of Commission Long Range Agenda – Items added to the long range agenda:

- Discussion of using customer survey and program registration data in determining future community priorities

- Guidelines for allocation of field use
- Presentation on examples of greening of freeways
- Commercial activity in parks

9. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

- A. **Community Gardens Advisory Committee** – No report.
 - B. **Palisades Park Committee** – No report.
 - C. **Environmental and Sustainable City Task Force Liaison** – Commissioner Deutsch reported that she is researching environmental issues connected with artificial turf.
 - D. **Planning Commission Liaison on Land Use & Circulation Element Update** – No report.
 - E. **SMMUSD/SMC Liaison** – No report.
 - F. **Sports Advisory Council Liaison** – Commissioner Carrey reported that there are still problems with aggressive behavior over field space, but he has received comments that rangers are available to patrol the medians in other areas of the City. The issue of field and ranger allocation will be agendized as soon as possible.
 - G. **Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board Liaison** – Commissioner Cohen reported that the Board is having trouble filling vacancies and is working hard to recruit more members.
 - H. **Event Committee** – No report.
10. **Public Comment** – There was no further public comment.
11. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm.