

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 10, 2011**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Brett Waterfield, President, at 9:05 a.m., at the El Dorado Community Center. George Chapjian, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

**Present:** Brett Waterfield, President  
Sarah Sangmeister, Vice President  
Ron Antonette  
Simon George  
Benjamin Goldberg  
Albert Guerra  
Harry Saltzgaver

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** George Chapjian, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
Gladys Kaiser, Manager, Community Recreation Services  
John Keisler, Manager, Business Operations  
Bob Livingstone, Superintendent of Golf & Contract Compliance  
Theresa Maceyka, Superintendent, Grounds Maintenance  
Dr. Margaret Lee, Shelter Veterinarian  
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

**Guests:** Grace Earl, El Do South N.A.  
Jim Auman, Long Beach Plaza Little League Challenger Division  
Joan Criswell, LBCGA  
Sher Meyers, LBCGA  
Peggy Mills, LBCGA  
Mike Battistone, LBCG  
Martha Haber, LBCG  
Lonnie Brundage, LBCGA  
Richard James, EDNC  
Cathy Morris, LBCGA  
Terry Hollandson, LBCGA  
Ana Bustilloz, SPCALA  
Kate Karp, LB Post  
P.G. Herman, LBO  
Peggy Keller, FEDDP  
Lietta Wagner, LBCGA  
P. Schumaker, LBCGA

S. Vail, LBCGA

Jill Brennan, Citizen Friend of EDNC and Comm. Gardens and Wildlife

Nancy W. Bernstein, LBCGA

John Watkins, Resident

Dorothy Kemeny, Resident

Judy Crumpton, FEDDP & Resident

Theresa Bergh, FEDDP & Resident

Sharon Gottfried, LBCGA

Marvin Gottfried, LBCGA

Emily Kaupdi, Concerned Resident

Arlene & Robert BeCotte, LBCGA

Ron Sievers, Resident

Ann Cantrell, Friends of Nature Center

Joanne Rice, Long Beach Com. Gardens

Eileen Woodyard, Long Beach Com. Gardens

Steven & Pat Witt, Friends of Nature Center, LB Community Garden

Doris Davis, Long Beach Com. Gardens

Gordon Winfree, Long Beach Com. Gardens

Ron Keller, Long Beach Com. Gardens

Jane Bechtol, Friends of El Dorado Dog Park

Frank Dayak, Community Gardens

Doug Alley, Community Gardens

Ron Beller, Friends of El Do Dog Park

Russell R., Long Beach Com. Gardens

Tara Sievers, Friends of El Dorado Nature Center

Jane Larsen, Long Beach Community Gardens

Joanne Cruz, Friends of El Dorado

Karry Martin, Friends of Nature Center

Janet Lugo, Garden Member

Harold Drab, Garden Member

Tom Poe, LDG Church

E.J. Trait, LBCGA

Gary Sarka, LBCGA

Wanda Hines, Resident

Nancy Couvrey, Resident

Lurlie Edgecomb, Resident

Michale Amrhein, Garden Member

Diana Lejins, Environmental Concerns of GLB

Reginald Allen, Long Beach Community Garden

Page Martin, El Dorado Community Garden

Harold Drab

Mary Matthiensen, Friends of El Dorado Dog Park

Mary Parsell, El Dorado Audubon

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 2011

It was moved by Commissioner Antonette and seconded by Vice President Sangmeister to approve the October 13, 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON THE BELMONT PLAZA POOL – DANNY KAY, TOTUM CONSULTING

Mr. Kay gave a PowerPoint presentation and described the problem at the Belmont Plaza Pool. He explained the steps they took to discover the issues and how they repaired the pool.

Mr. Chapjian reported that the money used to repair the pool came from \$1 million available in County money. He commended Danny Kay and his staff who worked night and day and weekends. We plan on opening November 14, with an open house where anyone can come and swim for free that day. This is a way of giving back to the community for putting up with the closure.

IV. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

**#11-1101**

Recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.

Ms. Kaiser reported there are a lot of returning instructors with four new classes. Staff is working diligently to provide contract classes throughout the city.

It was moved by Commissioner Antonette and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

**V. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS**

**A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
President Waterfield, Chair

President Waterfield reported that the Committee met to discuss the agenda. Due to some of the business on the agenda, we postponed some of the items to next month.

**B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**  
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver reported that the Committee met this month but he was unable to attend that meeting.

Vice President Sangmeister stated they met and continue to work on the fee waiver, which should be ready for the Commission in December.

President Waterfield stated we discussed water issues and the loss report. We continue to have a lot of copper theft.

Mr. Keisler reported there was \$8,000 damage to lighting and electrical boxes due to theft and vandalism this past month. These losses are on a monthly basis and are supplemental expenses and become very expensive.

Mr. Chapjian said we are having Ramon Arevalo come up with damages averaged over the past several years.

President Waterfield said the financial statement was included in the packet.

Mr. Keisler said we completed the first month of the new fiscal year. We are initiating purchase orders and bidding out work. The City is still closing out our accounts for the past fiscal year.

**C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George reported that the Committee met this morning and the statistics are in the packet.

D.     **MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE**  
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra reported that the Committee did not meet this month.

E.     **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**  
Vice President Sangmeister, Chair

Vice President Sangmeister reported that the Committee did not meet.

F.     **SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver said the Committee met and will continue to meet monthly. They will continue to work on policies and procedures as to what the Committee will address. We are looking at a couple of policies about alcohol use. We are waiting for action from City Council on that matter. We should have an actual definition and work plan next month.

G.     **JOINT USE COMMITTEE**  
Commissioner Antonette

Commissioner Antonette stated the Committee did not meet this past month. We are going to try and work along side what the City Council is doing. Once that is set we will then establish regular meetings.

Ms. Kaiser stated that we would push the report to the December meeting to allow more time for the speakers.

**VI.     DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

A.     Recommendation to receive and file the Director's monthly highlights report "We Create Community" for October 2011.

Commissioner Saltzgaver suggested everyone take a look at this monthly report that provides a great idea of what the Department is doing.

Mr. Chapjian stated that the public can pick up a copy at the administration office and it is also available on our Department website.

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Antonette to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

President Waterfield reported that there was quite a bit of correspondence received regarding the El Dorado Dog Park.

President Waterfield said he would take the New Business first and then go back to the Unfinished Business.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Recommendation to waive the youth participant fee for Plaza Little League (Challenger Division).

Mr. Chapjian said in July we received a request from Plaza Little League to waive the fees because of their financial situation.

Ms. Kaiser stated this has been an established league in this organization and is for children with disabilities. This is not offered anywhere else close and we think it enhances their lives to participate in sports, so we recommend this approval. We do have a league representative in the audience if you have any questions.

Commissioner Saltzgaver noted that the Challenger Division has 41 residents and 92 non-residents. As Gladys said, there is no other similar program nearby. What other cities are these kids coming from?

Mr. Jim Auman responded they come from Long Beach, Lakewood, Cerritos, and Bellflower.

Commissioner Saltzgaver noted they are paying their fees for their regular division.

Vice President Sangmeister asked if this is a waiver for one season or a year?

Ms. Kaiser responded that this is a one-time request for the past season.

President Waterfield said as we move forward, we will be under the new fee waiver policy.

Ms. Kaiser said the league feels confident they will be able to pay.

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Goldberg to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.**

President Waterfield stated that they would go back to the regular order on the agenda.

#### **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Recommend that the Long Beach Planning Commission approve the conversion of a portion of an undeveloped maintenance yard located within the boundaries of El Dorado East Regional Park into a new Dog Park and parking lot as proposed, and funded by the Friends of El Dorado Dog Park, and recommend that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a Right of Entry Permit and any necessary documents with the Friends of El Dorado Dog Park to allow for third party development, maintenance and solicitation of funds for the proposed use for a period of three years.

President Waterfield thanked everyone for coming to the Commission meeting today. He said the Commission has already decided this is an acceptable use in the Regional Park, but are looking at a location. In order to accommodate everyone who wishes to speak, we will limit the speakers to three minutes. We have received a number of correspondence about this item and we appreciate all the input.

Mr. Chapjian said in March 2011, the Commission approved the concept of five acres for a dog park in El Dorado Regional Park. The Friends of the El Dorado Dog Park requested a dog park with sufficient size, five acres if they could get that. They wanted sufficient parking, proximity to existing facilities, and the ability to add amenities in the future, all at their own expense including maintenance for at least two years. Staff has researched numerous sites and developed four potential recommendations for the Commission to consider. We had some issues and health

questions. We had two veterinarians who walked the sites and they have given an opinion.

Mr. Livingstone said we were guided by trying to balance the request of the Friends group with our park priorities, which came from the Open Space and Recreation Element of the Strategic Plan that was approved by the City Council in 2002, and our own strategic plan from 1999. We originally came up with three sites. The first is what we call the Azteca yard, which is bordered by the Possum Patch picnic area, the Nature Center, the Community Garden and the access road that leads to Animal Care Services (ACS). We would require some kind of buffer so it would not border the Nature Center. The second site is bordered by the southeastern corner in Area II, right by the fence and Spring Street at the off-ramp for the 605 Freeway, and a little south of the walking path. The third area is north of archery range in Area II. We were a little concerned about the potential for arrows so we went 90 yards north of that. If we were to go with one of the areas in Area II we would have to do a specific footprint, which has not been done yet. We came down to two philosophies. The appropriateness of taking existing park space that is open and not restricted in use and making it available for just one use. The second was the appropriateness of taking an undeveloped area of the park and turning it into an asset that can be used by our residents without impacting our budget. Based on those two concepts, our staff was guided by the Open Space and Recreation Element, which states that one of our priorities is to encourage recreational activity and increase the amount of park space that is open and available to residents. If we can do that while maintaining the public/private partnership, our staff's original inclination was to recommend the Azteca yard. However, we were aware that there would be concerns about that so we took three weeks trying to accumulate as much information as we could through open meetings, tours of the sites, meeting with veterinarians, and reading materials. Ultimately, we think the Azteca yard is the right place, but there are concerns so we wanted to look at another site. Attachment four is what we refer to as the Tree Farm, which is directly south of Spring Street and is the site our staff recommend. It is used by our Maintenance Operations Bureau and they would move into the Azteca yard. A benefit is that the dog park would no longer border the Nature Center and Community Garden. It would border the ACS yard. Regardless of the site chosen, there are certain requirements be placed on the Friends group. Regardless of the site, we would need to have sufficient parking without impacting current uses. It would have to have all ADA accessibility and



sufficient fencing. We would require eight foot fencing. If we go into either the Tree Farm or the Azteca yard, we would require Friends to pay for the purchase of an armed gate. If it is in one of these two areas we would recommend St Augustine Bermuda grass and as few trees and little shade as possible to dry up anything that needs to be dried up. We would come up with what one year's worth of maintenance would be and require Friends have three years of maintenance costs put in escrow. Once you have chosen a site, Friends would have to come up with a specific plan to submit to the Development Services Department, which would apply to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Since dog parks are common uses in parks, they don't see any issues, but they would be the ones to determine any issues such as grading away for drainage. Friends would be responsible for the cost. We are recommending a two-year timeline for Friends to come up with funds or the project will stop. Once all that is done, we would have to go to City Council for right of entry, which is required any time a private group is going to do construction on City property.

President Waterfield thanked Mr. Livingstone for his hard work.

Mr. Keisler asked Dr. Margaret Lee to give her opinion.

Dr. Lee introduced herself as the Shelter Veterinarian for ACS. She said she visited two potential sites: the maintenance yard and the site adjacent to Possum Park. I felt both sites would be appropriate distance in terms of the Community Garden and our shelter, where I was not concerned about infectious diseases going to the garden or ACS.

Commissioner Goldberg asked if the Tree Farm maintenance yard was the site that would not impact ACS.

Dr. Lee responded that both sites would not affect the shelter operations. Most problems would be if animals would be left unattended in their cars while they visit ACS. As long as parking is adjacent there would be no problem of people crossing the road.

Mr. Livingstone said there was a concern of moving the dog park right next to the Community Garden or the Nature Center that it would increase chance of disease getting into vegetables or airborne diseases getting into the Nature Center. What we are proposing is a buffer.

Dr. Lee responded that there is very little risk that our dogs could transmit to the gardens. The concern is that they could be shedding round worms. If dog droppings are cleaned up or dried out the eggs would not be infectious. The greater risk to fruits and vegetables in the garden comes from wildlife such as parasites transmitted by raccoons, which poses a greater health risk than what our dogs would transmit. Adding a dog park could even decrease the wildlife and might decrease the risk.

Mr. Livingstone said one of the concerns is anything that isn't picked up and that if there is rain, could that potentially run off into the garden?

Dr. Lee responded if it were to run off there is very little health risk to plants and vegetables. But we would like to recommend measures be taken to prevent that.

Commissioner Antonette said he would like to talk about dog barking. The dogs are constantly barking at the shelters. Do you think that having more dogs in that area is going to be a noise hazard?

Dr. Lee responded with the freeway noise that already exists, it would block out a lot of the noise. If we would put up some barriers it would also block out the noise.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said there is already a gate entering the Nature Center. I am not clear on where the parking arm would go.

Mr. Livingstone responded that part of the plan at the Regional Park is to pay at any entrance. We have already ordered seven entrance arms. The gate that currently exists with the kiosk will be removed. If you turn right at the entrance, there will be a gate arm. There would be a pay and display kiosk in the Nature Center where you would have to get that and hang it in your car if you don't have an annual pass. Wherever you go, we would require them to have some way to pay.

Mr. Chapjian stated we want to avoid people going to ACS and parking.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said the actual land use decision does not have to go to City Council. It would only go to City Council if it were appealed.

Mr. Livingstone said it would have to go to City Council in the form of a right of entry.

Commissioner Goldberg said we have been receiving e-mails in mass for quite some time. It seems the path of least resistance would be the Tree farm area because you are taking the garden out of the equation. Was this a resisted area as well?

Mr. Livingstone said we did not announce this area until the agenda was completed last Friday afternoon.

Mr. Chapjian said this may be a slightly smaller area than the Azteca yard, but it does mitigate the issues.

Vice President Sangmeister asked if staff is clear about this, that this is not going to cause a problem with our maintenance staff and that we aren't creating more of a cost.

Mr. Chapjian said ideally we would love to have that area, but I think that maintenance can live with that area being designated a dog park.

President Waterfield opened it up for public comment.

Councilwoman Schipske welcome the attendees. She complemented the Friends of the El Dorado Dog Park and Bob Livingstone for their work on this project. She spoke about the different options and said that she strongly supports the Tree Farm area.

Ms. Ana Bustilloz introduced herself as with the SPCALA. She stated that they have been here for 134 years and are part of the community. I hope you will choose the best site for this purpose. If the Tree Farm site is chosen, there would need to be parking created. ACS is already strapped for parking.

Mr. Tom Poe introduced himself as the public affairs director for the Long Beach East Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints. We are excited there is going to be a dog park here. When the time comes for building the dog park, we are ready to mobilize from 300 to 600 people for any construction that needs to be done, which I think will be a good in-kind service. Thank you.

Ms. Ann Cantrell said she sent lots of e-mails. She said she is concerned about the need for a dog park in East Long Beach. She

said there are already six dog parks in Long Beach. She can see a need for them downtown where people have few parks to take their dogs to. We have loads of parks here to take dogs to. She also wanted to address is this the best and highest use for this land? This open space is very valuable. The Nature Center has looked at the Azteca yard as an expansion area. The Friends of the El Dorado Nature Center have funds and volunteers and they put in all the planning for the restoration center that was already mitigation for CalTrans. They would be willing to put in the plants for this area. Consider what is most important, what would be the best use, and who would be using this area, a small group of dog owners or the whole public that comes to the Nature Center?

Ms. Jane Bechtol introduced herself as the secretary for the Friends of El Dorado Dog Park. She thanked the supporters who want an off-leash area and the Park Department for all their help. They have been great in answering our questions. The Councilmembers have been supportive. We would like to accept your recommendation of the Tree Farm area for the dog park. We will receive 1.6 acres totally dedicated to a dog park and the parking will not infringe on the 1.6 acres. We would prefer it be slightly larger to accommodate both large and small dogs. We would like to go over the estimated costs for maintenance with the Department. El Dorado Dog Park would provide so many wonderful benefits. A well-exercised dog is a good neighbor and is less likely to be abandoned.

Mr. Page Martin introduced himself as a representative of the El Dorado Community Garden Association. Two weeks ago we were made aware of the newly proposed dog park here at El Dorado Park. After a few of our members attended a meeting, we learned an eight-month investigation had concluded. No one from our organization was contacted. The site known as the Azteca yard was championed by Councilmember O'Donnell. Councilwoman Schipske said no one site was favored. We distributed a packet of our concerns to you. Our major concerns are fecal and urine runoff during rainstorms. The area currently floods during storms. Flies could also transfer pathogens and diseases on vegetables in the garden. This would also cause a loss of local predators and wildlife. All the above issues would impact the food bank program, which donates a large amount of vegetables monthly to charities.

Mr. Livingstone said he wanted to address one comment Mr. Martin made about airborne disease. We did contact our Health Department and similar to what Dr. Lee says, they said that it is not

a sterile environment. The biggest problem with the Community Garden is its proximity to the Nature Center and the fact that the food is an attractive nuisance for wild animals.

Mr. Steve Witt said he had a plot at the garden for 10 years and has volunteered at the Nature Center for over 20 years. Without a master plan for the Regional Park, we look at the 1999 Strategic Plan for guidance. It is intended to protect our environmental resources. I would argue that the El Dorado Nature Center is the most valuable environmental resource in our city. For over 40 years the Nature Center has provided a respite for hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. This proposed location of the doggy Disneyland is directly across the road from the restoration area of the Nature Center. This delicate area would be impacted by noise, traffic, and possible negative interaction between wildlife and dogs. In accepting funds from the Department of Transportation in 1994, the City agreed to make every effort to maintain the site in as natural a state as feasible. I also play golf at Recreation Park and you get a lot of noise from the Recreation Dog Park.

Mr. Harold Drab said he lives on Ostrom. When we purchased our house it was all open land. I volunteered a number of years at the Nature Center. I am representing my own opinion. I am in favor of the dog park but not in favor of any of the locations. You talked about runoff. That runoff has been there for some time. A City worker put a berm up to allow the water to drain, but there is no place to drain the water. There are no storm drains. It sits there until it soaks in the ground. You are talking about a parking lot, which would be asphalt. That mud is how the water will be leaving. You have to address how you will get rid of runoff there.

Ms. Lietta Wagner said she has a plot at the garden. I would like to remind you that in addition to the gardeners, we are also educating the young. Families and little children come to the garden and they get very excited about the produce. A preschool group recently went through on a tour. North of Spring Street right next to the freeway is a better site.

Ms. Mary Matthiensen said we are going to leave it up to you to decide where you feel we should be. We want to be part of ACS and SPCA. We just need a home and we will go with your recommendation.

Ms. Nancy Couvrey said I frequent the Nature Center and love the birds. We have a garden plot. Either place is next to the Nature

Center and the garden. The runoff is a real problem. When birds hear barking they will not want to come.

Ms. Mary Parsell introduced herself as a representative of the El Dorado Audubon Society. She spoke with a retired biologist who is not available to be here. She said that dogs are predators and there is no way to communicate to wildlife that dogs are friendly. That is why dogs are not allowed in national parks. There is an endangered bird in this area. We always saw this area as an expansion area of the Nature Center. The biologist's first choice is north of Spring Street. This is a compromise. Lighting upsets the natural cycle for wildlife and even plants.

Mr. Livingstone said he would like to answer Mr. Witt's comments. The Open Space and Recreation Element is addressed in the report. It also states that adding additional park land, adding opportunities and adding dog parks is part of the Open Space and Recreation Element. As to the contribution agreement on the mitigation area, there is a paragraph after the one he read that says, "This proposal shall remain valid for the life of the mitigation project, which shall be completed at the end of the monitoring period December 2000." This proposal provides only a guideline and is not intended to be legally binding. As to the issue of runoff, that will be determined by Development Services as part of the planning. If there needs to be migration that would be up to Development Services. Finally, why did we not consider the two areas in Area II? We would have to take trees out to put the dog park there.

Mr. Chapjian stated we looked at shade trees and there was not enough sunlight on those two areas. Another thing is we took the Community Garden issue very seriously. That is why we came up with this other alternative. You heard our veterinarian weigh in on this issue.

Commissioner Goldberg said he would like to see a show of hands based on the different options, because a lot of people came here to see this item.

Vice President Sangmeister asked those in favor of the dog park to raise their hands, those in favor of the Azteca site, those in favor of the Tree Farm site, and those in favor of the site north of Spring Street to raise their hands.

The Commission asked to see information on the site above Spring Street.

Mr. Livingstone said there would need to be an ADA access path if we use the archery range parking. In talking with El Dorado Park staff, they don't believe the archery range parking is sufficient for both facilities. There is also a possibility we would have to remove trees.

Commissioner Guerra said regarding the concern about raising dollars to support this, being this is not right on the street do you see that as a hindrance?

Councilwoman Schipske said the bigger issue is that the community has to be in support of it, because no commercial sponsor wants to come into Long Beach if the community is fighting over a dog park. Visibility is a selling point.

Mr. Chapjian said no matter where it is located, we can probably work on signage.

Commissioner Guerra said he had a question to the representative of the Community Garden Association. Are you in support of the site at the Tree Farm?

Mr. Martin responded we are not opposed to a dog park in El Dorado Park. We would not be opposed to the Tree Farm area.

Commissioner Guerra asked where do your members park now?

Mr. Martin responded in the garden.

Commissioner Goldberg said a lot of good things were said today. Option two, on face value, looks like a great option because it is completely away from all the areas being discussed. The area is probably not being used aggressively. At looking at all these options, a dog park really is favored and really makes a lot of sense. By moving it from the Azteca yard to the Tree Farm area really is the best compromise. When you look at option two, you don't want to take open space. This other space is already used by staff. It is an enhancement as far as I am concerned.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said it is important to realize that in the long period of time I have served on this commission, we have done our utmost to increase park space for a wide variety of uses.

I would oppose option two. I would have to agree with Commissioner Goldberg that the Tree Farm site would be better. I am a little concerned that people are not listening to everything they hear. I am more inclined to accept the testimony of our own veterinarian than I am about comments about the plague occurring. I am also very supportive of the Community Garden. It is another great use of what was at one time a useless site. This is yet another productive use of property that we can facilitate. This is also important to realize that this is an opportunity to create a public/private partnership that would mirror our own animal shelter.

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Goldberg to approve the staff recommendation and move forward with the potential dog park in what is being called the tree farm maintenance yard with the understanding that this continues to be a conceptual approval contingent upon funding and other required approvals. The motion carried unanimously.**

## X. **COMMENTS**

### A. AUDIENCE

President Waterfield asked for comments from the audience.

Ms. Ann Cantrell said I appreciate all the work that everyone has done on this. Other than Harry and Robin, I am probably the only person that remembers the animal shelter fiasco. In looking back, the Tree Farm site went from park to institutional use when ACS was put in. The property had to be rezoned. I wonder if this maintenance yard was also rezoned to institutional? You need to look into this.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said it might well be. That is part of the planning approvals that need to be made. It occurred before the Charter amendment created parks in perpetuity, so there was no trade off for park space like there is today. I would gladly take industrial space and make it park land.

Ms. Martha Haber said my concern is with this runoff situation. I have a garden plot in the really low part and it is impacted by the runoff. There is talk that the runoff will be addressed. How many of



you would want to eat produce out of a garden that is impacted by runoff from a dog park?

President Waterfield responded we will mitigate that in development.

Ms. Mary Parsell said I want to say that El Dorado Audubon is a 501c3. We are happy to partner with Friends of the Nature Center. It would be very easy to get funds for native planting, to offer that. I wish you had talked to the wild life biologists and ornithologists. They will really help you as the project goes forward.

Ms. Judy Crumpton said she understands the concern of the Community Garden about runoff. She has a question to them, what about all the urban wild life about goes to the bathroom in the Community Garden? We are not supposed to be feeding wildlife. Yet, the Community Garden is the biggest restaurant for wildlife. They do use the bathroom. My concern would be how much fecal matter are those folks already consuming from the wildlife?

#### B. STAFF

President Waterfield asked for comments from staff.

Ms. Kaiser said we are currently in our fall session, offering flag football for both boys and girls and volleyball for girls. We currently have 182 teams citywide and this represents over 1,800 kids. This is one of our most popular programs and is still offered free to the community. On October 22, Friends of the Nature Center held their annual native plant sale, which was very successful. Over 500 people attended. On October 20, at El Dorado Park West, in cooperation with many organizations we held our volunteer village and had over 500 guests. This allowed students, seniors and retirees to come in contact with different agencies to be given the opportunity to volunteer. We have our upcoming events: the Kids Fishing Rodeo, a craft fare, and on November 17<sup>th</sup> the Laker organization has partnered with Lucille's to provide a free lunch for the seniors.

#### C. COMMISSIONERS

President Waterfield asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Antonette said Commissioner Saltzgaver addressed this. With this public/private partnership, this is going to be the type

of example that we are going to need to move forward. We don't have the funds to build parks let alone maintain them. So we will be listening for these types of opportunities.

Vice President Sangmeister said I applaud and I am proud of our citizens and our city that we have people who are so passionate about our parks. I appreciate the Councilwoman staying for the entire discussion. Parks are for everyone. I urge the Nature Center, Friends of the El Dorado Dog Park and Community Garden to try and find ways to join together. I would be disappointed if I had to see all of these people who love our parks who are at odds with each other.

President Waterfield stated he wants to acknowledge all the hard work that went into this process. This shows the passion that all of us have for the community and the tough decisions we all have to make. Once those decisions are made we have responsibilities to get on as a community and continue to do the things that make Long Beach special.

**XI. NEXT MEETING**

President Waterfield stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, December 8, 2011, at the Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, California.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

President Waterfield adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Black  
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: George Chapjian, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine