

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
JULY 17, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Harry Saltzgaver, President, at 9:03 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library. Thomas Shippey, Manager of the Maintenance Operations Bureau, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Harry Saltzgaver, President
Drew Satariano, Vice President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Bob Livingstone
Sarah Sangmeister
Brett Waterfield

Absent: none

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Dennis Eschen, Manager of Planning and Development
Chrissy Marshall, Manager of Community Recreation Services
Tara Yeats, Financial Services Officer
Lt. Dan Pratt, Park Rangers
Bill Greco, Supervising Park Ranger
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Gerri Schipske, Councilwoman, 5th District
Diane Wiley, Partners of Parks

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 19, 2008

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Vice President Satariano to approve the June 19, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

President Saltzgaver stated that he was moving item #08-0707 up on the agenda.

#08-0707

Recommendation to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee, and the full City Council, that the portion of El Dorado Park West, north of the Parks, Recreation and Marine administration building, be renamed "Good Neighbor Park."

Councilwoman Schipske stated that the grassy area in front of the Community Center is unnamed and this area is used to host the Good Neighbor Festival. She has been focusing on getting neighborhood organizations involved and has been very successful. She would like to have this parcel designated as Good Neighbor Park. She would like to put in seating because a lot of people go over there and there is no place for them to sit. She would also like to put in a gazebo. At Christmas time, British Petroleum donated a live Christmas tree, which we had the local kids come and decorate. We want to be able to have a tree each year and want to put in a gazebo as well as lights in the trees to make it a very friendly park. The annual Good Neighbor Festival is scheduled for September 21st and she would like to have the parcel named Good Neighbor Park.

President Saltzgaver asked if this parcel was technically part of El Dorado Park.

Mr. Eschen responded yes, it is a part of El Dorado Park.

President Saltzgaver said that this would be, in essence, carving a chunk out of El Dorado to create a separate park.

Vice President Satariano asked if this would be labeled with the traditional park sign as the other parks are?

Mr. Shippey responded yes, they would put up a park sign.

Vice President Satariano stated that the area does have defined boundaries, because roads surround it, and he supports this request.

Mr. Eschen stated that staff has reviewed this request and according to Administrative Regulations, which are not binding on City Council, there are no conflicts with this proposed change.

Commissioner Guerra asked what budget the gazebo and benches would come out of?

Councilwoman Schipske responded that she spoke with Mr. Hester and he told her there are existing funds to make some improvements at the site. She said that she would also request corporate donations. She believed that more people would use this park with the improvements. There is a large neighborhood adjacent to this area. This area is not a friendly use park; it looks like someone's front lawn. She said she is trying to make it more friendly.

Mr. Shippey stated that the center area would remain open so that recreation programs can continue in the summer.

Councilwoman Schipske stated that parents could watch their kids play and sit on the benches.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

President Saltzgaver said that they would go back to the regular order of the agenda.

#08-0701

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

Ms. Marshall stated that there are both renewals and new agreements included.

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

#08-0702

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a new picnic service concession permit with Brian Matthew Black, dba Top Notch Events, through July 31, 2011, with one, two-year option for renewal, at the discretion of the Director.

A motion was made by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#08-0703

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit for the operation of a picnic service concession with GEC Events, for a term of one year expiring on July 17, 2009, with options for renewal, subject to the discretion of the Director.

A motion was made by Commissioner Guerra and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#08-0704

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to assign Permit No. 30636 from Diamond Project, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, to Diamond Sports & Entertainment, Inc., a Delaware Corporation.

President Saltzgaver asked how this contract is going so far. He said he has heard good things about the concession.

Ms. Yeats responded that staff has heard so far that the numbers are up and that the season is going well.

Commissioner Guerra mentioned that the trash bins at Blair Field smell really badly and asked if they could they be dumped more often.

Mr. Shippey responded that the smell could have been from turf that was thrown in there. He would have the bins dumped more often.

A motion was made by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#08-0705

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit for the operation of a picnic service concession with Summit Event Catering, for a term of one year, expiring on July 18, 2009, with two three-year options for renewal, subject to the discretion of the Director.

Ms. Tara Yeats stated that this is a new company and standard practice is after three years, the company can then have a three-year permit. Their permit will be renewed after one year, depending on their performance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#08-0706

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit for the use of facilities at El Dorado Park West for the provision of out of school programming for girls, ages 11 to 15 years old, with Girlfriends, Inc., for a term of three years expiring on August 31, 2011, with two, three-year options for renewal subject to the discretion of the Director.

Commissioner Livingstone asked if the \$1 permit would be a bad precedent?

Ms. Marshall responded no, the Department is not giving the organization exclusive use of any space. They are augmenting the existing teen center program and are here on a once a week basis. They are participating in an existing program.

Mr. Shippey asked if Ms. Marshall could outline the program a bit.

Ms. Marshall said that Girlfriends, Inc., is a program that the Department utilizes in the existing WRAP program. It is kind of a club based organization that lets the girls work on life skills, self esteem issues, they give cooking classes, and bring in speakers. We are going to try it here at El Dorado to see how it goes and then hopefully branch out to other after school sites as well. The Department may also train staff to make this more broad-stroke and not make it gender specific. It would just be a component of the teen center program.

Commissioner Waterfield asked how the Department would check on the facilitators, on how they deal with counseling issues.

Ms. Marshall responded that they are not doing counseling, they are mostly focusing on positive thinking and skills, not on one-on-one family problems. The speakers that come in are more career-oriented.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

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

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met and discussed the agenda.

1) Committee Assignments

President Saltzgaver stated that a list of the committees is included in the packet and it is that time of year again when the committees can be shuffled, or they don't necessarily have to be shuffled. He asked the Commissioners to submit their committee assignment requests to him and if there are any changes, they will go over the requests at the next Executive Committee meeting.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the date for the Fee Hearing has been finalized and it will be held on August 13, at 6:00 p.m., in the El Dorado Senior Center in the Bridge Room. It will be noticed and publicized and notices will be sent to all users. He said that the Committee did meet this morning and went over the draft of the proposed fees, which are still not finalized. He asked that the final fee schedules be in the Committee members hands before the Fee Hearing.

Ms. Yeats mentioned that the first Budget Workshop is on August 5th, where the Mayor's and the City Manager's budget overview will be presented, specific budget proposals released, and public input and City Council deliberations will take place.

President Saltzgaver stated that they were going to have a discussion about the Department's core values, but was informed that these are part of the budget process, so we can't discuss them. He expressed his disappointment and thought the public might be interested in hearing about core values.

Commissioner Guerra said that he does not feel comfortable enough to have a fairly intelligent conversation with a constituent or recreation user without having a proper discussion about what may or may not be cut and what is important or not important to them. That is very frustrating to him.

Vice President Satariano stated that the Commission would have liked to have been involved in the actual formulation of the numbers, well in advance of this July meeting. Scrambling in preparation for what we are going to have to do in the month of August with the Fee Hearing is pretty much after the fact. This Commission doesn't like that.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George said that the Committee did not meet. He requested that Mr. Greco speak about the statistics report.

Mr. Greco distributed a report of the 2003-2007 staffing levels, which was requested by the Commission.

D. MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra stated that the Committee did not meet.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Vice President Satariano, Chair

Vice President Satariano stated that the Committee met this morning and suggested that the Commissioners look at the Quarterly Status Reports included in the packet.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked for the status of the Colorado Lagoon project.

Mr. Eschen responded that it might begin about March 2009. They are simultaneously starting the construction design while the EIR is being finished. The first phase of construction needs to be finished by September 2009, due to the grant limitations.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Tong Sangmeister, Chair

Commissioner Sangmeister stated that the Committee did not meet.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Livingstone, Chair

Commissioner Livingstone said that they had a meeting last week and were updated on the picnic, campground, gymnasium and recreation policies that are currently with the City Attorney. They also discussed the impact of the writer's strike and the potential actor's strike.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

- A. Recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for June 2008.

President Saltzgaver asked for any comments or questions on the monthly report.

Commissioner Guerra asked if the community service workers were assigned to the Department by court.

Mr. Shippey responded yes, community service workers are court referrals for non-violent and non-drug crimes, such as for parking tickets. They work their time off with Maintenance Operations staff. It is a successful program.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to receive and file the Director's Monthly Report for June 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

President Saltzgaver asked if there was any correspondence. There was none.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. PARTNERS OF PARKS REPORT – DIANE WILEY

Ms. Wiley stated distributed a packet and said that that she is pleased to report that they have a new board and Connie Hamilton is the new President. They are in the middle of recruiting to fill a position. Mr. Livingstone is working on reviewing the by-laws and the structure of the board to increase the board. They are going to be doing a series of what they call friend-raising, where key people come in and have an opportunity to meet and discuss what Partners of Parks does. They will continue to reach out into the community and make Partners of Parks known as a fund-raising organization. They are going to have another kick-off for the Universally Accessible Playgrounds. Their goal is \$3 million. They met with Shane's Inspiration, who started Universally Accessible Playgrounds in the area, and are very helpful in fundraising for the playgrounds.

President Saltzgaver asked if in the by-laws, do they have a definition of the number of board members.

Commissioner Livingstone responded that they do. There is a minimum of five board members and up to 13. They will have the officers; three committee chairs made up of board development, public relations, and fundraising; and up to five at large members. They have three very interested, potential board members they are looking at.

Ms. Wiley said that all officers are board members, but board members are not necessarily officers. The people who volunteer on committees are not necessarily board members. They want people on the board who roll up their sleeves and open up their rolodexes and talk to about five or six people. She said she would also like to talk to each of the Commissioners about who they know who could help and get involved with Partners of Parks.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers

President Saltzgaver asked for a report from the Nomination Committee.

Commissioner Sangmeister stated that she and Commissioner Livingstone met via e-mail and are nominating Drew Satariano as President and Brett Waterfield as Vice President. Commissioner Livingstone seconded the nomination.

President Saltzgaver asked for any other nominations. There were none. He congratulated Drew Satariano as President and Brett Waterfield as Vice President.

B. Baseball/Softball Hall of Fame

President Satariano stated that the packet included an invitation for the Baseball/Softball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at Blair Field at 3:00 p.m., on Saturday, July 26. He encouraged the Commissioners to attend. This is the fifth year of the Hall of Fame and they are very proud of this program. This year is interesting because they had to really dig deeper because the obvious choices were already inducted. Long Beach still has a lot of big names, but this year it really got down to statistics, psychology, and emotion and tracking what each inductee did. He said he is very pleased with the class and the ceremony will be very impressive.

IX. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Satariano asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

B. STAFF

President Satariano asked for comments from the staff.

Ms. Marshall said that July is National Recreation Month and as part of that, each community center has been charged with having a special event, either a family barbecue or coordinating with Movies in the Park and doing an event to celebrate National Recreation Month. The parks have 41 events going on. She distributed the Family Entertainment Guide, which includes anything that is free for families to participate in during the summer. In addition to that, the day camps are in full swing and there are approximately 800 kids in the day camp program. Summer Fun Day programs are drop-in programs that are not as large, but kids are engaged in activities every day. She mentioned a really big highlight, after two years of discussions, the Jordan Pool opened last week to the public. It is open Monday through Saturday with a combination of swim classes and recreation swim.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if there was any chance that the pool could remain open after school starts?

Ms. Marshall responded that the Department tried working with the School District and the availability of the pool has been slim to none, but staff will continue discussions.

Mr. Eschen stated that Mud Mania at the Rancho Los Cerritos is scheduled for August 17, and is a fun event.

Mr. Eschen said that he wanted to let the Commission know about something that staff was just made aware of yesterday. There will be a statue going in at MacArthur Park, before the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. This is being done by Long Beach Transit and will be a statue of a child with library books. Long Beach Transit thought it was in the public right of way and did not ask our permission. After they got the concrete poured and our staff started calling and asking what was going on, they discovered it was not in the public right of way. Long Beach Transit is going to go ahead and install the statue. Mr. Eschen said he has seen a picture of the statue and it is quite cute. It does seem

like it is in the wrong place, since the library moved across the street. But, it is at the bus stop, if you were taking the bus to the library, so it does have some rationale for being in that location. Ideally, they should have asked the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval.

President Satariano asked if it would make sense at the next meeting to have an approval, just as a formality?

Mr. Eschen responded that he would put it on the agenda next month and get someone from Long Beach Transit to attend.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Satariano asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Sangmeister stated that she attended Pier Daze with her boys and had a great time and thought that 4th of July went very well. It looks like everything she has seen this summer has gone well.

Commissioner Guerra thanked the previous President for doing a wonderful job and he looks forward to working with the new President. He also wanted to thank staff. His Boy Scouts camped out overnight at Blair Field on the 4th of July and the kids enjoyed playing with the players the next day. He also wanted to let everyone know that he would not be attending the August Commission meeting.

Commissioner Livingstone wanted to compliment the President for his passion and for the last two years of his leadership, camaraderie, and knowledge. He also wanted to let everyone know that the Long Beach Golf Festival is next Sunday.

Commissioner Saltzgaver thanked the Commissioners. He said you can't do this job with out a supportive Commission.

Commissioner Waterfield said he was wondering if he could get an update on the Sea Festival.

President Satariano said that Sea Festival is going pretty well. This is the beginning of his fifth year and they are usually in the building mode from the previous year and address issues with staff, have a lot of debriefings and come about March, things really start to heat up. This year was no exception. They have gone from 35 events to 55 events to 80 events to now over 100 events. If all goes well, this will be a fantastic summer, along with what the Department already does. He said they offer good quality, free entertainment. He also thanked Harry for his

leadership on the Commission. In the two years that Harry has been President, this Commission has taken a big step up. President Satariano said that it is his goal, as the President, to continue to raise the profile of the Commission so we can be more effective with the Community, so that we have personal relationships with the City Council and Mayor. At the August meeting he said he would take input for the subcommittees.

X. NEXT MEETING

President Satariano stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the Houghton Park Community Center, 6301 Myrtle Avenue, Long Beach.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Satariano adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine