

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
AUGUST 18, 2011**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Brett Waterfield, President, at 9:04 a.m., at El Dorado Park West. Gladys Kaiser, Manager of Community Recreation Services Bureau, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Brett Waterfield, President
Ron Antonette
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Harry Saltzgaver

Absent: Sarah Sangmeister, excused
Benjamin Goldberg, excused

Staff: Gladys Kaiser, Manager, Community Recreation Services
Marc Gutfeld, Superintendent, Community Recreation Services
Ed White, Superintendent of Beach Maintenance
Anna Mendiola, Park Development Officer
John Keisler, Manager, Business Operations
Bob Livingstone, Superintendent of Golf Operations and Contract
Compliance Officer
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Mike Donelon
Jon Cicchetti, CSULB
Scott Miller

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to excuse Vice President Sangmeister and Commissioner Goldberg. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 21, 2011

It was moved by Commissioner Guerra and seconded by Commissioner Antonette to approve the July 21, 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

President Waterfield introduced Mike Donelon, who was going to make a small presentation.

Mr. Donelon said in 1995 and 1996 he got credit for starting the skate park program, which is now recognized all over the world. He said he wanted to recognize Anna Mendiola and Harry Saltzgaver for making this program a success. He presented them with commemorative decks from the Tony Hawk Foundation on behalf of the youth who ride in the skate parks. Tony Hawk signed them and so did all the skaters.

Mr. Donelon mentioned a stabbing that occurred near 14th Street Park, which was unrelated to the park. He talked to the kids who witnessed it and knew the kids who were hurt. He said the kids at the skate park helped save their lives.

III. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#11-0801

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.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked where at Heartwell would they put the skateboarding class?

Ms. Kaiser responded it would be put in the fenced in area that used to be the tennis court. She said these are three renewals and three agreements with new contractors. We are very excited about the Adaptive Education Instruction. We are revamping instruction in that program and reaching out to the adaptive community.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if Glacial Gardens was outside of Long Beach?

Ms. Kaiser responded yes it is, because Long Beach does not have any ice skating facilities and the residents use their facilities.

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

IV. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Waterfield, Chair

President Waterfield reported that the Committee met to discuss the agenda. Enclosed in the packet is a revision of the 2011 meeting locations.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met.

Mr. Keisler said in our last meeting we discussed the fee waiver policy. We are in the process of drafting that policy and bringing that to the Commission in the next month or two. There was also a second meeting for a preview of the budget presentation. It was kept short. He said the Department would present the budget next Tuesday night between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Our intent is to bring it to the Commission next month.

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated we were supposed to present this last Tuesday and that didn't happen. Just Police and Fire made their presentations. Those discussions were pretty important. Some Councilmembers said they were no longer in support of proportional cuts. It would mean increased significant cuts for the rest of the departments, including ours. If you happen to talk to the Councilmembers, remind them we are part of public safety. The budget is available now on the City's website.

Mr. Keisler stated there is a summary of the community budget that is available also. We are looking at consolidating programs. It would mean fewer staff watching groups of kids. Other cuts affect Planning and Development.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said it is the philosophy that they are eliminating vacant positions. What is our full time employee (FTE) reduction and are we going to have to lay anyone off?

Ms. Kaiser responded I believe our FTE reduction is 3.96. We will not be laying off any staff.

Mr. Keisler stated our vacancy savings is 3.96. The total count for FTE that we would be reducing is 15.84. There are some positions that be affected. There will be no layoffs. People will have the opportunity to move into either vacant or other positions that are

being made available in the Department. There are three staff members that will need to be moved to other programming or have another role. Ten percent of the cuts are in maintenance. We are thinking of new ways to deliver services. Last night the Department was invited to present at the 1st District Councilmember's community budget meeting, along with Police and Fire. We attended that and presented. There were advocates who said the Department is part of safety.

Commissioner Guerra asked in previous years, have we not looked ahead at what some of these reductions might be before?

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated we looked in general. We did not get as much detail this year as we had in the past. I would put that on changing management. They have been scrambling to get this done, let alone telling us about this. John, we would like to see that next year so we can help prioritize.

Mr. Keisler stated in terms of the budget process, we are hopefully concluding the budget process for FY 12 by September 15. That kicks off October 1. By December, we will put together the package for 2013. There was no one to bring this to you this year, as the process started last year.

President Waterfield asked as we start to consolidate the programs, do we run the risk of running into professional challenges in terms of ratios and supervision for kids?

Ms. Kaiser responded, we are already challenged for that. For the drop in programs, we have parks that have 1 to 25 or 1 to 40 ratios. We need to let the community know. We have restructured our programming and use volunteers. We have incredible staff out there. With the reductions we are taking in our bureau, we will restructure from the top down. We are going from four areas to three. Community Recreation Services Bureau's structure will look totally different. I met with the supervisors and let them know where we are going.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George stated the Committee met this morning and the statistics were in the packet. We would discuss this at the next meeting.

i) Discussion of Scooters in El Dorado Skate Park

Mr. Livingstone stated last month at the Commission meeting we did have a staff recommendation to recommend to the City Council that we allow skateboards and BMX bikes at all of the parks except El Dorado because of the size and design. There was some commentary at that meeting about whether there was an issue with scooters. That went back to the Park Safety Committee this morning. I think what came out of it was that we want to have as few restrictions and limitations that reduce accessibility. The Committee came up with a recommendation. Basically, what we are saying is give them free reign, you are on your own, self-monitoring, which is pretty much what is happening right now. But staff would change the Municipal Code to where a BMX bike and scooter are no longer against the law in the skate parks.

President Waterfield stated he was here on Saturday and spent 15 minutes at the skate park at El Dorado. There was one skateboard and the rest were scooters and bikes. There were a lot of parents bringing their little ones.

Mr. Livingstone stated we discussed the park rangers backing off. Because we have so few rangers, we are only having them enforce if there is an issue. He said that he and Mr. Chapjian have made a point to go over there every day since the last Commission meeting. The kids do get along very well. The issue is the smaller, younger kids who just are not aware of the other people around them. The bigger kids are very cognitive of the younger kids and I have seen them jump off their bikes or skateboards and get out of the way of little kids.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said, as we understood, and I was not here last month so I was not a part of this discussion, there was a lot of concern about excluding El Dorado from this expansion. It is my opinion that we want to have no part in restricting when we have an option. There is no reason to exclude El Dorado. This reflects reality, with the awareness that the City Councilmember representing this district may change the recommendation. It is our recommendation that there be no restriction. Regarding the age concern, I think we can deal with that as park policy, in terms of signage. We recommended to the staff that we have verbiage that no one under 14 be allowed without adult supervision.

Mr. Scott Miller introduced himself and said his son is one of the younger kids. We had the opportunity to go to a park in Fresno. They only allow skateboards and had community people volunteering it. It was a much better experience having only the skateboards and no bikes. It seemed to flow a lot better. The volunteers up there said when you mix vehicle types they go different speeds. When you look at the law of physics, bikes could have more energy when they hit a person. For my kid to ride his skateboard in there, I don't think it should be at the same time.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said we appreciate your concerns.

Commissioner Antonette said at last month's meeting we discussed this but the opinion was because of the lines of the skate park, they believed it would not be an issue. We only discussed scooters. We did not get into the other modes of transportation. I am in favor of this motion.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said a lot of this might have to do with time. On Saturday at 1:00 p.m. there was one skateboarder and one BMXer in that park and they were having fun. If we don't change the ordinance as it stands now, the 10-year-old BMXer could go to jail.

President Waterfield said I was here Saturday about noon and my first thought was are we setting ourselves up for failure? In the six years I have been on the Commission we wanted to restrict those who don't have kneepads and come to where we are now. The culture is evolving and our policies are evolving too.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Guerra that staff from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine and the City Attorney's Office prepare a Municipal Code change that is:

- 1. Compatible with the State law.**
- 2. Removes the exclusion of any non-motorized, wheel-operated, designed-for-recreational activity apparatus from all designed skate parks in the City of Long Beach.**

The motion carried unanimously.

D. MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

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

President Waterfield asked if there is there any marketing for volunteers?

Ms. Kaiser responded that would be included in the entire package that we will bring to the Committee. We are starting the program from scratch. The worse thing you can do is have volunteers with nothing for them to do. We need to track the data throughout the Department. We will work with the schools and colleges and bring in interns.

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

President Waterfield reported that the Committee did not meet this month.

Ms. Mendiola stated the City held a kick-off press conference at Chittick Field on Friday.

Commissioner Guerra asked about the CIP list that they received. How do you determine priorities?

Ms. Mendiola responded this is our un-funded list of capital projects. This stems from recreation and maintenance and what their needs are and from the facility assessments that rank the life expectancy of infrastructure. We were asked by City Council to put together a five-year program of un-funded needs.

Commissioner Guerra asked is this the Department's priority list? For instance, a tree at Rancho Los Cerritos is rated number 9. In my eyes a new bathroom is more important than a tree at the Rancho.

Ms. Mendiola said she would have to defer to Sandra Gonzalez.

Mr. White stated we do drive it by safety. That is one of our top priorities.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said it states hazardous. He said 99 percent is maintenance and repair. It is not capital improvement.

F. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver said this Committee did not meet. He suggested we meet and discuss formulating the volunteer policy.

Ms. Kaiser responded we would meet in September

Commissioner Guerra asked if he was alluding to things like fingerprinting, background checks etc.?

Commissioner Saltzgaver responded exactly. There has to be a volunteer policy for people with direct contact with kids.

G. JOINT USE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Antonette

Commissioner Antonette stated the Committee would meet on August 25, to talk about our initial steps and directives. The Director has attempted to initiate discussions with members of the School Board. We will take that into consideration.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

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

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

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

President Waterfield reported correspondence was received from Lester Denevan.

Commissioner Saltzgaver thanked Mr. Denevan for his information and moved to receive and file his correspondence, seconded by Commission Antonette. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Report – Ted Stevens

Ms. Kaiser reported that the Commission did not have a quorum this month. The Chair has urged the Mayor to add additional members.

Commissioner Guerra suggested the Commissioners discuss this with the City Councilmembers.

B. Animal Care Services Bureau Report – John Keisler

Mr. Keisler stated this is the busiest time of the year. This past month we averaged 44 animals coming in per day. This should start to taper off in September. We are doing two low-cost shot clinics this month. On September 6, Dr. Margaret Lee will be joining our staff as the City's first State licensed veterinarian. Her salary was approved by City Council because of the sharp increase in licensing revenue over the last year or two. She will take control of our medical program at the shelter and will be tasked with developing medical and veterinary services and education and advising the Health Department on issues.

President Waterfield asked if there was any update on the search for the bureau manager position?

Mr. Keisler responded that recruitment is now open. It will close August 26. If we like the pool that we have, we will go into our first round of interviews. November 1st is the earliest we anticipate someone to take on that challenge.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recommendation that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to the City Council to amend the City's existing skateboard ordinance to exclude skateboarding from the following additional locations: the band shells and stages located at Bixby Park, El Dorado Park West, El Dorado East Regional Park, and Recreation Park; La Bella Fontana Di Napoli; Rose Park gazebo; Los Cerritos Park; Rosie the Riveter Park; Victory Park; Santa Cruz Park; Queens Way Bay which includes the following areas: Long Beach Shoreline Marina, Marina Green, Shoreline Village, Rainbow Harbor, Aquarium of the Pacific, the Esplanade, Shoreline Park, Catalina Landing, Golden Shore Reserve, and the Rainbow Lagoon; the walkways, sidewalks, stairways, parking lots, and entrances leading to or surrounding community centers and recreation facilities, senior centers,

teen centers, pools, and administration offices; the Belmont Veterans Memorial and Pine Avenue Piers; and the Rancho Los Alamitos and Rancho Los Cerritos. The ordinance would be suspended for filming permits.

Mr. Sandoval said there are two suggested signers, he and Ramon Arevalo. This is primarily a maintenance driven item. We have a lot of areas in the city where skateboarders are destroying infrastructure. We have tried to identify those areas and incorporate them into our ordinance that prohibits skateboarding. With all the skate areas that this Commission and this Department have incorporated in the city, we can ask for this with a clear conscience. We now have alternatives and it is appropriate to prohibit skateboarding where we have to repair and replace infrastructure.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if this would involve signage?

Mr. Sandoval responded yes, we would need to put up signage. Once it is on the books, the police can enforce.

Commissioner Guerra asked if the wording would need to be changed to something like non-motorized apparatus?

Mr. Sandoval responded that in Queensway Bay it is mostly skateboarders.

Commissioner Antonette asked if we should include scooters?

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated he thinks this is a different issue, because it is a prohibition of an activity. I think it would probably be possible for a judge to extend the prohibition to a razor scooter or whatever.

Mr. Sandoval stated we allow bicycles and a lot of kids use scooters as transportation. I would not want to prohibit them.

Commissioner Antonette asked if we would prohibit people using skateboards as transportation in the Queensway Bay area?

Mr. Sandoval responded yes, they would have to carry their board at the esplanade.

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

IX. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Waterfield asked for comments from the audience.

Mr. Jon Cicchetti introduced himself as an instructor at Cal State Long Beach. He said his class and students at the school have been participating in the National Parking Day event, which is a global event. This is bringing awareness to the need for open space. We have been doing this for many years. In the community they take over coin-operated parking spaces and have an application worked out. The recreation students have expanded it and have figured out a bike route to a location downtown where people can do this event with community interaction. The students wanted to contact Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine to partner to include recreation. We are not asking for any money, we just want to bring the park system in the program. This will be a larger event on campus than just parking spaces. There is a woman who takes plastic bags and weaves them into useful products. There will be an awareness of sustainability. My student got called into work so I am here in his place.

President Waterfield said on the campus the group has taken the President's parking space and built parks for the day.

Mr. Cicchetti said the students developed a safe route to connect to parks. We are hoping to connect to the parks and see the community embrace this with bicycles and parks.

Commissioner Antonette asked what is the date?

Mr. Cicchetti responded the 16th of September. The class does a quick charrette and it involves the whole design process. We have been asked to get out in the community and do more.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said he was not clear what you want out of the Department. Our next meeting is September 15, and that is too late to do anything. I would be interested in, as a Commission, offering our support as long as everything done is permitted.

Ms. Mendiola said we have assisted with his class in the past. We critiqued his students. We can work with the GIS system and see where we don't have open space and work with them.

Mr. Cicchetti said we have gone through a permitting process this year. The program is online and specific about what you have to do and get permission.

Commissioner Antonette agreed that the Commission should support this.

Ms. Mendiola asked if he had a flyer we could distribute or if they are on campus that day they can go by.

B. STAFF

President Waterfield asked for comments from staff.

Mr. Sandoval said we have the Pony Softball team in Pennsylvania. Ben Goldberg is there right now with his son.

Mr. Gutfeld said the Civil War Reenactment numbers were down this year. We were at 1,900 this year. They want to change the date so school kids can attend, but they would like to stay under the Sea Festival umbrella, so we are discussing this.

President Waterfield said we had some discussion about the next step in working with them to change the date. When we heard about the money they saved marketing under Sea Festival, we decided we needed to see what to do to engage the community.

Mr. Gutfeld said they were forced to move the event to the middle of summer due to nesting season. That has hurt their numbers. They want to get back with the schools.

Ms. Kaiser said we held our annual Class Expo on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and had over 350 people come by and learn about the classes. We brought in over \$9,000 in revenue. We also do it in the fall to get the word out to the community about the fall classes. On Sunday, the 2nd District is having a blues festival, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., at Rose Park. Parking is going to be a problem so if you go on the 100 Days of Summer website it will direct you to alternative parking. We will show the Justin Bieber movie on September 1st at Blair Field. This is the first time we will have a showing for the teens. Belmont Pool is going to be down during the month of September for annual maintenance. Today is the 83rd day of summer.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Waterfield asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said we have had a few meetings in the last few weeks with the Water Department and now with Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal. Finally we have started the ball rolling to find grant money to do an irrigation system and inventory with the inventory being paid by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the Water Department. This has been ongoing for over five years and is good news for our folks. We are getting a lot of support from the 2nd District Vice Mayor, who is on the MWD Board.

X. NEXT MEETING

President Waterfield stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, September 15, 2011, at the Rancho Los Cerritos, in the Library, 4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach, California.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Waterfield adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

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