

# Director's Highlights

## Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services

### November 2022 Highlights

**Prepared by Director Brent Dennis**

1. Pools Update: Important annual maintenance scheduled for our three public pools will cause reduced operational hours during closures required to accomplish the improvements. Belmont Pool will have closure for repairs on the 50M pool starting Nov. 21 through Jan. 2. We will be utilizing the small pool, but we will have to reduce some of our programming due to the limited amount of space and water depth. Aquatics staff are doing an amazing job of balancing the permit groups and public use during this closure. There will not be any Water X at the small pool and some recreation swim and lap swim will be reduced. The public has been notified, and website updated, to direct them to the other 2 pools. Public Works has been keeping the City Manager Office and Council District 3 in the loop on this project and the closure. Silverado & King pools will see annual closures in December when each pool shuts down for 2 weeks for maintenance. Silverado pool will be shutting down from 12/5-12/18 and King pool will follow from 12/18 – 1/3. King pool has some major work scheduled with Public Works during their shut down and PRM is putting together a list of items for Silverado pool as well.
2. Conservation Corps of Long Beach celebrated the grand opening of the new Environmental Education Center at DeForest Park on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Other exciting improvements within DeForest Park will be enjoying additional upgrades of the two futsal soccer courts through our partnership with LA Galaxy and new pickleball courts to be funded in the 5-year Measure M infrastructure plan.
3. The Winter Season for Hoops After Dark will commence the week after Thanksgiving. The six-week season will once again culminate with a game between HAD All-Stars and the Long Beach Poli for HAD will be Winter beginning next month with plans also in the making for a Spring season short to follow in 2023. The program was funded by the Long Beach Recovery Act, the Port of Long Beach, and Partners of Parks.
4. The El Dorado Park West Duck Pond project is off to a flying start this month. The construction site perimeter has been defined and the important phase of rehoming the flightless birds was successfully completed thanks to the coordinated efforts of Long Beach Animal Care Services, Humane Rescue, and caring volunteers. The de-watering of the pond will be soon to follow and lead to the rehoming of the turtles. Project status and updates will be provided on the City of Long Beach website.

5. Director Dennis spoke at the recent Senior Citizen Advisory Commission to provide an update on the City of Long Beach acquisition of the former Southern California Edison building located downtown at 125 Elm Street. The first floor of the facility will become the home for a new senior center to replace the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Senior Center. Community engagement with input from the senior community will be a major part of the upcoming planning efforts. The building will provide a new opportunity for an amazing senior community center in downtown Long Beach, convenient to public transit and ample parking.
6. Our Department's second annual Day of Remembrance event was held on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at Good Neighbor Park by the memorial tree that was planted last year in memory of the four PRM team members who died during the pandemic. The 2022 memorial gathering honored the lives of Maureen Adler - El Dorado Nature Center staff, Ted Olson - El Dorado Nature Center Volunteer, Kerry Martin - El Dorado Nature Center Volunteer, Antonio Mazas - Spouse of Superintendent Heidi Mazas, Jean Smith - Community Recreation Services staff, and Andy Nakamura - General Maintenance Assistant - Marine Bureau.
7. In the spirit of memorials, the planting of 100 trees in Recreation Park in honor of the years of service by Chrissy Marshall occurred on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Chrissy began her Parks and Recreation career as a part-time Recreational Leader at Somerset Park. Chrissy was instrumental in developing and implementing multiple programs and was promoted to the position of Community Recreation Services Manager, overseeing all recreation programs for the City of Long Beach.