

Director's Highlights

Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services

May 2023 Highlights

Prepared by Director Brent Dennis

1. Congratulations to the newest Charter and Non-Charter Commission appointments announced by Mayor Rex Richardson at the May 2, 2023, City Council Meeting. Parks and Recreation Commission appointment of Peter Bostic (CD5), and Marine Advisory Commission appointments of Avis Adkins (CD1) and Gordana Kajer (CD3). Depending on the onboarding timeframe, at this time we are uncertain as to when the new Commissioners may be actively participating in upcoming Commission meetings.
2. Community Recreation Services Superintendent Heidi Mazas received the President's Award at the recent California Parks and Recreation Society District 10 Annual Awards Banquet. Heidi is currently the Scholarships Committee Chair and was also recognized for her leadership and service thru the 3-year series leading to the position of District 10 President. We are very proud of Heidi's honor and appreciative of her representation of Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine. The Heart of Ida, a non-profit, volunteer-based organization serving area seniors and located at our 4th Street Senior Center was also recognized by District 10 as an outstanding community volunteer service.
3. Lincoln Park hosted the Celebration of the Young Child on Saturday, April 29th. Attracting over 1,200 attendees, the park was transformed into an amazing resource fair with a strong emphasis on literacy, health, and fun family programs. Our Community Recreation Services team did an awesome job in providing an array of recreational activities including two bounce houses.
4. Willow Springs Park was the most recent recipient park to receive an incredible new mural. Local artist Casey Denina led a very interactive approach in that allowed youth to join in the painting. The Office of Sustainability presented a great array of community service providers for a fun day in the park.

5. May is Older Americans Month and our senior programming and special events are supersized across Long Beach. The 4th Street Senior Center hosted the 6th Annual Senior Fest and Technology Pop Up on Saturday, May 6th. The Long Beach Gray Panthers, SCAG, Port of Long Beach and Chase Bank all came together to help sponsor the event that ran from 9am to 1pm. A special thanks to Dana Clark and her Senior Center staff and volunteers for all their great work in planning and presenting the event.
6. Long Beach Animal Care has had three adoption awareness presentations at the beginning of the first and third City Council meetings that began last month. So far, all three larger dogs that have historically been more challenging to adopt, were all adopted into loving households. Congrats to Megan Ignacio for her leadership and creative marketing of both fostering and adopting of cats and dogs available at LBACS.
7. Our Department's Employee Recognition Committee will be presenting the Annual ERC Picnic on June 13th at the Golden Grove in El Dorado Park East from 11am – 1:30pm. Service Awards will be presented as part of the program along with other Department-wide update by Director and Bureau Managers. The Battle of the Bureaus is always a fun climax to the picnic time together.
8. The Cambodian American Cultural Center Feasibility Study was unanimously approved by City Council on Tuesday, May 9th. Great support was expressed by community members. The next step will be the formation of a non-profit board to guide the planning, design, development, and ultimate management of a future cultural center.
9. Sherlyn Beatty has returned to our Department after serving in the Health Department's Youth Development Office. Sherlyn has been appointed to the position of Partnerships Officer within our Park Planning and Partnerships Bureau.
10. Director Dennis will be away on vacation May 25 – June 4, 2023. Deputy Director Stephen Scott will be covering primary administrative duties during the Director's absence.