

Director's Corner

Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services April 2021 Highlights

Prepared by Director Brent Dennis

1. **Welcome Parks and Recreation Commissioner Sharleen Higa!** We have a fully appointed Parks & Recreation Commission!!! Welcome Aboard Commissioner Higa!
2. **Citywide Fee Study/PRM Fees & Recommendations:** Advanced at the City Council meeting of April 6, 2021. The complete study that included fees for the Health Department, Development Services and 654 or over 800 PRM fees with recommendations will return to Council in May for action. As an important reminder, pursuant to the City Charter, the Parks and Recreation Commission has authority over recreational programs and facilities which includes the approval of related fees.
3. **Orange Tier Reopening's/COVID and COVID Vaccinations:** As of the authoring of this monthly report, our department has fortunately seen over ten weeks pass with no reported COVID positive cases. Our advancement into the Orange Tier allows for the reopening of our two indoor pools, Silverado and King. Online scheduling/reservations of lap swimming time opened on Monday, April 12th. Most of the Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services team members have now been fully vaccinated. Once the City of Long Beach advances into the Yellow Tier (expected to occur in the next 3 weeks), gradual reopening of other indoor facilities is likely.
4. **Furloughs:** The current furlough program that was established to help with balancing the City budget will be ending after the final furlough day on Friday, April 16, 2021. A portion of the federal stimulus funding to the City of Long Beach of more than \$220 million is covering the remaining half year of furloughs. As a reminder, the FY/21 furlough program contributed \$11.0 million in savings towards the City of Long Beach's projected \$30.0 million operating deficit. Other Council directed portions of the stimulus funding restored the operating and emergency reserves of the City.
5. **Major PRM Capital Projects Underway:** El Dorado East Regional Park celebrated the completion of improvements to Golden Grove picnic environs in early April. Other projects in the park include upgrades at the main entrance to help facilitate annual pass holders through a separate lane with a vehicle identification/automated entry arm system, the Duck Pond Renovations and the Multi-sport Synthetic Turf Field project. Public Works partners with PRM to manage our capital improvement projects.
6. **Virtual Unveilings and Celebrations for various projects:** CD2 will be in the virtual celebration mode for the Promenade Park slide shade structure. PRM working with Public Works, CD3 office and LBTV to film and produce a virtual unveiling of the new Junipero playground and Granada beach concession facilities.
7. **PRM Strategic Plan:** The public's opportunity to participate in the department's strategic plan survey will remain open for a few more weeks to allow for additional input by community members... <http://longbeach.gov/park/business-operations/about/prm-strategic-plan/>

8. **Earth Day & Arbor Day Tree Plantings:** In partnership with the Conservation Corps, PRM will be actively planting over 200 trees during the week of Arbor Day and Earth Day in late April.
9. **Mobile REcess and Learning Hubs:** Our mobile recreational programming that was launched in mid-October has been very successful. These programs are being continued through June 18th. Four Learning Hubs were activated to provide academic support, internet access, sports, fitness and safe afterschool activities at Houghton, McBride, Orizaba and Veterans parks weekdays from 7:30 am to 5pm. Spring Break day camps offered April 4-9, 2021, were full and our Community Recreation Services team received rave reviews for the fun and engaging camp experience enjoyed by so many youths.