

Director's Highlights

Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services

June 2021 Highlights

Prepared by Director Brent Dennis

1. Our Department extended sincerest sympathies to Parks Maintenance Operations Bureau team member Sabino Rodriquez in the passing of his wife.
2. New Parks Planning and Partnership Bureau Manager Nancy Villasenor has hit the ground running following her starting date of May 26th. Nancy has been introduced at the beginning of all recent Council District monthly briefings. Nancy's contact information is: Nancy.villasenor@longbeach.gov and 562-570-3165.
3. Schematic design meetings are being scheduled for the Belmont Beach Aquatic Center. PRM has identified key team members to be involved in all the design process meetings that begin this month.
4. The replacement Pride Lifeguard Tower was celebrated on Thursday, June 10th. Lifeguards painted the new tower that was unveiled during a ceremony led by District 2 Councilwoman Cindy Allen and Mayor Robert Garcia.
5. The proposal to establish the name of "The Dee Andrews Sports Complex at Chittick Field" that was approved at the May meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission has been advanced to the Government, Personnel, & Elections Oversight Committee for an upcoming meeting yet to be determined.
6. We experienced another unfortunate fire that damaged the playground equipment and immediate area within Rotary Centennial Park on Monday, June 7, 2021. Parks Maintenance is securing the damaged playground area until replacement parts arrive and repair work can be completed that should allow the rest of the park on Pacific Coast Highway to remain open.
7. Plans are being finalized by our Community Recreation Services team for July's Parks Make Life Better Month celebration. Ideally, we plan to present the PRM Strategic Plan Recommendations to City Council at the July 20, 2021 meeting.
8. In anticipation of the June 15th State of California's "full re-opening", a master matrix of our facilities and programs schedule has been developed and will be shared with all 9 City Council District Offices.

9. An interview panel and selection process has been established with interviews for the Municipal Band conductor candidates being scheduled later in the month of June.
10. Although most of our springtime tree plantings have been accomplished and ceremonial tree planting events completed with most of the Council District offices, the final tree planting event will occur this month at Silverado Park in cooperation with Councilmember Uranga and the District 7 office along with members of the surrounding neighborhoods.
11. Partners of Parks has stepped forward to support the Juneteenth celebration planned for Martin Luther King Jr. Park and providing funding for swim programming during the event for area youth.
12. An Appreciation event was held to honor the service of former Parks Planning and Partnerships Bureau Manager, Meredith Reynolds on Thursday, June 10th. Meredith has rejoined the City Manager's Office and is overseeing the City of Long Beach's Economic Recovery Program. We wish Meredith great success and professional enjoyment in her new leadership position.