

# Director's Highlights

## Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services

### October 2021 Highlights

**Prepared by Director Brent Dennis**

1. The recent Huntington Beach oil spill fortunately has not impacted the beaches and marina areas of Long Beach. Marine Bureau team members have been vigilant in monitoring our coastal environment and communicating with our fellow beach communities to track the containment and clean-up efforts. With recent rainfall, all recreational swimming areas have been closed for three days with extensions possible pending additional rainfall. The WiBit (floating water playground) was de-installed at the beginning of the month.
2. The Sea Scout Base beach tenants, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts met with PRM leadership to forge a cooperative agreement to allow for safe program use and access to beach and water now that their summer camp programs have ended. COVID health protocols continue to govern many of the programs and events scheduled for the fall and winter months.
3. The El Dorado Frontier "Pumpkin Market" opened on Saturday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through Halloween weekend. Tickets include unlimited rides on the carousel and trains.
4. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Historical Cemetery Tour, presented by the Historical Society of Long Beach, is planned for Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm. Director Dennis will be volunteering as the welcoming emcee at the entrance to Sunnyside & Municipal Cemeteries at 9am in character costume to support the event. The cemeteries are located at 1095 & 1151 East Willow Street, Long Beach. Tickets are available at [hslb.org](http://hslb.org).
5. With the City Council approval of the "Conductor Larry Curtis Concert Park", a sign is under production in advance of the dedication of a designated area of Marine Stadium to honor the former conductor who died last year. The dedication event is scheduled for Saturday, October 30, 2021, at 11am.
6. A press conference and capital campaign kickoff event occurred on Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at Admiral Kidd Park to raise funds to rebuild the playground that was destroyed by a suspicious fire during the summer. The loss of the popular playground has generated a lot of community interest in seeing the playground rebuilt in an even better state with universal accessibility feature and play elements. "Operations Playground" was launched as a \$1.0 million campaign with an appealing array of donor opportunities and naming rights for a leadership gift or grant.

7. The North Long Beach Pool Feasibility Study is underway, and the core PRM team is now welcoming key representatives from Public Works. We also have initiated discussions with Long Beach Unified School District to seek future negotiated construction cost savings with the new LBUUSD pools in the coming decade should a Long Beach pool be added to the mix. An internal study team has been assembled and will be expanded to include key team members from Public Works.
8. The new FY/22 annual budget period began on October 1, 2021. City Council approved a \$3.0 Billion City of Long Beach FY22 Budget with a Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department budget of \$65,422,325 with proposed revenues of \$40,405,473 and proposed FTE of 432.59. Thanks to all supporters of PRM who attended budget hearings and provided positive public comments.
9. The Long Beach Pickleball Community Collaborative has been formed. The group that is representative of pickleball enthusiasts across the city, is our new brain trust of passionate stakeholders that will help provide valuable input for helping PRM address the best short term and long-range improvements and capital investments.
10. The Partners of Park annual fundraiser "Sowing Seeds of Change" was held at the El Dorado Nature Center on the evening of Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> and entertained a record crowd on a perfect weather evening. The return of the popular annual fundraising event was successful in welcoming new donors and generating additional resources in support of the Department.
11. The PRM Strategic Plan is now scheduled to be presented to City Council in November.