

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Harry Saltzgaver, President, at 9:04 a.m., at MacArthur Park/Homeland Cultural Center. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Harry Saltzgaver, President
Drew Satariano, Vice President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Bob Livingstone
Sarah Sangmeister
Brett Waterfield

Absent: none

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau
Chrissy Marshall, Manager, Community Recreation Services Bureau
J.C. Squires, Manager, Business Operations Bureau
Ramon Arevalo, Superintendent of Grounds Maintenance
William Greco, Supervising Park Ranger
Marc Gutfeld, Superintendent, Community Recreation Services
Alan Kosoff, Administrative Analyst, Contract Management
Mary Blackburn, Park Naturalist, Nature Center
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Ed Mann, Reenactor
Dick Wixon, Reenactor
Alexis Marrero, Resident, Stearns Park
Diane Wiley, Executive Director, Partners of Parks
Mike Murchison
Steve Bash, Long Beach Armada President
Matthew McHale, 5th District Neighborhood Liaison

It was moved by Commissioner Waterfield and seconded by Vice President Satariano to excuse the absence of Commissioner Bob Livingstone. The motion carried unanimously.

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A. OF \$100,000 FROM LB CONTAINER TERMINALS TO PARTNERS OF PARKS FOR UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS

Mr. Hester stated that he received word that Anthony Otto was unable to attend at the last minute and would like to attend the March Commission meeting.

B. DONATION OF \$5,000 FROM THE CLANCY TRUST THROUGH MIKE MURCHISON TO PARTNERS OF PARKS FOR THE MUNICIPAL BAND

President Saltzgaver commended Mr. Murchison for the donation.

Mr. Hester commented that Mr. Murchison would also be honored at a City Council meeting.

President Saltzgaver stated that he would take the Commission action items next, while waiting for Mary Blackburn.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 17, 2008

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to approve the January 17, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#08-0201

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

President Saltzgaver stated that there were no Personal Services/Instruction Agreements this month.

#08-0202

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A PERMIT FOR THE OPERATION OF A PICNIC SERVICE CONCESSION WITH ELITE SPECIAL EVENTS, INC.

Commissioner Guerra asked how many companies contracted by the Department.

Mr. Squires responded that the Department contracts with approximately 10 to 15 companies who all have a fairly extensive experience. This company has been doing this service for a little over ten years in the area, with a good record.

Mr. Hester stated that all these companies have insurance.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit with Elite Special Events, Inc., for a term of one year, expiring March 31, 2009, with options for renewal subject to the discretion of the Director. The motion carried unanimously.

#08-0203

MEMORIAL BENCH FOR DAVID JACK PETTIGREW

Mr. Hester stated that this was a request to place a memorial bench adjacent to a launch ramp at marine stadium.

It was moved by Commissioner Waterfield and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to approve the placement and installation of the memorial bench in memory of David Jack Pettigrew. The motion carried unanimously.

President Saltzgaver said that they would take the acknowledgement for Mary Blackburn at this time.

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

C. RETIREMENT OF MARY BLACKBURN

Ms. Chrissy Marshall said that it was her honor to start off the presentation honoring one of our employees who would be retiring after 22 years of dedicated service to the City of Long Beach. She spoke about Mary Blackburn and her work at the Nature Center and the various programs she supervised and the service she has given to the City and the residents.

President Saltzgaver presented Ms. Blackburn with a plaque from the Parks and Recreation Commission

Ms. Blackburn thanked Department staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission for their support.

President Saltzgaver said that they would go back to the regular order on the agenda.

IV. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#08-0204

REQUEST FROM VISIONS IN TIME FOR PARTIAL FEE WAIVER FOR CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT AT THE EL DORADO EAST REGIONAL PARK (AREA III)

Mr. Gutfeld stated that this group approached the Department about three or four months ago. They have an event they have been doing for seven years in Moorpark and last year they had about 10,000 spectators. This event in Long Beach would be held in El Dorado Regional Park in Area III, which is extremely busy during the summer. They have come up with a weekend that is a little less busy. There has never been an event like this in Long Beach and he believes this would be a win-win for both parties. The group would like reduced fees so they can operate this event without losing money.

Mr. Ed Mann introduced himself as the person in charge of the reenactment. He stated that he doesn't make any money from this event, it is just for the fun of it. The Civil War was an important event and this serves as an education on a part of American history. He said that this would be his 19th season doing this event.

Vice President Satariano stated that this is a fee waiver request for this year only, to give the group some help. He said that he supports this event.

Commissioner Waterfield asked about the impact to the park and asked if the program runs for two days.

Mr. Mann said that he would set up on Friday at noon and they would leave by Sunday evening. They would be there for two and a half days.

Commissioner Waterfield asked how the event would impact staff and would ranger patrols have to be increased.

Mr. Hester responded that there are park rangers already in that park and there is overnight camping in that area already.

Mr. Greco stated that they would be staffing one ranger during the night, due to all the equipment at the site. They have discussed all the particulars for the event.

Commissioner Waterfield asked if there would be bleachers set up.

Mr. Mann said that not generally. The Moorpark site has some bleachers, as the event has grown. They usually use a rope to hold back the audience, who stands spread out along the rope. The public that comes to these events are generally a crowd of responsible people who are interested in history. They are not a bunch of wild kids. They are very respectful and disciplined.

Mr. Hester stated that the Council office is supportive of this event. Since there might be some noise, like unusual pops, they will notify the neighboring community. This is near the pistol range, so the neighborhood is used to the sound of guns.

Commissioner Guerra stated that he attended the Moorpark event and it was very educational. He asked if horses would be at this event.

Mr. Mann responded yes, horses would be at this event.

Commissioner Guerra asked if alcohol would be served at this event.

Mr. Gutfeld stated that they have requested it, but he wanted to get this event approved first and then decide on that issue.

Mr. Mann responded that they decided that alcohol would not be served this first year.

Mr. Eschen stated that in future years, to serve alcohol they would have to apply for a conditional use permit with the Planning and Building Department.

Commissioner Guerra asked if there would be educational opportunities with the Long Beach schools.

Mr. Mann responded that they have previously worked with schools to have the kids come in after they have set up and look at the sites on Friday, but they would have to have an earlier access on Friday.

President Saltzgaver stated that maybe they could look at this in the second year of the program.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to approve the request by Visions in Time for the partial fee waiver of concessions and permit fees for exclusive use of Area III at the El Dorado East Regional Park on Saturday, May 31, and Sunday, June 1, 2008, with the following stipulations.

- **Visions in Time will provide to the City a complete accounting of the event expenses and revenues.**

The motion carried unanimously.

#08-0205

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A PERMIT WITH THE DIAMOND PROJECT, LLC FOR THE USE OF BLAIR FIELD TO ALLOW THE GOLDEN BASEBALL LEAGUE'S LONG BEACH FRANCHISE, THE ARMADA, TO PLAY BASEBALL GAMES, PRACTICE AND HOST SPECIAL EVENTS

Mr. Squires introduced Alan Kosoff, the Department's new contract management staff, who has been with the Department for about four months and has worked extensively on this agreement. Mr. Squires also introduced Steve Bash, the President of the Armada, working for Golden Baseball. He said that the Department has re-negotiated a five-year term and the terms have changed, most notably on page two. The Armada and Golden Baseball League have submitted partners to help finance a new scoreboard at Blair Field. They would back this commitment with a letter of credit from a bank to guarantee payment. They have also negotiated the addition of ten special events with the Armada. Those events have not been identified. They would bring each event to the Department for the Director's approval. With these two items, we have re-negotiated the sharing of advertising revenues and are anticipating an increase of somewhere between \$20,000 and \$35,000.

President Saltzgaver asked if they are planning on having fireworks.

Mr. Bash responded that they are planning on having fireworks in 2008. They would most likely have three events. Right now they are planning on June 13 and July 4, which are on a Friday and Saturday night. The Armada would notify the neighbors of the fireworks and give them two tickets to those games.

Mr. Squires said that related to this item, Partners of Parks is receiving a donation of \$180,000 to help in the purchase of the scoreboard. The Armada and California State University Long Beach have agreed to provide donations over the next four years equal to that amount to Partners of Parks. The digital nature of this scoreboard will allow for the expansion of advertising.

Commissioner Guerra asked what the special events would be.

Mr. Squires responded that they would be a non-baseball day, which could be concerts, boxing matches, movies, etc. It would be up to the Armada to bring the idea to the Department to discuss.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit with the Diamond Project, LLC for the use of Blair Field to allow the Golden Baseball League's Long Beach franchise, the Armada, to play baseball games, practice and host events for a term of five (5) years. The motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met and discussed the agenda.

A. RETREAT RESULTS

President Saltzgaver said that the minutes from the retreat were included in the packet. He wanted to continue to follow through on the action items from that meeting.

Vice President Satariano said that he really appreciated the retreat and that they should try and do that each January.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met this month and went through a gloomy meeting.

Mr. Squires said that they went over the budget calendar and talked about some of the predictions that they see coming. The Department should have the budget ceiling tomorrow. The Department has been requested to cut \$750,000 and would be requested to cut a significantly larger number in 2009. The Department is working diligently to come up with a 2009 budget.

President Saltzgaver suggested another Finance and Appeals meeting next month.

Mr. Hester stated that the Department has been given certain revenue commitments to make. The Department may discuss closing facilities or imposing new fees.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George stated that the Committee met this morning and discussed safety and new rangers. He said that it is hard to get qualified applicants. He asked Supervising Park Ranger Bill Greco to brief the Commissioners on the items they discussed.

Mr. Greco stated that they held interviews and will be making one selection.

Commissioner Guerra asked about a replacement Lieutenant.

Ms. Marshall responded that the Lieutenant interviews would be held this afternoon and they are hoping to get a person in place in two weeks.

D. PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra stated that the Committee did not meet this month and that they would be changing their name to the Marketing and Customer Service Committee.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Vice President Satariano, Chair

Vice President Satariano stated that the Committee met in January and that they meet quarterly.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Tong Sangmeister, Chair

Commissioner Sangmeister stated that the Committee met.

Commissioner George stated that the School District staff are not coming to the meetings and something needs to be done to bring them in.

Mr. Squires stated that he has a meeting today with the head of procurement from the School District on how to deal with adult sports usage of school properties and discuss the financial piece of their cost and our cost.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Livingstone, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet this month and he had no comment.

VI. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – JANUARY 2008

President Saltzgaver asked for any questions on the monthly report. There were none.

It was moved by Commissioner Guerra and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to receive and file the Director's Monthly Report for January 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

B. PARTNERS OF PARKS STATUS REPORT

President Saltzgaver stated that this is the first Partners of Parks report and he thanked Diane Wiley for attending this meeting.

Ms. Wiley briefly went over the report and said that Partners of Parks has done a lot in the last seven weeks. They moved their office to the Recreation Park 18 Golf Course Club House and have taken over the daily operations.

Commissioner Waterfield commented that the Partners of Parks board growth came up during the retreat and asked how the Parks and Recreation Commission could assist. He requested a list of the current board members and that he would like to get the minutes from their meetings.

Ms. Wiley stated that she would like to keep the Commission posted on what is going on. She said that Commissioner Bob Livingstone would be the liaison, since he is also on the Board of Partners of Parks.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

President Saltzgaver stated that the Livingston Park Tot Lot Committee presented an IOU for \$150,000 to the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department. The actual money will be presented later. This has been a very successful project.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Saltzgaver stated that there was no unfinished business.

X. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the audience.

Ms. Alexis Marrero introduced herself. She wanted to thank the Department for the Stearns Park performing arts program and thank Partners of Parks who helped their program. She also said she wanted to invite the Commissioners to a meeting on February 27, at 7:00 p.m., at Buffum Elementary School to discuss a health care facility that is to be built near Stearns Park.

President Saltzgaver stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission has no jurisdiction over this project. He said that he is familiar with this project and it is to relocate the police substation to federal land. He said that Stearns Park is a ways from this proposed facility. He thanked her for letting them know about the meeting.

Mr. Matthew McHale introduced himself as staff from Councilwoman Schipske's office and wanted to let the Parks and Recreation Commissioners know about something that their 5th District Youth Council is doing. They are undertaking a park tree inventory. At this point they are focusing on the parks in the 5th District. They thought that this would help maintenance efforts and identify dead and diseased trees. They are planning to hold a training session for youth, and whoever else is participating, to help them identify trees. They are hoping for a donation of GPS devices to plot the information on the City's GIS system. As this program progresses, they are hoping to include other district youth councils.

President Saltzgaver asked if they could coordinate this effort with Maintenance Operations and Public Works regarding the Tree Master Plan.

B. STAFF

President Saltzgaver introduced the staff for this facility, Jim Ruggirello, the supervisor of this facility.

Mr. Ruggirello gave the Commissioners a packet of information regarding the Homeland Cultural Center and described the programs held at the facility. He said that the facility's 20th anniversary is next year in 2009.

President Saltzgaver stated that this is the most diverse facility.

Mr. Hester stated that the state California and Pacific Southwest Recreation and Park Training Conference would be held next week and they have received the largest pre-registration ever.

Ms. Marshall said that Snow Day has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 1, at the regional centers from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Eschen stated that the kickoff meeting to discuss the design of the Drake/Chavez greenbelt would be held on March 8, at 1:00 p.m., at Drake Park.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner George stated that he would like to get information to staff on the California State University Long Beach bookstore to be distributed at the convention.

Commissioner Sangmeister said that she and her kids attended the Whaley Park Snow Day and they had a great time. However, there was no Parks and Recreation information booth to get parents more information on Department programs and she thought this would be a good idea. Commissioner Sangmeister stated that she also attended a Childnet fundraising event and the Chief of Police gave a good speech on keeping kids busy before they become a problem, which was good public relations for the Department.

Commissioner Guerra stated that this was his first time at the MacArthur/Homeland facility and thanked the staff.

President Saltzgaver stated that there is a short article regarding the conference on page 14A of the Gazette.

X. NEXT MEETING

President Saltzgaver stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, March 20, 2008, at El Dorado Park West Community Center in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Rd., Long Beach.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Saltzgaver adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine