

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Drew Satariano, President, at 9:03 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

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

Absent: None

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Sandra Gonzalez, Manager of Planning and Development
Ramon Arevalo, Acting Manager of Maintenance Operations
JC Squires, Manager of Business Operations
Dave Ashman, Manager of Special Events and Filming
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, General Superintendent, Community Recreation
Services
Bill Greco, Supervisor, Park Rangers
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Diane Wiley, Partners of Parks
Summer Hanson, Children's Day

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 15, 2009

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the January 15, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SPECIAL EVENTS AND FILMING BUREAU PRESENTATION

Mr. Dave Ashman introduced his staff: Jenna Estes, Christopher Purnell, Tasha Day, Jason Kintner, Jacque Sweeting, Emily Scott, Andy Witherspoon, John Hill, and Bill Mallery. Mr. Ashman then played a DVD on events and films shot in Long Beach. He also distributed a handout listing their bureau organization and a description of events and filming. He said that their office permits anything taking place on public property. Mr. Ashman said that they are working with the Technology Services Department on their website, which will have a calendar of events in Long Beach.

Mr. Hester stated that they are working on good neighbor policies and they try to be invisible so the filming does not disturb the neighbors.

Commissioner Sangmeister stated that she recently attended the L.A. EDC Economic Conference about Los Angeles County and she has some statistics that she will give to Mr. Ashman that he should have, because the comments speak about the entertainment industry in Los Angeles County. The charts are frightening, showing the filming days going down drastically in Los Angeles County, with filming in Long Beach going up.

Ms. Tasha Day described the 30-mile zone, wherein when filming takes place within a 30 mile radius of a certain point in Hollywood, the filming industry does not have to pay per diem, overnight housing, etc. Long Beach falls into that zone. She explained that the Office of Special Events and Filming is film friendly with their one-stop shop for permitting and explained that if permits are too expensive, it drives the film industry away.

Mr. Hester said that the Office of Special Events and Filming is trying to minimize the other ancillary costs such as for Police, Fire and Public Works. They are trying to use retired or part time staff to try and keep the costs down. They are also trying to use the park rangers as opposed to using a police officer, who are more expensive.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that he was going to wait until the Park Safety Committee to report, but though it was appropriate to mention this topic now. He said that the Park Safety Committee met this morning and the relationship between the police and the rangers and the police and the Special Events and Filming Bureau was the primary topic. We are aware of the current friction in the rank and file. It is our intention to make it known that we are aware of that friction and to pressure where we can pressure to have the command of the entire City, in particular the Police Department, to address the issue. It is time in this economy for everyone

to play on the same team. We are interested in helping to facilitate that any way we can.

Commissioner Guerra wanted to make sure that it is easy for the average person to get a permit for a block party, etc.

Mr. Ashman said they would discuss that in the Committee meeting.

IV. **COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS**

#09-0201

Recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Vice President Waterfield to approve the recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

#09-0202

Recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench at the Downtown Shoreline Marina above Gangway L, in memory of Lawrence Paul Dow, Jr.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench at the Downtown Shoreline Marina above Gangway L, in memory of Lawrence Paul Dow, Jr. The motion carried unanimously.

President Satariano stated that item VIII, the Partners of Parks Report, would be taken next.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Partners of Parks Report – Diane Wiley
- Municipal Band Gala

Ms. Diane Wiley distributed Municipal Band Gala flyers. She said that they have also placed ads in the Gazettes, Long Beach Business Journal and the Press Telegram.

Mr. Hester said that they have been discussing an August 22nd end of the year Municipal Band concert at Blair Field.

Ms. Wiley said that the proceeds from the Gala would go toward the 2009 Municipal Band season. She said that they are also putting together tee-shirts and sweatshirts to sell.

Commissioner Guerra suggested that this event be played up as an endowment fund for the band.

Ms. Wiley said that it takes some time to legally set up an endowment fund, so she really can't endorse that.

President Satariano said he would go back to the regular order of the agenda.

V. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

- A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano stated that they met and discussed the agenda.

- B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano said that the Committee met and discussed cuts. He said that the report was included in the packet.

Mr. Hester said that the City is still struggling with issues on the general fund side. He briefed the Commission on the budget and said that there would be a City Council budget meeting on March 3, at 3:30 p.m.

Commissioner Sangmeister asked if it would be a good idea for the Commissioners to attend?

Mr. Hester responded that it would be a good idea, but there would probably be no need to speak.

President Satariano encouraged the Parks and Recreation Commissioners to attend the March 3 City Council budget meeting.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met this morning and discussed the Police Department issue with the Park Rangers. He said that the Department now has five full-time rangers who are relegated to El Dorado Park and occasionally to Heartwell Park. The rangers work from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., seven days a week. He said they are concerned about requests from the Police Dispatchers calling the Park Rangers to service at parks they do not work at any more. Commissioner Saltzgaver said that in the Committee meeting he requested that the Department Safety Officer inspect the non-supervised playgrounds for broken and unsafe equipment.

Commissioner Guerra said that we are just trying to save the City money.

President Satariano said that the Commission is upset about this issue and don't know what to do. The Special Events and Filming Bureau is trying to save money and make money. We cannot let this go on.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that the report is included in the packet and the statistics show that the information is cut in half with the reduction of the Park Rangers. He said that he would attempt to set up a meeting with the Mayor and include President Satariano.

Mr. Hester suggested that he might want to include Councilmember DeLong, who is chair of the Budget Oversight Committee.

D. MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra said that the Committee met.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Vice President Waterfield, Chair

Vice President Waterfield stated that the Committee would meet next Thursday.

F. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra said that they met and discussed the Police issue also.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked for a formulation of the appeals procedure.

Mr. Squires responded that a draft was being reviewed by staff and would be brought to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. Recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for January 2009.

President Satariano asked for any comments or questions on the monthly report.

Commissioner Saltzgaver commented about the Livingston Park photos on the front of the report. He said that getting the park rebuild was a pain and is now beautiful and heavily used.

President Satariano and Mr. Hester commended Anna Mendiola for her work on the project.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

President Satariano said that there was no correspondence.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recommendation to approve proposed improvements to Lincoln Park through the creation of the Lincoln Park Dog Park, and, as proposed, meets a recreational need in the city through an appropriately designed site.

President Satariano said that he first heard about this at the Councilmember's State of the District speech.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if there was a neighborhood agreement with Maintenance Operations to take care of this park.

Mr. Hester responded that the maintenance of this park would be funded with Civic Center funds and the Department's contractor would maintain this park. He said that the turf would remain in place. There is no organization in place to watch over this dog park, as there is with the other two dog parks. The City Council office may find a group, as there is a lot of interest in the area for a dog park. Meetings with the homeless organization have taken place, so the homeless would not be taken by surprise.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation to approve proposed improvements to Lincoln Park through the creation of the Lincoln Park Dog Park, and, as proposed, meets a recreational need in the city through an appropriately designed site. The motion carried with Commissioner Sangmeister abstaining.

- B. Recommendation to receive and file the Park Impact Fee Report for Fiscal Year 2008.

Mr. Hester stated that the Park Impact Fees received are down significantly.

Ms. Summer Hanson said it might be a good idea to put donation boxes in parks to help with maintaining the parks. She didn't know how secure they would be though.

President Satariano thanked Ms. Hanson for her comment.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation to receive and file the Park Impact Fee Report for Fiscal Year 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Recommendation to receive and file the Policy Concerning Youth League Light Payment Program.

President Satariano stated that this policy was discussed and approved by the Special Events and Recreation Committee.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if this policy has been run by the leagues?

Ms. Nixon-Joiner responded yes, and the leagues are fine with this.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation to receive and file the Policy Concerning Youth League Light Payment Program. The motion carried unanimously.

X. **COMMENTS**

A. AUDIENCE

President Satariano asked for comments from the audience.

Ms. Summer Hanson distributed flyers for the Children's Day event. She said that last year Senators Alan Lowenthal and Betty Karnette did a resolution for a state-wide Children's Day. Congresswoman Laura Richardson is working on this in Congress.

President Satariano said that the Parks and Recreation Commission supports Children's Day.

Ms. Hanson said that she would like to invite the Department's contract teachers to have a space to show what they do in their classes.

Mr. Hester stated that perhaps the Department could get a booth and advertise the recreation classes.

President Satariano thanked Ms. Hanson for coming in.

B. STAFF

President Satariano asked for comments from the staff. There were none.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Satariano asked for comments from the Commissioners. There were none.

X. NEXT MEETING

President Satariano stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, March 19, 2009, at MacArthur Park (Homeland), in the Community Center, 1321 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Satariano adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

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