

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
JULY 16, 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. JC Squires, Manager of Business Operations, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

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

**Absent:** Sarah Sangmeister

**Staff:** JC Squires, Manager of Business Operations  
Sandra Gonzalez, Manager, Planning and Development  
Dave Ashman, Manager, Special Events and Filming  
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, Manager, Community Recreation Services  
Ted Stevens, Superintendent of Community Recreation Services  
Theresa Maceyka, Superintendent, Grounds Maintenance  
Ed White, Superintendent, Facility Maintenance  
Bill Greco, Chief Park Ranger  
Chelsea Stevens, Intern  
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

**Guests:** Sylvia Desmond  
Cindy Carroll, Park Advocates  
Marisel Flod, Park Advocates  
Ann Cantrell, Lakes, Ponds and Wetlands  
Dennis Rainey, Lakes, Ponds and Wetlands  
Jessica Morales, Park Advocates  
Annette Morales, Park Advocates  
George Morales, Park Advocates  
Bert Srack, Retired Employee  
Jill Hill  
Mary Parsell  
Barbara Hubbs  
Tonia Reyes Uranga, Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Ray Pok, Chief of Staff, 7<sup>th</sup> District Council office

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to excuse the absence of Commissioner Sarah Sangmeister. The motion carried unanimously.**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 18, 2009**

**It was moved by Commissioner George and seconded by Commissioner Saltzgaver to approve the June 18, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

President Satariano said he would take Item 8 next.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Recommend to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that it is appropriate to rename Somerset Park as “Chrissy Strong-Marshall Park.”

President Satariano asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak on this item.

Mr. Squires stated that Ms. Marshall started her career at Somerset Park and had a long distinguished career with the Department before becoming ill.

President Satariano said that renaming parks is not something done all the time, in fact rarely. A lot got done on Chrissy’s watch and we thought that renaming this park where she started out was a good thing. There have been some comments from citizens in the 7<sup>th</sup> District and it looked like they were emotional opinions and didn’t understand our intention. If anyone in the audience wants to give input, I would give them three minutes to speak.

Mr. Squires said that staff tried to find the history of Somerset Park. The best they could find is that it was tied to a ranch in Bellflower that had once been owned by the Bixbys. They could not find any ties to an individual or to the community. It appears to be more of a development name and has no connection to the community.

Councilwoman Reyes Uranga said that we have received a lot of e-mails regarding this renaming. There is a process that this has to go through. After Parks and Recreation Commission it goes to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and then the full City Council. We would be having a community meeting at the end of July to talk about this park's issues and the naming. Chrissy Marshall started her career as a recreation leader at Somerset Park. She did a fantastic job and at such a young age rose to a position of responsibility in the Department. Even when she was ill, she still did an amazing job. My mother used to take my children to Somerset Park for the recreation programs, where Chrissy Marshall was. My son and so many other kids out there had an attachment to Chrissy. She has always been an inspiration. Especially in the difficult years Chrissy was still there for the City Council and the community. Naming this park would not only be a dedication to Chrissy Marshall and her family, but to all the employees in recognition of the hard work they do. I will wholeheartedly agree to do this. We will have a community meeting on July 27. We have gotten some e-mails, but none of them strongly against this. People are always concerned when there is a change. I am here in support of this to name the park in her honor.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner said that when Chrissy was off due to her illness, she never stopped working. She always sent e-mails making sure things got done.

Ms. Bert Srack introduced herself as a retired employee and that she used to be the bureau manager for the Community Recreation Services Bureau. She said she was very comfortable leaving the Department because she was leaving it in the hands of Chrissy. It would be a huge disservice to her memory if this would not be approved. This young woman committed her entire life to bettering the life of the community and the children. Chrissy made certain that the programs continued even though there were cuts. This young woman deserves to be recognized and memorialized. It would be extremely important. Chrissy came up through the ranks and became the bureau manager. She struggled a great deal the last years of her life and put so much into the Department and it would be a disservice not to name this park in her honor.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that he has been here for eight years. He was fortunate to have Chrissy say to him, "You get it." That was the highest complement he had on this commission. She was the architect of the restructure of the bureau and dealt with all the budget issues and made sure that all the parks had equal recreation programs. She approached everything with a "we can" attitude.

Commissioner Guerra said that as a resident, as well as a Commissioner, he couldn't think of a better person to name a park after. He thanked the Councilwoman for bringing the motion forward and highlighting the services that staff does behind the scenes. He said he looks forward to staff carrying on her tradition.

President Satariano said that if this motion passes, it would go to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and then the full City Council.

**It was moved by Commissioner Waterfield and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Recommend to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that "Cressa Park" is an appropriate name for the landscaped City parcels adjacent to the Los Angeles River from 19<sup>th</sup> Street to Pacific Coast Highway, known as the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Greenbelt.

President Satariano asked if there was anyone in the audience to speak on this item.

Ms. Jill Hill introduced herself as the president of the Wrigley Area Neighborhood Alliance. She said this is next to the riverbed near 19<sup>th</sup> Street and she is here representing Ken Gore, who has been the steward and has gone to the site almost every Saturday to work on the landscape project. It is all native landscape. He realized when working on this that there was an indigenous plant that grows everywhere on the site called Cressa. They thought it would be a perfect name for this park. She said she was hoping the Commission could move this forward. It would do justice to name this park after something that grows there naturally.

Ray Pok introduced himself as Chief of Staff for the 7<sup>th</sup> City Council district. He said that the Administrative Regulation does allow for naming after a topographic feature. He said that they had community meetings and there was a consensus for this name and it has our support. It is a forgotten piece of property and has been turned into a thriving asset. It is adjacent to an unpaved right of way and is all native vegetation, as there is no irrigation on the site. It would be an eyesore without that effort.

Ms. Hill said that the site used to be a dumping area and has been turned around completely.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if this is in our park inventory and would this become a park?

Mr. Squires said it is in our land bank inventory; it is not dedicated park land yet.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if we name it a park, would it become a dedicated park?

Councilwoman Reyes Uranga said if it would need to be named the Cressa Greenbelt, that would be fine too.

Ms. Theresa Maceyka commented that Ken Gore is one of the few people who volunteered to do a beautification project and stuck with it.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said he would amend the recommendation.

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to approve the recommendation and process this land as park land. The motion carried unanimously.**

- C. Recommend to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that it is appropriate that the Queen Mary Special Events Park be renamed "Harry Bridges Memorial Park at the Queen Mary."

President Satariano said there was quite extensive discussion at the City Council meeting about this.

**It was moved by Commissioner Waterfield and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.**

President Satariano said that he was going back to the regular order of the agenda.

### **III. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS**

#### **#09-0701**

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.

President Satariano said that there were none.

#### **#09-0702**

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to enter into provider agreements with Children's Home Society of California for the establishment and maintenance of the Child Care Assistance Programs at El Dorado West, Pan American, Silverado, Stearns Champions, Veterans, Wardlow, and Whaley Parks.

Mr. Squires said that the communities have been looking forward to this.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner said that we have been working with Children's Home Society (CHS) for a number of years. They were mainly associated with sites that had child care centers. We no longer have child care programs, but do have day camp programs. The parent goes to that organization and selects our program as the child care provider, and then CHS pays the City directly for the day camp program. We have to have a formal agreement with them in order for them to actually pay us for that program.

Commissioner Guerra asked how they are funded?

Ms. Nixon-Joiner said she would find out, but she thinks it is funded by the state.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that according to the report, it looks like they are a 501 c3 organization.

Vice President Waterfield asked if this would increase the amount of students able to participate?

Ms. Nixon-Joiner responded that it would allow lower income families to participate and not take up a scholarship spot for another child to be in the program.

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

**#09-0703**

Recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench on the east side of Colonnade Park overlooking the water, in memory of Myron "Miny" Poe.

President Satariano said that the Poe's live about 10 houses from where the proposed bench would be located. Mr. Poe just passed away recently.

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

**IV. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS**

**A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
President Satariano, Chair

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

1) Committee Assignment Review

President Satariano said that he moved around a few assignments and the Commissioners gave him their preferences. He talked with the Mayor and there is a new appointee and both Commissioner George and Vice President Waterfield would be appointed for their second terms.

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the committee assignments. The motion carried unanimously.**

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE  
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano said the Committee met last week regarding the fee hearing next week on July 23. He said that the report was included in the packet.

Mr. Squires said that the Department is on track to meet our budget targets.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked how we are handling furlough Fridays with programs like the day camps?

Ms. Nixon-Joiner responded said that the day camp programs and other paid programs are exempt. All the other programs are closed that day.

President Satariano said our Department has done an outstanding job. A proclamation was received from City Council for "July is Recreation and Parks Month." This department seems to be able to make the cuts and go on.

Vice President Waterfield said there was a conversation about camp enrollments being down. Are the enrollments changing week by week?

Ms. Nixon-Joiner responded that we are still very low in comparison to prior years. The weeks vary and we will see a significant loss in revenue, but we have staffed accordingly.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said he would not be here for the fee hearing. Regarding the participation fee, are we allowing fall leagues to register in advance of that participation fee increase?

Ms. Squires responded that this would affect the leagues the next August?

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that the Committee did not meet. However, the incident statistics are in the packet. The year to date comparisons were down due to the park ranger limitations.

D. **MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE**  
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra said that the Committee did not meet. We did receive a packet from Community Recreation Services with all kinds of new marketing materials.

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

Vice President Waterfield said that the Committee met this morning and had a good meeting. He introduced Planning and Development's Intern, Chelsea Stevens. Information is included in the packet. The majority of the projects are not general fund based. The Department has done some creative funding.

Ms. Sandra Gonzalez said we are really busy. Some major projects are under construction and we are preparing to bid large projects. We lost a position when Heather Martin left and the effect of that is \$15 million of tidelands projects that we are trying to run with existing staff.

Vice President Waterfield said they talked about the Drake/Chavez Greenbelt and there may be some discussion to reconfigure that due to a land swap deal.

F. **SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra said that the Committee did not meet.

Mr. Dave Ashman said that they are busy with events. They had 18 events last weekend and will have 11 this weekend. The Committee will meet at the end of August. Summer is going great.

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

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

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

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

President Satariano said that there was no correspondence.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Recommendation to approve modifications to the pilot program for serving and consuming alcohol in City parks under specific conditions.

President Satariano said that the changes are highlighted in red. Some input was given and modifications made. This is to approve the modifications to the pilot program, which we have already approved.

Mr. Squires said we met with members of the community and listened to their concerns about having too many reservable sites available for this pilot program. We have reduced some of those site locations to minimize the impact. We will give this pilot program one year to evaluate the impact on the parks. We feel this is a good compromise.

President Satariano asked if any member of the audience would like to speak on this matter?

Ms. Ann Cantrell said she appreciates the fact that some of these venues have been removed. Although, there has been one additional one in Area II, which she is concerned about. She also commended the removal of the requirement of the alcohol sales events to be family oriented. This El Dorado community center venue is ideal for weddings. It is a contained area where there can be security. The enclosed venues, although I still have a concern about the liability of the City, this kind of venue presents a place where there can be security. I have some questions. Although the term alcohol is used throughout the proposal, is it just beer and wine or does the ABC license pertain to all alcohol or just beer and wine? Does the stated goal protect the asset as number one? El Dorado Regional Park has unique assets, like wildlife, that are not found in other parks. The vendor is supposed to provide adequate

parking. How can a vendor create a parking plan when no one in the Department knows how many parking spots there are in the Regional Park? As you are aware, there is no parking in El Dorado for large groups except on the grass, allowing oil, anti-freeze and tires on the grass does not appear to be a way of protecting this asset. I don't understand how naming the City as additionally insured protects the City. It appears that a non-profit fundraising event makes a donation to Partners of Parks, while a for-profit event pays City fees for labor and services. Does this mean that non-profit fees are waived? How much must for-profits pay in fees? There is no cost evaluation in the report as to how much money this is going to bring the City. I continue to oppose this program in the open spaces of El Dorado Regional Park and I respectfully ask the Commission to eliminate Golden Grove, Lake View Grove, and Horseshoe Lake from this plan.

Mr. Ashman responded that we discussed what type of alcohol we wanted and we decided that beer and wine would be best for this program. ABC would write a permit to the applicant. Hard liquor would not be allowed. If the event is in an open area, they must provide a fence so they would be enclosed, with security guards. Regarding liability, the City requires insurance and we would require the server to also have insurance. This gives the City a double layer of coverage. Steve Neal did a parking study and Mr. Hester asked us to review that. We would also bring in a parking consultant to do a study and Mr. Hester would take that information back to the Commission. Regarding protecting the asset, there are certain times of the year we would not permit events in the parks. We would not overwhelm the asset.

President Satariano asked if staff has any idea on how much money would be brought in?

Mr. Ashman responded that we have only one group that is interested right now. Because of the heavy restrictions, we may find it is too onerous for some people to take this on. Then, we would have to make an adjustment or decide to stop the program. We cannot project the revenue brought in, but we would recover costs.

Vice President Waterfield said we would still have the same permitting process for all other events. This would not get rid of those. He said he appreciates the input and all the work that Mr. Ashman has put into this.

President Satariano said that this item was in the subcommittee for at least six months.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that we need to make clear that these venues are part of the trial program and the current venues that allow alcohol would operate as they currently do, as in Blair Field. I don't see this effort to create this policy as revenue enhancement; I see it as having greater control. How does this impact the recommendation that Ms. Cantrell made about the whole concept of creating a VIP area in Municipal Band concerts?

Mr. Ashman responded that we work with groups who have greater knowledge, like SMG. We have to discuss this with them for a model.

Commissioner Guerra stated that as the Chair of the subcommittee, he feels very good about what we have in front of us. We have gone through several revisions. He said he wants to emphasize that this is a one-year trial. If it needs to be adjusted, we would do that. We are looking for ways to supplement income for recreation programs. If this is a way to do that then I am very much in support of that.

Mr. Squires stated that when they started, it was about how do we develop a market to raise money, but realized the new program would provide greater control with the added security and planning.

President Satariano said that one of the problems is that it is inferred with the public that this allows alcohol in the park in general. Hopefully people would realize that was not the intention.

Ms. Billie Schaeffer said that she appreciates your good intentions. But, you are going to have a lot of resentment from people who can't afford to go to the venue. Parks are supposed to be synonymous with good living and alcohol is not good living. People are going to resent that they can't go into that venue because they can't afford it. You have the perfect venue here, why do you want to intrude on the natural habitats? The only place I would approve is the archery range. I rehab wildlife and birds don't stop nesting in July. The habitat is very important. We are using a mosquito abatement program that is hazardous to the health of wildlife and human beings alike. If we put up swallow nests we wouldn't have a mosquito problem. If you have to, then you have the perfect venue right here at the El Dorado community center.

Mr. Dennis Rainey stated that someone mentioned that the City revenue did this. Where would the revenue go, to the general fund or to the park?

President Satariano said that it was thought of and it was decided that the revenue would come back directly to the Department.

Mr. Squires stated that there is a request by a Councilmember to dedicate those funds, but that has not happened. In the current environment with the Finance Department and the Budget Office, any new revenue would offset future cuts in that particular department. In affect, it comes back to the parks. We are allowed to keep the existing programs we have.

Mr. Rainey said that his family went to the park for Fathers Day and noticed that parking was at a minimum. The park roads are very narrow and there were lots of bicycles. If a drunk hits and kills a person, who is liable?

Mr. Ashman responded that the operator of the vehicle is liable, just as on the street. Because of the City's requirements of general liability, we provide protection for the City from any claims. Plus, with ABC training and cutting off sales prior to an hour of the end of the event, we are eliminating the opportunity for people to leave the event inebriated. The goal is to create a different experience. There are certain parties we would not take on. Mr. Ashman said that current policy is to set up holding areas for inebriated people until they can reasonably exit the facility.

Mr. Rainey asked what is to prevent someone not associated with the event from going in and buying alcohol?

Mr. Ashman responded that most of the events would be private affairs or paid admission affairs. Those areas would be enclosed in a fence with security. People would not be allowed to wander in.

Ms. Mary Parsell said that she thinks the control the Department has on these events is good. The fact is that we don't have enough park ranger presence. When the Department has a controlled event, they work with the community and the wildlife societies, like the Audubon Society. The fact that this is a pilot program means the Department is going to look at it. She said she has attended these other meetings and had not heard of Horseshoe Lake. She checked it out the other day and there are five species of birds that

have nests there now and staff would have to keep that in mind. Birds don't go by the calendar. You have to check for the nests. Mr. Rainey is an Audubon member and a retired professor from CSULB. She said she likes the amount of control proposed. The location where the Cambodian event takes place might be a good place for Oktoberfest.

President Satariano said you are welcome to come back as the pilot program unfolds and give feedback. He thanked the audience for coming in and speaking and asked if anyone else had comments.

Ms. Barbara Hubbs said that she has a question about the parking. Are they going to try and resolve the problem of parking before the events? The Oktoberfest would be a large event. Or even the Cambodian festival.

Mr. Ashman stated that we would not let the Cambodian festival have alcohol and they do not want to have alcohol at their event. We would decide when shuttles are appropriate. We are targeting groups of approximately 150 for corporate events or weddings. We are not interested in bringing in a large festival.

Ms. Squires stated that Mr. Ashman looks at everything until it is approved.

Ms. Cantrell said that in the meeting with Mr. Hester, she was told that the October fest was planned for this fall, which is one of the reasons we want to get this passed quickly. They wanted to have it in Area II so it would be visible from the freeway. Horseshoe Lake is inappropriate and the bike path runs would run right through this event. My definition of a public park is that it is open to everyone. They shouldn't have to pay again to get into a venue.

Mr. Ashman stated that we have received a proposal for Oktoberfest. Most proposals are not approved. For example, the bike path is closed during the Grand Prix, but it is rerouted. You cannot go in to the middle of a little league game, even though it is a public park. This is no different from those programs.

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

**IX. COMMENTS**

**A. AUDIENCE**

President Satariano asked for comments from the audience.

Ms. Parsell said the Audubon Society continues to work with the Department and there needs to be more work done. There are issues with fishing hooks in the reeds. She said she also had a conversation with a wild life biologist because trees were trimmed at the edge of a golf course, but it was the wrong time of year. Maybe there could be an educational meeting with Department staff and golf course staff so these mistakes won't be made.

Ms. Theresa Maceyka said there are discussions in the Lakes, Ponds and Wetlands Task Force we are working on. We are using consultants for our lake management.

**B. STAFF**

President Satariano asked for comments from the staff.

Ms. Maceyka said they are working really hard and there are challenges with water conservation and vandalism with irrigation.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner thanked Vice President Waterfield for attending the Juneteenth celebration. It went a different direction and was a great day. We recently had a dance fest from Homeland with great success. She has been out at movies and concerts and there is large attendance.

Ms. Squires said that the keys have been turned over to St. Mary's at the Senior Center and the program is starting. He distributed an invitation to the Commissioners to become a member of Partners of Parks.

**C. COMMISSIONERS**

President Satariano asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members convention next spring is in Palm Springs, so it would be drivable. He said the Commission would also be represented at the National Recreation and Parks Association Conference in Salt Lake City, as he would be making a presentation there.

Commissioner Guerra said he was sorry he wasn't at the Commission meeting last month with the Eagle Scout project. That morning he was on the nominating committee hiring the Scout executive representing Long Beach, Bellflower, Signal Hill, Cerritos, and Avalon, so it was an important day for scouting. I am sorry I missed that but I am sure it was a good project.

**X. NEXT MEETING**

President Satariano stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, August 20, 2009, at El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Rd., 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