

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Drew Satariano, President, at 9:01 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
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Harry Saltzgaver
Sarah Sangmeister

Absent: Brett Waterfield – excused

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, Manager, Community Recreation Services
JC Squires, Manager of Business Operations
Sandra Gonzalez, Manager, Planning and Development
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Craig Beck, Director of Development Services
Steve Gerhardt, Development Services
Mike Rivera, Homeland
Raymond Quarles, Homeland
Alan Gafford, St. Cyprian School
Seu Yang, Hmong Traditional Art

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 16, 2009

It was moved by Commissioner George and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the July 16, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. PRESENTATION OF DOWNTOWN VISIONING PLAN

Phil introduced Craig Beck, who was asked to do a presentation to the Commission on the Downtown Visioning Plan.

Mr. Beck said he would like to share their downtown community plan. He said the City is going through several planning efforts. The City has a General Plan, which is the single greatest power controlling the land within its borders and we are going through this large effort to update our General Plan. We have been pulling together a planned development district. We want to capitalize on a city by the water, and that we have an airport, a port, etc. Long Beach is more a city of small neighborhoods than a large city. We want a sense of identity. We want some great streets, to promote pedestrian activity. Long Beach was named number three of the top ten cities for walkability. This plan area is from Ocean Boulevard to the Los Angeles River to 10th Street to Alamitos Avenue. When you go below Ocean Boulevard, you deal with the Coastal Commission overlay. We will update that area later. There are different elements of the downtown area and the plan is broken down into these areas. The goal of this plan is to create development standards. We are also promoting historic preservation. We want to ensure we have a good pedestrian feel, landscaping, street furniture. We want to make use of open space to gather and recreate. We want to enhance the waterfront experience. We want to expand the bike path to the Queen Mary Events Park and Pier J. When the 710 Freeway is realigned, it will expand the Drake-Chavez Greenbelt and a connection point will be built to the greenway and to the water. The draft plan is on the City's website.

Commissioner Saltzgaver commented that Craig has been a great advocate in using Redevelopment money for parks and he thanked Mr. Beck. He said he is concerned about a few things in the plan and personally doesn't consider a rooftop garden as open space. You mentioned places to congregate and talked about the Civic Center. There are plans to start work on a fairly large dog park in Lincoln Park. What are you doing about things that are happening now that are contrary to what your plan is?

Mr. Beck responded that we are seeing more and more residents moving into downtown. That is a good thing because the goal is to transition downtown for both living and working. They don't have the backyards downtown and we have to provide alternatives. The one major thing we are hearing from residents is that they need a place for their dogs. There is a need for the Lincoln Dog Park and the agency is also building a dog park at 9th Street and Pacific Avenue. From a master planning

perspective, we do have a great land asset, but is not being utilized to it's fullest. Mr. Beck said he is going to request approval to enter into a land agreement with the State of California to build a new courthouse.

Mr. Hester said we are not spending a lot of money on the Lincoln Dog Park because we might want to move it at some point. Temporarily, it gives us a place right now and we will see what the community's response is.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said the slides showed a significant number of street trees. Who is going to take care of them?

Mr. Beck responded that as an example, the agency is investing money into the promenade. There are new residents and ground floor retail. Part of the resident's homeowner's associations pay for maintenance of the promenade.

Mr. Hester said that in Victory Park, the residents are required to maintain it.

Commissioner Guerra said that the percentage of building fees go towards the artwork. Does the community have any input about what the artwork looks like? For example there is a sculpture on Atlantic Avenue that just doesn't seem to belong.

Mr. Beck responded that the art piece is called the Orange Twist and the sculpture came before the area was ready for it. There will be landscaping put around the piece and it will look better when it is done. The Redevelopment Agency adds a 1 percent fee to any Agency project for art. Some say that there should be an art fee citywide. Mr. Beck said that the Arts Council decides on the art to be installed.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if they should endorse this plan?

Mr. Beck responded that this is just a presentation and ultimately it will go before the City Council and will be adopted by the Planning Commission. He said he would like the Commission to approve the General Plan, when that is revised.

President Satariano thanked Mr. Beck for his presentation.

Mr. Hester said that Development Services has been extremely supportive; they purchase property for the Department.

Mr. Beck introduced his staff member, Steve Gerhardt.

IV. COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICES BUREAU PRESENTATION

Ms. Nixon-Joiner said she would like to go over comparisons between this year and last year. She also showed the "Where Do You Go" video and then gave a presentation with the comparisons between 2008 and 2009.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said last year the City Council found money to be able to continue the senior lunch program. Are we still giving subsidies and facilities for this?

Ms. Nixon-Joiner responded that the Department still has a General Fund subsidy for HSA.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said he would like to find out how much they get?

Commissioner Guerra asked if they could drill down to programs, like WRAP and seniors, to get more information on them program by program?

President Satariano asked about Adaptive Recreation and would like to know more about it, because Councilwoman Gabelich asked about it.

Mr. Hester responded that staff discussed this with her and those cuts were on Plan B, but we may not have to go there. The Department will be making positive adjustments to that program anyway.

Commissioner Guerra said that the class guide doesn't show Adaptive Recreation.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner responded that the class guide is fee-based and adaptive is not fee-based. We may produce a separate guide for that program.

Mr. Hester said that nothing has been changed in that program in years and we need to update it and market it.

President Satariano said they would discuss the WRAP and senior presentations at the Executive Committee meeting.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#09-0801

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 Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#09-0802

Recommendation to authorize the Department Director to execute a Special Event Concession Permit to SMG Food and Beverage, LLC, for food and non-alcoholic beverage sales at the Movies in the Park and Thursday Night Concerts in the Park 2009 series with one, one-year renewal option for the 2010 series.

Mr. Hester stated that the Department asked SMG to help us with the Movies in the Park and Thursday night concerts and this is after the fact

Mr. Squires said that staff decided to do this when the first movie started and SMG is having a good response.

Commissioner Guerra said that the vendors have handled this very well.

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

#09-0803

Recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench on the perimeter of the entrance to the Recreation Dog Park to honor D. Joan Shamitz.

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

#09-0804

Recommendation to receive and file an update on five-year plan for placement of Long Beach Marathon memorial benches at Shoreline Park, funded by International City Bank.

Mr. Hester said this is the second bench that International City Bank donated and they plan to donate one bench a year to 2012, memorializing their key volunteers and putting in the names of the winners.

Ms. Gonzalez said that they have discussed these in the tidelands area at the Marine Advisory Commission (MAC) meeting and they are trying to come up with their own guidelines, because they have a lot of requests. Should this be forwarded to MAC for their information?

Mr. Hester said that the MAC does not have approval authority, but we would take this to them for their information only.

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

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Recommendation to approve the Miscellaneous League and Youth Sports League Participant fees of \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents per season; and, approve new Homeland Cultural Center fees for Specialty Classes, with a range of \$2 to \$15 per class, and Dance Fest, with a range of \$5 to \$20, and add these fees to the 2010 fee schedule.

President Satariano opened the hearing.

Ms. Black swore in those who were planning on speaking to this item.

President Satariano said that the Commission had a public hearing on July 23, 2009, and fees were approved, but these two fees were taken out to an analyze and we are hearing them again.

Mr. Hester said that there were two items of concern, with the cost of the Homeland fees one of them. The Department pays most of the instructors and this is a \$20,000 impact to our budget. Staff has been looking at additional revenue sources to offset these costs. There is a Weed and Seed program and Community Development Block Grant funds may be moved around to help. Partners of Parks also has some potential funding for assistance. We are recommending the Commission move forth with a range of potential fees for new groups at Homeland. We recommend grandfathering in existing programs, but charging new groups.

Mr. Hester said the second concern is the youth sports league participant fees, with a \$10 fee for residents and a \$15 fee for non-residents. If a group wants a fee waiver they can appeal to the Parks and Recreation Commission. We currently waive the participant fees, field permit fees, and concession fees for youth groups and this amounts to over \$600,000. This is with the caveat that the groups have the option to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission.

President Satariano asked for comments from the audience.

Mr. Seu Yang said he was with the Hmong Traditional Arts of Long Beach. He thanked the Commission for grandfathering their existing programs.

Mr. Raymond Quarles said he was with the West African Drum and Dance group. He thanked the Commission for considering this. He said if we didn't have this, it would impact the community.

Mr. Alan Gafford said he is the current PTA President at St. Cyprian School and was wondering how their softball team would be also affected?

Mr. Squires responded that this would put the school into the category with all the other school leagues.

Mr. Gafford said that for families with several children, the cost would add up. Leagues are required to maintain the infields. There are other people who use the parks and we are subsidizing the maintenance on the backs of children who go out and play sports. He said he is voicing his opposition to this.

President Satariano responded that since Mr. Gafford missed the July 23rd meeting, he missed the discussion of the difficult time that Long Beach is in and that is what prompted this.

Mr. Mike Rivera said he was with Homeland and he wanted to thank the Parks and Recreation Commission and thanks to Homeland, the programs are keeping a lot of kids off the streets.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said he apologized for not being at the July 23rd meeting, but he opined on this in other forums. He said I hope you folks help us to find ways to pay and give testimony to the programs. In terms of the use fee, at first it was all about maintenance and that off-season play makes it difficult to maintain fields. What are we going to do about our fields?

Mr. Hester said we have been talking about our downtime schedule. Leagues want to maintain the infield, because they have concerns about the Department maintaining them. It will impact some of the leagues that play continuously. We will change some of our maintenance practices, but we had a 16% increase in our water costs and will have another increase.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if there is a separate set of fees for out of town tournaments?

Mr. Hester responded yes. Soccer leagues are now playing year-round.

Commissioner Guerra echoed the comment about Homeland, getting the word out and giving us the testimony is the best ammunition.

President Satariano asked if the leagues were going to be notified of the process of appealing?

Mr. Hester responded yes. The Department would send a letter of notification of the fee changes as of October 1.

Commissioner Sangmeister asked about the time frame on the Homeland side, to find out if we have the grants?

Mr. Hester responded that we should know in the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner said we met last week about the programs paid for by Community Development funds and asked if they could fund all the \$20,000 for Homeland. The Department may come back to the Commission with another fee for Homeland studio use, which could give us money. I am confident we can come up with that.

Mr. Hester stated that we would grandfather in existing programs and not charge a fee to them.

Commissioner Sangmeister said it behooves us to find out what the parameters would be. I don't want to see a flood of sports groups coming before the Commission asking for fee waivers. They need to know what the parameters are.

Mr. Hester said we are finding conflicting information about what the youth sports groups are saying and what the issue really is and how they are using their money.

President Satariano said he would like to bring this to the Finance and Appeals Committee.

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

President Satariano closed the hearing.

VII. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano stated that he was on vacation, but the Committee met and discussed the agenda.

Commissioner Guerra said they met with Vice President Waterfield on a conference call and discussed the agenda.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano said they did not meet in the last 30 days, but worked on the fees during the last several months. The report is in the packet.

Mr. Squires said we have been having monthly meetings with each of the Department's bureaus. He distributed a copy of the slide presentation given at the City Council budget meeting. The speaking points on each of the slides hit a lot of really good points.

President Satariano said he wasn't able to attend the City Council meeting but did watch the streaming video and couldn't imagine a better job.

Mr. Squires said two of the City Councilmembers are submitting their questions in writing.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that he watched the meeting live and they wanted to say more good things about Parks and Recreation. They wanted more time and had specific questions about programs. They are trying to find money somewhere to save Police and Fire. When you see the Councilmembers, please talk to them.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that the Committee met and the incident statistics are in the packet. The five rangers are doing what they can do. They made one arrest in the last two months. They discussed the park watch program and asked for a list of community organizations and will have staff convey the message to them. I appreciate the fact that the Department has reacted proactively. Video surveillance cameras were discussed and the Department is looking at alternatives. There is one test camera and a motion detector at Drake Park.

Mr. Hester said we met at Grace Park last week because of the shooting that occurred. The Department will be putting up park watch signs at test locations. There is also a meeting tonight at Somerset Park and there has been some discussion about a camera at that location also.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that we are seeing an increase in graffiti and vandalism.

D. MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra said that the Committee did not meet.

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

President Saltzgaver said that Vice President Waterfield is not present to give a report.

F. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Vice President Waterfield, Chair

Commissioner Guerra said that the Committee would meet in September.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

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

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

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

President Satariano said that there was no correspondence.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Satariano said that there was no unfinished business.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recommend to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that "K-9 Corner" is an appropriate name for the new dog park at Pacific Avenue and 9th Street.

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

President Satariano said that the Commissioners received an e-mail about commissioner training and we have gone the last few years.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that this is a new series of classes and sessions and will include discussions on financing, parliamentary procedure, and advocacy. He said that he is presenting most of them. They are expecting a pretty good crowd and will also be having a round table discussion. It will not be the same thing that was done here.

President Satariano thanked Commissioner Saltzgaver for his involvement in this association. He said that he would not be able to attend, but would encourage everyone to attend.

XII. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Satariano asked for comments from the audience.

There were no comments.

B. STAFF

President Satariano asked for comments from the staff.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner said that summer is almost over and it has been really successful. The last beach day had over 1,200 kids plus other cities' kids. We got approval from the City Council to rename Somerset Park and will be planning that event, maybe in October.

Mr. Arevalo said that vandalism is high in the parks. We are hoping to have a graffiti removal contract soon. Irrigation heads are being vandalized and brass and some of the new rainbirds are being taken. Now that the volleyball courts are up downtown, the area is really busy now.

Mr. Hester said there was discussion at the City Council meeting and a pilot alcohol program may go before the City Council on September 22. We are moving forth with new plan to change entrance operations at El Dorado Regional Park to electronic gates and during special events and holidays, we would bring in gate

attendants as we need them. Ms. Nixon-Joiner and her staff have to put together the operational plan for that. We are hoping to catch additional revenue plus save on staff costs. We also might open up the Wardlow Street gates to El Dorado Regional Park.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked how people would get into the Nature Center area?

Mr. Hester responded that a pay machine would be installed for that area and the gate would be moved further down the road. This would leave access to those who want to go to Animal Control and the Community Garden.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Satariano asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Guerra thanked Ed White and Ramon Arevalo for their assistance with the boy scouts in obtaining palm tree parts. He said that he attended the moves at the beach downtown and it did not go well. The parking was a mess. There was another private event happening in the Marina Green and their band played Beatles' songs from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., while the movie was playing from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and it interfered with the movie. There was also no lighting for the restroom attached to the building. The portapotties not accessible, they were locked. The parking lot was coned off for no reason. There was no police presence nor marine patrol. Drunk people walked into the movie area. There was no one to help. He said he would discuss this with the Special Events and Recreation Committee. This needs to be looked at again.

Mr. Hester said that he would speak with Mr. Dave Ashman and would check on the restroom issue. The vendor should have coordinated that.

President Satariano said there has been a Baseball Hall of Fame in the past. This year they discussed either not having it or having a scaled down version. They found a number of ways to have a cheaper version. He commended Jeff Grant and the Hall of Fame Committee for figuring out a way to have the community involved. He said he would bring this to the Commission. There will be a ceremony on October 10, with a fire fighters softball game. In October or November a Sea Festival report would be brought to the

Parks and Recreation Commission. This year they are experiencing a huge attendance because of the free events.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

President Satariano stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, September 17, 2009, at California Recreation Center, 1550 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, Long Beach.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

President Satariano adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

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