

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
December 15, 2005**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President, at 9:00 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library. Thomas Shippey, Manager of the Maintenance Operations Bureau, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President
Bea Antenore
Simon George
Drew Satariano
Brett Waterfield

Absent: Chris Kozaites, excused

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau
Diane Lewis, Manager, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau
Chrissy Marshall, Manager, Community Recreation Programs
Janet Day-Anselmo, Manager, Business Operations Bureau
Dave Ashman, Manager, Special Events and Filming
William Greco, Acting Chief Ranger
Cynthia Fogg, Superintendent of Youth Services
Andy Romero, Youth Services Division
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: James Evans, Resident
Robert Lamond
Marty Isozaki, Commission on Youth and Children Commissioner

It was moved by Commissioner Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to excuse the absence of President Kozaites. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 17, 2005

It was moved by Commissioner Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to approve the November 17, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – THOMAS SHIPPEY

Mr. Tom Shippey gave a PowerPoint presentation on the continuing adventures of Sammy and what he has been doing this past month while he has been with Maintenance Operations. Mr. Shippey said that Sammy ran away when he heard that he would be awarded to another bureau. He said that Sammy is traveling somewhere and hopefully he will return soon and that we would see him next month.

IV. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PRESENTATIONS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that Commissioner Satariano would announce the Employee of the Month for November, since she was unavailable at the last meeting, and the Employee of the Month for December.

Commissioner Satariano announced Adriana Ramirez as Field Operations Employee of the Month for November.

Ms. Gladys Kaiser, as her supervisor, spoke about Adriana.

Commissioner Satariano announced Rudy Contreras as Lead/Supervisory Employee of the Month for December.

Ms. Anna Mendiola, as his supervisor, spoke about Rudy.

Vice President Saltzgaver said to let the record reflect that Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, arrived.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#05-1201

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

It was moved by Commissioner Antenore and seconded by Commissioner George to authorize the Community Recreation Services Bureau Manager 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.

VI. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Kozaites, Chair

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met and discussed the agenda. He said that Commissioner Raymond Chavarria resigned from the Commission and until a replacement appointment is announced, the committee assignments would be revised. Commissioner Satariano would be placed back on the Executive Committee and also chair the Equal Employment Opportunity and Customer Satisfaction Committee. Vice President Saltzgaver stated that Commissioner Antenore and Commissioner Waterfield would only have two Commissioners on the Park Safety Committee for the moment. Vice President Saltzgaver stated that he would chair the Special Events and Recreation Committee.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that the financial statement was included in the packet.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Waterfield, Chair

Commissioner Waterfield stated that the Committee did not meet, but the report was included in the packet. He said that they would like to acknowledge the passing of Chief Ranger Steven Neal.

Mr. Hester stated that the Department has asked William Greco to serve as Acting Chief Ranger until a final decision is made.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that he is happy to take the chairmanship of the Committee back again. They have not met, but they would meet early in the new year.

Ms. Janet Day-Anselmo distributed customer comment cards to the Commissioners, for information only.

Commissioner Satariano suggested that the Commissioners take a look at the cards and be prepared to give input on them at the January meeting, to be discussed with staff at a later meeting.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George stated that the Committee did not meet last month.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Sports Park community meeting was held December 14, at Veterans Park, which was well attended. He said that the plan right now is to bring an alternative proposal back to the Parks and Recreation Commission sometime in February.

Mr. Eschen stated that at their October meeting, the Planning Commission certified the EIR and took all the recommended actions necessary on the General Plan. They also asked staff to meet with the environmentalists to see if there was a possibility to work out a compromise. They satisfied some of the legitimate points brought up by the environmentalists. The new design eliminated the Golf Learning Center and moved the soccer fields around to the top of the plateau, to the formerly proposed location of the Golf Learning Center. Because of the location of the oil wells, it was not possible to move the baseball fields around. This design would open up the lower area for a wetland habitat area. That won some limited approval at the community meeting.

Mr. Eschen said that comments were also made suggesting the old design be kept and eliminate the area of the Golf Learning Center and create a passive park in that area instead of creating a wetland area in the lower area.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Antenore, Chair

Commissioner Antenore stated that the Committee met and discussed a number of items and she briefly went over them.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Vice President Saltzgaver, Chair

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met this morning and they are moving forward. He said that they would attempt to have a mission statement and a field use policy to bring before the Parks and Recreation Commission in the next couple of months.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – NOVEMBER 2005

Commissioner Waterfield requested an updated on the status of the Bruin Den.

Mr. Hester responded that during the budget process, the Department had to reduce funding for the Bruin Den. The center was supposed to close as of the first of October. The Department has not closed the teen center because of discussions with the Council office. The Department is planning to close the center as of December 23, once school is out, and reopen it after the first of the year. Councilmember Colonna asked that the City Manager look at other alternatives to be able to keep it open. The Department does not have the resources, but could potentially reopen the teen center if Workforce Development could provide the staffing to help.

Vice President Saltzgaver requested an update on the status of the clean water lawsuit about the trash coming down the rivers.

Mr. Eschen responded that it was his understanding that the court demanded the Regional Water Quality Control Board come back with an economic impact analysis, which is currently underway.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that they received Raymond Chavarria's resignation letter.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that there was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION ON THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S UPCOMING MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Ms. Cynthia Fogg stated that she was here to report on the progress and plans for the upcoming Mayoral Candidate Forum that the Commission on Youth and Children is hosting. She distributed brochures on the Commission on Youth and Children.

Ms. Fogg stated that the City received an award from America's Promise for being one of the best 100 communities for young people. She said that she, along with other city representatives, went to Washington, D.C. to receive the award. Out of those 100 communities, the City also won a \$20,000 regional award for the Pacific Region, based on a video presentation prepared on the City's response to Hurricane Katrina.

Ms. Fogg introduced Andy Romero, staff on the Mayoral Candidates Forum, and Marty Isozaki, one of the Commissioners on the Commission on Youth and Children, to speak on the Mayoral Candidates Forum.

Mr. Isozaki stated that the Forum would be held on March 2, 2006. He said that the reason for this date is that it is three weeks prior to the end of voter registration. The time is from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and would be held in the City Council Chambers. Their plan is to have buses available for students to travel from the high schools and they would also invite different community groups. As of this time, the Mayoral candidates attending the Forum are Doug Drummond, Frank Colonna, and Bob Foster. There would be three moderators who would ask the same questions of all the candidates. The questions would come from the Commission on Youth and Children, from the history and government classes in Long Beach high schools, and organizations in the Youth Services NETWORK. They would also have students evaluate and select the questions to make sure all areas are covered and are fair to all of the candidates. He said that the Press Telegram and Charter Communications would cover the event. They would also have voter registration forms available for the students.

Mr. Romero stated that they have a number of partners involved, such as all the District Youth Councils, the Boys and Girls Club, NCCJ, Youth Leadership Long Beach, Operation Jump Start, and the League of Women Voters. They are trying to promote the importance of voting and voter awareness among young people, which has declined. They will be training young people on asking unbiased questions and the importance of research. They are looking forward to a very successful forum and hope all the Commissioners can attend.

Commission Antenore requested that they contact the local League of Women Voters, as she does voter service for the League.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that there would be more Mayoral candidates than those three major candidates mentioned, and strongly recommended that all candidates be invited to attend, or if there is a criteria for candidates to be involved, to make it written, make it public, and have it done early.

Commissioner Antenore stated that the local League of Women Voters would have a list of every candidate and if every candidate would not be invited, the League would not be involved with the Forum.

Ms. Fogg invited the Parks and Recreation Commission to also submit any questions for the forum.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that having politically appointed commissions sponsoring political debates is problematic, at best. He did not think it was the role of the Parks and Recreation Commission to sponsor or endorse this event. He said that the Commission needs to maintain their proper role.

Mr. Hester stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission comments are very legitimate and a meeting with the Forum staff of Commission on Youth and Children would be very helpful, and there is a lot of work to be done.

Ms. Fogg stated that they would contact Commissioner Antenore to attend one of their planning meetings.

B. PLAN APPROVAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF VICTORY PARK AT 525 EAST OCEAN BOULEVARD

Mr. Eschen stated that this a developed park area, and the ground floor of the high-rise residential building was designed for commercial occupancy. It has generally been a very quiet, inwardly oriented office use, and the current owner wishes to establish a restaurant, which was originally intended for the space at the western corner of the building. In order to do that successfully, the owner would like some signage exposure to the community on Ocean Boulevard. Any location for a freestanding sign would be in part of the park, where a sign would not be allowed. Therefore, the owner would like to put a sign on the building, but the trees in the park would obscure the sign location. The owner is proposing to relocate three trees. Mr. Eschen's said that his analysis indicates that the owner could probably successfully clear the signage by only relocating two trees.

Mr. James Evans stated that he is fine with moving only two trees.

It was moved by Commissioner Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to approve the relocation of two trees in Victory Park adjacent to 525 E. Ocean Boulevard from the planter adjacent to the building to the planter adjacent to Linden Avenue, and the installation of the Victory Park identification sign, a bench, and a trash receptacle as specified in the Victory Park Design Guidelines. The motion carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATION ON THE HSA GROUP – CHRISSY MARSHALL

Ms. Marshall stated that the Department met with HSA when VOA ended their senior meals program. She said that the quality of the administration of HSA is exceptional. They have seen a huge improvement in responsiveness and customer service. HSA kept the field staff so there was a seamless transition of service. All sites are serving five days a week, with the exception of the Long Beach Senior Center, which serves on Saturdays as well. They are very pleased to announce that the Department has added a senior lunch program at Cesar Chavez Park. Ms. Marshall stated that the seniors have said that the quality of food is better and the selection is better with the new organization. She said that overall it has been a good change.

Vice President Saltzgaver suggested that HSA staff make a presentation at a future Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

D. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2006 MEETING SCHEDULE

Vice President Saltzgaver said that the Executive Committee suggested moving the meetings off-site once a quarter. They suggested two moves so far, partially because there would be a transition in June with two Commissioners leaving. They would like to take the January 19 meeting to Bixby Park to take a look at the new mural and to get an update on the bandshell work. They would like to do a Victory Park tour after that meeting.

Vice President Saltzgaver suggested Silverado Park for the April 20, 2006 meeting. Mr. Hester responded that staff is still researching if Silverado Park is available.

XI. **COMMENTS**

A. AUDIENCE

Mr. Bob Lamond stated he was at the Sports Park meeting, and it turned into a shouting match at the end.

B. STAFF

Ms. Janet Day-Anselmo noticed that there were some conflicts with several Commission Committee meeting dates so she would be making some changes in the dates.

Mr. Eschen stated that his secretary, Lydia Reminsky, has retired and has taken a position in Washington, D.C. He doesn't have a new secretary yet.

Ms. Marshall distributed a flyer for Snow Day in Long Beach on the same day, January 7, at the five regional centers.

Ms. Lewis stated that the Park Ranger station groundbreaking would be held immediately after the Commission meeting today. She said that the Bixby Park mural dedication is at 3:30 p.m. today.

Mr. Lewis stated that they are in the process of identifying a major fundraiser for the Municipal Band to expand the six-week concert series to eight weeks. They are planning a Municipal Band Gala on March 11, at the Convention Center in the Grand Ball Room. It would include dancing, good food, a silent auction, and a variety of bands performing, including the Municipal Band.

Mr. Hester thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission, on behalf of the Department, for their support, leadership, and input this past year.

C. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Waterfield stated that he attended the Sports Park meeting and wanted to commend Mr. Eschen for doing an excellent job.

Vice President Saltzgaver read a thank you card from Steven Neal's family.

Vice President Saltzgaver complemented LSA and Amy Bodek for the great job they did at the Sports Park meeting.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that this has been an incredible year watching the Department staff work. They are an amazingly creative and dedicated team. He is honored and privileged to be associated with them.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 19, 2006, at the Bixby Park Community Center, 130 Cherry Ave., Long Beach.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Saltzgaver adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

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