

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles convened the Regular Meeting at EXPO Comrie Hall at 9:30 a.m. Present were President Sylvia Patsaouras, Vice President Lynn Alvarez, Commissioner Misty M. Sanford, and Commissioner Iris Zuñiga. Also present were Kevin Regan, Assistant General Manager, and Deputy City Attorney IV Anthony-Paul Diaz.

The following Department staff members were present:

Vicki Israel, Assistant General Manager, Partnership and Revenue Branch
Ramon Barajas, Assistant General Manager, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch
Noel Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Division
Sophia Pina Cortez, Superintendent, Operations Branch

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Zuñiga moved that the Board approve the Minutes of the February 17, 2016 Regular Meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Sanford. There being no objections, the Motion was unanimously approved.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS

16-058

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

16-059

PARTNERSHIP DIVISION – IN-KIND DONATION RECEIVED FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH – MATERNAL, CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROGRAMS, IN SUPPORT OF VARIOUS PARK FACILITIES AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II of the Partnership Division, presented General Manager's Report No. 16-059 for acceptance of an in-kind donation valued at \$4, 102.00 from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health – Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Programs.

16-060

GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY – DONATION FROM FRIENDS OF THE OBSERVATORY TO SUPPORT THE GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY SCHOOL PROGRAM IN SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016

Dr. Laura Danley, Education Curator of the Griffith Observatory, presented General Manager's Report No. 16-060 for the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$175,000.00 from the Friends Of The Observatory to support the Griffith Observatory School Program during the 2015-16 school year.

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16-061

WESTCHESTER SENIOR CENTER – CASH DONATION FROM
RUTH PHELPS TRUST

Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II of the Partnership Division, presented General Manager's Report No. 16-061 for acceptance of a cash donation in the approximate amount of \$70,000.00 from The Ruth Phelps Trust to be used for program enhancements and general purposes related to the operation of the Westchester Senior Center.

16-062

EXPO CENTER – LEASE AND OPERATING AGREEMENTS WITH
STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE USE OF STATE PROPERTY
FOR THE USE OF STATE PROPOSER FOR ACCESS TO, AND
CONTINUED OPERATION OF, THE SOBOROFF PLAYFIELD

Belinda Jackson, Executive Director of EXPO Center, presented General Manager's Report No. 16-062 for approval of the Lease and Operating Agreements with the State of California (State), acting through the Sixth District Agricultural Association also known as the California Science Center, for the use of the property owned by the California Science Center referred to as the Soboroff Playfield (Playfield) for sports related and EXPO Center related uses. The Informational Report presented on September 2, 2015 outlined the terms and conditions of the Lease and Operating Agreements for the Playfield. The proposed Lease and Operating Agreements would result in annual cost savings of approximately \$310,000, and would eliminate the Department's obligation to cover the Playfield for parking spaces during events at the Los Angeles Coliseum. The Department has agreed to a one-time capital improvement for an expanded parking plan that would create additional parking spaces in order to meet the Department's obligation to provide 325 parking spaces for University of Southern California (USC) games and three major events. The Playfield is currently utilized by 30 local schools, and by two partners that provide free soccer programs to approximately 1,300 youth participants. The tile installation process has resulted in loss of utilization of the Playfield due to the amount of time and work involved in transitioning the Playfield into a parking lot prior to and after USC games and events.

The Board and Department staff discussed the potential consequences if the Board were to reject the proposed terms and conditions of the Lease and Operating Agreements, the negotiation process between the Department and the California Science Center Board of Directors, the initial sustainability plan for maintenance of the Playfield, cost factors and loss of utilization involved in the tile installation process to cover the Playfield for parking spaces during USC games and major events, and the potential loss of landscaping components in the area where the Department has proposed to build 54 parking spaces pursuant to the negotiated terms and conditions. Commissioner Sanford requested that the Department work with the California Science Center on potential aesthetic improvement projects for the parking lots owned by the State. Executive Director Jackson reported on her involvement in a five-year strategic plan with the State and USC which includes beautification plans for the southern side of Exposition Park. Assistant General Manager Kevin Regan discussed the Department would be able to benefit from the proposed terms and conditions by eliminating the need to cover the Playfield for the transition into a parking lot, provide free parking for patrons, and maximize parking revenue.

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The Board requested that Department staff report back with design options that could accommodate the 54 parking spaces with aesthetic landscaping components and a permeable surface for alternative usage.

Commissioner Zuñiga moved that General Manager's Report No. 16-062 be placed on hold so that Department staff can report back on design options and potential alternative uses for the proposed parking lot that would accommodate the 54 additional parking spaces. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the Motion. The Motion was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Alvarez, Zuñiga, and President Patsaouras – 3; Nays: Commissioner Sanford – 1.

16-063

WEBXPRESS GATEWAY SYSTEM CONTRACT – EXEMPTION
FROM CHARTER SECTION 1022

Noel Williams, Chief Financial Officer, presented General Manager's Report No. 16-063 for the Board's finding to exempt the proposed contract with Plug'N Play Technologies, Inc. from a Charter Section 1022 determination based on the fact that the proposed contract does not have a labor component. The proposed contract was approved by the Board on December 9, 2016 for the purchase and setup of the WebXpress Gateway system for the recreation management and reservation system.

16-064

RUNYON CANYON – TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Joe Salaices, Superintendent of Griffith Region, presented General Manager's Report No. 16-064 for authorization of a four-month closure of Runyon Canyon Park from April 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016 for a water system improvement project (Project) to be undertaken by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to repair a one-mile stretch of deteriorated pipeline. Community outreach efforts have been coordinated by Councilmember David Ryu's Office, Fourth Council District. Managing Water Utility Engineer Steven Cole of LADWP discussed the Project and signage plan to inform the general public of the temporary closure, and affirmed LADWP's commitment to complete the Project within the four-month timeline. Commissioner Sanford requested that LADWP put up billboards and signage at every entry point to Runyon Canyon Park, work with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority to advertise the temporary closure on Metro transit lines, and provide status reports on a biweekly basis during Regular Board Meetings once the Project commences. Commissioner Alvarez requested that the temporary closure be advertised on the Department's website, and to notify Google and other destination locators of the temporary closure. Commissioners Alvarez and Sanford also requested a report to the Facility Repair and Maintenance Task Force and the Board regarding the design and aesthetics of the surface material that will be used for the resurfacing of the one-mile stretch of pipeline. Managing Water Utility Engineer Cole reported that LADWP will advertise the temporary closure on billboards and electronic message boards, social media, and will work with Google and other destination locators to advertise the temporary closure.

Public comments were invited for the General Manager's Reports; however, no requests for public comment were received.

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President Patsouras requested a Motion to approve the General Manager's Reports as presented, with the exception of General Manager's Report No. 16-062 which was held for further consideration. Commissioner Sanford moved that the General Manager's Reports be approved, and that the Resolutions recommended in the Reports be thereby approved. Commissioner Zuñiga seconded the Motion. There being no objections, the Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Chief Sustainability Officer Matthew Rudnick provided a verbal informational report regarding the status of the Department's strategic planning process. A Special Board Meeting was held on February 25, 2016 to involve the Board Members in the strategic planning process. NPO Solutions is continuing with key stakeholder interviews, and will present a comparative analysis on other large park systems. Another strategic planning session will be scheduled in approximately four weeks for a continued discussion on the strategic initiatives.
- Management Assistant Meghan Luera of Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch, provided a verbal informational report regarding the existing Quimby recreational credits and exemptions included in Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 17.12, and the developer credits included in the proposed ordinance that would amend the LAMC Sections related to Quimby Fees. The Board and Department staff discussed the proposed developer credits.
- Assistant General Manager Vicki Israel provided a verbal informational report regarding the Greek Theatre. A total of 62 contracted shows have been confirmed for the 2016 Season. SMG is fully staffed and operational within the Greek Theatre. A job fair is scheduled on Saturday, March 5, 2016 for Greek Theatre staff positions. The Box Office will be open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Movie Night is scheduled on April 9, 2016 as a free event open to the community. The Board and Department staff discussed the ticket sales to date, the status of the Greek Theatre website and concession services, and the shuttle services to be provided by DASH.
- Superintendent Cathie Santo Domingo of Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch presented the Informational Report on the Los Angeles Countywide Parks Needs Assessment, and discussed the community outreach efforts and meetings held throughout the 43 Study Areas within the City of Los Angeles limits. The Board and Department staff also discussed the Department's overarching priority projects and the prioritization of projects identified by community members.

COMMISSION TASK FORCES

- Commission Task Force on Concessions Report (Commissioners Zuñiga and Culpepper)
There was no report for the Commission Task Force on Concessions.
- Commission Task Force on Facility Repair and Maintenance (Commissioners Sanford and Alvarez)
There was no report for the Commission Task Force on Concessions.

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GENERAL MANAGER'S ORAL REPORT

Assistant General Manager Kevin Regan reported on Department activities, facilities, and upcoming events. Runyon Canyon Park will be temporarily closed from April 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016 for the LADWP Water System Improvement Project; however, the yoga field will remain open throughout the construction process. A Griffith Park Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan Update Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in Chevy Chase Recreation Center. The National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Festival is scheduled on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at the Levitt Pavilion in MacArthur Park. A Community Needs Assessment Meeting is scheduled on Monday, March 14, 2016 to discuss further developments to the South Los Angeles Wetlands at Dr. Maya Angelou High School. The Wattles Mansion Showcase is scheduled from March 25, 2016 through April 17, 2016 in collaboration with Reitzhaus and Angeleno Magazine. The Department's Spring Activities are scheduled from March 18, 2016 through April 7, 2016 at various recreation centers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comment on matters within the Board's jurisdiction was invited; however, no requests for public comment were received.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future Agenda Items.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 9:30 a.m., at Pan Pacific Recreation Center, 7600 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Patsouras adjourned the Meeting at 11:15 a.m.

ATTEST



PRESIDENT



BOARD SECRETARY