

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Thursday November 18, 2021**

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles convened the telephonic Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m. Present were President Sylvia Patsaouras, Vice President Lynn Alvarez, Commissioners Tafarai Bayne, and Joseph Halper. Also present were Michael A. Shull, General Manager, Assistant City Attorney Mike Dundas, and Deputy City Attorney III Steven Hong.

The following Department staff members were also present:

Brenda Aguirre, Superintendent, Recreation Services Branch  
Cathie Santo Domingo, Assistant General Manager, Planning, Maintenance, and Construction Branch  
Noel Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Branch

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

President Patsaouras called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular and Special Meeting of November 4, 2021. Commissioner Halper made such motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bayne. There being no objections, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments on matters within the Board's jurisdiction were invited, four such requests were submitted.

#### **GENERAL MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Michael A. Shull, General Manager, began his comments by sharing the strength and love COVID-19 memorial a three-day virtual event to memorialize our collective experience of almost two years under the pandemic. Mr. Shull stated the Mayor is inviting all Angelenos to come together virtually for the Strength and Love memorial that began today and ends Saturday, November 20, 2021. Mr. Shull expressed gratitude to his staff on such amazing job throughout the pandemic. Mr. Shull mentioned the tiny white flags that have been placed at Griffith Observatory on the lawn in honor of people who have lost their lives during the pandemic. He gave us a few highlights on events that have taken place such as the YSP launch. Mr. Shull thanked both Commission President Patsaouras and Commissioner Halper for coming out and joining us for the event. He mentioned we had over 1,000 youth and families that took part in the event. Mr. Shull thanked the Mayor, LA28, Inclusion matters, Angel City games and our amazing Recreation and Parks staff, the Olympians and Paralympians, and a host of many of the partners and volunteers who made the event such memorable. He mentioned the new PlayLA app that will make it much easier to sign up for the youth programs.. Mr. Shull mentioned the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Griffith Park. Mr. Shull thanked the Los Angeles Conservancy and Councilwoman Nithya

Raman and many other organizations, partners and volunteers for making that event a success. He mentioned another event the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Venice lady jam which is an all-girl skateboarding exhibition. He thanked the staff and all who participated in the event. Mr. Shull provided us with an update on upcoming programs. Muscle Beach is scheduled to host its 14<sup>th</sup> annual toy drive on December 5<sup>th</sup> new unwrapped toys will be accepted from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Santa and his elvettes will arrive at 1:00 p.m. on a sleigh. This event will be held at the Venice Beach Recreation Center. He said we will also be hosting the Expo winter festival on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. located at Expo Center. Mr. Shull mentioned another event the Rose Hills Thanksgiving drive-thru dinner happening today November 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Mr. Shull shared a report back of Deb's Park. He mentioned there have been forty-two days of clean-up since June of this year. The department has collected 16 tons of trash, 32 and a half tons of solid waste, others items such as sharps and other drug paraphernalia, one weapon and a ford F-150 truck which was buried and later uncovered and removed. He mentioned that there is full-time Ranger deployment in that park, full-time Supervisor Frank Barron is assigned to that deployment in the enforcement activities and outreach duties with the police and fire department. Deb's park is considered a high fire danger zone which receives patrols by the Rangers daily. Mr. Shull says that we have had several requests from constituents and the Council office to have the Ranger division in the park every day. The Ranger division is in the park daily for several hours. We also work surveillance with the Los Angeles Police department. Mr. Shull stated we also collaborate with LAPD lead officers from the Hollenbeck division weekly to see how we can better serve the community and how we can come together to make that park safer.

Mr. Shull mentioned the concerns he has received from the community regarding the health and well-being of the ponies at Griffith Park pony rides. Mr. Shull stated that he has directed staff to hire a third-party Equestrian veterinarian to review the operations at the park and to look into the health and well-being of the ponies to see if the conditions need to be improved. Mr. Shull wants to let the Commission and community know the department is taking their concerns seriously and we are acting and will report the findings back to the Commission.

He shared some highlights from the Budget that is due this Friday, November 19, 2021. The first item is the 140 SID positions request for more funding and ask for these positions to be regular, working to retain 76 new positions that we received. The department is also submitting budget requests for Senior centers, fire life safety and security cameras. Mr. Shull mentioned that the department also submitted a budget request to open the fourteen remaining child care centers.

**VERBAL REPORT AND FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCING PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953 (AB 361)**

President Patsouras reported that the board must consider a determination, Board to Consider a determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members of this Board, and the ability of the members of all of this Board's advisory bodies, including, but not limited to, all park advisory boards, the Greek Theatre Advisory Committee, and the Golf Advisory Committee, as well as the public who might attend these meetings, to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

President Patsouras made motion for approval of such findings and Commissioner Halper seconded the motion.

Public comment relevant to this item were invited, with no requests submitted. There being no objection to the motion, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

21-194 Del Rey Lagoon – Parking Lot Improvements (PRJ21456) Project – Modification of Scope of Work – Approval of Change Order - Commitment of Park Fees – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3) [Minor Alteration of Existing Sidewalks, Pedestrian and Parking Lots Which Does Not Include the Removal of Scenic Trees]; Class 1(12) [Outdoor Lighting for Security and Operations]; Class 2 [Replacement and Reconstruction of Existing Structures where the New Structure will be Located on the Same Site and have Substantially the Same Purpose and Capacity as the Structure Replaced]; Class 3(8) [Additions to Underground Electric Distribution System Facilities]; Class 4(3) [Tree Planting and Landscaping] and Class 11(6) [Placement of Minor Structures Accessory to Existing Facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301, 15302, 15303(d), 15304(b) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Meghan Luera, Management Analyst, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-194.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-195 Griffith Park – Donation of Table Tennis Tables at Griffith Park Recreation Center – Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(6) [Placement of Minor Structures Accessory to Institutional Facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Ajmal Noorzayee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-195.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-196 Delano Recreation Center – Methane Gas Monitoring System Upgrades (PRJ21529) (PRJ21530) Project – Allocation of Quimby Fees – Commitment of Park Fees – Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 3(4) [Installation of New Equipment Involving Negligible or No Expansion of Use Required for Safety, Health, and Environmental Control] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15303 of California CEQA Guidelines

Ajmal Noorzayee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-196.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-197 Ross Snyder Recreation Center – New Dog Park (PRJ21467) Project – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) [Exterior Alterations Involving Remodeling or Minor Construction], Class 1(3) [Minor Alterations to Pathways and Parking Lots], Class 4(3) [New Landscaping and Tree Planting], Class 11(5) [Signs Located on City Property Managed by a City Department which has a Sign Policy Adopted by its Board of Commissioners] and Class 11(6) [Placement of Minor Structures Accessory to Existing Institutional Facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(a), 15301(c), 15304(b), and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Ajmal Noorzayee,. Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-197.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-198 Valley Plaza Park - Rhodes Park Phase II Improvements (PRJ21528) Project – Commitment of Park Fees – Categorically Exempt from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(12) [Outdoor Lighting and Fencing for Security and Operations]; Class 4(2) [Grading on Land With a Slope of Fifteen Percent (15%) or More]; Class 4(3) [New Gardening, Tree Planting, or Landscaping]; Class 4(12) [Minor Trenching and Backfilling where the Surface is Restored]; Class 11(5) [Placement of Signs Located on City Property Managed by a City Department Which Has a Sign Policy Adopted by its Board of Commissioners], and Class 11(6) [Placement of Minor Structures Accessory to Existing Institutional Facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301, 15304(a), 15304(b), 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Ajmal Noorzayee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-198.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-199 Jamie Beth Slavin Park - Shade Replacement (PRJ21517) Project – Commitment of Park Fees – Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1 Class 2 [Replacement of Existing Structures where the New Structure will be Located on The Same Site and have Substantially the Same Purpose and Capacity] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15302(c) of California CEQA Guidelines

Ajmal Noorzayee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-199.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-200 Vesting Tentative Tract (VTT) No. 82158 – Recommendation to The Advisory Agency for Land Dedication or In-Lieu Park Fee Payment

Ligaya Khennavong, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 21-200.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

21-201 Valley Plaza Park – Electric Upgrades (PRJ21484) Project – Final Acceptance – Approval of Change Order - Commitment of Park Fees –Statutory Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article II, Section 2(i) of City CEQA Guidelines and Section 21082 of California Public Resources Code

DISPOSITION: WITHDRAWN

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS**

There were no comments from Neighborhood Council Representatives relative to the Agenda Items being considered.

**BOARD REPORT PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD REPORTS**

Public comments relevant to the Board Reports were requested; one such request was submitted. President Patsouras requested a Motion to approve the Board Reports as presented. It was moved by Commissioner Halper and seconded by Commissioner Bayne that the Board Reports be approved as listed above. There being no objections, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

**COMMISSION TASK FORCE UPDATES**

**Commission Task Force on Concessions**

Commissioner Bayne reported that this Task Force did not meet.

**Commission Task Force on Facility Repair and Maintenance**

Commission Vice President Alvarez reported that this Task Force met and discussed Pershing Square the design for phase one which will be presented to the full Commission in December. Commissioner Alvarez said they discussed the different phases and the timelines of the scheduled construction. She said the next item discussed was a potential agreement with a non-profit organization to refurbish and reopen camp Valcrest. Commissioner Alvarez said the last item discussed was Quimby.

**COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Comments from the Commissioners on Matters within the Board's jurisdiction and Requests by Commissioners to Schedule Specific Future Agenda Items were requested. Commissioner Halper

shared his experience on participating in the Pacific Palisades PAB meeting. Commissioner Halper mentioned he attended the Pacific Palisades Park Advisory Board (PAB) meeting and shared suggestions discussed at the meeting to help fast-track pickle ball programs. Commissioner Halper also addressed the benefit of maximizing the PAB's roles.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

**ATTEST**

  
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**PRESIDENT**

  
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**BOARD SECRETARY**