

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

August 18, 2022

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager 
SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

<u>From</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
1) Eric Drachman comments regarding Glen Alla Dog Park	#9081d	Referred to General Manager
2) Sue Pascoe comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136ap	Referred to General Manager
3) Debra Huston comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136aq	Referred to General Manager
4) Jessica Rogers comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136ar	Referred to General Manager
5) Stephanie Venegas comments regarding Penmar Golf Course	#9157c	Referred to General Manager
6) Sean Meehan comments regarding Penmar Golf Course	#9157d7	Referred to General Manager
7) Miriam Preissel comments regarding Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park	#9164a	Referred to General Manager
8) Miriam Preissel comments regarding Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park	#9164b	Referred to General Manager
9) Jonah Glickman comments regarding Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park	#9164c	Referred to General Manager
10) Rosie Jimenez comments regarding Van Ness Park	#9167	Referred to General Manager

11) Jason Greenwald comments as Chair on behalf of Griffith Park Advisory Board regarding Griffith Park Drive Closure	#9168	Referred to General Manager
12) Gerry Hans comments as President on behalf of Friends of Griffith Park regarding Griffith Park Drive Road Closure	#9168a	Referred to General Manager
13) David Ramey comments regarding Griffith Park Drive Road Closure	#9168b	Referred to General Manager
14) Laura Ceballos comments regarding Oakwood Park	#9169	Referred to General Manager
15) Andie Adame comments regarding 775 S. Hope Street Project- Board Report No. 22-204	#9170	Referred to General Manager
16) Jens Jonason comments regarding Garvanza Park Playground Replacement Project	#9171	Referred to General Manager
17) Daymond Johnson comments on behalf of Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Council regarding Chesterfield Square Park Mural Installation	#9172	Referred to General Manager
18) Randi G. Frisch comments regarding Potrero Canyon-George Wolfberg Park	#9173	Referred to General Manager
19) Steve Gumplo comments on behalf of Venice Beach Paddle Tennis Historical Committee regarding Paddle Tennis Repairs	#9174	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Carolyn Shannon-Joyner, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Glen Alla large dog park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
 To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 1

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Date: Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 1:24 PM

Subject: Re: Glen Alla large dog park

To: Eric Drachman <

Cc: RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org>, <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Bonin@lacity.org>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 12:03 PM Eric Drachman < > wrote:
 To all of our concerned representatives –

This email was addressed to all of the commissioners of the recreation and parks, mayor Garcetti's office, and council member Bonin. I have written several emails about the situation with the Glen Alla dog park.

I got a couple of (frequently inaccurate) updates from the Project Info email address, but to this email I have received zero responses. I have to say, that is very disappointing. The very least that I would expect is a thoughtful, accurate and honest response to having left the resource of our dog park in a state of disrepair for many months... years now! What would you recommend if you were in our position? I won't delve into the condition again. Please see the email and pictures below. This project was meant to be completed in 2020. In fact, Mayor Garcetti's name is on the banner that still hangs there telling us of the improvements coming in 2020! It seems the last resort for us is to start petitions and a public editorial campaign. We are gearing up for that.

In the meantime, please respect the citizens and taxpayers of this area and respond with helpful information by August 15th.

Thank you,

Eric Drachman

Dear Park Department and our representatives –

I am expanding the recipients on this email as I have not received a reply lately regarding our concerns. I am including Mayor Garcetti and Council Member Bonin as their names are both on the now years old banner on the fence of the seemingly abandoned part of the Glen Alla dog park which touts the upcoming improvements to the park. I will summarize the issue here for the new recipients. The large dog park at the Glen Alla park was slated for improvements before the pandemic. It was on hold for a while, understandably, and then the work began, closing off one side and then the other. It seems that they repaired the faulty plumbing, they roughly patched up the old artificial turf on one side and started to prepare the other side for installation of turf there as well. Sadly, after months of waiting and seeing them do a tiny bit of work here and there, they quit. I will attach photos of the current state. There are piles of gravel, un-emptied trash cans, an abandoned shovel, miscellaneous detritus, and — a WORKING dog water fountain! Well, I believe it is working. The whole area is still fenced off, but they spent a great deal of time working on that from time to time, replaced it twice, poured a concrete pad around it and seemed to prepare it to finish the park. But then they just quit. The rumor in the park is that they ran out of money. I can't say why, except maybe after months and years of stalling, finances changed, but honestly, that is really not fair for all of the tax-paying dog owners who depend on this space and have been making do with half of this small dog park for a large group of dogs.

Please finish the work. 🙏 We are there almost every day and it's so sad to look at such a mess which feels like it represents such a lack of care for all of us. Also, please let us know what is going on. You can start by replying to this email with some truthful information. You could also post signs that explain and apologize for how this has been handled. Would it help for us to gather hundreds of signatures of people for whom this improvement is really important? What can we do to help move this process forward?

Please see below for photos of the current state of this dog park.

I will look forward to hearing from all of you.

Best regards,

Eric Drachman

Hello -

I have to say that the way our park "repair" was handled so far is very disappointing. We have waited for many months and the "improvement" is that our park is smaller and uglier. It's an unfinished construction site. There is a strong group of taxpayers who use this dog park every day and it has seemingly been abandoned in this current state. The rumor is that you ran out of money. If it had been done in a reasonable amount of time, that likely wouldn't have been an issue. I hope and expect that you will make it a priority for our community and repair our park soon as it is an important resource for all of us.

Please update me on where you are so I don't have to rely on rumors.

Thanks,

Eric

Hello again –

I wanted to check back as you ended the last email with the fact that the plans are not finalized yet...

I see that they have pulled back the turf and it looks like progress has been made on the plumbing.

- Do you think you're still on track to have that first area completed and re-opened in 2-3 weeks? (3 weeks from this email would be April 6th.)
- And then would you be on track to get the turf in on the other side in the following 2-3 weeks?
- And finally, what's the word on the lighting? It is less of an issue right now after the time change and as the days are getting longer, but in the Fall, we will need better lighting again, so just checking in to see where you are on that part of the project.
- One more note. It would be really helpful if you had them work on the functionality of the gates opening and closing before this project is finished. Some don't close all the way. Some open partly and then stop without warning. In fact, I have a friend who got a real bump on her head when the gate stopped suddenly and she had to return home right away to ice it.

Thanks for your help and for finally getting this project moving forward! :)

All the best,

Eric

On Mar 16, 2022, at 3:48 PM, RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Eric,

The latest update we have is that we are in the process of repairing the sump and piping. We are hoping to get the main area (Center) open in the next two / three weeks. (It depends on what we find in terms of repairs).

We are hoping to then work on replacing the DG with turf at area #1. Perhaps 2-3 weeks additional work is required for this replacement. This could be done with the center area open.

We're looking into getting more info in regards to the future closure of the park, and the timeframe for that, but it appears these plans have not been finalized yet.

Thanks,
RAP Project Info Staff

Department of Recreation and Parks
4th Floor, Suite 400
221 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 202-2682

For more information about Recreation and Parks Projects, visit <http://www.laparks.org/planning/park-projects>

On Mon, Mar 14, 2022 at 1:53 PM Eric Drachman < > wrote:
Hello again RAP Project Info Staff –

It's been over a month and I have not heard back. I was hoping to get an update on the next steps for this project. It seems to be stalled. However, I spoke with someone else at the park recently who told me that they'd heard that the park will eventually be 90% covered with artificial turf and new lighting will be added. That sounds fantastic. They also said that the park will be totally closed for months, leaving many of us without a convenient place to bring our dogs. They also had no idea when the project would start. Can you send me an official update on the plans? Also, I heard that it will be closed for months, but I'm hoping that you can manage this efficiently and complete it all in three weeks. Honestly, we've been waiting so long for it to be done, it would be such a shame if it were closed so we could not enjoy our park for a big chunk of the summer. Or if it is going to be a very long time, perhaps you could work it out so that half of the park was closed and then work on the other side?

I will look forward to hearing from you and hoping hoping that you can find a way to make this really welcome improvement less of an inconvenience for everyone who depends on it. That includes, of course, those who use the park who are disabled and therefore cannot go to another dog park that does not have an artificial turf surface.

Thanks!

Eric

On Feb 10, 2022, at 10:04 PM, Eric Drachman > wrote:

Thanks so much for your reply and your help with this. We'll look forward to the next steps! :)

Best,

Eric

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 10, 2022, at 3:08 PM, RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Eric,

Thanks for your patience and communication in regards to the issues at the dog park. The latest information I have is that park maintenance and contractors have been notified of the issues remaining at the park, specifically the requests from the public to keep the majority of the natural turf area synthetic, and to cover exposed areas of the north side of the park with more synthetic turf. Also, our construction teams have asked maintenance to remove the sump and water fountain in its entirety and replace it, as the sump keeps clogging up, which is causing the drainage issues you mentioned. I will follow up with you when I have updates. In regards to your questions about the low fence and security lighting, I'm still waiting to hear answers about those. I'll let you know when I have info on those issues.

Thanks
Sincerely,

RAP Project Info Staff

Department of Recreation and Parks
4th Floor, Suite 400
221 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
[\(213\) 202-2682](tel:(213)202-2682)

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On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 3:13 PM Eric Drachman < > wrote:
Hello –

I'm checking back in about the progress of the project at our GlenAlla dog park.

Obviously, the project has been stopped partway through and I can tell you, that it would go a very long way if you could just share with us what your intentions are and when we can expect to see some progress.

I won't repeat all of my notes from below, but I will update you about the status. Right now, the south side of the park has been (I think unofficially) re-opened. The problem is that there is no water on that side and the drainage has not been repaired there. But on the north side, it is still too rough for wheelchairs and it is dangerously dark in the evenings. The dogs have been digging a deep hole next to the water fountain as it is mud and not the turf that would prevent that from happening. I'm concerned that someone will twist their ankle in that hole. It is also too dark on the path from the north side to the entrance on the south side.

You told me before that you thought the plan was to cover the north side with artificial turf. That is what we are all hoping for and then to fix the plumbing issues as well on the south side.

After that, having adequate light is important and to fix the low fences that tempt the dogs to jump over (sometimes injuring themselves) and pooping out of sight of their owners and getting dirty in poop and mud over there as well.

So many people and dogs use this park. It is a wonderful resource, but has been disappointingly in a state of disrepair for many months.

Please please update us so we know what to expect. At the end of last year, you told just that you would know more in the beginning of the year. We are already in February.

Thanks so much. I will look forward to hearing back from you!

Best,

Eric Drachman

PS Please let me know who else I should cc on these emails to help generate some forward progress. I have a few ideas and will include them on our next exchange.

Thanks so much for your reply.

One more thought, while you're working on this park...

There is a very low fence along the perimeter that separates the landscaping from the dogs' play area. While that looks nice, it does not keep the dogs out of that area. It's fun to watch them all jump that fence, but it's also problematic. I know multiple dogs who have gotten minor injuries from the fence. My dog got a scratch on her belly from the top of the fence. Besides that, it gets muddy over there and the dogs frequently go there to poop and the owners can easily miss that, so the dogs who go over there end up in the poop and the mud. :-0

Ideally, that very low fence would be replaced with a fence that is high enough to keep the dogs out, but still looks nice. Perhaps a 4 foot fence?

Thanks so much for considering this. Besides the mess and inconvenience, it would be a shame for a dog to get more seriously injured in the park.

Best,

Eric Drachman

On Jan 20, 2022, at 7:55 AM, RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Morning,

Thank you for your comments, questions, and feedback. We'll look into your inquiries and get back to you as soon as we can get an answer.

Thanks
Sincerely,

RAP Project Info Staff

Department of Recreation and Parks
 4th Floor, Suite 400
 221 N. Figueroa Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
[\(213\) 202-2682](tel:(213)202-2682)

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On Sun, Jan 16, 2022 at 9:35 AM Eric Drachman < > wrote:
 Hello -

I thought I'd check in for an update. I was happy to see that there is forward progress on the park project! Thank you! However, right now, it seems that the park is less usable than it was and many of the people I know there are upset and will avoid the park until it improves. :-/ I'm sure if we knew what the plan was, we would all feel better. I guess right now, the side without the artificial turf (closer to Glencoe - I'll call this the "north side") was re-opened and the other side, closer to the paddle tennis courts (the "south side") that still needs repair, was closed. The problem now is that the north side is extremely muddy and is riddled with gopher holes which is problematic for our dogs and my friend who uses a wheelchair has no access anymore for her and her dog. Also, there are NO lights in that area, which feels unsafe.

Can you let us know what the plan is?

Here's what we are hoping is planned:

- Remove the old broken drain and water pipe from the south side quickly, then patch and replace the artificial turf in that area so we can return
- Cover the north side with artificial turf as the gopher holes are a hazard and the dirt and mud are a deterrent.
- Install several lights to illuminate the path to and from the park as well as giving us enough light at the park after dark.

Is that, in fact, the plan? Please update us and give us a sense of when we can return to enjoy our park again!

Thanks so much!!

Eric Drachman

On Dec 27, 2021, at 7:31 AM, RAP ProjectInfo
 <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Eric,

Thanks for letting us know all of this information. The latest info I have is that construction is delayed due to issues with vendors and contractors. Yes, ultimately the plan is to add turf in that area. Our teams will be meeting in the new year to deal with all these issues. We'll have a better idea of a timeframe for completion then. Sorry for the delay. Once I have an idea of the time frame, I can let you know.

Thanks
 Sincerely,

RAP Project Info Staff

Department of Recreation and Parks
 4th Floor, Suite 400
 221 N. Figueroa Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
[\(213\) 202-2682](tel:(213)202-2682)

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On Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 4:52 PM Eric Drachman
 > wrote:

Thanks again for the quick reply!

Yeah, there is a water fountain in the open area already that works. It's off to the side - not where that old faucet and overflowing drain are currently. I suspect that maybe they're planning to remove the old faucet and close up that overflowing drain and cover it with artificial turf? That would make sense. It seems that the information you're getting is not consistent with what is or is not happening on the site.

Yes - it would be great if the other area would get finished and opened. There were rumors that it was going to be covered with artificial turf. Right now it's dirt and actually a lot of gopher holes.

It's just that the work has been so infrequent and sporadic that it's dragged on for months. If you could assure us that it's on the schedule for the near future and we could see some activity and progress, that would be encouraging!

Please do update me with any news you might have about the progress.

Thanks!

Eric

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 15, 2021, at 4:33 PM, RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Eric,

Thanks for the pictures and the detailed info. In regards to the open area drain, we are in the process of installing a dog water fountain there. At the moment, there is no estimation on timeframe for that work. If that changes, I can let you know.

In regards to the closed area, the latest info I have is that the closed area will be backfilled, graded and cleaned up as soon as possible. Once that is done, the fencing will be removed and that area can be opened up. I'm looking into getting a timeframe for this part of the project.

Please let us know if you have any questions or experience more issues.

Sincerely,

RAP Project Info Staff

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4th Floor, Suite 400
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(213) 202-2682

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On Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 1:56 PM Eric Drachman < > wrote:

Thanks for your quick reply.

I think there must be some confusion about which project we're discussing. I'm talking about the large dog park at GlenAlla. I will attach photos below, but half of the park is still closed off, locked and inaccessible.

In the area that remains open, there is an overflowing drain that is covered with a tarp and surrounded by orange cones. It is a mess that the dogs continuously get in and try to drink from the overflowing drain.

In the side that remains closed, there is a very large open trench with a piece of furniture covering one very small section, there is the new water fountain that still sits on raised concrete and it's clearly not finished. There is caution tape and piles of dirt. In short, there can be no doubt that the project is not completed. As I explained before, part of the frustration is that there seems to be very little work completed on an ongoing basis and no communication as to when the park will reopen.

Thanks again for your help with this. I hope this more detailed email and the attached photographs are helpful in understanding its current status.

I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Best,

Eric Drachman

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<image.jpg><image.jpg>

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2021, at 4:19 PM, RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

According to our project manager, the dog park project is completed and should be open for use. There are other improvement projects going on at the park. Likely the equipment you're seeing is related to those other projects. Please let us know if you encounter any problems or issues.

Thanks.
Sincerely,

RAP Project Info Staff

Department of Recreation and Parks
4th Floor, Suite 400
221 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 202-2682

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On Tue, Dec 14, 2021 at 10:54 AM RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Morning,

Thanks for contacting the project info line. We'll let you know as soon as we have answers to your questions about Glen Alla Park.

Sincerely,

RAP Project Info Staff

Department of Recreation and Parks
4th Floor, Suite 400
221 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 202-2682

For more information about Recreation and Parks Projects, visit <http://www.laparks.org/planning/park-projects>

On Sun, Dec 12, 2021 at 12:13 PM Eric Drachman < >

wrote:
Hello -

We love this Glen Alla big dog park, but half of it has been closed for so many months! :-0

I see that your sign says it is due to be completed in spring of 2020. That is about a year and eight months ago?

I see that there was some plumbing work done and there's a new

water fountain on the closed off side. There is still a big mess with an overflowing faucet on the open side of the park.

It seems that this project will go weeks without any noticeable progress. Can you give me a sense of when to expect its completion and reopening?

Thanks so much for your help,

Eric Drachman

Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Park equity and usage information/Westchester Park/Request for meeting

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 7:40 AM

To: Sue Pascoe <

>

Cc: Debra Huston <

>, Jamie Paige <

>, Jose Ramirez

<che.ramirez@lacity.org>, Paula Gerez <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 11:09 AM Sue Pascoe

> wrote:

Jose,

Circling the News stopped by the swimming pool parking lot yesterday. It was full and cars were waiting to park so kids could go swimming. Safe parking on that lot was fenced off, but empty--but there was no way swimming pool patrons could use it for parking.

The handicapped parking in front of the Senior Center cannot be used--it needs to be cleaned of the garbage--at least two handicapped spaces are taken. This seems like it could pose a law suit for the city. Additionally an RV vehicle was taking up four parking spaces in front of the library -- as you can see they have even "landscaped" a public parking lot with plants. In order to park in that lot, one is forced to park by garbage and the individuals camping there are not always nice--I have been yelled at before. Most likely that is why a barbed wire fence is going around the Councilman's office.

Who in the City would like to comment on why residents are not protected from grifters and the mentally ill? Who would like to comment about why Westchester residents don't have parking access to the library or why handicapped parking spaces are taken away with garbage?

Thank you.

Sue Pascoe
Editor
Circling the News

On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 6:56 AM Debra Huston <

> wrote:

Che,

I still have received no information from CM Bonin's office regarding his plans for the municipal parking lot. I spoke with Paula Gerez, our Neighborhood Council President, and she has received no information from Bonin's office either.

We look forward to meeting with you in the park to discuss what Bonin has planned for the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park, and what we can do to find other parking locations for the vehicle dwellers in the park. I believe I have mentioned I am in close contact with eight youth league presidents who, based on their experience in the park, do not feel safe about having their kids play in the park with homeless people living there full time, and that they need the parking spaces. I am happy to invite those league presidents to meet with us as well. The ball fields are opening October 3, and they would like to have the park safe for their kids, with sufficient parking. We have a group of seniors who are equally concerned and would like to meet with you.

As I have mentioned, Westchester Park is heavily used by people who live in Inglewood and farther east. We have hundreds of pages of Westchester Park usage records that show use of the park by Zip Code for five recent years. These records were obtained from LA City Parks and Recreation pursuant to a Public Records Act request. The use

of the park by racial group is about 1/3 African-American, 1/3 Latino, and 1/3 White, according to surveys, and a large percentage of users are from Inglewood.

Here's some information I have collected about park equity and park access in Westchester and Inglewood. According to a report prepared by LA County, both Westchester and Inglewood have .8 acres of park space per 1000 people. The standard is 4 acres/1000 people. Both communities have a severe shortage of park space.

Here's the info for Westchester

https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_067.pdf

Here's the info for Inglewood

https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_116.pdf

"Of all major metro areas, the LA region has the least amount of accessible park space. And the problem is worse for some communities. For example, the recognized standard is 4 acres of parks for every 1,000 people. But in Los Angeles, predominately African American neighborhoods have only 1.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 people, Latino communities have just 0.6 acres and Asian American communities just 0 .3*" <https://lacountyparkneeds.org/parkfacts/>

From these two sections of the LA County study (https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_067.pdf, https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_116.pdf) I put together this information from the chart called "AMENITY QUANTITIES AND CONDITIONS":

	Inglewood	Westchester/PDR
Tennis courts	16	8
Basketball courts	8	2
Baseball fields	5	6
Soccer fields	0	4
Multipurpose fields	1	2
Skate parks	3	1
Playgrounds	7	4
Swimming pools	2	1
Splash pads	0	0
Dog parks	0	0
Gymnasiums	3	2
Senior Center	0	1

Population of Inglewood: 109k
 Population of Westchester: 40k
 Population of PDR: 16k

So for this area of LA County and for a population of about 165k, we have a total of 10 basketball courts in parks, 11 baseball fields, 4 soccer fields, 1 senior center, 3 swimming pools, 3 gymnasiums, and 1 senior center.

And a very large percentage of those facilities are concentrated in Westchester Park. There are buses that go from Inglewood straight down Manchester to Westchester Park.

The mayor is working on achieving park equity in the City, which we support:

<https://www.dailybreeze.com/2022/03/08/la-aims-to-improve-parks-with-equity-in-mind/>

"The Los Angeles City Council passed two motions Tuesday aimed at improving and expanding park space and furthering the goals outlined in Mayor Eric Garcetti's "Achieving Park Equity" executive directive.:

Here are the council file numbers for the motions by issuing executive directives, but yet we have this situation in Westchester Park, which serves both Westchester and Inglewood:

21-1467 Passive Recreation / Open Space / Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Property Conversion / Park Equity / Executive Directive No. 31 03/09/2022

21-1462 2028 Summer Olympics Venues / Recreation and Parks Facilities / Ballot Measure Consultant / Parks Condition Assessment Report / Executive Directive 31 / Achieving Park Equity / Funding 03/09/2022

We support the Mayor's efforts because park access is a public health issue:

<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2005.072447>
(Contribution of Public Parks to Physical Activity)

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chronic/docs/Parks%20Report%202016-rev_051816.pdf
(Parks and Public Health in Los Angeles County, A Cities and Communities Report)

As stated in the CAO report of 8/10/21, thousands of people use Westchester Park each year, the park is not underutilized, and the parking in the park is needed for park users.

Thank you so much, and I look forward to hearing from you with information about Bonin's plans and about making arrangements for you to hear from our league presidents and seniors, and also from our Neighborhood Council President.

Debra

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Website: www.laparks.org







HANDICAPPED PARKING ONLY

FR PICK UP

BUSINESS CENTER

NO PARKING

NO PARKING



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Third email to you regarding Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 7:14 AM

To: Debra Huston <>
 Cc: sachin.medhekar@lacity.org, "Klemack, John (NBCUniversal)" <>, "Villegas, Catalina" <>, Jamie Paige <>, Sue Pascoe <>, Jose Ramirez <jose.m.ramirez@lacity.org>, Paula Gerez <>, Alexandra Reynolds <>, kristin ziebarth <>, Chris Spitz <>, Jessica Froehlinger <>, Cyndi Hench <>, Chip Mallek <>, Tim Campbell <>, Beth O'Rourke <>, Dan Mohler <>, Beth Rubenstein <>, Lisa Gaines <>, Tom Brewster <>, DeAndre Parks <>, "erik laykin.com" <>, tony.royster@lacity.org, John Szabo <>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 10:57 AM Debra Huston <> wrote:
 Sachin,

I have emailed you, as a staff member of Mr. Bonin's office, twice in the last couple weeks inquiring about CM Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot in Westchester Park. We have obtained documents and emails in response to Public Records Act requests we have filed. In March of this year, you sent an email on behalf of Mr. Bonin to a staff person of the Chief Administrative Officer, inquiring about getting funding for this lot for "Safe Parking." Mr. Bonin's office has obtained estimates to fence that entire lot.

We oppose this. This is the largest parking lot in the park and it is needed for the families of youth athletes who will be using the ball fields when they open on October 3. It is also needed for senior citizens who use the senior center, and for City Library users. Both the senior center and the library are adjacent to this lot, and many of the users of both the senior center and the library need handicapped parking spaces. This lot is needed for the rest of park users as well. This lot, which includes 112 parking spaces, includes about half the parking in Westchester Park.

As you know, there have been many incidents involving people living in the park attacking, following, and harassing children in the park. Most recently, in July, a homeless man walked onto tennis courts on two separate days. On one day, a tennis pro was teaching 12-year-old girls, and the man approached the girls and began saying the "the girls just want fuck me." The next day, he jumped a fence onto a court on which 5-year-old girls were taking tennis lessons and said similar things.

Our league presidents begin their winter leagues on October 3, and they need to know if Westchester Park will be a safe place for their players. Our tennis pros at the park are frightened for the safety of the children they teach.

As you are probably aware, Westchester/PDR and Inglewood have a severe shortage of park space. These communities have .8 acre of park space per 1,000 people. The standard is 4 acres, and LA County overall has more than 3 acres of park space per 1,000 people. Westchester Park serves the Inglewood community, and Recreation and Park user records by Zip Code show that. Westchester Park users are approximately 1/3 African-American, 1/3 Latino, and 1/3 White. The mayor has issued executive orders in support of park equity. Our children want to return to this park when the fields are open, and we need to ensure the park is safe for them.

There is a shortage of lighted multi-plex fields in the City. Westchester Park has four of those fields. While these fields were closed for renovation, some leagues had to travel as far as San Diego to play on lighted multi-plex fields. Many

families can't do this, and have had to drop out of leagues.

Surely, your office can locate parking lots that are not in parks and move the vehicle dwellers to that location. The CAO, in his report of August 10, 2021, determined Westchester Park is not feasible for use as a homeless shelter or for Safe Sleep, and that the parking in the lot is needed by park users.

I have received no response from you regarding Mr. Bonin's office regarding Mr. Bonin's plan for this parking lot. I have inquired of other staff members of Mr. Bonin's office, and have received no response from them either. This is a public process, and it should not be conducted in the dark. Mr. Bonin's constituents have a right to participate in this public process, and we have been denied that right.

There are now 20 vehicles used as dwellings in the municipal lot. Many seniors are afraid to use the senior center, and families are afraid to use the library. Two of the security guards who guard Mr. Bonin's office in the park have told me they are there because of the danger presented by the homeless people. Mr. Bonin has fortified his office with security, cameras, barbed wire fences, and locked gates. It is clear Mr. Bonin sees the danger to himself and his staff, and we ask that he recognize the danger to children.

We request an immediate response as to Mr. Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot.

We also request that you find another lot for the vehicle dwellers--one that is not in Westchester Park. We need you to do this before October 3, when the ball fields open.

Debra Huston

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: August 10, 2021

CAO File No. 0220-05734-0029

Council File No. 21-0350

Council Districts: 11

To: The City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Subject: **Report Back on Evaluation of Site Feasibility and Identification of Funding for Potential Homeless Interventions in Council District 11**

SUMMARY

On May 26, 2021 the City Council adopted recommendations from the Homelessness and Poverty Committee relative to a Motion (Bonin - Ridley-Thomas, C.F. 21-0350) instructing the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to evaluate site feasibility and identify funding for potential homeless interventions at various locations in Council District 11. These sites include: Will Rogers State Beach at 17000 CA-1; Dockweiler State Beach at Lot 3, 11999 Vista Del Mar; Dockweiler State Beach RV Park at 12001 Vista Del Mar; Marina del Rey at Lot 2, 13477 Fiji Way; a Culver City owned site; privately-owned land near 5000 Beethoven Avenue; Westchester Park; Mar Vista Park; Los Angeles World Airports land; and the West Los Angeles Municipal Building at 1645 Corinth Avenue.

The CAO followed its feasibility process as outlined in C.F. 20-1351 to assess the proposed sites. The CAO worked with the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), the Department of General Services (GSD), and the public and private owners of the sites to determine feasibility. Based on these assessments, the majority of the sites are not feasible for homeless interventions, mainly due to infrastructure constraints. The Marina del Rey and the Dockweiler State Beach RV Park sites are still under assessment, and the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) is communicating with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) about the feasibility of using airport land for homeless interventions. Finally, the City of Culver City has decided to proceed with a homeless intervention on the site it owns in Council District 5, near the border of Council District 11. Discussions regarding partnering on this effort are ongoing.

Council District 11, like Council Districts 1, 5, 7, and 12, lacks City-owned land that can be used for homeless interventions. For these areas, we should continue to identify privately-owned sites that can be leased for homeless interventions and request that the Los Angeles Housing Department pursue properties under the Project Homekey 2 Program. Most of these districts benefited from Round 1 of Project Homekey. In Council District 11, two motels/hotels were purchased, and are now operating as interim housing.

If the sites under assessment are found to be feasible for homeless interventions, the CAO will

include recommendations for the proposed sites' use and funding in upcoming reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council note and file the report as no further action is required at this time.

DISCUSSION

The following sites were assessed and found to be infeasible for the reasons outlined below.

1. State Owned Beach Sites for Tiny Homes, Safe Parking, or Safe Sleep

Will Rogers State Beach and Dockweiler State Beach are owned by the State of California and managed by the County of Los Angeles. The BOE assessment determined that these sites are cost prohibitive for the following reasons:

- *Lack of Infrastructure Capacity:* The beach sites were not built for 24/7 residential use, and thus, the sewer infrastructure is not suitable for homeless housing.
- *Lack of Utility Capacity:* The power capacity would have to be increased at both beaches, and the nearest transformer is located 1,000 feet from the sites.
- *Fire Safety:* There are no fire hydrants near these two beaches, and new hydrants would need to be installed as a requirement for residential use.

2. Privately Owned Site near 5000 Beethoven Avenue for Safe Sleep

The site is a peninsula of vacant land located southeast of 5000 Beethoven Avenue and is enclosed by the I-90 Freeway, the Ballona Creek, and the Centinela Creek Channel. The BOE assessment determined this site as infeasible for the following reasons:

- *No Access to Site:* The site has no pedestrian or vehicle access.
- *Lack of Nearby Utilities:* Utilities are situated far from the site, and capacity is uncertain. The closest sewer connection is 500 feet away, the closest water source is 800 feet away, and there is no apparent source for power within 1,000 feet.
- *Expensive to Develop:* The terrain is rough and substantially contoured, which would require considerable grading and soil removal to level the site for access and placement of pallets for administrative purposes, hygiene trailers, and tent spaces.

3. City Owned Westchester and Mar Vista Parks for Safe Sleep

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) assessed the proposed sites, and recommended that these parks not be used for the following reasons:

- *Sites Are Not Underutilized:* Prior to the pandemic, both Westchester and Mar Vista Parks experienced varied and robust recreational usage. Data from both parks show that on average more than 6,000 youth participants attend and utilize the parks and facilities. The parking lots are needed for pick up and drop off for programming and aquatics. Both parks returned to normal operations on June 14, 2021, and

programming is planned through the end of the fiscal year. The RAP sites that are being used for homeless interventions are on underutilized park land.

- *Revenue Generating*: These parks generate more than \$500,000 in annual revenue for RAP.

These two parks should be considered for targeted outreach to connect people experiencing homelessness to housing and services through “Encampment to Home” or similar models.

4. City Owned West LA Municipal Building for Temporary Shelter

The evaluated site at the West LA Municipal Building is an approximately 5,500 square foot vacant office space with 24 enclosed offices on the second floor of the building. The State Emergency Shelter Declaration allows the City to use non-residentially zoned properties for shelter according to alternative health and safety standards. These standards limit shelter sleeping quarters to the ground floor. This standard has also been codified in the Los Angeles Municipal Code § 91.8605.2, 2.E. The Municipal Building is zoned as public facilities, and thus, not feasible for shelter use. Even if the zoning was changed to accommodate shelter, the available space is too small to make an interim housing project viable. An interim housing facility should be a minimum of 13,000 square feet to provide up to 70 beds, administrative offices, hygiene facilities, common space, and storage, to make it financially and programmatically viable.

The following sites are still under assessment.

1. County Owned Marina del Rey Site for Tiny Homes or Safe Sleep

The proposed Marina del Rey site, located in Lot 2 at 13477 Fiji Way, is an underutilized parking lot owned by the County of Los Angeles adjacent to a boat launch and commercial buildings.

- *Utility Capacity*: BOE’s final assessment and Rough Order of Magnitude is pending a report from the County Department of Public Works on sewer, water, and power capacity.

2. State Owned Dockweiler Beach RV Park for RV Safe Parking

The proposed site at 12001 Vista Del Mar is still being assessed by BOE.

3. Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Owned Site for Tiny Homes, Safe Parking, or Safe Sleep

LAWA has identified possible sites for homeless interventions and requested that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) review for approval. The FAA would have to agree to allow the use of airport land for homeless housing and waive the requirement that land purchased with FAA funds be leased at market rate.

Culver City Owned Site for Tiny Homes or Safe Sleep

The proposed site is a parking lot in the City of Los Angeles but owned by the City of Culver City in Council District 5, near Council District 11. Culver City is not interested in leasing the site to the City. Instead, Culver City plans to develop the site as a homeless intervention and is open to collaborating with Council Districts 5 and 11 regarding the utilization of the intervention. BOE has provided sample layouts for Tiny Home and Safe Sleep Villages.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund at this time.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report comply with the City Financial Policies.

MWS:YC:AW:16220101



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Third email to you regarding Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park

1 message

Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 8:48 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

From:**Date:** August 10, 2022 at 11:38:34 AM PDT**To:** councilmember Martinez <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, Joe Halper**Cc:** debra Huston <**Subject:** Fw: Third email to you regarding Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park

City Council President Martinez, City Council President Pro Tempore O'Farrell, Councilmember Buscaino and Commissioner Halper,

I am forwarding you this email because you have either dedicated your life to the access to public parks or have spoken out publicly to protect the access to parks, particularly for the underserved in Los Angeles. As you already know, Westchester Park is an incredible resource for youth and adults from all over the city. I just wanted to make sure you were aware of the current issues around the Park. They have been ongoing and the issues have impacted our most vulnerable. The elderly lost one of the only Senior Centers in district for over two years and our youth from all over the city have lost a safe and healthy outlet to balance the challenges they face living in neighborhoods with little to no resources.

Please continue to help us protect the access to parks. The extremists have finally come out to prove what their real intentions are by attacking City Council while Bonin cheers them on. We now know all the organizations they work with and Mike Bonin openly supports each and every one of them. Angelenos need our City government to protect residents from extremism. The large majority of actions taken by Mike Bonin over the last couple of years have all been based on his extremist political ideology rather than the needs of the community. Residents recalled Mike Bonin not for his ideology but because the policies created from his ideology were so extremist, they caused the loss of many lives, businesses and quality of life of residents and visitors.

We need your support more than ever and we will continue to support our City because we believe in a balanced elected government and we believe in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Jessica Rogers

Humanitarian, Community Advocate, Caring Resident of District 11

P.S.: Thank you for standing up for all Angelenos yesterday during the City Council Meeting. I know you do it every day. Yesterday was a critical moment in our local history and you gave a lot of Angelenos faith that our local government is ready and willing to represent EVERYONE. The faith is what has been missing. Let's all keep working on it together.

From: Debra Huston >
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 10:57 AM
To: sachin.medhekar@lacity.org <sachin.medhekar@lacity.org>
Cc: Klemack, John (NBCUniversal) <>; Villegas, Catalina >; Jamie Paige >; Sue Pascoe >; Jose Ramirez <jose.m.ramirez@lacity.org>; Paula Gerez <>; Alexandra Reynolds <>; kristin ziebarth <>; Chris Spitz <>; Jessica Froehlinger <>; Cyndi Hench <>; Chip Mallek <>; Tim Campbell <>; Beth O'Rourke <>; Dan Mohler <>; Beth Rubenstein <>; Lisa Gaines <>; Tom Brewster <>; DeAndre Parks <>; Rap Commissioners <>; rap.commissioners@lacity.org; tony.royster@lacity.org <tony.royster@lacity.org>; John Szabo <jszabo@lapl.org>; Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>; Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>; Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>
Subject: Third email to you regarding Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park

Sachin,

I have emailed you, as a staff member of Mr. Bonin's office, twice in the last couple weeks inquiring about CM Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot in Westchester Park. We have obtained documents and emails in response to Public Records Act requests we have filed. In March of this year, you sent an email on behalf of Mr. Bonin to a staff person of the Chief Administrative Officer, inquiring about getting funding for this lot for "Safe Parking." Mr. Bonin's office has obtained estimates to fence that entire lot.

We oppose this. This is the largest parking lot in the park and it is needed for the families of youth athletes who will be using the ball fields when they open on October 3. It is also needed for senior citizens who use the senior center, and for City Library users. Both the senior center and the library are adjacent to this lot, and many of the users of both the senior center and the library need handicapped parking spaces. This lot is needed for the rest of park users as well. This lot, which includes 112 parking spaces, includes about half the parking in Westchester Park.

As you know, there have been many incidents involving people living in the park attacking, following, and harassing children in the park. Most recently, in July, a homeless man walked onto tennis courts on two separate days. On one day, a tennis pro was teaching 12-year-old girls, and the man approached the girls and began saying the "the girls just want fuck me." The next day, he jumped a fence onto a court on which 5-year-old girls were taking tennis lessons and said similar things.

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Surely, your office can locate parking lots that are not in parks and move the vehicle dwellers to that location. The CAO, in his report of August 10, 2021, determined Westchester Park is not feasible for use as a homeless shelter or for Safe Sleep, and that the parking in the lot is needed by park users.

I have received no response from you regarding Mr. Bonin's office regarding Mr. Bonin's plan for this parking lot. I have inquired of other staff members of Mr. Bonin's office, and have received no response from them either. This is a public process, and it should not be conducted in the dark. Mr. Bonin's constituents have a right to participate in this public process, and we have been denied that right.

There are now 20 vehicles used as dwellings in the municipal lot. Many seniors are afraid to use the senior center, and families are afraid to use the library. Two of the security guards who guard Mr. Bonin's office in the park have told me they are there because of the danger presented by the homeless people. Mr. Bonin has fortified his office with security, cameras, barbed wire fences, and locked gates. It is clear Mr. Bonin sees the danger to himself and his staff, and we ask that he recognize the danger to children.

We request an immediate response as to Mr. Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot.

We also request that you find another lot for the vehicle dwellers--one that is not in Westchester Park. We need you to do this before October 3, when the ball fields open.

Debra Huston

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Penmar Golf Course Restaurant

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Aug 5, 2022 at 7:39 AM

To: Stephanie Venegas

Cc: "mike.n.feuer@lacity.org" <mike.n.feuer@lacity.org>, "noah.fleishman@lacity.org" <noah.fleishman@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 8:34 PM Stephanie Venegas

> wrote:

Good evening-

Attached please find a letter from Mayor Sue Himmelrich regarding the restaurant operating at the City of Los Angeles-owned, Penmar Golf Course.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Stephanie

**Stephanie Venegas**

Council & Legislative Affairs Liaison

(310) 458-8257 ext. 5532

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Mayor Sue Himmelrich

August 1, 2022

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 86328
Los Angeles, CA 90086-0328

City Attorney Mike Feuer
Los Angeles City Hall
City Hall East, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Commissioners & City Attorney Feuer,

I am writing on behalf of dozens of Santa Monica residents in the Sunset Park neighborhood of Santa Monica that borders the City of Los Angeles-owned Penmar Golf Course, located in LAPD's Pacific Division.

There is currently a restaurant, the Penmar, operating at the golf course as an exclusive concessionaire on the south side of the property off of Rose Avenue. Their outdoor dining area is being used for live bands every Wednesday and occasionally for special events on the weekends. It is my understanding that the restaurant is operating without a live music permit issued by the Los Angeles Police Commission. Nonetheless, the restaurant continues to host live music events weekly, where the sound often reaching decibel readings in the 50s, carries across the golf course and into the homes of residents in Sunset Park.

The Santa Monica City Manager's Office, City Council and the Santa Monica Police Department have been receiving complaints for the last several months from our residents that abut the golf course. Our residents have attempted to contact Pacific Division personnel, and have yet to receive a returned phone call. Our staff and residents have also been in touch with the Neighborhood Prosecutor for Pacific Division, Claudia Martin. She has been diligent in doing what she can to be responsive to the residents' quality of life concerns and to work with her colleagues towards a solution. Nonetheless, the music and nuisance to our residents continues.

While I understand that there is an ongoing investigation into the restaurant by the Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control and that the LAPD Pacific Division Vice Unit has sent a cease and desist letter to the restaurant owner, the Penmar continues to operate in violation of the law. As this matter is clearly under the jurisdiction of the City of Los Angeles, I implore you to look into this matter further and take meaningful enforcement action against this nuisance business that is operating in continued and deliberate violation of your local laws and regulations.

Regards,

Sue Himmelrich
Mayor

cc: Councilmember Mike Bonin



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: The Penmar

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 7:17 AM

To: sean meehan < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 1:08 AM sean meehan < > wrote:

Hello,

I'm following up on my email below. The music was again unbearable last night. If the Board of Recreation and Parks will not act, we will be pursuing legal action against them.

Please let me know if any action has been taken.

Sincerely,
Sean.

On Jul 14, 2022, at 5:20 PM, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 11:23 AM sean meehan < > wrote:

Hello,

I wish to lodge a complaint against the tenant at the Penmar Golf Course. I live opposite the course and every Wednesday night we are forced to endure a live music event that considerably exceeds the legal limit. Even with all our windows and doors closed the music is loud and clear. I have weekly video evidence of the violations taken with a decibel meter that have been shared with the LAPD and the ABC, both of whom have open investigations into the Penmar's conduct. The LAPD is aware of the issue with the noise because The Penmar does not have a permit to play live music. The Penmar have been issued a cease and desist from the LAPD but have ignored it. They have also been cited by the ABC but ignored that citation too.

The code on noise is abundantly clear:

SEC. 112.01. RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES. (Amended by Ord. No. 156,363, Eff. 3/29/82.)

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person within any zone of the City to use or operate any radio, musical instrument, phonograph, television receiver, or other machine or device for the producing, reproducing or amplification of the human voice, music, or any other sound, in such a manner, as to disturb the peace, quiet, and comfort of neighbor occupants or any reasonable person residing or working in the area.

(b) Any noise level caused by such use or operation which is audible to the human ear at a distance in excess of 150 feet from the property line of the noise source, within any residential zone of the City or within 500 feet thereof, shall be a violation of the provisions of this section.

(c) Any noise level caused by such use or operation which exceeds the ambient noise level on the premises of any other occupied property, or if a condominium, apartment house, duplex, or attached business, within any adjoining unit, by more than five (5) decibels shall be a violation of the provisions of this section.

I live considerably further than 150 feet from the property line and still the noise is excessive. The residents in our area, and there are many of us, are fed up. We have been trying to draw your attention to this issue for many months and left multiple telephone messages that have gone unanswered. We request that the Commissions Task Force on Concessions include this issue on the agenda of their next board meeting, which we're told are held on the third Thursday of every month. Several of us would like the opportunity to put forth our complaints.

The Penmar can take physical steps to mitigate the noise, but they consistently choose not to.

I look forward to your response.

Thanks,
Sean Meehan.

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Trees at the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 7:51 AM

To: Miriam Preissel <

>

Cc: Ter Lieberstein <

>, "Katie (Mowgli) Serviss" <

>, "Dana (Barney & Tallulah)

Bartholomew" <

>, Trudi Schoolhouse <

>, John Genga <

>

"Deborah (Tommy) Davies" <

>, Donna 🐶 Soskin <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 7:24 AM Miriam Preissel <

> wrote:

Thank you Sylvia.

I have to ask if there is real interest in more information or if Mr. Solis's response is satisfactory for commission oversight. I am looking for more complete oversight and am having a very hard time finding that so don't want to keep pitching to dead ends. It becomes time consuming and psychologically debilitating.

I will add these two photos and just say our group is ready to hire an independent arborist to review the trees and start a petition for getting the purple line to the park. Reversing RAP's arborist's (Arthur Flores) advice of up to 50 gallons 2x's a week through the heat, it is now 20/30. Here is a photo of 12 gallons water under a medium tree. Obviously not enough to "deep water" and makes the berms they installed a joke. And next watering is in two weeks so not the twice a week he first recommended. To say I am "aware and content" is based on last week's info and it is not at all what is now planned.



And attached is a sprinkler head that used to be flush to the ground for the last 30 years. Now sticking up out of the ground because of the recent erosion, that the Army Corps specifically said could not happen in their master plan of the basin.



Overall we see well healed areas get maintenance attention. Whoever RAP is most influenced by, I believe gets the best maintenance. Encino parks near Ventura get/received (before restrictions) constant maintenance with lush grass. Some that get that maintenance are used as faux off-leash dog parks. We are the only official dog park for the whole W. San Fernando Valley and many come from all over the city. We don't require much, which is the sad truth. That I have had to fight similar fights over the last 30 years tells us that there is a problem to be addressed.

Our park needs real oversight. Not an email chain reacting to answer to one item of an advocates many concerns. What our park needs is a plan that is followed by anyone and everyone that oversees it for the next 30 years. And oversight over that. There is no plan or consistency of maintenance after people are transferred or retired.

If the commission is not the place to address this sort of thing, please point me in the right direction. I have seen the integrity and passion you have brought to your position and I respect your advice.

Best,

Miriam

On Aug 1, 2022, at 2:51 PM, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Please see the response received from staff regarding your inquiry. Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Javier Solis** >
Date: Wed, Jul 27, 2022 at 3:34 PM
Subject: Re: Trees at the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Cc:

Hello,

Maintenance & Forestry staff were at the park today and had the opportunity to connect with Miriam Preissel. A game plan was developed to address the tree concerns. Miriam is aware and content with the approach.

On Wed, Jul 27, 2022 at 9:23 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:



Re: Sepulveda Dog Park 2022

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Miriam Preissel <

Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 10:33 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 3:44 PM Miriam Preissel <s
Hey Paola,

> wrote:

Great seeing you the other day and appreciate your involvement with the park.

This was the email I sent a while back after meeting with Brian at the end of March. I'm pretty sure most of the maintenance is still outstanding. The only thing off the top of my head that has been addressed were the trees. Although I don't believe they are getting enough water yet.

Some questions like the purple line have been brought up elsewhere and I don't expect maintenance to have all of these answers. But most questions are still outstanding, so I am resending this and hope this gets reviewed again.

Best,

Miriam

Hi Brian,

I'm sorry this has taken so long. We appreciate you meeting with us and it was lovely to meet you, but I am very confused as to who we should be talking to regarding some of the specific questions about maintenance of the park. As you know I made our appointment with Wayne Neal and there are obviously issues that only he could answer. So I'm thinking that we can review a list of concerns we went over and maybe get an idea of who we have to lobby for answers/action.

There are 2 neighborhood councils that have Parks committees for the Sepulveda Basin. Lake Balboa and Encino. From what I am understanding there is no RAP representation at any of the meetings. Is this a recent department decision or did this just fall through the cracks?

As a nonprofit for the park we held two adoption events a year, a very popular Holiday event and a spring event. We think that it is a good location for more adoption events. You informed me that we will need permits going forward. Is there an event coordinator with RAP that we should talk to? Can I get a contact for that?

Two pressing issues for us may not be questions for you or Wayne but we keep asking everyone. The purple line and the bike path. We would like to know the status of both.

The biggest issue for the majority of the patrons of our park is the grass. I say grass but it is the erosion of the soil over the last 3 years that is one of the main concerns of the Army Corps as well. The sprinklers which were not readily visible are now an inch above the dirt line so we have eroded that much soil. In the Army Corps Master Plan I left with you, it advises that the dog park should be kept clean and not lead to the contamination of the LA River with feces and urine. In the past to satisfy that direction we have had grass as the vegetation but nothing has been done in the last 3 years. Also with the wind off the wash the dust that people are breathing in is not healthy.

We are now looking at the most serious drought in our history and the purple line that was scheduled to come to our park has not been extended. So the question is, do we know when that will happen? Do we know who interfaces with the DWP to keep on top of that schedule? What are we looking at in terms of watering now. Our trees are looking distressed. Are we watering now and what will happen in the near future. The distant future?

We also had questions about budget and how much was already in the regular park budget and how much would have to be found in measures and possibly upcoming Olympic funds. Ideas like the DG walking paths through the parks would be an easy improvement, allowing exercise for people and their off leash dogs without the danger of breaking ankles in potholes. This may already be attainable. The idea of bathrooms I'm sure is not. There is also an account with approximately 25k in it that Mike Shull can probably help us identify again.

So if you and Wayne would help us get a sense of what we can expect from RAP, who we can turn to if you don't have the answers and how we can lobby to help the department help the park it would greatly be appreciated.

Here are the questions, some policy and then some are just park maintenance issues.

- * Schedule of the purple line
Present watering schedule
Are we actually watering? Park is very dry and dusty
Seeding plans
Future restrictions and the already distressed trees
- * New Fountains - 2 were redone with proper drainage
When are the other 2 going to be started?

Maintenance Issues

- * Signs indicating "no parking between signs" at the emergency entrance were broken off and someone recently slashed their tires on the metal sticking up. We spoke about addressing this. Do we have a date to replace?
- * Updated Handicap parking signs near small side
- * Updates and removal of faded/out of date signs
- * Victory entrance needs rules & neutering signs
- * White Oak entrance needs chains and broken locks removed and doors realigned
- * Timid side agility course barrel was backed into by aeration truck and needs repair. This has been sitting like this for over a year now.

Wish list:

- * DG Paths
- * Benches
- * Cement under the benches that we already have
- * Lights
- * Self Closing Gates like the ones at the Eagle Rock Dog Park
- * Plumbed toilets The porta potties are not very well kept and keep being burned down

I'm sure I've missed things but am hoping we are opening more of a communication so it will be ok to update as life is fluid.

We are a Friends group for the park and have felt like we have also been Friends of RAP for a few years now. We are volunteers. We are dog enthusiasts. We are taxpayers. We represent park users who want nothing short of the best for our community resource. Changing out the maintenance personal every few years makes it difficult. We would like to change that going forward and would need your help in accomplishing that.

Many thanks, will look forward to hearing back from you.

Best,

Miriam Preissel

President - Friends of the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park

And the Friends: Dana Bartholomew, Ter Leiberstein, Katie Serviss, Trudi Schoolhouse and John Genga

--

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Re: Trees at the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Jonah Glickman

Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 10:35 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 3:47 PM Jonah Glickman < > wrote:
Good afternoon,

Thank you for responding to the concerns here. Please let me know if the Council President's office can be of assistance with the various maintenance requests at the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park.

I appreciate your attention to these requests and we'll be in touch.

Sincerely,
Jonah

On Wed, Jul 27, 2022 at 9:23 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Jul 26, 2022 at 12:39 PM Miriam Preissel < > wrote:

To all that SHOULD and CAN help the biggest dog park in LA, serving the surrounding areas and being the only dog park for the west SFV, hosting a diverse patronage of race and income, seniors and disabled.

I am pretty upset and attaching photos of what they did to the trees. These trees became distressed because they STOPPED WATERING when people complained about mud. This didn't happen yesterday. This happened over the last few YEARS. So instead of adjusting or figuring out where that was a problem they stopped watering enough to sustain mature trees.

Ultimately our trees became distressed and need deep watering. Basins or berms, mulch and water. Pretty simple.

Arthur Flores, RAP arborist came out to check the trees and to get rid of branches that were in danger of coming down. I asked about what the trees needed and he said deep watering 30-50 gallons twice a week right now through the heat. I asked if they were going to do that and he said he "had no idea".

So I went in last night and realized they brought in bulldozers and diggers and dug up around the trees to make berms. The roots of these trees are on top of the ground because that's where the water comes from, the sprinklers. But they dug around the trees with heavy machinery and on top of not watering, they dug and ripped up roots that spread out around the trees that were just supposed to get water.

I reached out to Arthur and asked if he ordered this and he replied: "No, not at all, I think they need to cut whatever roots are protruding from the ground with a lopper or a hand saw. Then they need to cover with mulch and give water.

I will reach out to Brian Yamasaki to have them correct the issues ASAP."

I think Cesar Lomeli is the most conscientious maintenance person that I've dealt with on daily issues at the park. He has a lot to learn and I don't think he made this decision, at least I hope not. The arborist was there and this should not have happened, so there had to be someone who over rode the department tree surgeon.

This is a mess. I don't have confidence in the people that are overseeing our park and I have no idea how this gets fixed but there has to be enough concern from everyone to seriously address this lack of oversight the last few years. There is an Army Corp Master Plan that has been totally ignored. I believe they should be brought in to deal with the erosion that has worsened with the lack of watering. We have lost at least an inch of dirt and it's like sand on cement. This is beyond what the supervisors at RAP can deal with and someone has to oversee them so they actually take the expert advice when it is given.

I am not sure who is running RAP now. Michael Shull is retired and his replacement, the "Acting GM" Jimmy Kim is on vacation. I call the permit department and the vm is full. Someone has to get this act together. I am literally exhausted by the years of chasing my tail and never catching it.

Miriam Preissel











Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please replace the tennis net at Van Ness Recreational Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 8:09 AM

To: Rosie Jimenez >

Cc: RAP Van Ness RC <vanness.recreationcenter@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff. Thank you.

On Mon, Aug 1, 2022 at 5:50 PM Rosie Jimenez <

> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I am reaching out at we went on Saturday July 30th to Van Ness Recreational Center to play tennis, only to find the tennis net was missing. I understand that some inconsiderate person stole it. However, we were disappointed the net was not replaced as it was stolen a week earlier. Please do not allow those individual's bad choices to disregard the opportunity for community members to enjoy this beautiful park. On Saturday July 30th, there were six people, 3 groups all trying to share time on one court.

Please replace the net.

Thank you, Rosie





I look forward towards hearing from you.

Thank you,
Rosie

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Drive Closure -- GPAB support letter

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 2:32 PM

To: Jason Greenwald <

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, AP Diaz <ap.diaz@lacity.org>, "matthew.rudnick@lacity.org"

<matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, "cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org" <cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org>, "darryl.ford@lacity.org"

<darryl.ford@lacity.org>, Stefanie Smith <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 1:55 PM Jason Greenwald <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The Griffith Park Advisory Board is writing in unanimous support of the RAP staff proposal to permanently close a section of Griffith Park Drive, as detailed in the attached letter.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jason Greenwald

Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

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Griffith Park Advisory Board

Community Stewards of LA's Largest Park & Great Urban Wilderness

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory

August 2, 2002

LA Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

Every day, Griffith Park draws countless visitors from near and far. For many, it is a vast urban wilderness and an essential regional park. For others, however, it is simply a freeway bypass. Given the resulting traffic congestion and urgent safety concerns, we have been heartened to see the speed and seriousness with which Recreation & Parks staff have engaged experts to study and recommend improvements for road safety and active transportation access.

After conducting a thorough study, including the pilot closure of an interior park road often used as a cut-through route, the engineering firm Kimley-Horn has presented an impressive array of findings and recommendations. Their data-driven approach and thoughtful analysis align with the Griffith Park Advisory Board's mission statement, which advocates a significant reduction of private vehicles in the park.

As such, we support the RAP staff proposal to permanently close Griffith Park Drive to vehicular traffic from Travel Town to the compost facility, with the exception of limited access for vehicles authorized by the City of Los Angeles.

This closure – the first of six Kimley-Horn recommendations – would effectively extend a successful pilot program that has received a groundswell of community support from a wide array of user groups; cyclists, equestrians, hikers, runners and others have welcomed the increased access to active recreation and the reduction in cut-through traffic.

Importantly, this closure does not deny access to any park amenity (though in some cases it requires a slightly longer drive), and Kimley-Horn finds that it has not led to an increase in traffic on other roads inside the park. In fact, Kimley-Horn reports that the pilot has led to reduced vehicle counts on nearby roads such as Zoo Drive and Crystal Springs Drive.

BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Jason Greenwald; Vice Chair – Michelle Cramés; Secretary – Chris Laib; Aida Ashouri; Aaron Chung; Alex Crow; Gene Gilbert; Alex Phillips; Karen Thornton

We hope the permanent closure of this section of Griffith Park Drive will be seen as a necessary and important first step in beginning to better address traffic congestion and safety issues within Griffith Park. We salute the excellent work by Kimley-Horn and the lightning-fast action by RAP staff, and we look forward to supporting further roadway safety improvements and traffic mitigation proposals in partnership with RAP, Council District 4 and park stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and curves, positioned above the printed name.

Jason Greenwald
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc: RAP: Jimmy Kim, AP Diaz, Matt Rudnick, Cathie Santo Domingo, Darryl Ford, Stefanie Smith
CD4: Helene Rotolo, Xanthe Scheps



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Drive road closure comment

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 7:44 AM

To: Gerry Hans <

>

Cc: Stefanie Smith <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, Tracy James <tracy.james@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 3:42 PM Gerry Hans <

> wrote:

Please accept the attached letter in reference to Item # 2-A of the Facility Repair and Maintenance Task Force meeting scheduled for August 4th.

Thank you,

Gerry Hans
President<https://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/>

--
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Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573
friendsofgriffithpark.org

August 2, 2022

Board of Recreation and Park Commission
Attn: President Sylvia Patsouras
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Permanent Road Closure, Griffith Park Drive - Support

Dear President Patsouras and Commissioners,

Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) has closely followed the progress of the Safety and Active Transportation Improvements Project currently being conducted by Kimley-Horn. FoGP is grateful that RAP's Griffith Section staff, particularly Stefanie Smith and Tracy James, have listened and responded to the issues of speeding and freeway by-passing, which have significant consequences on the safety of park patrons and their recreational enjoyment – not to mention Park wildlife.

FoGP fully-supports the proposed road closure on Griffith Park Drive to private vehicles, excluding those which are officially sanctioned, such as emergency agencies, RAP, LASAN, and LADWP personnel, and other vehicles with valid permitting or Right of Entry. We expect this closed road will be regularly maintained for safe travel and multi-use passive recreation, including bicycling, hiking and running.

Additionally, closing this section of Griffith Park Drive is important for the safety of equestrians who frequent two major crossings to and from the web of unpaved trails they share with hikers.

For many years, FoGP has been concerned about the numerous wildlife – such as coyotes, deer, snakes – that have been hit and killed along this road. This closure will allow wildlife better connectivity across their habitat – and will save lives.

As we saw with the closure of Mt. Hollywood Drive and Vista del Valle in 1992, people quickly adopt to closed roads seeing them as safe havens for recreation. Just as in that

scenario, FoGP stresses that all users respect and share the privilege of private-vehicle-free roads with others and abide by posted signage, speed limits, and safely yield the right-of-way to others.

We view the closure of Griffith Park Drive as the first of many measures that will continue to enhance road safety throughout Griffith Park, while encouraging access for all. We look forward to supporting RAP and Kimley-Horn's good work and the next steps.

Sincerely,



Gerry Hans
President

About Friends of Griffith Park:

Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) is a California non-profit 501(c) (3) dedicated to preserving and protecting Griffith Park's natural habitat, biodiversity, and historic features, for current and future generations. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles' largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Road Closures in Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 7:44 AM

To: David Ramey <

>

Cc: Stefanie Smith <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, Tracy James <tracy.james@lacity.org>, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, ap.diaz@lacity.org, darryl.ford@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 3:17 AM David Ramey <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners

In 2008, the Los Angeles City Council established the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee (LAEAC). It is composed of one representative from each City Council District and one representative from the Office of the Mayor.

Attached, please find a letter from the LAEAC in support of closure of a section of Griffith Park Drive. The LAEAC encourages the Los Angeles Board of Parks and Recreation to consider closure of other hazardous areas where roads intersect with horse trails, as well.

Please feel free to respond with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,
David Ramey, DVM
President, Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee

--

David W. Ramey, DVM
Ramey Equine | Medicine and Surgery

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Community Meeting

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Laura Ceballos <

Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 7:46 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 5:03 PM Laura Ceballos <

> wrote:

Hello,

Good Afternoon, my name is Laura Ceballos and I am a Community Organizer. I am inviting you to a meeting to address the issue of the Oakwood Park name change. The Venice Community would like to voice their opinions on this matter, since they were left out of the process. The Community Meeting will be held at Oakwood Park on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6pm. Please let me know if you are able to attend. Thank you.

Laura Ceballos

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commission Meeting on 8-04-2022 - Letter Re Agenda Item 6, Board Report No. 22-204

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 7:49 AM

To: Andie Adame >

Cc: Andie Adame < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 11:16 PM Andie Adame > wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners,

Please see the attached letter regarding Agenda Item 6, Board Report No. 22-204 for the Board hearing on Thursday, August 4, 2022.

Regards,

Andie Adame



Andie Adame

Senior Project Manager II

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Craig Lawson & Co., LLC

Land Use Consultants

August 3, 2022

Via Electronic Mail (rap.commissioners@lacity.org)

Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners
Sylvia Patsaouras, President
Lynn Alvarez, Vice President
Tafarai Bayne, Commissioner
Nicole Chase, Commissioner
Joseph Halper, Commissioner
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: August 4, 2022, Board Meeting, Agenda Item 6, Board Report No. 22-204
(775 S. Hope Street Project - Vesting Tentative Tract No. 83482-CN)

Honorable President Patsaouras,

On behalf of our client, NREA-TRC 700, LLC (the "Applicant"), the applicant for the above referenced project, we are writing to request that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners (the "Board") recommend that the Advisory Agency require that the project satisfy the requirements of LAMC Section 12.33 through payment of in-lieu fees rather than land dedication. While we appreciate the need for new park facilities, dedication of land is not feasible for this project. This project seeks to introduce residential uses in a fully built-out site in downtown Los Angeles in order to provide new housing proximate to jobs and public transit. The constraints of the fully built out site preclude any possibility of on-site land dedication, and given the price of land in downtown Los Angeles, acquisition of off-site land for dedication to the City would be cost-prohibitive and entirely out of proportion to the project's park impacts. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Board support the project's feasibility by recommending payment of in lieu fees.

The Applicant proposes the construction of 466 new residential units (the "Project") on the 4.3-acre site known as The Bloc the ("Project Site").

As shown in the Site Plan and Program Massing diagram attached as Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 in this letter, the Project Site is fully developed with an existing commercial and hotel development consisting of a 26-story hotel tower, a 33-story office tower, a 9-story parking/retail podium structure ("Existing Development"), all of which are proposed to be retained. The Project Site also includes a pedestrian portal to the 7th Street/Metro Center rail station, which provides connection to the Metro B (Red) Line, Metro D (Purple) Line, Metro A (Blue) Line, and Metro E (Exposition) Line.

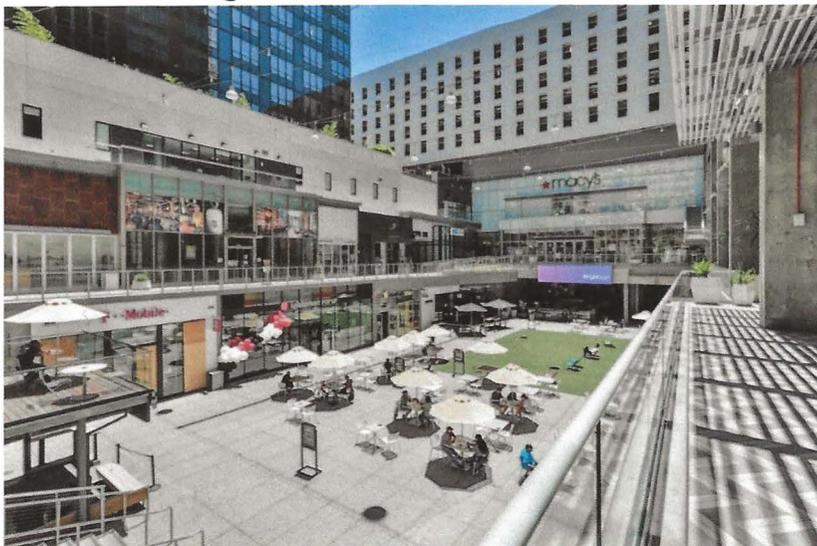
Because the Project Site is fully developed, the new residential use would be added by constructing a new 53-story tower extending through and above the existing parking and retail podium building. A Vesting Tentative Tract Map (VTT-83482-CN) is proposed to create two airspace lots and allow for condominiums. Because the site is entirely built out and existing commercial and hotel uses are proposed to be retained, the new residential use and subdivision

would occur primarily in the air-space above the Project Site. Accordingly, there is no land available on-site for dedication, nor is it feasible for the Applicant to acquire off-site land to dedicate, since the price of land in downtown Los Angeles would be cost-prohibitive, and far out of proportion to the project's park impacts.

The Project will offer substantial recreational amenities for the new residents. The Project provides 54,750 square feet of on-site open space area and recreational amenities for its residents and will be provided on podium roof level (Level 12) and the roof level of the tower (Level 51) as shown in the Composite Plan attached as Exhibit 2. On the podium roof level (Level 12), approximately 41,250 square feet will be provided as exterior open space with a variety of amenities such as a pool deck, lounge areas, and picnic areas with tables and seats. Furthermore, a total of approximately 8,000 square feet of interior amenity rooms will be provided on this level consisting of multi-purpose space, lounge areas, co-working areas and a fitness area. On the roof level of the tower (Level 51), approximately 3,500 square feet will be provided as exterior open space consisting of lounge and picnic areas, and approximately 2,000 square feet will be provided as interior multi-purpose space.

In addition, while not part of the Project, the existing outdoor commercial plaza on the Project Site offers nearby open areas that will provide additional opportunities for residents. The existing commercial plaza was built along with the existing buildings in the 1970s to complement and serve as an entry to the commercial uses. The plaza consists of approximately 26,000 square feet ringed with retail uses ranging from apparel to a fitness gym and restaurants and is also accessible by the Project Site's existing hotel and office uses as shown in the image below. This plaza provides programming opportunities open to the public including but not limited to blood drives, group fitness events, art installations, holiday events, food tastings, etc. The open and unobstructed plaza, privately owned and accessible to the public to walk to and from the transit portal, is monitored by 24/7 on-site security personnel, regular perimeter patrols, and a closed-circuit camera system.

Existing Commercial Plaza from 7th Street



Source: *theblocla.com*, 2020

The Project's proposed on-site residential open space amenities alleviate potential impacts from the Project's residents on City park facilities. The Project Site's existing commercial plaza provides another unique resource for Project residents. Additionally, the desire for parks and open space must be balanced with the City's need for additional housing. As the Project Site is physically built out, the tower development is simply infeasible if any amount of land dedication is required. The Board report estimates the amount of the in-lieu fee as approximately \$7,755,172.00. This in-lieu fee amount would be further refined based on the final project design and after appropriate credits are provided for recreational facilities and amenities in the Project, but the fee will still be a substantial amount, in the millions of dollars. Such an in-lieu fee payment coupled with existing and proposed on-site open space amenities appropriately address the Project's potential impact on City parks.

There are various nearby parks that are currently unfunded and in various stages of planning and development that could be eligible to receive The Bloc's In-Lieu Park Fees. One new public park currently in development within 2 miles of the Project Site is the 1st and Broadway Park that is not fully funded at this time according to the Board report. Further, there are four park renovation projects within 2 miles of the Project Site that are either still pending Board approval and/or not fully funded, as follows:

Nearby Public Park Projects (Currently Under Development within 2 mile Radius)

- The 1st and Broadway Park

Nearby Public Park Projects (Various Stages of Planning and Development within 2 mile Radius)

- Hope and Peace Park – Outdoor Improvement Project
- Lafayette Park – Skate Park Renovation Project
- MacArthur Park – New Boathouse Project
- MacArthur Park – Restroom Replacement

Accordingly, the capital improvements for the new 1st and Broadway Park and the aforementioned park renovation projects would all be appropriate uses for the Project's Park Fees payment. Further, the Project is located within ½ mile of two existing parks, Grand Hope Park and Pershing Square that currently provide outdoor recreation for children and adults.

The recommendation to dedicate 3.36 acres of land for a new park within the Project Site is infeasible given that the entire Project Site is physically built-out. To the extent the recommendation asks for dedication of off-site land, given the high cost of land in the general vicinity of the Project, it would likely exceed the amount of the fee creating an excessive cost requirement and lack of proportionality to the Project's park impacts.

Consequently, we support a recommendation for the payment of in-lieu fees rather than land dedication as appropriate for this project. The in-lieu fee payment provides the greatest flexibility to the City because such fees can facilitate the acquisition, improvement and expansion of public parks and recreational facilities and may also be used to improve RAP controlled properties via capital improvement projects. The in-lieu fee thus provides a choice for the City to use the funds provided for purposes including improvements to new or existing facilities for City land acquisitions.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of these comments and look forward to continuing to work with RAP staff in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andie Adame', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andie Adame
Craig Lawson & Co., LLC

Exhibit 1

PARKING GARAGE

SURFACE PARKING

PARKING GARAGE

OFFICE BUILDING

THE COFFEE BEAN

S FLOWER ST

GAS COMPANY LOFTS

(N) ROOF TERRACE
OVER (N) PARKING,
AND (E) PARKING
AND RETAIL PODIUM

EXISTING OFFICE TOWER

ROOSEVELT LOFTS

(N) AMENITY LEVEL
OVER ROOF TERRACE

EXISTING
PLAZA (BELOW)

8TH + HOPE

(N) 53 STORY TOWER

EXISTING SHERATON HOTEL

655 HOPE CONDOS

S HOPE ST

OFFICE BUILDING

W 8TH ST

PARKING GARAGE

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
READING ROOM

OFFICES

7TH ST

WALGREENS

0' 8' 16' 32'
CORRECT SCALE ON 24" X 36"

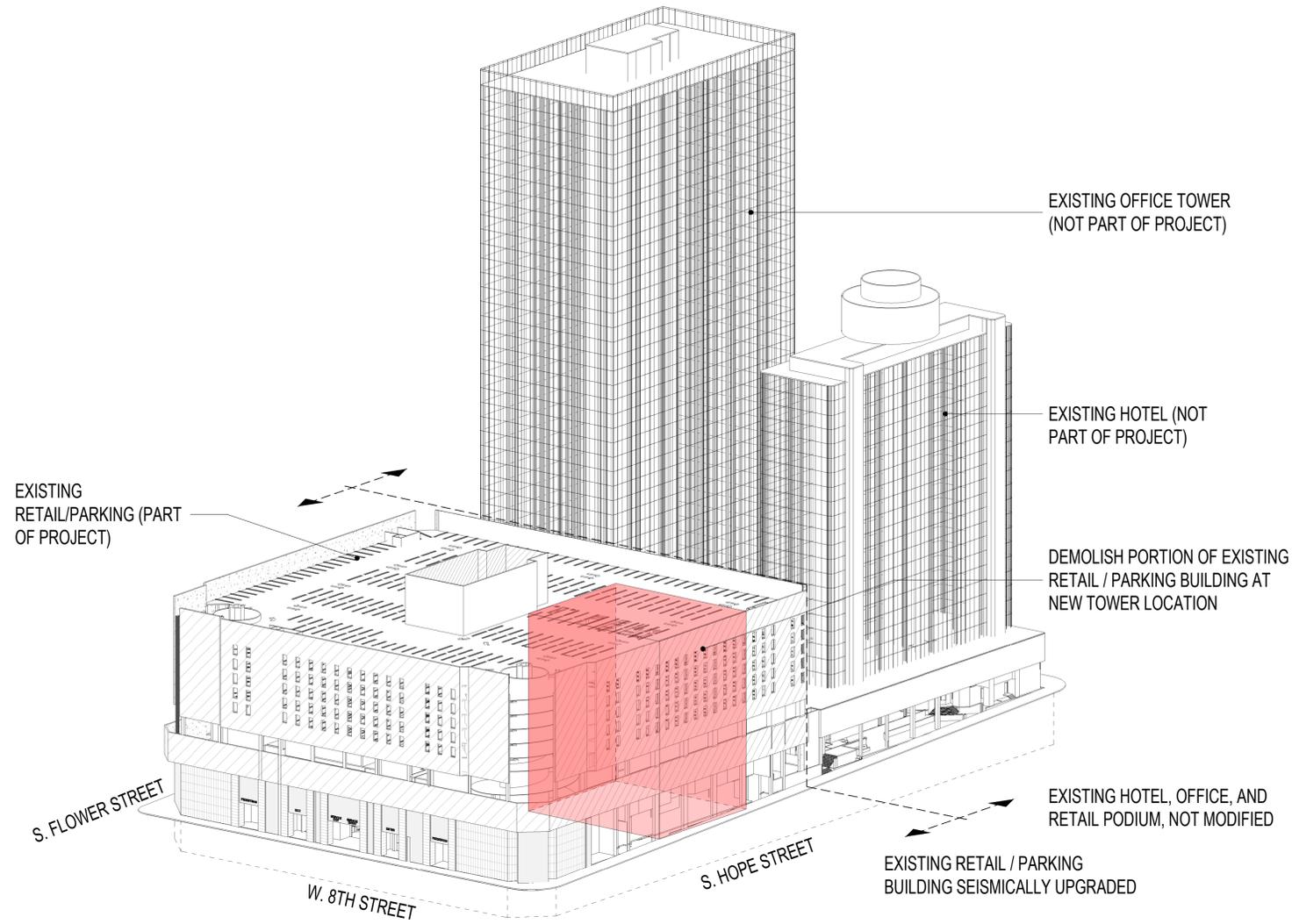
THE BLOC

ILLUSTRATIVE SITE PLAN - A002



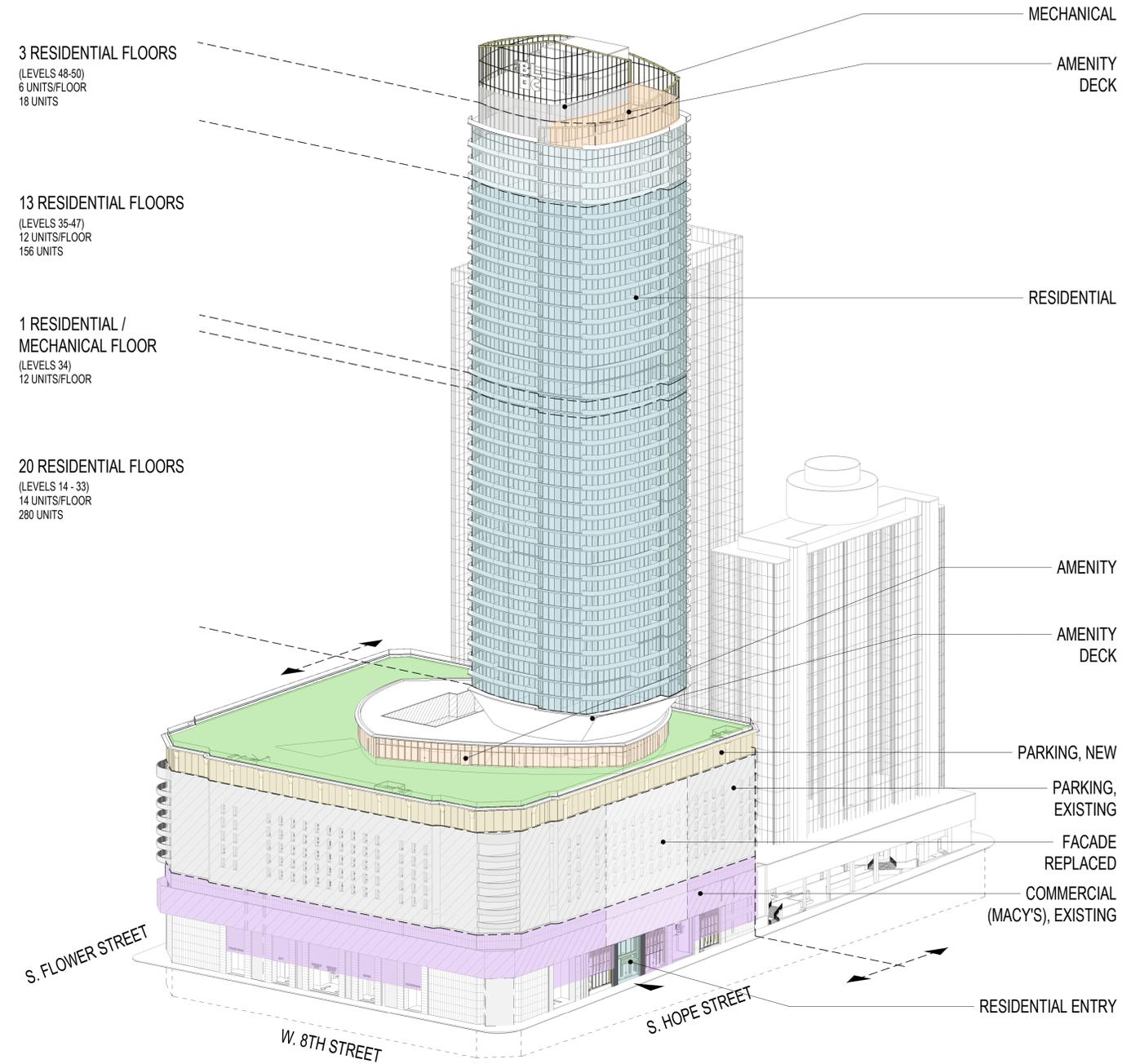
Exhibit 2

EXISTING DEVELOPMENT



PROGRAM MASSING - EXISTING 1

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



PROGRAM MASSING - PROPOSED 3

PROGRAM LEGEND	
RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL
RESI AMENITY	RESI BACK OF HOUSE
RESI OUTDOOR SPACE	

0' 25' 50' 100'
CORRECT SCALE ON 24" X 36"

THE BLOC

PROGRAM MASSING - A008



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: General public comment made during Board of RAP Commissioners 8/4/2022

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Jens Jonason <

Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 3:16 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 9:59 AM Jens Jonason < wrote:
Honored Commissioners,

My name is Jens Jonason.

My comment is regarding the Garvanza Park Playground Replacement Project (PRJ21582) as described in Board Report 22-194 dated July 21, 2022.

I am a stakeholder and resident of Garvanza, Highland Park where I live with my wife and our two small children. We go to Garvanza Park every day to play, meet and make friends, see neighbors, and enjoy our beautiful historic neighborhood. I also serve as a board member of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council.

I thank the Recreation and Parks Department, the Board, and Council District 14 for championing improvements to our beloved park. Your allocation of substantial funding — \$600,000 plus a \$100,000 contingency — and your commitment to quick implementation of much-needed playground improvements is meaningful to the community.

My concern with the playground replacement project is that those who use the park — children, parents, grandparents, and nannies — were not given an opportunity to share their valuable insights as part of the design process. Other stakeholders share this concern, which they voiced during Neighborhood Council meetings.

The proposed playground design may be the right one. But we won't know until \$600,000 to \$700,000 have been spent. At that point, we won't be able to change the design. Whatever is built will be there for a generation.

Community involvement and design research are great ways of mitigating such risks and ensuring that the new playground meets the needs of park users — from engaging play structures to adequate shade and benches for caregivers.

To that end, a group of Garvanza community members is forming a Park Advisory Board for Garvanza Park. The board will include design professionals, landscape architects, and biologists. It will provide useful resources to help shape a park and playground design that fits the unique historic character of Garvanza and the needs of the users of the park.

I respectfully ask that the Garvanza Park Playground Replacement Project (PRJ21582) be delayed until the Park Advisory Board has been formed and has produced its first recommendations of park user needs and requirements.

We have an opportunity to transform Garvanza Park for the better — and taking time to get the playground, an anchor of our park, right is essential. The community is eager and excited to work with you and the Department of Recreation and Parks to make it so.

Sincerely,

Jens Jonason



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: CIS copy report # 22-209

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 3:41 PM

To: DR Johnson

>

Cc: Dante Clark

, Lana McLeod

, I Delpit <

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 10:53 AM DR Johnson < > wrote:

Attached, you will find the Empowerment Congress Central Neighborhood Council's filed CIS in support of item 6 - report 22-209 filed with the city clerk on 08/02/2022

In Solidarity,

Daymond Johnson, Neighborhood Councilman

President, Empowerment Congress Central Area

Chairman, Public Safety Committee

Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Council

A Certified City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

Mark Ridley-Thomas Constituent Service Center

8475 S. Vermont Avenue 2nd Floor | Los Angeles, Ca 90044



www.empowerLA.org | www.eccandc.org

T:

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Council



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President

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Reba Steven, At-Large Member
VACANT, At-Large Member
VACANT, Stakeholder Assoc. Rep
VACANT, Youth Rep

**8475 S. VERMONT 2nd FL
LOS ANGELES, CA 90044**

08/03/2022

Ms. Sylvia Patsaouras President,
Board of Recreations & Parks Commissioners
City of Los Angeles

In Support of the Board of RAP Approval of the Chesterfield Square Park of Mural Installation Item 6 File # 22-209

Dear Commission members,

The Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Council believes that Art is one of the most important aspects that defines history, culture, and diversity amongst the communities of South Los Angeles.

The Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Council has worked as partners with the Chesterfield Square Community Block Club to outreach to the community about the art project and together, we have conducted community meetings for community support and input.

Chesterfield Square Park is one of the most used parks in South Los Angeles despite its size, it is a great park that is enjoyed by community members, families, and visitors. The Neighborhood Council conducted a one question survey that asked the Chesterfield Square community "If they could add anything to the Chesterfield Square Park what would you add?". 77% of participants responded, "Mural Artwork". The results of our community survey are clear and with those results, we strongly urge you to support and approve Item 6 File # 22-209 The **Chesterfield Square Park of Mural Installation**.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Council supports Chesterfield Square Community Block Club's Proposed Chesterfield Square Park Mural Installation, and We urge the City of Los Angeles Board of Recreations & Parks Commission to Approve the Proposed Mural Installation.

Daymond R. Johnson
President,
Empowerment Congress Central NC

Dantae L. Clark
Vice President,
Empowerment Congress Central NC

Leonard F. Delpit
Secretary,
Empowerment Congress Central NC

The Office of Secretary in accordance with duties granted with the ECCANDC bylaws Article VI Section C Subsection 10 Hereby certifies that the above action was taking by the Board of the Empowerment Congress Central Neighborhood Council on this 25th day of July 2022

**Re: Diseased cacti in Potrero Canyon-George Wolfberg Park**

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 9:38 AM

To: "randi"

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM randi

> wrote:

Dear Board Member:

I am a grateful 26-year resident of Pacific Palisades. I am reaching out regarding my concern with the recent planting of prickly pear cactus in the Potrero Canyon-George Wolfberg Park. An article was published some time ago (I believe in the *Los Angeles Times*), which noted that there is an incurable fungus throughout the Westside of Los Angeles and beyond, that is killing well-established prickly pear cactus. There is evidence of this infection/devastation in the cacti on Via de las Olas as well as on Mount Hollyoak Street, (overlooking Temescal Canyon Road), which locations are very close to the Friends Street entrance side of the Park. (Pictures 1 & 2 attached). Many of the infected cacti have been removed, however, there are numerous diseased cacti which remain and are covered with the fungus.

Although the park landscaping is relatively new and the prickly pear cacti were recently planted in the Potrero Canyon-George Wolfberg Park, a number of the plants along Friends street are already infected. (Picture #3 attached). In addition, the prickly pear spikes seem dangerous for users of the park, including children and dogs, which may accidentally brush against the spikes. Please see the *LA Times* article below:

"5. Prevent future injuries by assessing your yard and surroundings.

If you have kids or pets, it may not be worthwhile to have a cactus in your landscaping, especially if it's a species of prickly pear. Even if you avoid getting pricked by the longer spines, Trager said, a slight brush against the plant can release the glochids, which will "float around and get into your skin and make you itch a little later."

<https://www.latimes.com/travel/story/2022-05-06/cactus-prick-what-to-do>

While I applaud the planting of drought tolerant plants in the Potrero Canyon Park, the choice of prickly pear at this time seems doomed to fail and create problems for the park. Perhaps the Department of Recreation and Parks will want to remove the cacti before the fungus gets out of control. Also, the removal of more mature cacti is more costly and challenging.

I appreciate your thoughts and reply regarding this issue. Please let me know if you want to discuss. Thank you.

Best,

Randi

Randi G. Frisch









Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Paddle Tennis Repairs Call

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Steven Gumplo <
>

Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 9:03 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 4:50 PM Steven Gumplo <
> wrote:**Subject: Urgent Agenda Item To Add To August 18, 2022 Meeting**

To Whom It May Concern:

I just phoned your office at 4:27 p.m. at 213-202-2640 and no one answered the call. I want to request that the following letter be included on the agenda as a topic for the August 18, 2022 Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Meeting. This is an urgent matter related to a major construction project scheduled to begin very soon. Assessments on the work are scheduled to begin August 15, 2022.

To be specific, members of the Venice Beach Paddle Tennis Court Historical Committee would like to discuss the section "Our Proposal" in the letter dated August 8, 2022 which can be found below.

Please contact me by email or call me at _____ to let me know your answer to this request as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Steve Gumplo
Venice Beach Paddle Tennis Historical Committee

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Steven Gumplo <
>
Date: Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 3:42 PM
Subject: Re: Paddle Tennis Repairs Call
To: Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>
Cc: Melody Valenzuela <melody.valenzuela@lacity.org>

Dear Sonya:

Thank you for your very prompt response to my email on Friday late afternoon! I'm happy to report I have some information from our community related to our discussion on Friday about fundraising to help with the court repairs.

As I understand it from our recent conversation, you told me that you expect there to be an assessment or an evaluation by some possible contractor(s) this week as to the possible parameters of fixing the fences, which all agree are both dangerous and full of holes and deficiencies, and that you understood the expected cost to be in the neighborhood of \$600,000-\$800,000. I think the costs may be affected depending upon whether the current fence poles can be salvaged, or if entirely new ones are needed. Forgive me if I got the amount of the repairs incorrect, but I do recall you mentioning what I thought was a staggering amount. I understood that the funds for this work were

available from the public coffers, and has been set aside, but not additional funds to resurface or repair or re-paint the courts themselves, or to add or improve benches. Members of our community have done some work on these issues in the last few days, and have been in touch with tennis court builders, and other contractors with fencing knowledge and have learned the following:

Refencing:

If this were a **private project, funded by private funds**, not by the City, the reasonable costs for new fences for the entire 11 court project would be as follows: The size of 4 paddle tennis courts = 1 tennis Court. The cost to put up 12' high fencing for 1 tennis court would not exceed \$15-20,000. Assuming that 11 paddle tennis courts = approximately 3 tennis courts, the Cost to put up new fencing for the 11 paddle tennis courts should not exceed \$45-60,000 under a private contract. If the project were done under a City contract, and not with private funds, because of the prevailing wage issues, it should not cost more than double that, or between \$90,000 and \$120,000 to redo the fencing. Compare that to the \$600,000-\$800,000 that I recall you were quoted, or if it is \$500,000 or something close to that, and it becomes obvious that the City and the community would be benefited greatly if we could accomplish this through private funding via a non-profit entity, perhaps by a designated contribution to the City itself, or through a separate 501 (c) (3) entity.

Resurfacing:

The cost to completely resurface the Paddle Tennis courts, if funded privately in a private contract, should not exceed \$4,500 per court x 11 = \$49,500. With a public contract, it should not exceed double that.

Benches:

New benches, if desired, should not be too costly.

Our Proposal:

We would like to make the City the following Proposal. Please allow us to do a more formal assessment of the costs to re-do the fences, re-surface the Paddle Tennis Courts, and add new benches, (A) if funded by a private contribution through a non-profit, which we believe we can accomplish reasonably promptly; and (B) if funded by the City. Compare that to what you have been quoted so far for new fences (an extremely high amount, whether \$600,000 or something close to that), and AS A RESULT, YOU AND WE CAN SAVE THE CITY A FORTUNE, AND WE CAN PROVIDE ESSENTIALLY BRAND NEW FACILITIES for the Venice Beach Paddle Tennis Community!

At this point, we have no idea how long the current "assessment" will take, or how long the courts might be unavailable, and we need to be able to communicate with someone that has the information and the power to answer this and related questions. I assume that is you, but let us know if that is incorrect. Due to the short time frame, we don't want to lose any valuable time. Your promptness is greatly appreciated!

Again, thank you for your attention to this timely matter. We eagerly await your reply.

Sincerely,

Steve Gumplo

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 7:24 AM Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org> wrote:

I have reached out to our planning and construction division to inquire about this ask. I will keep you posted.

On Fri, Aug 5, 2022 at 6:02 PM Steven Gumplo <

> wrote:

Hi Sonya,

Thank you for taking the time this morning to discuss our community contributing to your efforts to repair the paddle tennis courts! Your insights were very helpful and our community is excited to find ways in which we can contribute to the work on the courts.

One point I thought of after our call: replacing the fences without resurfacing the courts may be a much more expensive way to repair the courts than doing the two jobs all at once. Painting is one thing, you can probably paint around fence posts, but resurfacing is a huge process that is usually done at the same time as fence work. I understand your funding issues and we will look into ways to help. It would be great to come up with a way to exceed expectations and save the City substantially on this project! I have seen how your team is able to do incredible things since you took over! Perhaps this is another opportunity.

Just as a reminder, I will follow up and look forward to hearing what your contractor has to say about cost estimates for the following:

- Repairing the cracks
- Painting the courts
- Resurfacing the courts
- Hopefully, everything you can ask about doing everything combined as well - we have donors who may be able to contribute for all of it

Some of our influential community members are already reaching out to learn more about what can be done to assist you. I will follow up with you on Monday. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at any time. Those courts and our community are the most important things in our lives to many of us at your VBRC so we are always ready to assist you and Melody in any way we can.

Have a great weekend and enjoy your upcoming week off!

Sincerely,

Steve Gumplo
United States Paddle Tennis Association

On Fri, Aug 5, 2022 at 11:01 AM Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org> wrote:

Thank you Steven you m in a meeting but could be free at 1130

On Fri, Aug 5, 2022 at 10:44 AM Steven Gumplo

wrote:

Hi Sonya,

This is Steve Gumplo, former president of the United States Paddle Tennis Association and a current leader in our paddle tennis community. I haven't met you but I have enjoyed working with your office for over ten years successfully. (Recently, Melody was very helpful to me when I was putting out the press release for the 2021 US Nationals tournament, so I know Melody slightly just through that interaction.)

I wanted to see if I could call you today for a quick update on the court closures. We're excited to have you putting in new fences! Thank you for all your work towards that goal. As you may know, we have some very influential players and we think we may be able to raise some funds to help you in your court repairs now or in the future! This could really be something amazing for your department, our thriving paddle tennis community and the City!

I'm going to give you a call shortly at 11 a.m. to see if you're free. If not, could you spare 5-10 minutes for a quick call later today?

Sincerely,

Steve Gumplo

Sonya Young Jimenez