

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Thursday, January 20, 2022**

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

The following Department staff members were also present:

Cathie Santo Domingo, Assistant General Manager, Planning, Maintenance, and Construction Branch

Matthew Rudnick, Assistant General Manager, Special Operations Branch

Jimmy Kim, Acting Assistant General Manager, Recreation Services Branch

Noel Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Branch

**CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

President Patsaouras called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2021 and January 6, 2022. Commissioner Chase made such motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Halper with a correction to January 6, 2022 minutes.. There being no objections, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**GENERAL MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Michael Shull, General Manager, began his comments by addressing some of the comments and concerns that have been made from the public concerning the Griffith Park Pony rides. He stated that the department takes the concerns serious and let them know the department is in the process of evaluating that entire operation. Mr. Shull mentioned that he plans to come back to the Commission with some recommendations soon. He also addressed the concerns of the callers regarding the horse trails. He stated he is going to follow-up with our Maintenance staff to address the concerns of the horse trails. Mr. Shull mentioned that he is aware of the fence at the Wild life nature preserve. Mr. Shull plans to have some of the Contracts staff look into securing some funding to have the fence repaired.

Mr. Shull provided us with an update on COVID. He shared that the department of Recreation and Parks has had over 500 employees that have tested positive since December 21, 2021. He mentioned this has caused a significant impact on RAP staff. He mentioned that the good thing

was that he believes things are starting to plateau. Mr. Shull mentioned that the department has not been able to start most of its winter programs due to the surge in COVID. He stated the winter programs have been delayed until February 7, 2022, and that the department is accessing that operation weekly. He mentioned that RAP has decided to secure a number of large fans for quite a few of our Recreation centers which will circulate the air and add a layer of safety. He stated the fans will clear the air off basketball courts quickly. Mr. Shull stated hopefully we will be able to resume our basketball programs soon, but they are tentatively scheduled to resume on February 7, 2022. Mr. Shull mentioned that we did not have enough staff to open the Griffith Observatory last weekend. Mr. Shull stated we plan to open the Observatory this coming weekend.

Mr. Shull provided an update on the Community Schools program. He mentioned that Ryan Carpio is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with Los Angeles Unified School district. He mentioned both AGM Matthew Rudnick and Jimmy Kim have met and are working on a staffing plan to utilize the mobile Recreation plan. To begin hiring people for LA for kids' program in which he believes the community schools program will live, which will be under the direction of AGM Jimmy Kim. Mr. Shull mentioned that hopefully we will be able to utilize some of the funds from our agreement from the LA28 that RAP will be able to start doing some clinics at schools that do not have walkable access to parks.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

22-001 Bus Services – Appropriations Within Fund 302 In the Department of Recreation and Parks

Joshua Beltran, Management Analyst, Finance Division, presented Board Report No. 22-001.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-002 Rustic Canyon Recreation Center – Donation of Funding from Randy Young for New Flooring in the Preschool Room Gallery

Sonya Young Jimenez, Superintendent, West Region, presented Board Report No. 22-002.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-003 As-Needed Youth Adaptive Sports and Fitness Program – Award of Contracts

John Busby, Senior Management Analyst, Special Operations Branch, presented Board Report No. 22-003.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-004 Measure A - Grant Agreement Amendments for Time Extension for Following Projects - Angeles Mesa Park Playground Replacement, Castle Peak Park Playground Replacement, Echo Park Recreation Center Playground Replacement, Hollenbeck Park, Loren Miller Recreation Center, Palms Recreation Center, Parthenia Park Playground Replacement, Queen Anne Recreation Center

Playground Replacement, Sycamore Grove Park Playground Replacement, Vineyard Recreation Center Playground Replacement, And Woodbridge Park Playground Replacement

Yumi Sangen,. Management Assistant, Planning, Grants Administration, presented Board Report No. 22-004.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-005 Proposition A – Alpine Recreation Center Expansion and Rancho Cienega Sports Complex (Celes King III) Projects; Grant Agreement Amendments for Time Extension

Yumi Sangen,. Management Assistant, Planning, Grants Administration, presented Board Report No. 22-005.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-006 Various Donations to Recreation Services Branch – Metro, Pacific, Valley, West Regions, Expo Center, And Aquatics January 1, 2021 To December 31, 2021

Jimmy Kim,. Assistant General Manager, Planning, Recreation Services Branch, presented Board Report No. 22-006.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-007 Echo Park – Outdoor Fitness Equipment Installation (PRJ21596) Project – Commitment of Park Fees – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(12) [Outdoor Lighting for Security and Operations], Class 4(3) [New Landscaping], Class 4(12) [Minor Trenching and Backfilling where the Surface is Restored], and Class 11(6) [Placement of Minor Structures Accessory to Existing Institutional Facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301, 15304(b), 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 22-007.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-008 South Weddington Park – Restroom Replacement (PRJ21597) Project – Commitment of Park Fees – Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3) [Minor Alteration of Existing Pedestrian Trails and Parking Lots], Class 1(12) [Outdoor Lighting for Security and Operations], Class 2 [Replacement of Structures Located on the Same Site with Substantially the Same Purpose and Capacity of the Structure Replaced], Class 3(4) [Installation of New Equipment For Safety], Class 4(3) [New Gardening or Landscaping] and Class 4(12) [Minor

Trenching and Backfilling where the Surface is Restored] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301, 15302, 15303, and 15304(b) and 15304(f) of California CEQA Guidelines

Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 22-008.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-009 Elysian Park – Solano Canyon Universal Access Playground, Fitness Equipment, Picnic Area and New Restroom (PRJ21271) Project; Elysian Park – Adaptive Recreation Center Building and Outdoor Improvements (PRJ21278) Project; Modification of Project Scopes; Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3) [Alterations of Existing Pedestrian Trails], Class 2 [Removal and Replacement of Existing Structures with New Structures of Substantially The Same Size and Location], Class 4(3) [New Landscaping], Class 4(12) [Minor Trenching and Backfilling where the Surface is Restored] and Class 11(6) [Construction and Installation of New Accessory Structures in Existing Public Facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(c), 15302, 15304(b), 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 22-009.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-010 Evergreen Recreation Center – Lighting and Cameras Upgrades (PRJ21587) Project – Reallocation and Allocation of Quimby and Zone Change Fees – Cancellation of Evergreen Recreation Center Youth Activity Center HVAC Improvements (PRJ21053) Project – Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) [Interior or Exterior Alterations of an Existing Facility where there Will be Negligible or No Expansion of Use], Class 1(8) [Maintenance of Existing Landscaping], Class 1(12) [Outdoor Lighting and Fencing for Security and Operations], and Class 3(4) [Installation of New Equipment for Safety] of The City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(a), 15301(h), and 15303 of California State CEQA Guidelines

Meghan Luera, Management Analyst, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 22-010

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-011 Pan Pacific Park – Holocaust Museum LA Approval Of Project Plans And Lease Amendment – Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article 19, Sections 15332 [Infill Development], 15301(a) [Exterior Alterations Involving Minor Construction Where there be Negligible or No Expansion of Use], 15311(I4) [Demolition and Removal of

Individual Small Accessory Structures], 15303(e) [New Construction of Accessory Structures] and 15304(b) [New Landscaping and Tree Planting] of California CEQA Guidelines

Bryan Miller, Management Analyst, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 22-011.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-012 Ascot Hills Park, Ernest E Debs Regional Park, And Elysian Park — Approval of Final Plans for the Urban Greening in Northeast LA Project; Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with North East Trees (Net) for the Urban Greening in Northeast LA Project – Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3) [Planting of New Trees] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines

Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 22-012 and requested that a date correction be noted.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-013 Camp Valcrest – Agreement Between The Department of Recreation and Parks and Growth Opportunities Through Athletics, Learning, & Service, for The Restoration, Improvement, Repair, Operation and Maintenance of Camp Valcrest as a Recreational, Overnight Wilderness Camp For Youth; Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant To Article III, Section 1, Class 1(14) [License to Use An Existing Facility Involving Negligible or No Expansion of Previous Use] and Class 1(4) [Restoration and Rehabilitation of Deteriorated or Damaged Structures to Meet Current Standards of Public Health, Safety and Environmental Protection] of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15301 of California CEQA Guidelines

DISPOSITION: WITHDRAWN

22-014 Lincoln Heights Recreation Center – Park Improvements (PRJ21376) Project – Modification of Project Scope - Categorical Exemption from The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) [Minor Alterations of Existing Structures], Class 1(3) [Minor Alterations of Existing Pathways and Parking Lots] Class 1(12) [Outdoor Lighting and Fencing for Security and Operations], Class 3(4) [Installation of New Equipment for Safety and Public Convenience], Class 3(6) [New Construction of Accessory Structures], Class 4(3) [New Tree Planting or Landscaping], Class 4(12) [Minor Trenching and Backfilling], and Class 11(3) [Placement of Small Accessory Structures] of City CEQA Guidelines, as well as pursuant to Article 19, Sections 15301, 15303, 15304(b), 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 22-014.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-015 Rosecrans Recreation Center – HVAC Replacement (PRJ21005) (PRJ21590) Project – Modification of Project Scope - Commitment of Quimby and Park Fees – Categorical Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) [Interior Alterations Involving Remodeling or Minor Construction where there be Negligible or No Expansion of Use] and Class 2(6) [Replacement of Existing Heating and Air-Conditioning Systems] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(a) and 15302 of California CEQA Guidelines

Ajmal Noorzayee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 22-015.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-016 Brand Park – Outdoor Park Improvements (PRJ21451) Project — Allocation of Quimby and Zone Change Fees – Statutory Exemption from The Provisions of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Section 21080.25(b)(1) of California Public Resources Code

Ajmal Noorzayee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 22-016.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

22-017 Camp Valcrest – Special Use Permit with United States Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service for Operation and Maintenance of a Camp

. DISPOSITION: WITHDRAWN

### **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS**

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

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

Public comments relevant to the Board Reports were requested; one such request was submitted. President Patsouras requested a Motion to approve the Board Reports as presented, with a correction to Report No. 22-012. It was moved by Commissioner Chase and seconded by Commissioner Bayne that the Board Reports be approved as listed above. There being no objections, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

## **COMMISSION TASK FORCE UPDATES**

### **Commission Task Force on Concessions**

Commissioner Chase reported that this Task Force met and discussed the extension of bar and services list of concessionaires. She also mentioned Sherman Oaks Castle Park RFP's being more diverse when reaching out to businesses that may not be privy to knowing the RFP process. Commissioner Chase mentioned that RAP is working on a program that will be shared with the public on how to do business with Recreation and Parks and have more outreach be diversified to minorities.

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

Commission Vice President Alvarez reported that this Task Force did not meet today.

## **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Comments from the Commissioners on Matters within the Board's jurisdiction and Requests by Commissioners to Schedule Specific Future Agenda Items were requested. Commissioner Chase thanked the department for the update on the Equestrian related concerns that have come up. Commissioner Chase requested an update on the safety concerns as it relates to the Griffith Park Pony rides. Commissioner Chase also asked for an update on the horse trails regarding signage. Commissioner Chase would like a report back on the Exeloo self-cleaning restrooms at North Hollywood Park. Commissioner Halper would like an update on the Potrero Canyon Bridge which is funded by the State. Commissioner Halper would like for the department to look into how we can gain access to the funding for the repairs of the bridge. He also would like a report back on the safety concerns of Via de Las Olas.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

## **ATTEST**

  
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**PRESIDENT**

  
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**BOARD SECRETARY**