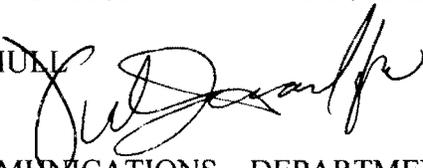


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks

September 3, 2014

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM: MICHAEL A. SHULL
General Manager 
SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS – DEPARTMENT RESPONSES

At the Board of Recreation and Park Commission meeting of August 13, 2014, Commissioner Misty A. Sanford requested the status of responses to certain communications listed on the Various Communications Report (14-216), which had been received by the Board Office and referred to the General Manager. Below is a listing of these communications and the corresponding item numbers from Report 14-216 and the status of the Department's response:

<u>From:</u>	<u>BC # / W.A. #:</u>	<u>Status:</u>
35) Indra Lowenstein, relative to poison found in parks.	7298a / 14215	Verbal report from Acting Asst. General Manager Ramon Barajas
40) Nine residents, relative to "homeless encampments along the Arroyo Seco."	7305a-i / 14222	Verbal report from Acting Asst. General Manager Ramon Barajas
42) Two hundred forty-two signers of a petition, relative to St. Andrews Recreation Center's baseball field.	7311 / N/A	Verbal report from Acting Asst. General Manager Ramon Barajas
44) Zaieda Jackovich, relative to alleged bullying at Winnetka Recreation Center.	7314 / 14223	Verbal report from Asst. General Manager Kevin Regan; Department has responded (see attached memo of August 8, 2014)
45) Alfred Locke, relative to the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum.	7315 / 14224	Verbal report from Superintendent Mark Mariscal

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

September 3, 2014

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM:


MICHAEL A. SHULL
General Manager

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION GRANT - CREATIVE OPEN SPACE
LOS ANGELES

BACKGROUND

The City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), has received grant funding through the Proposition 84 Urban Greening Planning Grant and has partnered with the Community Health Councils (CHC) who were recipients of a Center for Disease Control (CDC) Community Transformation Grant (CTG) to develop open space plans for five Community Plan Areas (CPAs) throughout the City of Los Angeles. These CPAs include Arleta-Pacoima, Downtown, Boyle Heights, South East Los Angeles and Wilmington-Harbor City. These CPA areas are traditionally considered 'underserved' communities. Though acting as the lead agency for the development of this plan, RAP is not the responsible agency for many of the implementation recommendations that will be made in the Final Report.

As a partner with this grant RAP has been working closely with thirteen (13) additional organizations in achieving the over-arching goals of the CTG grant. While RAP is the only public organization in this partnership, other organizations include some of our traditional partners such as The Trust for Public Land, Pacoima Beautiful, and Jubilee Consortium.

The goal of these Plans is to identify priority open space typologies and opportunity sites by District within each CPA, as that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution within these large geographies that would suit each neighborhood's distinct needs. For example, Skid Row has open space needs which are distinct from the rest of the Downtown area as does Watts from the balance of South East Los Angeles.

While the City of Los Angeles, and RAP, have made tremendous efforts in the recent past to address the deficiency of open space there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done.

Although there have been some stunning successes, such as the recently opened Grand Avenue park, the price of the real estate combined with a lack of available large lots make traditional park and open space planning increasingly challenging. Therefore we must look to alternative forms of urban open spaces and prioritize them accordingly. Some suggestions provided for community members to consider include pocket parks, parklets, green alleys, pedestrian malls, community gardens, street trees, farmers markets, and street amenities. These suggestions offer alternative ways to make urban life more habitable when a traditional neighborhood or community park is not feasible.

This project is intended to be a 'foot-in-the door' or the 'groundwork', in order to define and prioritize forms of open space that may be appropriate in urbanized areas. This project has been completely community driven through a combination of public outreach, community meetings, surveying, data compilation, and mapping. While this grant was only for the planning process it is hoped that, by having a balanced plan in place, that additional implementation grant funding may be sought and awarded.

Current Status

This is a presentation of these five (5) draft Open Space Vision Plans. The final product is due to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) no later than September 30, 2014 in order to fulfill the requirements of the Community Transformation Grant.

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch.