

## **Meeting Notes**

### **January 22, 2024 Meeting for Park Advisory Board**

Valley Plaza Recreation Center and Park, Alexandria Park, Laurel Grove Park, Rhodes Avenue Park and Whitsett Ave. Sports Fields

In attendance were Stephen Joyce, Park Superintendent, Ron Bitzer, president, Monica Moyne, vice president; Teen Club rep Paula Velasco, Tricia Williams, Jennifer Clark, North Hollywood NE NC representative & guest speaker, and Walter Hall, Laurel Grove Park representative. Members Carol Ann Rose and Leslie Ann Myrick were excused.

Meeting was convened at 7:20 PM at the Rec Center.

**Mission Statement** --- The Department of Recreation and Parks public statement for Park Advisory Boards states, "Recreation and Parks believes that the partnership between staff and the community is of primary importance in identifying and meeting the recreational needs of the community."

**Old Business** --- Minutes of the September 18, 2023, meeting were distributed.

**Guest Speaker** ---- Ms. Clark presented an update on the commitment of the City to build a pocket park, namely Keswick Pocket Park, at Laurel Canyon Blvd. & Keswick Ave. The Assessor's Parcel Number is 2307-012-901 and has been listed at 5,471 square feet. This parcel is located within the North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council.

Ms. Clark identified a 7 year history for this proposed park (see attached information packet). The small size of the parcel and pending action by Public Works for a property easement for sewer lines may explain the time line so far for a "pocket" park.

The Neighborhood Council passed a "Community Impact Statement" on December 13, 2023, requesting community engagement on the issue of the current parcel for Keswick and adjacent "vacant nuisance" property that could allow for a larger park. LA Neighborhood Land Trust recommends a minimum area of 10,000 sf for any proposed local public park.

NO ACTION was taken by the PAB.

**Old Business** --- Superintendent's report

- **Security** ----

1. Stephen Joyce, Valley Plaza superintendent reported on mixed results for

one female and one male posing problems at the Park and Rec Center. Tammy has not been seen; a male was sprayed with mace by a parent in defense of her child.

2. Weekly reports are made to the County homeless command.
3. A fire was ignited at Baseball Field #2.
4. Dumpsters will not be locked onsite. Gates to the area may be locked.
5. County park property fails to have staff available for cleaning parks.

### **New Business**

- Tiny Homes at Alexandria Park --- Walter Hall raised the issue of renewal of the lease arrangement for 100 Tiny Homes on dedicated park property; Permit for use of this 5 acre park was issued in early 2021 (i.e. almost 3 years ago). Ron Bitzer noted that “permanent” residential housing is not by City Charter allowed on public park land.
  
- Teen Club --- Letter of recommendation was discussed.
  
- Easter Egg Roll --- Thousands of plastic eggs will be placed throughout the park and accessed by age group on March 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11 AM.
  
- Pickleball courts --- Popular athletic game takes place on 4 courts (when replacing one tennis court.
  
- Migrant Stay-overs --- Mr. Joyce explained how the processing of recent migrants crossing the border will take place in the “old” gym.

Next Meeting Date:

Submitted \_\_\_\_\_