

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

January 04, 2024

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager *J/K*
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>
Griffith Park Pony Ride comments		Referred to General Manager
1) Michael Recasner comments regarding Rancho Cienega Tennis Courts	#9495a	Referred to General Manager
2) Michael Maslin comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9499	Referred to General Manager
3) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Grove Park Graffiti	#9519	Referred to General Manager
4) Linda Blank comments regarding Westwood Gardens Park	#9520	Referred to General Manager
5) Christine Obrien comments regarding the Hollywood Sign	#9521	Referred to General Manager
6) Shelley Billik comments regarding banning artificial turf	#9522	Referred to General Manager
7) Zohra Fahim general comments	#9523	Referred to General Manager
8) Michael Sweeney comments regarding Eagle Rock Dog Park	#9524	Referred to General Manager
9) Patricia Bates comments regarding Sepulveda Garden Center Park Advisory Board	#9525	Referred to General Manager

10) Bethany Schwartz comments regarding Knapp Ranch Addition Park	#9526	Referred to General Manager
11) Miles McQueen comments regarding Penmar Tennis Courts	#9527	Referred to General Manager
12) Aurora Corona comments on behalf of Pico Union Neighborhood Council regarding CD1 Letter of Support Alvarado Terrace Park Donation of Dog Waste Station	#9528	Referred to General Manager
13) Mollie McDowell comments regarding Arts District Park	#9529	Referred to General Manager
14) Debra Matlock comments as President of Los Feliz Improvement Association regarding south Griffith Park	#9530	Referred to General Manager
15) Luis Ramirez comments regarding Pershing Square Ice Skating	#9531	Referred to General Manager
16) Michael Westbrook comments regarding gas powered leaf blowers at Robert F. Kennedy Inspiration Park	#9532	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Carolyn Shannon-Joyner, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

RAP response - Re: Tennis Courts Maintenances

1 message

Deanne Dedmon <deanne.dedmon@lacity.org>

Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 9:55 AM

To: MARS MARS < >

Bcc: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

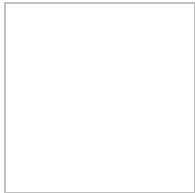
Good Morning Mr Recasner

Thank you for taking the time to attend the Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners meeting and following up with an email as well. I have attached an official response to you.

Please let me know, good or bad, if the conditions of the courts have improved so I can continue to follow up as well.

Thank you
Deanne

Deanne A. Dedmon
Region Superintendent - Pacific Region
City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks
1670 Palos Verdes Drive North, Harbor City, CA 90710
Office: (310) 548-7643 · Email: Deanne.Dedmon@lacity.org



On Fri, Nov 3, 2023 at 10:00 AM MARS MARS <

> wrote:

To whom it may concern:

I didn't know who to address this to directly, so I sent it to everyone in hopes that SOMEONE will listen to OUR concerns before it gets out of hand.

The newly surfaced tennis courts in the Arthur Ashe Tennis Center at the Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex are being NEGLECTED.

Who amongst you would buy a new car and not ever wash it? That is exactly what's going on with the tennis courts. I can't comprehend how the city would spend the amount of money that it did to resurface the tennis courts but not maintain their upkeep. The courts were completed around June/July 2023 and to this date have NEVER been cleaned/washed by the city.

All the tennis courts but specifically courts 9, 10, 11 and 12 are getting extremely dirty due to the lack of maintenance and the vacant dirt lot that has not been dealt with. If the city isn't ready to move forward with this project the community has suggested that gravel, artificial grass, rubber bark or something be done in the meantime to reduce the amount of dust in the air when cars are driving on the dirt to park. Doing something temporarily is better than doing nothing at all. Not only is the dust/dirt affecting the courts but it is also a health hazard to anyone who is near the tennis courts breathing in all that dust.

In June 2023 I sent an email addressing these same concerns. It is November 2023 and NOTHING has been done. Here is part of that email...

Second concern: Upkeep of the tennis courts. The newly surfaced tennis courts are already becoming dirty from the adjacent vacant dirt lot. We requested adding wind screens to the lower fencing (still waiting) which will help out somewhat. I don't know if the city is still following a water shortage guideline, but these newly surfaced courts won't last long if the courts are not washed and maintained on a regular basis. Most tennis courts are washed weekly but every 2

weeks would be a great start to maintain the new surface. Cleaning and trimming of the trees and bushes around the tennis courts will also be helpful in keeping the tennis courts looking new for years to come.

I've heard that the Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex is supposed to be the city's premier park. It's crazy that it isn't treated as such. The lack of full time staffing/maintenance is ridiculous for a park this size.

As the President of the R.C.T.C - Rancho Cienega Tennis Club and a member of the P.A.B - Park Advisory Board, I get approached and receive emails constantly inquiring about the status of the tennis courts and what's going on in the park. I am speaking up for all R.C.T.C members and the community at large. The R.C.T.C has over 500 current and former members in our email data base, this is just not my concern but everyone's.

I'm hopeful that this issue can be resolved expeditiously.

Sincerely,

Michael Recasner
Rancho Cienega Tennis Club
Park Advisory Board

 **RAP-BOC-Rancho Tennis Courts.pdf**
745K

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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DEANNE A DEDMON
PACIFIC REGION SUPERINTENDENT

1670 PALOS VERDES DRIVE NORTH
HARBOR CITY, CA 90710
(310) 548-7643

December 13, 2023

Mr. Michael Recasner
Rancho Cienega Tennis Club
Park Advisory Board

Via email:

Mr. Recasner,

Thank you for your email November 3, 2023 bringing to our Commission's attention the lack of maintenance to the public use tennis courts at Rancho Cienega Sports Complex. We have met with the onsite maintenance staff and they have scheduled a weekly schedule to bi-weekly water broom and/or bi-weekly blow down the courts and daily trash and debris pick up. The courts will be closed for this maintenance routine on Tuesday mornings from 6am-12noon for water brooming and/or 6am-8am for blowing.

Currently there is a construction project for the vacant area where the pool use to be. Our team will be out present at an upcoming PAB meeting to discuss the upcoming project.

Again, we thank you for your time bringing this to our attention.

Sincerely,

Deanne A Dedmon
Pacific Region Superintendent
Deanne.dedmon@lacity.org
310-548-7643

c: Commission file



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Golf Tee Times - Bots

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Michael Maslin < >
Cc: Rick Reinschmidt <rick.reinschmidt@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 26, 2023 8:40 AM

Good morning,

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

On Sat, Dec 23, 2023 at 8:31 AM Michael Maslin < > wrote:

Hi Rick,

Happy Holidays!

In your previous reply, you indicated that it's not clear if people are still using bots. Well, I'm sharing proof that the issue still exists. Attached are screenshots of an alert my friend got this morning from an app that gives notifications when tee times become available from cancellations etc.

A block of 6 prime time tee times (4somes from 9:30a - 10:20a) become available all at the exact same time. This would not be possible without someone having a bot to book them all up and cancel them all at the same time.

I'm hopeful that steps will be taken to help the average LA golfer get tee times.

Can you please let me know what your thoughts are?

Warm regards,
Michael

Michael Maslin
Phone:
Email:

8:00 

   100



Tee Time Alert >

December 23rd at 9:30am

Rancho Park

4 People

Book Now : [https://
cityofla.ezlinksgolf.com/index.html#/
preSearch](https://cityofla.ezlinksgolf.com/index.html#/preSearch)

December 23rd at 9:40am

Rancho Park

4 People

Book Now : [https://
cityofla.ezlinksgolf.com/index.html#/
preSearch](https://cityofla.ezlinksgolf.com/index.html#/preSearch)

December 23rd at 9:50am

Rancho Park

4 People

Book Now : <https://cityofla.ezlinksgolf.com/index.html#/preSearch>

December 23rd at 10:00am

Rancho Park

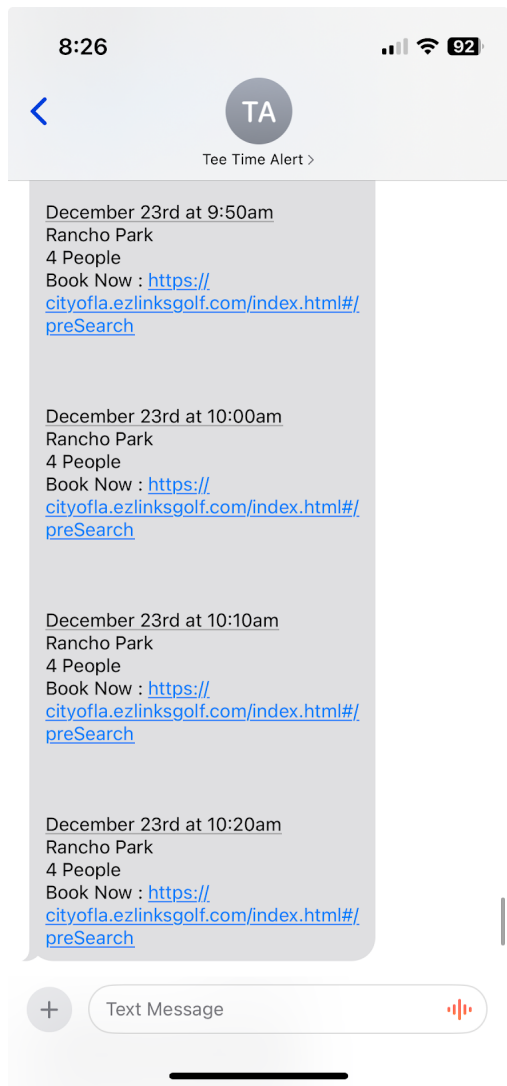
4 People

Book Now : <https://cityofla.ezlinksgolf.com/index.html#/preSearch>



Text Message





On Nov 9, 2023, at 9:20 AM, Michael Maslin < > wrote:

Thank you for the response.

Unfortunately, it is clear that not enough is being done, or, whatever is being done by GolfNow is still being circumvented.

The fact of the matter is, there are bots being used every day and individuals are hoarding tee times and reselling them. This is not speculation - what you are hearing is a legitimate issue - and it must be too difficult to catch the individuals who are violating the rules.

A likely solution would be for GolfNow to make adjustments to how they restrict / catch bots. It's likely that they need additional pressure from the LA municipality to make changes, otherwise this is going to continue without any resolution.

Michael Maslin
Phone: 1
Email:

On Nov 9, 2023, at 9:01 AM, Rick Reinschmidt <rick.reinschmidt@lacity.org> wrote:

| Hello Michael

Thank you for your email regarding the LA City booking engine. We understand it has become extremely difficult to obtain a golf tee time over the last couple of years. Especially since we have a lot less inventory (10 minute intervals as opposed to 6 or 8 minutes). Our tee time vendor, GolfNow, built a "bot-squasher" into our booking engine. When it detects suspicious or unusually fast activity at 6:00 a.m., it automatically places a CAPTCHA on that IP address to prevent that from happening in the future. As far as reselling of tee times, yes we've heard of that happening. We have not seen that happening. If we do catch any company or any golfer violating our policy, we take action and suspend their Player Card and/or playing privileges.

We thank you for your concerns and your patronage.

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 10:38 AM

Subject: Re: Golf Tee Times - Bots
To: Michael Maslin < >
Cc: RAP Golf <rap.golf@lacity.org>, jimmy.kim@lacity.org <jimmy.kim@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 staff.

On Tue, Nov 7, 2023 at 12:25 PM Michael Maslin < > wrote:
To whom it may concern:

I am an avid golfer and frequent the city's municipal courses as much as I can. However, over the last few months, it has become nearly impossible to get a tee time.

I wake up at 6am every morning to try to get one, but they are gone within seconds.

It has been brought to my attention that there are people who have bots that scoop up every tee time as soon as they become available, and then they are being re-sold to people in the know.

Is the Rec and Parks division aware of this issue? Is anything being done to fix this?

I've paid for a players card, I pay my taxes, etc. and something needs to be done so I (and thousands of others) can actually enjoy the courses.

Looking forward to hearing back.

Best regards,

Michael

Michael Maslin



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: CD1 SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GANG GRAFFITI 90065

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 7:33 AM

To: Garcia Incareal < >

Cc: Valentine Brown <valentine.brown@lacity.org>, Yovonte Robinson <yovonte.robinson@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. Please visit the MyLA311 website to create a service request at: <https://lacity.gov/myla311>





On Sat, Dec 2, 2023 at 9:01 AM Garcia Incareal < > wrote:
DECEMBER 2
Council member Eunisses Hernandez

The Sycamore Grove Park has Gang graffiti
Attach pictures
Mauro Garcia

--
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: Westwood Parks issues

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 8:28 AM

To: linda blank < >
Cc: Stephen Resnick < >, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "councilmemberyaroslavosky@lacity.org" <councilmemberyaroslavosky@lacity.org>, < >, "cathie.santadomingo@lacity.org" <cathie.santadomingo@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 Sun, Dec 3, 2023 at 4:27 PM linda blank < > wrote:

see attached**Linda M. Blank**

Telephone
Facsimile
Cell

The information contained in this e-mail message, is legally privileged and confidential information intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you have received this message in error, please immediately notify the sender by reply e-mail or telephone and return the message to Law Office of Linda M. Blank,

--
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

LINDA M. BLANK

Telephone
Facsimile
Email:

June 30, 2023

Via e-mail (rap.commissioners@lacity.org)

Commissioner Renata Simril
Commissioner Luis Sanchez
Commissioner Tafari Bayne
Commissioner Fiona Hutton
Commissioner Benny Tran

Re: Westwood Gardens Park

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Westwood Homeowners Association regarding the Westwood Gardens Park.

The Westwood Gardens Park (the "Park") is a small park in our neighborhood that is adjacent to the Westwood Library. Several years ago, when we added some play equipment to the Park, it became especially appealing to members of our community that have young children who attend classes at the library. Now it is clear that the Park desperately needs additional play equipment to fulfill its obligation to our neighborhood to provide a safe place to play. Currently two thirds of the Park does not have play equipment or any other play space. While parents used to bring their young children to story hour at the library next door to the Park and then go to the Park afterward, we have been told by parents that they no longer keep that routine because of the condition at the Park,

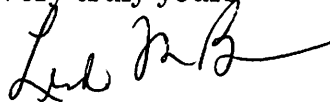
For the past two years I have unsuccessfully attempted to discuss with RAP the need to add additional play equipment and their failure to properly maintain the Park's landscaping. I have left numerous telephone messages to Cathie Santos Domingo and written to her and Mr. Kim. Yet nether has had the courtesy to respond. And it must be noted that there are no e-mail addresses available for RAP's staff nor, in their 14 page list of contacts, is there anyone listed who can be contacted about construction or maintenance even though recently Darryl Ford signed a notice of cancellation of the facility and repair task force meeting as superintendent of planning maintenance and construction branch..

Commissioners
June 30, 2023
Page 2

We are tired of being ignored and are seeking your help by requiring RAP to be responsive and work with us directly. It is inexcusable that RAP unilaterally decides what to do, when to do it and can ignore an entreaty from the community to discuss a matter of concern.. RAP is a public department and should be accessible to the community,

We appreciate your help .

Very truly yours



Linda M. Blank
V.P Westwood Homeowners Assoc.

Cc: Stephen Resnick, President :Westwood Homeowners Association
Jimmy Kim
Cathie Santos Domingo
Patricia Macias

LINDA M. BLANK

Telephone
Facsimile
Email:

December 3, 2023

Via e-mail (rap.commissioners@lacity.org)

Commissioner Renata Simril

Commissioner Luis Sanchez

Commissioner Tafari Bayne

Commissioner Fiona Hutton

Commissioner Benny Tran

Re: Westwood Parks

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing you again on behalf of the Westwood Homeowners Association regarding RAP's continued refusal to respond to our requests to discuss current issues regarding the Westwood Gardens Park and the Westwood Recreation Center, the two parks that service our neighborhood.

On June 30, 2023 I wrote you regarding our numerous attempts to add play equipment to the Gardens Park. A copy of that letter is attached. The issues set forth in that letter remain. To date we still have not had any response from RAP.

In addition, spearheaded by Jamie Rook, the PAB at the Westwood Recreation Center Park has worked tirelessly to meet the community needs by creating a well thought out, researched plan to convert a concrete slab into a wonderful ecological garden space. That plan was vetted to the community, developed with the support of horticultural volunteers and approved by our neighborhood counsel. Yet RAP refuses to embrace it.

In addition, to meet the large and growing demand for pickleball courts, it has been proposed that two of the tennis courts be converted. Sound tests were taken. As you must know, pickle ball has become a favored sport for all ages and abilities and so these courts will also provide an important addition to the park's services. Again RAP refuses to approve the plan.

Our community is tired of being ignored. Again we are seeking your help by requiring RAP to be responsive and work with us directly. It is inexcusable that RAP unilaterally decides what to do, when to do it and can ignore an entreaty from

Commissioners
December 3, 2023
Page 2

the community to discuss matters of concern.. RAP is a public department and should be accessible to the community,

We appreciation your help .

Very truly yours



Linda M. Blank
V.P Westwood Homeowners Assoc.

Cc: Stephen Resnick, President :Westwood Homeowners Association
Jimmy Kim
Cathie Santo Domingo
Councilmember Katy Yaroslovsky
Jamie Rooke



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Unauthorized lighting of the Hollywood Sign

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 10:50 AM

To: Christine OBrien <

>

Cc: Stefanie Smith <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, Joe Losorelli <joe.losorelli@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, Dec 5, 2023 at 10:47 AM Christine OBrien <

> wrote:

December 5, 2023

Dear RAP Commission and General Manager Smith:

On Tuesday, November 28, 2023 around 6:45 PM a white van parked adjacent to 3135 Hollyridge projected light images on the Hollywood sign. Apparently, four people lit the sign and claimed the Hollywood Chamber authorized their use. Subsequently, various postings on the internet shared the lighting was done by supporters of Greenpeace.

Human behavior is predictable. The City of Los Angeles tends to be loose in administering judgements against violators of the law and there appears to be some gray areas that this type of conduct can occur without recourse while desecrating the animal habitats and safety issues at Mt. Lee.

I feel these city charter regulations have been violated with this lighting incident: 132.01, 63.44 7, 13 and section 26a.

New or tightened legislation to protect the habitat, Mt. Lee and the cultural designation of the sign needs consideration and action.

Please interface with the Mt. Lee staff who were on duty during the light display. We need to understand the effects of this light intrusion on the personnel protecting the Mt. Lee Communication tower. We need to understand their perspective relative to this incident: how this affected their job, if they were concerned about possible trouble, if they observed different behaviors with the animalsetc. We also need an environmental assessment of nestling animals and identity of habitats that were affected by the unauthorized lighting.

I look forward to further dialogue and legislation/park regulations that will secure and preserve the park relative to this issue. Thank you

Respectfully,
Christine Mills O'Brien

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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
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: CFAC Letter Re Banning Artificial Turf

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 10:07 AM

To: Lynnette Kampe <

>

Cc: "ted.allen@lacity.org" <ted.allen@lacity.org>, Mayor Helpdesk <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, Councilmember Hernandez <councilmember.Hernandez@lacity.org>, Councilmember Krekorian <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, Councilmember Blumenfield <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, Councilmember Raman <councilmember.Raman@lacity.org>, Councilmember Yaroslavsky <councilmember.Yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, Councilmember Rodriguez <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, Councilmember Harris-Dawson <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, Current Price <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, CD10@lacity.org, councilmember.hutt@lacity.org, Councilmember Park <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, Councilmember Lee <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, Councilmember Soto-Martinez <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, Councilmember de Leon <councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org>, Councilmember McOsker <councilmember.mcosker@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, Dec 6, 2023 at 9:33 AM Lynnette Kampe <

> wrote:

Dear Decision Makers,

The Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) urges the City to take steps to ban the new installation of Artificial Turf/Synthetic Grass that exposes our residents and water systems to toxic "forever chemicals." Artificial turf also generates high temperatures that restrict use of playing fields and are harmful to our street trees.

Please consider the attached letter that addresses the matter in greater detail.

Thank you,

Lynnette Kampe, Secretary
for Shelley Billik, Chair
Community Forest Advisory Committee

--

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



December 1, 2023

To: Office of the Mayor, LA City Council

Re: SB 676 Permitting Cities to Ban Artificial Turf

The Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) is dedicated to preserving and enhancing a healthy urban forest so that all Angelenos, including future generations, may enjoy the many benefits our urban forest provides. We recognize that our urban forest is made up of not only trees, but also supporting understory plants and the wildlife that depend upon the whole.

CFAC made and passed the following Motion at our meeting on November 2, 2023: **To write a letter urging City Council to ban new installation of synthetic turf or artificial grass in the City of Los Angeles. This is based on the newly-passed State Bill signed by the Governor allowing municipalities to impose their own bans.**

Since 2019 it has been known that all artificial turf as presently formulated contains toxic “forever chemicals,” also known as PFAS, including perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. These chemicals do not break down over time and are linked to kidney cancer and other serious medical conditions. It is not recyclable, and there is no safe disposal mechanism. State Bill 676 was recently signed by the Governor and allows municipalities to impose bans on artificial turf, formerly prohibited by a Brown-era law.

Artificial turf can reach extreme temperatures - hotter than asphalt. These high temperatures allow a chemical known as BPA or bisphenol A to leach out at higher rates. Rinsing the artificial turf to reduce the temperature for a playing field or to clean it in a parkway results in toxic chemicals entering our water system, either as run-off or infiltration into groundwater, and often utilizes more water than irrigating natural turf. The EPA identifies artificial turf as impermeable and has determined that there is no safe level of PFAS in drinking water. Property owners utilizing these products are generally not aware of the latest findings regarding the hazards of artificial turf, and a ban could prevent them from making an unhealthy choice.

Trees are negatively affected by surrounding them with artificial turf, and their survival may be threatened. The extreme soil temperatures generated by artificial turf kill microorganisms found in the soil that contribute to tree health. Furthermore artificial turf inhibits water access for trees. The roots of a tree extend far beyond its canopy, so reduced root growth and gradual tree decline is a likely result. And as artificial turf in parkways must be periodically hosed clean, the water conservation goal is not achieved.

The Bureau of Engineering is charged with issuing permits for artificial turf in parkways but this policy has not been followed regularly. MyLA311 complaints of artificial turf being installed in parkways are directed to the Urban Forestry Division, but they have not been able to intervene despite knowing that the public street trees, for which they are responsible, will likely be harmed. For parkway and tree well treatments, many preferable low maintenance mulch or plant alternatives exist that would make positive contributions to our environment and not be destructive to our urban forest. Gravel is not a recommended choice in our climate, as it retains heat, and it is noteworthy that DWP eventually rescinded its acceptance of gravel as a lawn replacement.

There is precedent for city-wide bans, with examples such as Millbrae and San Marino who have instituted a ban and moratorium respectively, on new installation of artificial turf. CFAC urges the City Council to take action and ban any new installation of artificial turf and keep toxic "forever chemicals" out of our environment.

Thank you,



Shelley Billik, Chair

cc: Recreation & Parks Commissioners
Ted Allen, BOE



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please connect me with Commissioner Lloyd.

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 10:42 AM

To: Zohra Fahim <

>

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 10:50 AM Zohra Fahim <

> wrote:

Dear Recreation and Parks,

Can you please connect me with Commissioner Lloyd? I spoke to her during the last meeting, and she advised that I should email you through this email to connect with her.

Thank you so much,

Zohra Fahim

President and Founder of Los Angeles Alliance for Animals

"Strength does not come from physical capacity, it comes from an indomitable will" -Gandhi

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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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: Eagle Rock Rec Center - Off-Leash Dog Enforcement and Sports Field Protection

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 10:41 AM

To: Michael Sweeney <

Cc: RAP Eagle Rock RC <eaglerock.recreationcenter@lacity.org>, Alice Roth <alice.roth@lacity.org>, Nate Hayward <nate.hayward@lacity.org>, The ERNC Board <

>

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 10:12 AM Michael Sweeney (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com> wrote:

Michael Sweeney attached a document



Michael Sweeney

) has attached the

following document:

Commissioners

Please see the attached letter from the ERNC--we request that RAP immediately take these simple steps to keep the sports fields at the Eagle Rock Recreation Center from continuing to be a de facto regional dog-park to the detriment of the physical facilities themselves and to the recreational opportunities of our neighborhood's children.

Thank you,

Michael P. Sweeney, AIA

President, ERNC



Eagle Rock Rec Center - Off-Leash Dog Enforcement and Sports Field Protection

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because michael.sweeney@eaglerockcouncil.org shared a document with you from Google Docs.

Google Workspace

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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
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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



2023-2025 ERNC Board

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www.ernc.la info@ernc.la

**CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**

**REQUEST FOR ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT & MINOR
PHYSICAL MODIFICATIONS TO STOP OFF-LEASH DOG
USE OF EAGLE ROCK PARK’S SPORTS FIELDS**

December 6, 2023

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board of Commissioners
221 N. Figueroa St. Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Commissioners

We declare that on December 5, 2023, a Brown Act noticed public meeting was held by the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council (ERNC) at which a quorum was present. The following motion passed unanimously:

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Eagle Rock Recreation Center sports-fields have been over-run with off-leash dogs. We request that the City and its departments take the immediate following action to protect our park’s sports facilities and stop this from being a de-facto, regional dog-park:

- 1. Increase enforcement and ticketing of unlawful dog-owners especially during times when kids sports practices and games are occurring.**
- 2. Remove the closable gates and significant portions of the existing fence along Lunsford Drive—this fence gives dog-owners a sense of security that the sports-fields are enclosed enough for off-lease play and that sense-of-security is creating an attractive nuisance.**

At times, neighbors have counted over 75 off-leash dogs at one time on the Rec Center sports-fields; not only is this a blatant violation of the leash and dog-waste laws (LAMC 53.06 & 53.49), it is dangerous to the children whose games and practices are being interrupted and is highly destructive to the play-field and baseball-diamonds themselves. These actions compromise the safety of our community members, particularly our children, and contributes to an atmosphere of disorder and non-compliance within our public park. Eagle Rock Recreation Center already provides a designated, off-leash dog park and as such, the community is well within its rights to request that Rec & Parks and all other relevant City Departments enforce the existing use restrictions for the play-field and baseball diamond, particularly during sports practices and games. Importantly, these ongoing issues with off-leash dogs have already resulted in a significant drop in Little League participation. This is lost revenue for the park, recreation center, maintenance, and community events as well as lost opportunities for the kids themselves.

In addition to baseline enforcement, The ERNC specifically requests that the Park take immediate action to make the sports-fields less attractive for off-leash dog play. This was proposed during our meeting by the son of a park neighbor who astutely observed that a large part of the reason that this area has been so over-run is that it is essentially fenced on all sides (except for the Northeast) and that gives dog-owners a sense of security that their dog is enclosed. The fenceline along Lunsford between the baseball diamonds does little else other than create this false sense; it is too far away from home plate to meaningfully stop foul balls and it is too short to keep people out of the park. It only gives dog-owners (particularly those

for larger and/or more active breeds) the feeling of enclosure and that their dog won't run away. We believe that removing this fence will help this issue self-regulate (in addition to more regular enforcement of the laws).



Aerial Photo of Eagle Rock Park with the requested fence notated

Lunsford Drive also has significant spill-over issues parking issues caused by off-leash dog owners (who are driving to this location largely from outside the community) parking in no-parking areas and blocking driveways on it and surrounding streets to the West precisely because these streets are closer to the ball-fields. This is another indication that this entire issue is in part driven by the 'sense of security' that this fenceline provides.

We appreciate your careful consideration of this matter and your commitment to maintaining the high standards of our community. Please place this letter in the case file, and acknowledge its receipt via email to: executive@ernc.la. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Michael P. Sweeney, AIA
President, Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council

cc: Eagle Rock Recreation Center (eaglerock.recreationcenter@lacity.org)
Nate Hayward, Policy & Capital Projects Director, Council District 14
Alice Roth, Alice Roth, Area Director, Council District 14



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Eagle Rock Rec Center - Off-Leash Dog Enforcement and Sports Field Protection

1 message

Alice Roth <alice.roth@lacity.org> Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 3:28 PM
To: Michael Sweeney < >
Cc: rap.commissioners@lacity.org, eaglerock.recreationcenter@lacity.org, nate.hayward@lacity.org,

Hello Michael,

We are in receipt of your email message and would like to let you know that our office has been actively working together with Animal Services, Recreation and Parks Rangers, Staff, and LAPD on this important public safety issue at Eagle Rock Park.

This is a very challenging issue, but we do our best to follow up on a weekly basis.

We will continue to follow up.

Thank you.

My Best Always,
-Alice

Be safe, stay healthy, be well.

On Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 10:12 AM Michael Sweeney (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com> wrote:

Michael Sweeney attached a document



Michael Sweeney (has attached the following document:

Commissioners

Please see the attached letter from the ERNC--we request that RAP immediately take these simple steps to keep the sports fields at the Eagle Rock Recreation Center from continuing to be a de facto regional dog-park to the detriment of the physical facilities themselves and to the recreational opportunities of our neighborhood's children.

Thank you,

Michael P. Sweeney, AIA
President, ERNC

Eagle Rock Rec Center - Off-Leash Dog Enforcement and Sports Field Protection

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because michael.sweeney@eaglerockcouncil.org shared a document with you from Google Docs.



--
Alice Roth

Area Director, Northeast Los Angeles

Councilmember Kevin de León | Council District 14

City of Los Angeles

[*alice.roth@lacity.org*](mailto:alice.roth@lacity.org)

- General City Services: **3-1-1**
- LA Dept of Mental Health: 800/854-7771
- Homelessness Outreach Services: **2-1-1**
- Parking Enforcement: 213/485-4184
- Police Non-Emergency: 877/275-5273
- LADWP: 800/342-5397
- Immediate Life Threatening Emergency: **9-1-1**

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Eagle Rock Rec Center - Off-Leash Dog Enforcement and Sports Field Protection

1 message

Lupe Zamora <lupe.zamora@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 2:35 PM
 To: Michael Sweeney <[redacted]>
 Cc: rap.commissioners@lacity.org, eaglerock.recreationcenter@lacity.org, nate.hayward@lacity.org, Alice Roth <alice.roth@lacity.org>, Edwin Quinonez <edwin.quinonez@lacity.org>

Hello,
 I will forward this email to my supervisor Sharon Nishihara. Like Alice mentioned we are actively working together with Animal Services, Recreation and Parks Rangers, and LAPD on this important public safety issue at Eagle Rock Park.

On Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 3:28 PM Alice Roth <alice.roth@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello Michael,

We are in receipt of your email message and would like to let you know that our office has been actively working together with Animal Services, Recreation and Parks Rangers, Staff, and LAPD on this important public safety issue at Eagle Rock Park.

This is a very challenging issue, but we do our best to follow up on a weekly basis.

We will continue to follow up.

Thank you.

My Best Always,
 -Alice

Be safe, stay healthy, be well.

On Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 10:12 AM Michael Sweeney (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com> wrote:

Michael Sweeney attached a document



Michael Sweeney ([redacted]) has attached the following document:

Commissioners

Please see the attached letter from the ERNC--we request that RAP immediately take these simple steps to keep the sports fields at the Eagle Rock Recreation Center from continuing to be a de facto regional dog-park to the detriment of the physical facilities themselves and to the recreational opportunities of our neighborhood's children.

Thank you,

Michael P. Sweeney, AIA
President, ERNC

Eagle Rock Rec Center - Off-Leash Dog Enforcement and Sports Field Protec...

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
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eaglerockcouncil.org shared a document with you from Google Docs.



--

Alice Roth

*Area Director, Northeast Los Angeles
Councilmember Kevin de León | Council District 14
City of Los Angeles
alice.roth@lacity.org*

- General City Services: **3-1-1**
- LA Dept of Mental Health: 800/854-7771
- Homelessness Outreach Services: **2-1-1**
- Parking Enforcement: 213/485-4184
- Police Non-Emergency: 877/275-5273
- LADWP: 800/342-5397
- Immediate Life Threatening Emergency: **9-1-1**

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Lupe Zamora Udave
Senior Recreation Director
City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
Eagle Rock Recreation Center
[1100 Eagle Vista Dr](#)
[Los Angeles, CA 90041](#)
Youth Center: (323) 341-5658
Rec. Center: (323) 257-6948



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Sepulveda Garden Center Park Advisory Board

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 11, 2023 at 8:09 AM
To: Patricia Bates < >
Cc: Brian Yamasaki <brian.yamasaki@lacity.org>, Maria Gomez <maria.a.gomez@lacity.org>, Wayne Neal <wayne.neal@lacity.org>, Valeria Puente <valeria.puente@lacity.org>, Emma Taylor <emma.taylor@lacity.org>, Walker King <walker.king@lacity.org>, Glenn Bailey < >, Lili Costa < >

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 2:40 PM Patricia Bates < > wrote:

Good afternoon:

On behalf of a group of Sepulveda Garden Center (SCG) stakeholders, we respectfully submit a request for consideration by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks that a Park Advisory Board be formed for the SCG. Please refer to the attached document for a detailed explanation of the request and a list of stakeholders who volunteer to serve.

Several of the stakeholders plan on attending the Recreation & Parks Commission meeting on December 21, 2023 at Balboa Sports Center to make public comments related to this request and other matters in our area.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned to discuss.

Pat Bates

Mobile

Lili Costa

Mobile

--
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

**PROPOSAL FOR A
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
12/8/2023**

The Facility: Background and some history

The [Sepulveda Garden Center](#) (SCG) located at 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino, CA, is an expansive Community Garden Center with over 800 10' X 20' plots which rent for \$120 per year. The garden is situated in the Sepulveda Basin on federal land owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and leased by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks (RAP). The garden plots in the north side were built in 1966 and those in the south side in 2000 on 20 acres of land. It is considered the mother of all community gardens in Los Angeles.

The gardeners are responsible for their own tools, resources, and the commitment to work the assigned plot. The facility provides water through garden hoses, soil amendments, a greenhouse to start germination of seeds, and wheelbarrows. It's also part public park, with grassy lawns, shade trees, benches, restrooms, picnic tables and demonstration gardens with roses, cactus and native plants. The grounds include a meeting hall and an office for the garden secretary. Gardening clubs and plant societies use SGC regularly, including the Southern California Garden Club and the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society. While the city of Los Angeles owns over 20 community Garden Centers, the SCG is one of only two operated by RAP. Operation of the others has been turned over to qualified non-profit organizations which have expertise in management of community gardens.

SGC used to be managed by senior gardeners walking the grounds daily to survey overgrown plots and paths, assigning plots efficiently so that all plots would be in use, organizing gardeners meetings to share gardening ideas and address gardeners' questions and concerns, etc. The SGC is now managed by a secretary responsible for plot assignment, signing of contracts, payments, and keeping a very long wait list that

sometimes hovers about 200 prospective gardeners. A full time gardener in the north side and a part time employee in the south side with limited duties prepare the plots for rent and clean up garden areas with little time to do other things.

SCG Challenges

The SCG is impacted severely by the same underfunding which afflicts the entire RAP Department. The City of Los Angeles diverts a large part of RAP's City Charter-ordained funding for a "full cost recovery" program – approximately a billion dollars to date which is taken away from the RAP budget. This has resulted in failures to maintain property and equipment, safety lapses, failure to adhere to operational rules implemented by the Recreation & Parks Commission, failure to efficiently operate the facility including engaging the community and ensuring that the plots are rented and in use.

Other RAP facilities employ staff who are knowledgeable in recreation operations, whether at Community Centers, aquatics centers, sports facilities, etc. Unfortunately, it does not appear that either of the two garden centers, Orcutt and SGC, have staff who can provide sufficient guidance or direction in the facility activities or who are knowledgeable in horticulture.

Another challenge the garden is facing is the lack of security evident in the recent vandalism of a couple of plots and a robbery. Having more plots rented would increase the number of people in the garden providing a sense of security.

The vision for the SGC

A small group of gardeners started meeting spontaneously over a year ago and have now become a larger group of over 40 and counting that meets monthly to talk about their vision for the garden and how they can support RAP to make it a reality. The Sepulveda Community Gardeners (SCG) as they named themselves drafted a Vision statement and Objectives for the garden in 2022 as follows:

“As city dwellers, we seek in the garden a place of beauty and serenity that speaks to each of us in deeply personal ways. As we garden we spark our imagination and create a space of wonder, joy and play. We become more aware of and connected to the natural environment and the responsibility to care for it in loving, thoughtful ways. Our garden is a unique opportunity to model this responsibility for our children, grandchildren and loved ones. Our garden is a place to build a peaceful, caring community where collaboration and mutual support is valued, fostered and, most importantly, practiced.”

Objectives of the Sepulveda Community Gardeners:

- To build a community of gardeners
- To build a bridge of communication to share our talents with RAP.
- To assist RAP management in turning abandoned plots over to people on the waiting list for plots in a timely manner, including identifying and expediting cleanup of the plots
- To volunteer our time for small garden projects in common areas to inspire appreciation for what we have and want to preserve e.g. sprucing up the cactus garden by volunteers knowledgeable in working with cactus
- To find ways of protecting our garden from pests who feed upon or destroy our plants
- To develop a list of needed resources and a way to start sharing tools, seeds, etc. with our fellow gardeners
- To foster the presence of beneficial wildlife by growing plants which attract and support them, e.g. monarch butterflies
- To organize events that foster community involvement, e.g., a monthly family and friends day so they too can explore the wonders of the garden and wildlife, presentations by Master Gardeners, school visits, etc.
- To assist in fundraising for the SCG.

- To help provide information for the [website](#) of the SGC that currently sits empty.
- To encourage gardeners to join the Neighborhood Crime Watch and call 911 in case of vandalism or a security threat.

Creation of a Sepulveda Garden Center Park Advisory Board

The Department of Recreation & Parks Website states:
 “A Park Advisory Board (PAB) consists of individuals, selected by Department of Recreation and Parks staff, who are community residents, business members, and those who work or spend time in the community they are chosen to represent as volunteer board members. The mission of every PAB is to strengthen their facility’s recreation programs and services. 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.

A Park Advisory Board:

- Enhances Department resources and creates a positive relationship between the Department and its citizens through mutual collaboration, decision-making, and problem solving;
- Provides additional resources and talent to enhance the abilities of Department staff;
- Expands, extends, and enriches the recreation and community services programs, increase the services of the Department;
- Provides citizens with the opportunity to help their local recreation center;
- Understands the needs and desires of the residents, and conversely helps citizens develop a working knowledge and understanding of how the Department functions and operates;
- Provides an opportunity for residents to improve communication skills and knowledge and expand recreation interests;
- Increases status and prestige, and brings satisfaction to those who serve on the Park Advisory Board, that they are truly making a difference in their community.”

A request that RAP create a Sepulveda Garden Center Park Advisory Board (SGCPAB):

The SCG would benefit tremendously from the formation of an active PAB. Being one of only 2 community gardens operated by RAP, it is understandable that there are not sufficient resources to have full-time staff experts in horticulture, related operations, and programming. There are already a number of people willing to serve on a SGCPAB who are certified Master Gardeners, serve on horticulture-related organizations, have organizational expertise and other skills. A well functioning SGCPAB could more effectively and efficiently help to transform these orphan garden centers into a more vibrant community, assist in providing needed resources and help with outreach to the larger community.

The Sepulveda Garden Center gardeners request that RAP expedite the creation of a SGCPAB. We hope that the SGCPAB can assist RAP management in identifying abandoned plots and expedite clean-up and assignment, supporting new renters, providing useful information, maximizing the use of bulletin boards that now sit abandoned, advising on appropriate crops, swapping seeds, and sharing tools, etc. In short, work to build a peaceful, caring community where collaboration and mutual support is valued, fostered and, most importantly, practiced.

This request is respectfully submitted by Patricia Bates and Luisa Liliana Costa and the additional stakeholders listed below. All are ready and willing to serve on the SGCPAB.

Patricia Bates (bio below)

Luisa Liliana Costa (bio below)

Madlen Sarkisyan

Mervi Ibrahim

Leslie D. Beers

Paul Haman

Rachal Hambrick

Carlos García

Irina Efremova



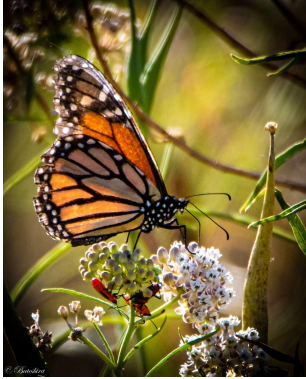
Luisa Liliana Costa, Ph.D., began her career in education teaching English as second language in schools in Argentina. When arriving in the US, Lili received her doctorate in linguistics and taught college level classes and supported the development of bilingual teachers for over 25 years. Now retired Lili has focused on her lifelong passion for gardening. Wherever Lili has lived, she has devoted time to growing plants and flowers. Since May 2021 she has a plot at the Sepulveda Garden Center. In May 2022 she received the Master Gardener Certificate from the University of California and has been volunteering her time in the garden mulching pathways and clearing the cactus garden with a group of gardeners. Talking to her garden neighbors she realized that a community of gardeners could be formed to share ideas and a vision for the Sepulveda Garden Center. The Sepulveda Community Gardeners, as they named themselves, came together around a vision statement with objectives for the garden that she helped develop. Now a year old the group has over 40 members and counting and meets monthly the first Saturday of each month keeping notes of their discussions and encouraging new members to join. Lili is eager to have a greater impact to make the group's vision a reality by proposing the creation of a garden advisory board to work closely with the garden stakeholders. Lili will be honored to serve on the Park Advisory Board for the Sepulveda Garden Center.

PATRICIA BATES, PhD



As a board member and officer of the California Audubon Society dba San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, I serve as chairperson of the “Grow Native SFV” program which is in formation and is the successor to “Audubon at Home”. This program emphasizes education on the value of restoring and sustaining native plant habitat in our urban area for the many benefits it provides for wildlife and humans alike. We have gone beyond education to funding and hands-on transformation of residential and government-owned sites. I have also served on the board of the Encino Neighborhood Council for several years, and served on the Encino Community Center Park Advisory Board prior to the pandemic.

My love of gardening and nature spans a lifetime. I grew up on a working dairy farm in upstate New York working hand in hand with grandparents who grew substantially all of their food. After a couple career changes and retirement, I am fortunate to have secured a gardening plot at the Sepulveda Garden Center (SGC), which is right around the corner from my home. This has led to friendships with many of my “plot neighbors” and participation in the wonderful gardeners’ group at the SGC. The vision of this group is to nurture a community devoted to sharing ideas, education, and promoting all aspects of gardening for the benefit of the community. The SCG would be benefitted by a Park Advisory Board to take advantage of talented individuals who are ready and able to serve, and ask that such a board be created by the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department, and I would be honored to serve on a SGC Park Advisory Board.





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Concern for child safety - Knapp Ranch Addition Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 11, 2023 at 8:26 AM

To:

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 3:28 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

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

From: **Bethany Schwartz**

>

Date: Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 4:55 PM

Subject: Concern for child safety - Knapp Ranch Addition Park

To: RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>, councilmember.lee@lacity.org

<councilmember.lee@lacity.org>

To whom it may concern,

I am Bethany Schwartz, parent of Hannah Schwartz (age 5) and we live at 24720 Gilmore St, near Knapp Ranch Addition Park. We adore Knapp Ranch Addition Park – it is a key reason we chose our home -but unfortunately have not been able to safely use it.

As you may know, the park has turned into an informal, off leash dog park. Each evening, roughly 20-30 off leash dogs are present (alongside frequently during the day). This has given us immense concern for a number of reasons:

1. It is not uncommon for dogs to run into the children's play area and up to the children, without their owners. Our child had just gotten to the park today and begged to be taken home due to a large dog coming up to her multiple times. As I am sure you understand, with small children this is incredibly unsafe.
2. We have seen dogs use the play area to urinate/defecate on multiple occasions. Children are often playing in this sand, and this is quite unsanitary.
3. Off leash dogs are unsafe for other dog owners. There was an elderly woman tonight in a boot who was walking her small dog (on leash). 4-5 large dogs came up to her and almost tackled her. Again, the owners did not jump in quick enough and she could have been terribly injured.

I have expressed my concern about this before (I believe 2021), and the action at the time was to close the park for a couple weeks. I do not think this is a sufficient solution.

I would recommend and, as a parent, beg the city to consider the following:

1. Putting a fence around the children's play area
2. Increasing patrol to the area to enforce the leash mandates
3. Establishing a safer, designated dog park nearby that serves the needs of community

Of this list, I believe that #1 is the most urgent. I am deeply concerned that a smaller child than my own will be injured if something doesn't change soon.

With concern and gratitude,

Bethany Schwartz

Phone

If you are not the intended recipient or have received this message in error, please notify the sender and permanently delete this message and any attachments.

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

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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
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: Penmar Tennis Courts Construction Delayed Again?

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 12, 2023 at 7:31 AM

To: Miles McQueen <

Cc: info@venicenc.org,

, Councilmember Park <councilmember.park@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 Mon, Dec 11, 2023 at 7:36 PM Miles McQueen <

> wrote:

Dear Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to inquire about the status of the construction project surrounding the tennis courts at Penmar Park.

Construction started on April 25th, with an estimated finish date for the end of June.

An update was provided on July 18th with an expected completion date for the end of September.

Construction was delayed again and the last update provided was on September 28th.

The courts remain unfinished today. I am attaching to this email photos of the courts taken this weekend highlighting 7.5 months of work on a \$1 million project. No work has been done on courts 1,2,5 and 6.

I deeply appreciate being able to use these courts. Can the board please provide an update on the construction status of the courts and explain the months long delay with the completion of this project?

Best regards,
Miles McQueen

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: CD1 Letter of Support - Alvarado Terrace Park - Donation of Dog Waste Station

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 13, 2023 at 2:50 PM

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 2:29 PM Secretary <

> wrote:

Happy Friday,

Just circling back to see if there has been an update from the Board of Commissions regarding our proposal to donate a Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park.

Thank you, and have a great weekend.

Aurora Corona

Secretary & Chair, Quality of Life and Safety Committee

(213) 793-1502

www.picounionnc.org



From: Rap Commissioners

Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:01 PM

To: Aurora Corona

Cc: councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org; ivette.serna@lacity.org; jose.a.rodriquez@lacity.org; Louie Leiva; Wendy Castro; ; Jovita Carrillo; T. J. Spaur; Darryl Ford; Tremell Parker; kevin Reagan; Bert Huerta; Raul Leon; Juan Guzman; Marilu Guevara; alfonso.manzo@lacity.org; javier.solis@lacity.org

Subject: Re: CD1 Letter of Support - Alvarado Terrace Park - Donation of Dog Waste Station

Good afternoon,

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

On Tue, Nov 14, 2023 at 1:01 PM Aurora Corona <

> wrote:

Honorable Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

Attached please find the Letter of Support for the Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park from our Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this project.

Best,

Aurora Corona

Secretary

Chair, Quality of Life & Safety Committee

Budget Representative

(213) 793-1502

www.picounionnc.org

From: Rap Commissioners

Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 9:39 AM

To: Aurora Corona

Cc: councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org; ivette.serna@lacity.org; jose.a.rodriquez@lacity.org; Louie Leiva; Wendy Castro; ; Jovita Carrillo; T. J. Spaur; Darryl Ford; Tremell Parker; kevin Reagan; Bert Huerta; Raul Leon; Juan Guzman; Marilu Guevara; alfonso.manzo@lacity.org; javier.solis@lacity.org

Subject: Re: Alvarado Terrace Park - Donation of Dog Waste Station

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 5:37 PM Aurora Corona <

> wrote:

Honorable Recreation and Park Commissioners,

Hope this email finds you well. Attached please find a letter from our President requesting authorization to donate and install a Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park. Please let us know if you require more information or clarification about this community improvement project.

Thank you kindly,



October 19, 2023

Honorable Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
221 N Figueroa Street, Suite 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Donation proposal for Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park

Esteemed Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the Pico Union Neighborhood Council's (PUNC) proposal to purchase, install and maintain a dog waste station at the Alvarado Terrace Pocket Park in Pico Union. The installation of this station will benefit the neighborhood and the many residents and community members who frequent this park. By providing park visitors with this resource, we can ensure that the Alvarado Terrace Pocket Park remains clean, accessible and vibrant for the countless Angelenos who enjoy this precious green space.

A small plaque will be placed on the dog waste station to notify the public that PUNC is responsible for the donation along with information on how to request bag replenishment and raise any questions or concerns. PUNC has been an invaluable partner and I know that they will continue their tireless efforts to bring more resources to the residents of Pico Union. I support this proposal and hope you will consider granting this request.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eunisses Hernandez
Los Angeles Councilmember, 1st District

Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Room 460,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 473-7001
Councilmember.Hernandez@lacity.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Arts District park split is an awful solution

1 message

Mollie McDowell < > Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 12:01 PM
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thanks. Also I understand the chainlink fence is temporary. It doesn't change the fact that the dog park around the corner on 4th and Molino is a sufficient space for dogs—especially since it is now roughly the same size as this fenced off area. Allow people to have full use of our limited green space without the noise and smell of a dog park right next to it. Put resources into improving that space instead.

-A dog lover

On December 15, 2023, 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 Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 9:55 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

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

From: Mollie McDowell < >
Date: Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 6:45 PM
Subject: Arts District park split is an awful solution
To: <rap.publicinfo@lacity.org>

Splitting the park with an ugly chain link fence and totally disrupting the flow of the park to cater to the illegal dog activity and their trashing of the park is a terrible solution.

Close the park to all dogs and let people enjoy the park. I don't want to stare at a chain link fence and dirt and loud dogs while trying to picnic on the lawn. We have such limited green space and we have an existing dog park around the corner.

The neighborhood waited for years for this park to be built and then has continually waited for the city to enforce the rules and ticket dog owners for allowing their dogs offleash.

-Mollie
Arts District homeowner

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: CF 23-1334 South Griffith Park Master Plan

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Dec 19, 2023 at 7:32 AM
To: LFIA President <president@lfia.org>
Cc: , Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, assemblymember.friedman@assembly.ca.gov, assemblymember.zbur@assembly.ca.gov

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 8:34 AM Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org> wrote:
Adding [+Rap Commissioners](#) to ensure communications to the RAP Board Commissioners.

Thank you

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

From: **LFIA President** <president@lfia.org>
Date: Sun, Dec 17, 2023 at 1:59 PM
Subject: CF 23-1334 South Griffith Park Master Plan
To: <contactCD4@lacity.org>
Cc: <president@lfia.org>, <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, <assemblymember.friedman@assembly.ca.gov>, <assemblymember.zbur@assembly.ca.gov>

Please see attached letter.
Thank you.

--
Jimmy Kim
General Manager

City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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advocacy and action
for Los Feliz

2023-2024

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Sam Wasserman

*Past President

Nithya Raman, Councilmember District 4, Los Angeles City Council

Via email

December 7, 2023

RE: CF 23-1334 South Griffith Park / Master Plan / Visioning / Community-Driven Effort

Dear Councilmember Raman,

The LFIA, representing all residents of Los Feliz, applauds your efforts toward a community-driven master plan and visioning effort for south Griffith Park (CF 23-133). Griffith Park is an important part of Los Feliz, including the burgeoning rental neighborhood adjacent to the south Griffith Park area. This unique section of Griffith Park could be planned with the vibrant recreation resources enjoyed by other neighborhood parks to serve all of Los Feliz and especially the multi-family households with no green space in the area.

Sourcing funding for improvements to the existing recreation venues is imperative. The Griffith Park pool, for example, has been closed for years, depriving thousands of youngsters of warm-weather recreation opportunities. The Griffith Park Adult Community Center (GPACC) is an important resource for hundreds of our senior community members. Its large, active membership has long been promised a permanent home in south Griffith Park but it continues to be housed in temporary quarters in a parking lot.

Pursuing the traditional model of a combined adult and community center in south Griffith Park could be very successful. It would be a location for classes and park activities as well as a place where various community organizations, including the Council office, Los Feliz Neighborhood Council, LFIA and the Griffith Park Advisory Board could book meeting space.

We applaud your leadership in making this long-desired endeavor a reality and we stand enthusiastically ready to partner with you and support your efforts.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors of LFIA

Debra Matlock
President

CC: Griffith Park Adult Community Center
Department of Recreation and Parks
Assemblymember Laura Friedman
Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur
Representative Adam Schiff



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pershing Square Ice Skating Complaint

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 20, 2023 at 11:47 AM

To: Luis Ramirez <

>

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 20, 2023 at 11:19 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

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

From: Luis Ramirez <

Date: Sun, Dec 17, 2023 at 11:02 AM

Subject: Pershing Square Ice Skating Complaint

To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Hello,

I took a group of eight teenagers to the ice rink yesterday and they had a lovely time, thank you. My complaint is that there is no way to pay for tickets in person at the locale, or to pay with cash, so there is no way to avoid the \$5 per ticket fee. I witnessed at least one other person trying to pay with cash and being told he needed to buy tickets on his phone using the app.

\$5 may not sound like much, but for 8 tickets I spent over \$40 in fees, even though I tried to show up a day in advance to buy tickets. Honestly, I can afford it, but growing up, that extra \$10 for two children would have been a financial burden to my parents, as I'm sure it is for many now.

I know you don't run the rink, but you select the vendor that does. Allowing cash payments and in person purchases is vital to ensure you're not excluding our city's less fortunate and financially strapped citizens.

Luis Ramirez

--

Luis Ramirez

--

Department of Recreation and Parks

Public Information Office

Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org

Phone: 213-202-2700

Website: www.laparks.org

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: R&P Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers in Robert F. Kennedy Inspiration Park

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 27, 2023 at 8:59 AM

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 27, 2023 at 8:43 AM Michael Westbrook <

> wrote:

Hello,

I am a resident of the Gaylord building, directly across the street from Robert F. Kennedy Inspiration Park (3400 Wilshire Blvd 90010, but also listed as 3384 Wilshire Blvd 90010). The park is maintained by City of Los Angeles Recreation & Parks. Five days a week, Recreation & Parks employees use gas-powered leaf blowers in the park, which is illegal to do within 500 feet of a residential building. They operate the gas-powered leaf blowers within 500 feet of two residential buildings: the Gaylord apartments and the Crosby apartments.

The park is on Los Angeles Unified School District's property as it is a part of the Robert F. Kennedy Schools' campus. However, the school and the city of Los Angeles have an agreement that the city's Recreation & Parks department maintain the park.

Numerous complaints have been filed with the city through 311 and the police have been called countless times.

Please address this issue with the employees who maintain the park. They can legally use electric leaf blowers.

Michael Westbrook

--

City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: 12/7 meeting of the commissioners

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 7:37 AM

To: Carolyn Seeman <

>

Cc: Los Angeles Alliance for Animals <

>

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 4:24 PM Carolyn Seeman <

> wrote:

Dear Commisisoners:

Please do not bring back the pony ride at Griffith Park! Los Angeles needs to be a leader in animal protection and the city should provide a non-animal activity that is safe and keeps children active!

I am a resident of Los Angeles who cares about children and animals.

Carolyn Seeman

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park pony ride

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 8:34 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 3:51 PM Carolyn Seeman < > wrote:
Mr. Kim:

Thank you for non-renewing the contract for the Griffith Park pony ride last year! We need an activity that gives kids some exercise and helps them learn independence.

Carolyn Seeman

--
City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Love

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 10:35 AM

To: Cheryl Travers <

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 10:19 AM Cheryl Travers <

> wrote:

TODAY marks the ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY of General Manager Jimmy Kim's decision to shut down the Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo. Please send a kind note to General Manager Jimmy Kim TODAY (thanking him for shutting down the pony rides), while CCing Matthew Rudnick, and the Recreation and Park Commissioners, and urging them to replace the park with a non-animal model.

Thank you so much
Cheryl Travers

I appreciate it

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: One Year Anniversary: Griffith Park Pony Ride and Petting Zoo Shuts Down

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 8:34 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 3:45 PM Andrea Kaye < > wrote:

Dear General Manager Jimmy Kim,

Today marks the first anniversary of the shutting down of the Griffith Park Pony Ride and Petting Zoo! As a constituent and long-time resident of West Los Angeles, I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your compassionate decision.

Looking toward the future, I urge all leaders to replace the park with a non-animal model.

Respectfully,**Andrea Kaye**

--
City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please add me to the notifications list

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 10:41 AM

To: Matt Rossell < >

Cc: Abbey Benesh < >, Elizabeth Putsche < >

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 10:30 AM Matt Rossell < > wrote:

Hello! I am the Campaigns Manager for the Animal Legal Defense Fund and our organization and local supporters have a strong interest in the development of Griffith Park to host family-friendly ethical attractions with a non-animal model at the former pony ride location.

Please add me to the list so that I can keep our Los Angeles members apprised of these developments.

We applaud the sensible step into the future that the LA Rec and Park department took by not renewing the pony ride contract and look forward to the location being reimaged with this commitment not to exploit animals for entertainment, creating a space the whole community can celebrate and enjoy.

Thank you,

Matt

Matt Rossell (he/him/his) | Campaign Manager



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--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Replacement of te pony rides at Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 8:34 AM

To: Pauline doucet <

>

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 8:32 PM Pauline doucet <

> wrote:

Dear Sir,

I am asking you to use your influence to make sure no animals will be ever used for the purpose of entertainment. There are so many other options that there is no reason they should be exploited in any manner. You and I are their voice and we have the moral obligation to protect them and make sure they live the life they were born to live.

I thank you for your attention,

Pauline Doucet

Sent from my iPad

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: THANK YOU HONORABLE leaders !

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 8:33 AM

To: Christina Ku <

>

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 1:32 PM Christina Ku <

> wrote:

Dear General Manager Kim, and Commissioners,

A note of sincere thank you and reinforcement that you showed leadership, ethics and compassion to question and take action on the horse ride business at Griffith Park!

You are all on the right side of history!

We look forward to a new concept at the park that does not involve exploitation of innocent and defenseless animals.

Thank you so much for your continued excellent service in one of the world's most famous cities!

Christina Ku
LA, CA

Sent from my iPhone

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: 🐾 Jimmy Kim/Matthew Rudnick/Commissioners

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 8:33 AM

To: inger < >

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 3:18 PM inger < > wrote:

Hello Everyone!

Today marks the One Year Anniversary of the honorable General Manager Jimmy Kim's decision to shut down The Griffith Park Pony Ride and Petting Zoo. THANK YOU!!!

I'm urging you all to make a humane and respectful decision to replace it with a Non-Animal Model.

Thank you for the good work you're doing to improve the parks to keep it nice, kind, positive and humane.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Inger Eppeland

--

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