

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks  
Mar Vista Recreation Center (MVRC)

**Park Advisory Board Meeting (PAB)**

7:00 pm Tuesday, September 20, 2022

(Meeting conducted by Zoom)

**Minutes**

1. Introductions

- The meeting was called or order by Jerry Hornof at 7:03 pm. In attendance were Albert Olson, Bruce Dembo, Tom Ponton, Jerry Hornof, Andrew Marton, Keith Rice (MVRC Senior Director)

2. Minutes

- Minutes for the August 16, 2022 meeting were approved. (Andrew 1<sup>st</sup>, Albert 2<sup>nd</sup>, Approved unanimously).

3. Current Business

- Facilities and Sports Fields, and Off-leash dog update

- Keith reported that an emerging issue is the use of the soccer field in the early morning (6:00am). Although this is a time the park is open, the soccer field is locked until staff arrival at 9:00am. The folks using the soccer field are either forcing the gate open or damaging the fence. It has been explained to the group that to schedule the field for early use would require a permit and would involve a staff person coming early to unlock the facility. The park is also locking the portable goals since the group has been moving them around and damaging the goals and the turf. Keith has reached out to both LAPD and Park Rangers to please patrol the early morning activity.

Concern continues regarding off-leash dog activities.

- Park Encampment update

Keith reported that a homeless person who is sleeping by the pool continues to be a concern. It is not clear how continuous his presence is and he does not appear to have erected any structures. He also continues to not to accept support services. The homeless situation at picnic area #3 has recently involved both alcohol and fighting events. Keith has submitted paperwork with LARAP to address both the Area #3 and campers overnighing in the parking lots. Keith is also following up on the current management of locking the parking gates at 10:30pm when the park closes. There is concern the gates are not being locked at this time. Historically they were always locked at park closure. Andrew agreed to bring up the encampment issues at the MVCC committee and sub-committee meetings. . There is a shopping cart but no structures setup. The person is respectful of requests to move. The 3<sup>rd</sup> issue is a camper vehicle in the parking lot by the tennis courts. Keith agreed that he along with park staff will continue to monitor the situations and working with the PAB will

utilize organizations like the Park Rangers, Council Office, Los Angeles Housing Services Administration (LAHSA), Neighbors4Neighbors, St. Joseph's Center and other groups to ensure encampments do not return to MVRC.

- Park staffing and finance update
- Keith reports that staffing is going well. There is the need for a drama instructor, skating instructor, and a youth hockey instructor. Recommendations would be appreciated. Keith reported that a staff person was injured stepping into a pothole in the north parking lot. There is a request repair the lot.
- Park programming status update (include current COVID-19 protocols)  
Tennis is a very popular program at the park. There was a hire of a new tennis instructor. Currently all tennis classes are full and there is recruitment for an additional instructor. Soccer and volleyball have started with full participation. Flag football has begun with 3 teams in the 8-9 year old grouping. The Halloween event is scheduled for October 29th between 11am and 3pm. Permits continue to be very popular for picnic, field, and rink rentals. The COVID-19 protocols at MVRC mirror the citywide requirements. These include required proof of vaccination, temperature, and masking for indoor activities. Masking for outdoor activities is optional. Keith has experienced some pushback but most appreciate the precautions.

#### 4. Old & New Business

- Batting Cage Installation at Mar Vista Recreation Center  
The final cost based upon this location has been determined and construction is scheduled to begin in October. Costs for a pitcher protective screen and extra netting are not yet available but will not be covered by the Windward School donation. There is also planning to insure ADA access to the cage.
- Shading the Children's Playground – Keith reported that there was a misunderstanding and at this time MVRC is not in line for an upgrade which could include a new ground cover and shading. There are currently no available Quimby Funds to pay for an improvement. PAB members plan to look into the funds status. Cost estimates for shading were minimally \$6,000-\$8,000.
- Keith reported a concern with the Senior Club needing to be an official registered activity (with sign-up) at MVRC. LARAP and the MVRC staff are working internally to resolve this issue.
- Request for new netting for the backup hockey nets.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:43 PM (Albert 1<sup>st</sup>, Andrew 2<sup>nd</sup>, Approved unanimously).

Next meeting will be held October 18th at 7:00pm.

Prepared by: Jerry Hornof