

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Thursday, January 5, 2023**

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles convened the telephonic Regular Meeting at 9:34 a.m. Present were, President Sylvia Patsouras, Commissioners Tafarai Bayne, Nicole Chase and Joe Halper. Also present were Matthew Rudnick, Executive Officer, Assistant City Attorney, Mike Dundas, and Deputy City Attorney III Steven Hong.

The following Department staff members were also present:

Belinda Jackson, Assistant General Manager, Recreation Services Branch  
Brenda Aguirre, Assistant General Manager, Special Operations Branch  
Noel Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Branch

**CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

President Patsouras called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2022. Commissioner Halper made such motion, and it was seconded by Commissioner Chase. There being no objections, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Matthew Rudnick, Executive Officer, gave an Emergency Management update on the department, and shared that the Emergency Management Department has activated the adverse weather plan and that RAP is working closely with EMD to provide the necessary resources and support needed to address any issues.

Mr. Rudnick shared highlights from our Recreation and Aquatics divisions. He stated the winter camps are concluding their third week of camp. Mr. Rudnick mentioned that our Winter Leagues and camps will begin on January 9, 2023. On Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at Griffith Park the urban oncologist will resume the nature walks. On Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Dream games will be held at Westwood Recreation Center. On Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> along with LA28 RAP will celebrate the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Martin Luther King Day parade. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> RAP will host a half marathon run at Griffith Park

Mr. Rudnick provided the Commissioner with a brief verbal report regarding Stoney Point Ranch.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments on matters within the Board's jurisdiction were invited, 19 such requests were submitted.

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

Public comments relevant to the Board Reports were requested; five such requests were submitted.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Discussion with Neighborhood Council Representatives on Neighborhood Council Resolutions or Community Impact Statements Filed with the City Clerk Relative to Any Item Listed or Being Considered on this Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Meeting Agenda (Los Angeles Administrative Code 22.819; Ordinance 184243)

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

### **BOARD REPORTS**

23-001 Board Angels Gate Park – Playground Replacement (PRJ21457) Project – Modification of Scope of Work - Commitment of Park Fees – Statutory Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article II, Section 2(i) [Any Activity (Approval of Bids, Execution of Contracts, Allocation of Funds, Etc.) for which the Underlying Project has Previously been Evaluated for Environmental Significance and Processed According to the Requirements of These Guidelines] of City CEQA Guidelines as well as Section 21082 of California Public Resources Code

Meghan Luera, Sr. Management Analyst, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-001.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

23-002 Brand Park – Ballfield and Playground Improvements (PRJ21561) (PRJ21505) Project – Commitment of Park Fees

Robert Eastland, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-002.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

23-003 Proposition Griffith Park – Bronson Canyon Outdoor Improvements (PRJ21207) Project – Commitment of Park Fees – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3) [Operation, Repair, Maintenance or Minor Alteration of Existing Highways

And Streets, Sidewalks, Gutters, Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails, Storage Areas, Parking Lots, Etc.], Class 4(1) [Grading on Land with a Slope of Less Than Ten Percent (10%), Except where it is to be Located in a Waterway, in any Wetland, Officially Designated (By Federal, State, or Local Governmental Action) Scenic Area or in an Officially Mapped Areas of Severe Geologic Hazard], Class 6(2) [Basic Data Collection, Field Testing, Research, Experimental Management and Resource Activities of City Departments, Bureaus, Divisions, Sections, Offices or Officers Which Do Not Result In Serious or Major Disturbances to an Environmental Resource], Class 11(5) [Signs Located On City Property Managed by a City Department which has a Sign Policy Adopted by its Board of Commissioners] and Class 11(6) [Construction or Placement of Minor Structures Accessory to (Appurtenant to) Existing Commercial, Industrial or Institutional Facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(c), 15304(a), 15306 and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines

Ajmal Noorzayee, Management Analyst, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-003.

**DISPOSITION: APPROVED**

23-004 Los Angeles River Bike path Greenway (Sepulveda To Kester) – Lighting and Security Camera Improvements (PRJ21673) Project – Commitment of Park Fees – - Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant To Article III, Section 1, Class 1(2) [Operation, Repair, Maintenance or Minor Alteration of Existing Facilities Of Both Investor And Publicly Owned Utilities, Electrical Power, Natural Gas, Sewage, Water, and Telephone, and Mechanical Systems Serving Existing Facilities, Including Alterations to Accommodate a Specific Use] and Class 1(4) [Restoration or Rehabilitation of Deteriorated or Damaged Structures, Facilities or Mechanical Equipment and Systems to Meet Current Standards of Public Health, Safety and Environmental Protection] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(b) and 15302(d) of California CEQA Guidelines

David Lee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-004.

**DISPOSITION: APPROVED**

23-005 Lemon Grove Recreation Center – Conceptual Approval of Building Improvements (PRJ21688) Project – Commitment of Park Fees

David Lee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-005.

**DISPOSITION: APPROVED**

23-006 Mason Park – Conceptual Approval of Childcare Center Renovation (PRJ21682) Project

Robert Eastland, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-006.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

23-007 North Hollywood Park – Conceptual Approval of Pool and Bathhouse Improvements (PRJ21687) Project – Commitment of Park Fees

David Lee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-007.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

23-008 Pan Pacific Park – Conceptual Approval of Pool and Bathhouse Improvements (PRJ21423) Project – Commitment of Park Fees

Robert Eastland, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-008.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

23-009 Hollywood Recreation Center – Conceptual Approval of Modern Gymnasium (PRJ21441) (PRJ21112) Project – Commitment of Park Fees

Robert Eastland, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-009.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

23-010 Jim Gilliam Child Care Center and Ralph M. Parsons Preschool at Expo Center – California Department of Social Services 2023-24 General Child Care and Development Program – Approval of Submission of a Continued Funding Application for Contract Renewal; Adopt Resolution

Jennifer Sapone, Sr. Management Analyst, Recreation Services Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-010.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

23-011 Bus Services – Appropriations Within Fund 302 In the Department of Recreation and Parks

Joshua Beltran, Management Analyst, Budget Administration Division, presented Board Report No. 23-011.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

23-012 Signature Authority as Acting General Manager and Acting Chief Accounting Employee

Noel Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Administration Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-012.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

23-013 Branford Recreation Center – Donor Recognition Signage to Recognize The Annenberg Foundation for a Previously Approved Park Improvement Project Provided Through a Donation to The Los Angeles Parks Foundation; Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) [Installation Of Signs Located on City Property Managed by a City Department which has a Sign Policy Adopted by its Board of Commissioners] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines

DISPOSITION: WITHDRAWN

23-014 Glassell Recreation Center – Donor Recognition Signage to Recognize The Annenberg Foundation for a Previously Approved Park Improvement Project Provided Through a Donation to The Los Angeles Parks Foundation; Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) [Installation of Signs Located on City Property Managed by a City Department which has a Sign Policy Adopted by its Board of Commissioners] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines

DISPOSITION: WITHDRAWN

23-015 Martin Luther King Jr. Park – Donor Recognition Signage to Recognize The Annenberg Foundation for a Previously Approved Park Improvement Provided Through a Donation to The Los Angeles Parks Foundation; Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) [Installation Of Signs Located on City Property Managed by a City Department which has a Sign Policy Adopted by its Board of Commissioners] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines

DISPOSITION: WITHDRAWN

23-016 Saint Andrews Recreation Center – Donor Recognition Signage to Recognize The Annenberg Foundation for a Previously Approved Park Improvement Project Provided Through a Donation to The Los Angeles Parks Foundation; Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) [Installation of Signs Located on City Property Managed by a City Department which has a Sign Policy Adopted by its Board of Commissioners] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines

DISPOSITION: WITHDRAWN

23-017 Ernest E. Debs Regional Park – Agreement with Semillas Sociedad Civil for a Native Tree Restoration Project; Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8) [Maintenance of Existing Landscaping, Native Growth, Water Supply Reservoirs; and Brush Clearance for Weed Abatement and Fire Protection], Class 4(3) [New Gardening, Tree Planting, or Landscaping, but not Including Tree Removal Except Dead, Damaged or Diseased Trees or Limbs] and Class 4(7) [The Issuance, Renewal or Amendment of any Lease, License Or Permit To Use Land Involving Minor Alterations To The Condition of the Land] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(h) and 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines

Priya Macwan, Management Assistant, Special Operations Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-017.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

23-018 Hollenbeck Recreation Center – Donor Recognition Signage to Recognize The Sikand Foundation for Previously Approved Park Improvements Provided Through a Donation to the Los Angeles Parks Foundation; Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) [Installation Of Signs Located On City Property Managed by a City Department which has a Sign Policy Adopted by its Board of Commissioners] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines

DISPOSITION: WITHDRAWN

23-019 Appropriation from Unreserved and Undesignated Fund Balance in Fund 302 to Various Accounts in the Department of Recreation and Parks

Charles Wilkie, Sr. Management Analyst, Budget Administration Branch, presented Board Report No. 23-019.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

President Patsouras requested a Motion to approve the Board Reports as presented. It was moved by Commissioner Chase and seconded by Commissioner Bayne that the Board Reports be approved as presented.. There being no objections, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

**VERBAL REPORT AND FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCING PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953 (AB 361)**

President Sylvia Patsaouras reported that the board must consider a determination, in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members of this Board, and the ability of the members of all of this Board's advisory bodies, including, but not limited to, all park advisory boards, the Greek Theatre Advisory Committee, and the Golf Advisory Committee, as well as the public who might attend these meetings, to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

President Sylvia Patsaouras made motion for approval of such findings and Commissioner Bayne seconded the motion. Public comment relevant to this item were invited, with no requests submitted. There being no objection to the motion, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

### **COMMISSION TASK FORCE UPDATES**

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

Commissioner Chase reported that this Task Force met and discussed in great detail the Griffith Park Pony Rides and how the Department plans to reimagine this space. Commissioner Chase stated that General Manager Jimmy Kim provided the constituents with information as to why the department made their decision to cancel the contract.

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

Commissioner Halper reported on two items discussed at the Facility Repair and Maintenance Task Force. The first is a Hansen Dam Recreation Area - Holiday Lake Feasibility Study for the development of an aquatic based recreation area in the Santa Monica Mountains that would be expected to be operated by RAP, and he suggested that the presentation be made available to the Board. The second is the Venice Beach - Lifeguard Tower, which has received substantial support in a community petition for the restoration and preservation of the tower, and he recommended that the item be placed on the agenda of an August 2023 meeting of the Task Force to allow an opportunity for the advocates for the preservation of the tower to present their plan and commitment for restoration and use of the tower.


### **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Comments from the Commissioners on Matters within the Board's jurisdiction and Requests by Commissioners to Schedule Specific Future Agenda Items were requested. Commissioner Halper Requested a report back regarding recommendation of selection and development of sites to be used for pickle ball play. He would also like a report back on a noise level assessment associated with pickle ball. Commissioner Chase requested a future update on the Venice beach lifeguard tower. Commissioner Chase would also like an update on Dearborn Park, as well as the Los Angeles and Hansen Dam Equestrian centers. Commissioner Halper requested a status update on the restringing of court 7 at Pacific Palisades tennis court for pickle ball.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

**ATTEST**

  
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**PRESIDENT**

  
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**BOARD SECRETARY**