

SERRANIA PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2019

DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. at Woodland Hills Recreation Center. Attending were

Board Members

Karen DiBiase, Vice Chair
Kriss Stauber, Secretary
Linda Aroyan, Committee Chair
Bebe Michels
Joan Dykman

LA City Department of Recreation and Parks

Lee Marks, Senior Director II, Woodland Hills Rec. Center
Robert D. Baker, Park Maintenance Supv., Valley West
Jorge Deloera, Senior Park Maintenance Supervisor

City Councilmember Office

Tim Glick, Field Deputy
Jacob Dawe, Caseworker

Other Guests

Stephanie Schuster
Michael Fields
Cara Callaway
Patricia Brattan
Tony Callas
Karen Saunders
Sherron Corner
Patricia Ott
Joyce Davis
Paul Davis
Donna Germann
Christine Auter
Carole Hills
Mirriam Preissel

Park Patron/Guests

Jeff Glenn
Abbie Rich
Judy Guardia
Scott Robinson
Ernie Hawkins
Ann Marshall

Minutes of the June 18, 2019 meeting were approved. Vote: yes=5, no-0

General Public Content

Patricia Bratton presented concerns about public park signage. She stated that while there are always signs in parks about cleaning up after dogs, there are no signs about leash laws—citing her experience at Valley Glen and other parks. Robert clarified that there are multiple signs about leash laws at Serrania Park.

PAB Bylaws, Procedure for Nominating New PAB Officers and Replacing/Selecting New PAB Members

Karen made note of the PAB Bylaws distributed at the meeting. With regard to election of new PAB officers, Lee suggested that the Park Advisory Board will decide on the new officers as per the guidelines of the PAB rules. She will confirm as to how it should be done. Lee said that she had received Park Advisory Board Interest Forms from Abbie Rich, Judy Guardia, and Scott Robinson and would follow up.

Status of Request to Councilmember to Table Motion to Change Serrania Park Operating Hours

Tim stated that the Councilmember's office will not move forward on the motion to change Serrania Park operating hours until the Park Advisory Board makes a decision. Karen suggested that the park lighting proposal should be studied and discussed before the PAB makes a decision and takes further action on the motion. Until that time, it was noted that the motion to change operating hours remains tabled.

Park Gates

Lee informed us that Recreation and Parks Security Services Division are locking the gates when staffing allows (eight times last month) and that Steve Fazio is patrolling the park when on duty as a LAPD Reserve Officer.

Park Lighting

Tim said that he had observed where lighting might be installed on DWP poles near the parking area and said that funds may be available for park lighting. He suggested that cost must be determined before the Councilmember's office can go further.

Karen suggested our next steps should be to determine where additional lighting (solar or otherwise) should be placed and to contact vendors (approved by Recreation and Parks) to determine cost. Bebe said she would get photos of park areas that should be lighted.

Linda reported that a current light east of the park's building seems to be going out and is making noise. Robert said that he would look into the problem.

Dog Feces in the Park

Abbie noted that in Ventura County every park (leash-free or not) has dispensers for poop bags sponsored by veterinarian or other organizations and asked why Los Angeles parks such as Serrania cannot have the same.

Robert reminded us that the park can supply dispensers for the bags and said that he would try to find some. It was noted, however, that volunteers would need to supply bags for the dispensers and that the City rules forbid logos in its parks. Lee said that if she is supplied names of organizations that may be interested in donating bags, she will look into what may be allowed. Karen suggested donations for rolls of bags might be solicited through local papers and websites.

Cara noted that a benefit of dog training classes in the park is that picking up after your dog is part of the training.

Linda inquired about the fine for not picking up and suggested more emphasis on the penalty. Judy suggested park patrons speak up when needed: See something, say something (offer a bag to a dog owner who is not picking up).

Information to Present at Kiosk

Karen presented a draft of signage with important contact information to be placed in a panel on the kiosk. Abbie suggested adding information on coyote hazing. Other suggested additions included locations of senior centers and the direct telephone line to West Valley Animal Services, 818-756-9325.

Shade Trees

Robert presented a list of shade trees suitable for our park provided by the Forestry Dept., as follows:

- Tipuana tipu
- Quercus shumardii, Shumards oak
- Pinus eldarica, Afghan pine
- Jacaranda mimosifolia
- Lophostemon confertum aka Tristania conferta, Brisbane box
- Ceiba speciosa, silk floss tree

Robert said that a few trees from this list will be planted in October, replacing some of those lost in recent times. He noted that eight Hong Kong orchid trees were recently planted.

Gophers

Karen suggested a sign asking park patrons to fill gopher holes be placed near earth piles and shovels left for that purpose.

Jorge informed us that natural means for controlling pests are sought by the department and that owl boxes have been placed in Balboa and Hjelte Parks, as well as in the wildlife reserve in the Sepulveda basin.

Bebe and Cara noted that dry ice pellets are another possible means of gopher control.

Park Space Rentals for Services to Community

Members of the dog-training community (including the Hollywood Dog Obedience Club) present at the meeting expressed their great concern about the huge increase (80%) in fees charged by Recreation and Parks for use of the parks for their services to the community. They emphasized the great service they provide to the parks and the community—helping keeping them safe and clean, as well as helping prepare rescue/shelter dogs to become well-behaved canine good citizens and even therapy dogs and service dogs.

In answer to a question about the best forum to address the need to appeal the increased fees, Lee said that there is little she can do except to forward written concerns. Letters can be written to the Recreation and Parks Commission responsible for increasing the fees. Jorge suggested that an email be sent to General Manager, Michael Shull, explaining all the good that the dog-training groups do and all that may be lost if the fees are not reduced. Lee suggested stressing safety and the benefits to the parks.

City Councilmembers' offices and Neighborhood Councils were suggested as another avenue of approach. Karen suggested that the dog-training community may want to place their concerns on the

agenda for Neighborhood Council meetings—noting that the Woodland Hills/Warner Center Neighborhood Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

Bathroom

Robert was thanked for addressing the problem of spider nests in the park's ladies room.

Tonight's meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.