CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Drew Satariano, President, at 9:04 a.m., at the El Dorado Nature Center. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Drew Satariano, President
Brett Waterfield, Vice President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Harry Saltzgaver
Sarah Sangmeister
Brett Waterfield

Absent: None

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, Manager, Community Recreation Services
Ted Stevens, Superintendent, Community Recreation Services
JC Squires, Manager of Business Operations
Jane Grobaty, Community Information Officer
Sandra Gonzalez, Manager, Planning and Development
Ramon Arevalo, Manager, Maintenance Operations
Ed White, Superintendent, Facility Maintenance
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Mark Taylor
Daryl Supernaw, Chair of the Sustainable City Commission

President Satariano congratulated Vice President Waterfield and Commissioner George on their reappointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 19, 2009

It was moved by Vice President Waterfield and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the November 19, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. PRESENTATION ON SENIOR PROGRAMS

Ms. Sherri Nixon-Joiner introduced Ted Stevens as the superintendent in charge of the senior center and five satellite senior facilities.

Mr. Stevens distributed copies of his PowerPoint presentation and the senior programs. He said there are a lot of seniors and a senior master plan was created some time ago. We do have a Senior Citizen Advisory Commission. They go to a lot of community meetings and bring back information to the Commission. They also bring issues to the Mayor and City Council members. He explained what the Department offers in senior programs. He mentioned the locations of the five senior centers and went over their projects and classes offered at each of the facilities.

Commissioner Saltzgaver thanked Mr. Stevens for his presentation. He said there is a growing need for these facilities. He asked where we are at with HSA? Commissioner Saltzgaver said they were concerned about their finances.

Mr. Stevens responded that they received money mostly for their home delivery meals. They have not requested any money this year.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said the price has gone up a bit. He asked if we still provide the facilities for free?

Mr. Stevens responded yes, we still provide the facilities, tables, chairs, and kitchens for free.

Mr. Hester responded that we have not received a request from them for any funding.

Mr. Stevens said that the attendance numbers are about the same.

Vice President Waterfield asked about mental health?

Mr. Stevens responded that staff members check up on seniors upon request or who have family out of state or might have issues. Staff also has connections with other organizations that help seniors.

President Satariano suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission possibly meet at the 4th Street Senior Center.

IV. PRESENTATION ON THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES HELEN PUTNAM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE CATEGORY OF "COMMUNITY SERVICEES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"

Ms. Jane Grobaty described Long Beach Rotary coming to the City asking to help build this park. The members come back every month to clean up the park and they have so many volunteers that they spill out into the neighborhood and clean up other areas also. Long Beach Rotary was recognized in front of City Council. Ms. Grobaty showed a PowerPoint presentation with photos of the park. The Park Watch program was kicked off in this park also.

Mr. Hester stated that this presentation was shown at the City Council meeting. Partners of Parks will be working with the Department at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park on January 9, 2010, to start park cleanups.

Commissioner Guerra said that one of the Long Beach Rotary members is Brian Russell, who is on their Boy Scout Council. He sees this as a partnership between a service organization and the City and they are pleased that this is working. Long Beach Rotary is looking at other organizations to create more partnerships.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#09-1201
Recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#09-1202
Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all document necessary to issue a Second Amendment to Use Permit No. 28843 with the Trustees of California State University, Long Beach, to transfer responsibility for all maintenance and concessions at Blair Field from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine to the Trustees of California State University, Long Beach, effective January 1, 2010.

Mr. Squires said that at the present time, there is no concession operator and California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is interested in operating the concessions and taking over the maintenance and the lease.

He said they would start this on January 1, 2010. The maintenance personnel will be transferred to other areas in the Department. This would save the Department money. Meetings are ongoing. There are maintenance standards they would have to comply with.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked about scheduling, would CSULB have the priority? What about the Armada and youth programs?

Mr. Squires responded that CSULB would have to honor all existing permits. Any new tenants would have to come to them to negotiate a new permit. CSULB said they would honor all permits and would maintain the facility in the current standard.

Mr. Hester said the first priority was to protect the high school games. We are not selling the facility. This will be a long-term lease. They need to make sure there are no violations of NCAA rules. The City will reserve a certain number of City days to use for City events. We would permit the high schools from our City days. That would protect the high schools, which are the priority.

JC responded that everyone who has a permit today would have a right to play there through our City days.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked about the Armada. We don't have a permit with them right now, is that correct? If the Armada is going to play next season, they will want to get a permit pretty soon, right?

Mr. Hester said the Armada is discussing this with CSULB. The Armada has not come back and asked us for a permit. They will negotiate with CSULB. This item would need to go before the City Council.

Mr. Squires said this would be an initial 11-year term, with four, 11-year options with CSULB.

Commissioner Guerra asked if this would come with naming rights?

Mr. Squires said they are discussing this. The Blair Field name would not come off the stadium. The discussion is, could it be so and so stadium at Blair Field?

President Satariano asked what about Department staff that are there now?

Mr. Squires responded that most of the staff located there right now run the sports office. Ms. Nixon-Joiner would reassign them to other duties. The maintenance staff would be reassigned also, as soon as this is final.

Mr. Hester said there are some issues that need to be fixed at the stadium before CSULB takes it over, such as in the office area. They may not use it in the first year. Part of the discussions also includes the good neighbor policy. CSULB needs to be aware of that. There also might be camps included in the City days too.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that he wants to make sure this would be with the understanding that no matter what we say or do, this would always be a City facility, we need to be sure we have some control with it. It would probably be better used under their management. We just need to make sure.

Mr. Squires said it is not feasible that we do anything other than a lease. It will always be a City facility and we will enforce the good neighbor policy.

Mr. Hester stated that Commissioner Saltzgaver wants to make sure of the sensitivity. That's why the maintenance standards are detailed. We would hope to see improvements to the stadium above what we are capable of. I feel comfortable that we are protecting the facility.

Mr. Squires said that every 11 years the City has the option of getting out of the lease if it is not working.

Mr. Squires suggested this to be put into a subcommittee if the Commission wants to get into reading the lease. Probably the Finance and Appeals Committee would be appropriate.

Commissioner Guerra asked about the good neighbor portion. He wants to make sure this is take care of. Would there be a split of revenue?

Mr. Squires responded that the revenue would go to CSULB and we would recover our own operational savings immediately.

Commissioner Guerra asked if the Commission would have final say if there is a request for naming the stadium?

Mr. Squires responded that both the City and CSULB have policies on naming. Conceptually, if CSULB has naming rights and they get a million dollars, that would go into the infrastructure of the stadium and we would give them credit on their capital investment. We are negotiating a threshold where we would start to share in their advertising and revenue numbers. If they get successful, the City would get more money.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hester asked if the Commissioners are interested in receiving the good neighbor policy, Mr. Ashman has it and we could get it sent to the Commissioners.

VI. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Satariano, Chair

1) 2010 Commission Meeting Locations

President Satariano said he would like the Commissioners to take a look at this list over the holidays and make suggestions at the retreat.

2) Commission Retreat – January 15, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., located at Mark Twain Library, 1401 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach. Tour of Homeland at 11:30 a.m.

President Satariano reminded the Commissioners of the retreat.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked who is doing the agenda?

Mr. Hester responded that staff could work with the Commissioners by e-mail.

3) Public Meeting – AYSO Soccer Lights Project – El Dorado Park West

President Satariano said we have talked about a soccer lights project at El Dorado Park West through AYSO. We discussed this at the Executive Committee meeting and we feel we need to go with a public meeting. He said Mark Taylor is in attendance to speak to us today.

Mr. Mark Taylor said he serves on AYSO Board 177, one of the two boards in Long Beach. They primarily serve the Los Altos, Belmont Shore and Plaza neighborhoods. They use El Dorado, Stearns, Marina Vista, and Whaley Parks and they also use Hill and Stanford Middle Schools. Eight years ago we had 1,200 players. We now have about 1,700 children who play. We hope with this project to create additional practice opportunities primarily for the older players, ages 14 to 16, in the later hours. We have been saving for ten years to make an investment. In partnership with Councilwoman Schipske's office, we held an evening meeting and a morning meeting. It is hard to find a place to put up lights that would have less impact than El Dorado. We would partner with MUSCO lighting and make sure the field of light would stop at the fields. We hope to have this in place by late August or early September. We will be a part of any community meeting you would hold.

President Satariano said we would probably try and have a public meeting in January.

Vice President Waterfield said he was at the meeting and heard the research that went into this as to why this location. The public meeting is critical. He said he was disappointed they didn't hear the AYSO side.

President Satariano said that the public meeting would be an informational meeting and then we would hear it at a Commission meeting.

Mr. Hester said that since it would be a public meeting, the Commission could make a decision at that meeting.

Mr. Taylor said some of the issues that came up at the previous public meetings had nothing to do with them and were park issues, like permitting and who would be using the lights.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said he first heard about this from the 5th District City Councilwoman a week ago. That tells me there was not a whole lot of public outreach for the meeting. I am concerned that we make sure this is properly noticed and ask AYSO to drop flyers.

Mr. Taylor responded that the meetings were notified throughout the neighborhoods.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said it is the City's facility and we need to be responsible for the 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and the adult uses, parking issues, and Saturdays, how about after work? I need to have these issues addressed.

Mr. Hester responded we can do whatever we want for controlling the light timing. We are not going to bring any more people in, just extending the time in the winter months. We don't permit adults there and won't permit the lights on weekends.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if is this decision would be appealable to the City Council? I will guarantee you that a resident would appeal this.

Mr. Taylor asked if it would be helpful if he would work with staff as to what the agreement would look like? We could work together and turn off the lights at 9:45 p.m. so that everyone is out of the park by 10:00 p.m. Part of this is the uncertainty.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said when you walk into that public meeting, you better know what you are going to do from start to finish.

Vice President Waterfield said the permitting and usage is the Department's responsibility.

Mr. Hester said they would not have exclusive rights. They can get preferential treatment because they are the only ones in the area doing soccer.

Commissioner Sangmeister said she feels maybe the Capital Improvements Subcommittee should have gone through it and would like more information.

Mr. Hester said we get requests like this all the time and they are just as potentially volatile. These two meetings were held to find out if there was an issue. I apologize that I should have let the Commission know about this earlier. We are here because there were some community issues.

Commissioner Guerra said that he doesn't have an idea of where this is and knows nothing about the dollar amount of the donation. We don't have that in front of us.

Mr. Taylor said he has a PowerPoint presentation he could e-mail to staff.

Mr. Hester said that this was just discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

4) Schedule for Commission Committee meetings.

President Satariano said that included in the packet was the schedule for the committee meetings, to refresh your memory.

5) Commission Committees and Members

President Satariano said included in the packet was a list of the committees. This will be changed at the end of June.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano said that the Committee did not meet.

Mr. Squires said that the year-end report is included in the packet, which he went over. The Department is over the revenue commitment and under budget.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said bravo.

President Satariano said maybe this could be discussed at the Commission Retreat.

Mr. Squires said that the Management Retreat's revenue ideas would also be discussed at their retreat.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver said the Committee did not meet. The park ranger incident statistics are included in the packet. It reflects the emaciated status of the staff.

D. MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra said that this Committee did not meet. It is a quiet time.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Vice President Waterfield, Chair

Vice President Waterfield said the Committee did not meet. He asked Ms. Gonzalez to give the highlights.

Ms. Gonzalez said that on Tuesday the City Council awarded the contract for Rancho Los Cerritos. Because of the construction market, the building is being built for less.

Mr. Hester said maybe it would be helpful to give the Committee an update of the grants the Department is working on.

F. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Vice President Brett Waterfield, Chair

Vice President Waterfield said the meeting was postponed.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. Recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for November 2009.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

President Satariano said that there was no correspondence.

IX. UNIFINISHED BUSINESS

President Satariano said there was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

President Satariano said that he received quite an extensive proposal from Mike Donelon regarding the 14th Street Skate Park.

Mr. Hester said that Mr. Donelon dropped those off yesterday and is pushing really hard to have the 14th Street Skate Park renamed for an individual who was killed adjacent to the area. Depending on what Councilmember Garcia wants to do, it would be referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission for your consideration.

Mr. Hester said that at the last meeting there was a presentation about the alcohol in the park discussion. We are following up and meeting with Ms. Aley and Ms. Cantrell today. Dave Ashman, ABC, and the Police Department will also be at the meeting and can address the inaccuracies of Ms. Aley's comments.

Mr. Squires said that much of Ms. Aley's comments were the result of not understanding the process. For instance, Fred Khammar's name would not have been on any permit. This item will go to the City Council hopefully in January.

XI. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Satariano asked for comments from the audience.

Mr. Daryl Supernaw said he is the current chair of the Sustainable City Commission, and is present to discuss AB 1881, which is a model of a water efficient landscape ordinance. He said that their Commission has not taken an action on the ordinance. He said he is here as a private citizen, not as a member of the Commission. The State of California will come up with a model plan for landscape guidelines. The cities are obligated to follow that model, unless they come up with their own. The City of Long Beach has decided to come up with their own model. The Public Works and Water Departments are drafting the plan and presented it to the Sustainable City Commission in October. Mr. Supernaw said that they are missing the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, who maintain the medians and need to be involved in drafting this policy. He said he volunteered the Department to be part of this and he believes the deadline is January 31, 2010.

Mr. Supernaw said he is also the founder of the Atherton Ditch Adjacent Neighborhood Association and they are in the midst of a huge project along Atherton Street. They did a lot of public outreach and there were no complaints. Once the landscaping came in they were inundated with complaints. All the neighbors were complaining because they did not like the drought tolerant landscaping. Rocks and deer grass are being removed and this is being revamped. If we are going to install drought tolerant plants, we need to do a lot of outreach to the community. He said their website is www.athertonditch.com, if anyone wants to make any comments.

Ms. Gonzalez thanked Mr. Supernaw for being here today. She said she is a landscape architect by trade and the Department did not know about this other group being formed. It would be important that the Department sit on this committee. We will give the Department's true needs by sitting on that committee.

Mr. Hester thanked Mr. Supernaw for bringing this forward. He said the Department is doing quite a bit to save water.

B. STAFF

Mr. Squires said the Department launched a gift certificate program on Monday. It is being advertised and allows individuals to buy gift certificates for classes and annual passes.

Mr. Squires said that the Department Facebook page was launched last week. The internal group is meeting weekly.

Mr. Arevalo said the Department is going through medians and updating plants and mulching them, to help keep in the moisture. Trees were stressing due to low rainfall. We are going to be attending the Sustainable City Commission meetings.

Mr. Hester said we opened the uptown community center and the program is going extremely well. All of you may have seen the death of Marvin Marker. Mr. Squires will meet with the Junior Concert Band to find out the future of the organization. Mr. Hester thanked the Commission for their support this year. It has been a busy year and will be another challenging year coming up. He said I hope to get construction started on McBride, which will be coming before the Commission.

C. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Saltzgaver thanked the Special Events and Filming Bureau. The Gazette sponsored the Jingle Bell Jaunt, right before the Belmont Shore Christmas parade. Tasha Day was very helpful. It will become an annual event. There is another January 16th CAPRCBM training in San Clemente. The CPRS Convention is in Palm Springs on March 17. Think about participating. Commissioner Saltzgaver said he would be attending.

Commissioner Guerra said he wanted to focus on the cover, the Uptown Dog Park. He said he has used the dog park, but there is no water there. Otherwise it is great.

Mr. Hester said the Department ordered a water fountain for that dog park.

President Satariano adjourned the meeting in memory of Roy Disney, an avid sailor. He embraced the Sea Fest Transpac departure being held at Long Beach Rainbow Harbor. He chose to make a movie downtown in 2007. The movie "Morning Light" premiered in Hollywood. There were thoughts about it being premiered in Long Beach. President Satariano said he was with him in a meeting three weeks ago. He was a friend of this department.

XII. NEXT MEETING

President Satariano stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach, California.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Satariano adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine