



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
Room 280A
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING SYNOPSIS**

Wednesday, February 20, 2019
9:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: February 20, 2019 / 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recreation Services Manager Jennifer Lev led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CIVILITY STATEMENT

Chair Roston read the Civility Statement.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Mishler, Fenton, Bilak, Vice Chair Javor, Chair Roston

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Nancy Hunt Coffey, Pam Shinault, Patty Acuna, Jennifer Lev, Linda Kyriazi

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the Agenda.

Speakers: Barbara Linder, Tom Roberts, Tim Ellis

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Roston approved the agenda as presented.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

1. La Cienega Park and Recreation Complex Capital Improvement Project Update
Hear presentation, discuss and provide recommendations and priorities

The architect team of Johnson Favaro presented the envisioned Master Plan in addition to a 3D model for a building that could accommodate all of the needs expressed by both the Community and City Council from the information provided during the focus groups and outreach meetings. Three (3) options were presented as possibilities in addition to four (4) groups of possible projects.

The Commission and public discussed their prioritized concerns such as the fields, parking, the bridge connecting the parks and the community center space and rooms in addition to the utilization of the original community center.

Specific questions and concerns were:

Public Comments:

Ms. Barbara Linder:

- Concerned about the Community Center re-build was not a certainty at this time, considered after everything else was completed. As a resident who uses the La Cienega Park weekly, considers it vital to consider the Community Center from the start.
- Concerned about the Multi-Purpose room that could handle all activities; concerned about scheduling and suggests small rooms so multiple and various ages could have classes at the same time.
- As someone who takes a lot of Yoga and Tai Chi, if the possibility of removable fencing would be considered for some of the ballpark areas so during the off seasons those areas could be open to the public.
- Safe parking is a must as crossing the street from the parking lot to the park is of concern.
- More staffing will be needed at the park for the increased activities.

Mr. Tom Roberts:

- Attended the initial meetings about the park and the retention of the existing building was discussed and was informed that notices would have been made. Signed up for notifications but felt he was notified late about the two meetings. Requesting proper notification.
- Has it been decided if the existing building has been demolished? Asked at City Council the value and worth of the building and was not given an answer. Concerned about how much money can be saved if that building is adapted. It has been a week and is still waiting for answers. Feels its small parts that will never come together as the big thing that you want. The baseball court consume huge amounts. The architect is trying to make it become what it can never be. What is important is for the Commission to realize what they have and what they can do. Scale is another issue. These architects have designed the West Hollywood City Hall and the proposed 4-story building looks similar and suggests the Commissioners view that building, size and its relationship to the park itself as he thinks it is over scaled and does not feel it relates to the park.

Mr. Tim Ellis, District Director of Athletics/JPA

- Wanted to clarify issues at the school district, the new baseball field, softball field and swimming pool are about six (6) years out in terms of completion.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Fenton:

- Biggest concern is the parking because of closeness to the Metro.
- Agrees with Ms. Linder, one Community room is not sufficient; needs to be broken down to smaller ones.
- The swimming pool is a good idea but is concerned about cleanliness, dressing rooms, staffing and everything that goes with a pool.
- The Community Center is very important; where people go to participate.
- Can't just plan for today; plan for 20 years ahead.

Commissioner Fenton:

- Biggest concern is the parking because of closeness to the Metro.
- Agrees with Ms. Linder, one Community room is not sufficient; needs to be broken down to smaller ones.

Architect Jim Favaro responded to the concerns by informing the Commission:

- The existing park has 320 parking spaces across the street, 60+ along Gregory Way. The Master plan is showing 430 so an addition of about 1/3. This distributes the parking more evenly on both the east and west sides, so 180 on the east and 250 on the west. The size of the park on the east is the limit; up to the budget.
- Restrooms: will be associated with all the fields as well as each of the component of the recreation facility. Discussing with staff if metro riders would walk to use those restrooms as there's a number of shops along the way.
- Regarding Ms. Linder's concern about the Community Center, the existing Community Center would not be coming down before there's a new Community Center in its place. Also, within the Community Center itself, there's a variety of rooms, there's not just one single room. Rooms that are sized for program uses that have been identified.
- Yes, an aquatic center would require maintenance and operations. Our surrounding cities are building very similar facilities.

Commissioner Javor:

- The existing open space is not as available as quoted as space is between fields.
- More space for a Community Center is needed. The current location is using up prime real estate which could be used for better open space. Agrees with buildings being centralized on the west side and the park green and open space be on the east side.
- If the investment is being made to make something great there's value in having that space be open and building a new facility. If the cost has been appropriated and budgeted why are we trying to save where savings is not merited?
- Agrees parking is a concern and more parking would be great but it's a matter of if the budget is there or not.
- Agrees with prior made statement: these are a number of individual parts that will not come together to create the vision we were hoping for. This all might be too much and will failing to do what we want it to do. Stripping some components down might be beneficial.
- An approach to the entire park of modularity, where everything has multi use such as removable fencing, room rearranging that appears to be where movement is as far as design. If we think about that, we can reduce the scale of things as the Community Center does look big. It will be big and I think the residents that live on Gregory and Le Doux will not be happy about it.

Commissioner Mishler:

- Hasn't heard passive space discussed. Presently there's not a bench in the park. Can you talk about where they are, how much?
- Agrees about pool maintenance and lockers for the pool.
- Interested in ingress and egress; would like to know that.
- Small children and the sandbox?

Architect Jim Favaro commented:

- Managing with the Master Plan to take the 10% that is currently open space, and consolidate them in one location and then double that so we're going from 1.7 acres of scattered little areas to approximately 3 acres of consolidated park open space at the corner of Gregory Way and La Cienega Boulevard.

Architect Steve Johnson pointed out on the model:

- The location of the new tennis center set back which creates more park space in addition to the location of the regulation soccer field where the park benches, shade trees and unprogrammed open space will be. Not only is it more space, but a better configuration.
- If you do create additional parking with the storm water retention basin, the children's playground would be next to it so one would come up directly from the parking structure or below it and right into the children's playground. But there has been a discussion that the playground should be relocated more central.
- If additional parking was created, various entrances to the park were pointed out.
- Where a preschool could be placed was pointed out.
- Regarding Commissioner Mishler's ingress and egress question, there is no change how vehicles enter and leave the site for the 250 parking spaces as the drop off area gives access to all of the parking below the facilities.

Director of Community Services Nancy Hunt-Coffey commented on:

- The corner lot belongs to the City of Los Angeles. A Master Plan should lay out a road map for the next 10 – 20 years and should that lot become available it would be looked at how it could be integrated into the park
- 8 million dollars is set aside in the capital improvement project budget for this project. It is not enough for a project of this scale. Once we land on a configuration we're comfortable with, then we return with costs. If it can't be done all at once, what can we phase over the course of time? What do we focus on first, what can we live with until later?

Commissioner Bilak:

- Reminded everyone that this is a Master Plan and the comments regarding staffing, maintenance, size of rooms, is still up in the air.
- Requested field trip to West Hollywood Park.
- Praised Johnson Favaro for providing the Commission with a real idea of what they could have in this park but we do need to narrow it down.
- Loves the bridge/or park expansion. This is the last area in the City that has green space to really plan for the future.

Architect Jim Favaro commented:

- The bridge/park expansion does have to be ADA accessible. There would be elevators on both sides of the park as well as ramps.
- If parking is something important to City Council, then it isn't solely a Recreation and Parks project, it would be a Public Works project.

Commissioner Fenton:

- Appreciates everything that has been done, we've been asked to study it but we were told that this is what City Council would like; they would like to redo this park with a fresher, newer look. We should present the best possible plan that we can taking into

- consideration everything that we've heard and as always, it is then up to Council. If we have enough people on our Commission that speaks to it, we have done our due diligence. Council will need to fund the rest of the monies if this is what they want.

Chair Roston informed the Community that there will be another Town Hall Meeting at La Cienega Community Center on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 7pm, where the community can come share their thoughts and reminded the Community that this is a Master Plan and no decisions have been made.

Motion by Roston, Seconded by Mishler that we recommend approval of a Master Plan for the La Cienega Recreation Center as proposed by our architecture consultant. (0/5)

AYES: None
NOES: Mishler, Fenton, Bilak, Vice Chair Javor, Chair Roston
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
FAILED

Motion by Javor, Seconded by Bilak that the Recreation and Parks Commission recommend approval of the draft Master Plan with special consideration made to all the comments and concerns that were raised at today's meeting by both the public and Commissioners. (5/0)

AYES: Mishler, Fenton, Bilak, Vice Chair Javor, Chair Roston
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
PASSED

This Master Plan will be presented at the March 5, 2019 City Council Meeting.

NEXT MEETING: February 26, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: February 20, 2019 / 10:52 p.m.