



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

**RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 27, 2019
2:00 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: August 27, 2019 / 2:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bernie Nebenzahl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMISSIONER

City Clerk Huma Ahmed swore in new Commissioner Amie Sherry.

CIVILITY STATEMENT

Chair Roston read the Civility Statement.

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Pam Shinault, 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.

Mr. David Gingold spoke about the crosswalk at Coldwater Park across from the Fire Station and handed out photos of the crosswalk.

Mr. Tom Roberts spoke about the parkway on Burton Way.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With the concurrence of the Commission, the Chair may choose to amend the order of the items on the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting from 06/25/2019

Motion by Javor, Seconded by Mishler to approve the Meeting Minutes as presented. (3/0)

AYES: Mishler, Fenton, Vice Chair Javor

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Sherry, Chair Roston

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

2. Introduction of new staff (Sr. Recreation Supervisors)
Assistant Director of Community Services, Pam Shinault, introduced the two new Senior Recreation Supervisors: Matthew Brown and Christopher Reed. They each provided an introduction on their past work experience.
3. Art Show Spring 2019 – informational
Senior Recreation Supervisor, Victoria Cusumano, provided an update on the Spring 2019 Art Show.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

4. La Cienega Park and Recreation Complex Master Plan Project – CIP Project #00343
 - Receive presentation, discuss, and provide recommendation.

Assistant City Manager, Nancy Hunt-Coffey, updated the Commission on the public outreach that has been available for the public's input on the La Cienega project and the feedback that has been received.

Jim Favaro, from Johnson Favaro, provided the Commission with a comprehensive update of the project. Staff recommended that the La Cienega project be broken into two construction phases. Phase 1 would encompass the construction of a new community center, a gymnasium, an aquatics center and an indoor and outdoor tennis facility on the west side of Las Cienega Boulevard. Phase 2 would be focused on field improvements on both sides of the street. This Phasing approach allows for the existing community center to remain until the new one is open. Staff requested feedback and a recommendation from the Commission on the proposed concept design and preliminary construction cost estimate.

- Vice Chair Javor asked about the Community Center parking garage to confirm it had 250 parking spaces per the two levels in addition to the cost to consider the cost per parking space and suggested putting one of the floors underground.

Jim Favaro informed the Commission that his Cost Estimator advised them not to look at it per space, but per square footage because there's a lot of support facilities in the garage, such as the stairs. It will be flat floor with speed ramps.

- Vice Chair Javor suggested that with the improvement of public transportation and ride sharing less people may be driving so it would be reasonable to say that eventually that may be the case but for a city like Los Angeles that is so spread out it's speculative to think that in the next 40 years there will be less cars on the road. In the future, people will not be willing to go into a basement to play tennis so that would be a recommendation location for a parking lot.
- Commissioner Mishler was concerned about the swimming pool as the students who went to the high school couldn't swim or play polo so requested reviewing the long range plan for La Cienega and the high school as we'll have two (2) pools open to the public.

Assistant Director of Community Services, Pam Shinault, relayed that the school district has a plan that within seven (7) years they might be added a separate and distinct pool as that would help meet the school's needs.

Jim Favaro commented that City Council has been clear that they want to separate the pools and be self sufficient. There are many water programs that would be run as a Community not strictly associated with the high school.

Restroom facilities will be available on both sides of La Cienega.

- Commissioner Mishler asked what cement buildings will be on east side of the corner of Gregory and La Cienega where we currently have the Community Center.

Jim Favaro commented that it will be all park open space and the ball field will all be moved south.

- Commissioner Fenton asked if we were should be proactive and look at future Phases now when that may change after we finish Phase 1.

Assistant City Manager, Nancy Hunt-Coffey, informed the Commission that from a financial standpoint alone, that at least 2 phases is recommended and that a Master Plan is not to set things in stone, but it's to say we've looked at the whole site and if we decided to do something on one side it won't have an adverse effect on the other side; and that it would be a layout that would work in general.

In theory, the time frame would depend on what City Council requests; the construction phases could come one right after the next.

- Commissioner Sherry asked about the independent Cost Estimator that the City hired and asked what their numbers were in comparison to the architect's cost estimator.

Jim Favaro comment that they did their work independently and then were brought together and were apart by 1 or 1 & ½ percent.

- Commissioner Mishler asked about the bridge and if Plexiglas was on the interior. There is no median shown on La Cienega in your slide.

Jim Favaro commented that there is a median which is maintained where it is currently and peters out when it gets to Gregory Way. The bridge is 24 feet to the platform level with an 8 foot depth. There will be plenty of safety protection for the pedestrians.

- Vice Chair Javor asked about a timeline after Phase 1 is approved along with a budget.

Staff estimated a minimum of two (2) years before construction might occur assuming successfully complete the design development phase, environmental review and create the construction documents.

- Chair Roston asked about a larger space for the Bridge Club.

Jim Favaro said yes, they are accommodated in addition to multi-purpose classrooms.

Public Comment Speakers: Tim Deegan, Tom Roberts, Charles Smith, David Gingold.

- Vice Chair Javor commented that we do need to be both cost and scale conscious. The architect team has done an amazing job of putting in everything that was asked of them and now we should look at what are we willing to cut just a little.
- The Metro Station that's going in has given the impression that it's going to revitalize the neighborhood but there are many subway stops in Manhattan that are not frequented by anyone but those who live there. That could become the case with this Metro Station unless there isn't consideration to the Park and Ride component. If you want the Metro Station to revitalize the neighborhood, we need to bring the traffic in. We have a lot of space and parking opportunity; parking is expensive to construct and I look at above grade parking to be a bit of an eyesore in addition to being a major waste of space. We could reduce the height of the building by moving parking underground or include more leasable space to concessionaires that would bring more revenue to the City. With the cost that's being spent on parking, I don't see why the additional monies is an issue so it doesn't have to be above grade wasting space.
- With regards to the design and the exterior of the building, there are ways to reduce the scale of the building architecturally and esthetically without making the building smaller. Within the next 50 years, the Academy Building, being leased now, could become vacant again and in possession of the City. It could be considered to use that Spanish style in our design of any new building.
- Agrees with the scale and likes what was said about purchasing open space by stacking the buildings.
- Commissioner Mishler said she agrees with the issue of green space and grass. There is no real green space currently no a bench. We don't need foliage nor flowering but we do need some green space to put blankets down.
- Chair Roston commented that she doesn't think the plans are out of control. The architects have taken what was presented by the Community at our focus groups and whittled it down because there are a lot of requests that we're not including. I don't think we should wait in terms of the building on the west to see what the high school does. I do think it's appropriate to wait and see on the east, given the high school's issues, the storm water and I think there's opportunities to do more under ground parking if required.
- When you take a look at the cost of something, I look at opportunity lost. I think that this is an opportunity for our Community to have a Community Center where we're lacking one. I respect the comments that it's out of control, but I don't believe it is. We do have to look at how it's going to be financed and the City is doing that and that's in the purview of the City Council to decide. My recommendation would be that we send this proposal to them as it is as that's what the Community asked for and why we did this long process.

- We have to be aware of those neighbors. There was discussion about the apartment buildings on Le Deux, west of the park, and it's an assortment of buildings. The ones going up now are about five stories. I think we should be aware of those neighbors though it is Los Angeles that it's esthetically pleasing.
- I do understand scale and your concerns but I don't think we have a choice given everything we want to do. The design issues will be refined as we go along.

Motion by Javor, Seconded by Fenton, move that the Recreation and Parks Commission recommend the City Council's consideration of the Master Plan design as it is now with consideration of the comments and concerns that have been expressed by the Commission today. (5/0)

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

Motion by Roston, Seconded by Javor, move to recommend the phasing approach proposed, Phase 1, the west side being considered first, and Phase 2 coming back at a later time. (5/0)

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

- Chair Roston commented for the Commission that they don't want a lot of time between Phase 1 and Phase 2.
- A Public Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled for September 25, 2019 at 6pm at La Cienega Community Center.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Conflict of Interest Code

This item was tabled due to questions the Commission had. Staff to research and return item on the September agenda.

Public Speaker: David Gingold.

STATUS REPORTS

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Information Items only

Assistant Director of Community Services, Pam Shinault, updated the Commission on the following items:

- Beverly Hills Dodger Day Sunday, September 8, 2019
 - Fall Community Services Brochure
 - Oil Well Plugging Project Meeting, Wednesday, August 28, 2019
 - Farmers' Market Picklefest August 4, 2019 was a success and staff is looking into more events.
 - Joy to the Holidays was approved by City Council and is now a BOLD 2-day event.
 - Procedure for liaison meetings.
 - Greystone Library restoration; construction scheduled for Fall 2019.
 - Greystone Theatre restoration; working through multiple prime bids.
- b. Event Calendar
- Reviewed and Commissioners volunteered to attend scheduled events.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

7. Chair Report

- a. Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
- June 17, 2019 Highlights
 - July 15, 2019 Highlights
- b. Ad Hoc Committees
- Chair Roston reviewed and updated the Ad Hoc Committees..
- c. Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities.
- The Commission approved the updated Recreation and Parks Award Nomination Form. The nomination form will be available on the City's web site to submit nominations
 - Commissioner Fenton commented on the crosswalk at Coldwater Canyon Park. West Hollywood has the flashing light crosswalks which makes one aware of the crosswalk and to slow down. Staff to pass the request, of a flashing light crosswalk at Coldwater Canyon Park, to Public Works.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

8. Priority List

- Review Current Commission Priority List
- Reviewed.

9. Recreation and Parks Commission Upcoming Meetings

- Review calendar and attendance
- Chair Roston reviewed the end of the year holiday dates with the Commission.

PREPARATION OF NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

NEXT MEETING: September 24, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: June 25, 2019 / 4:38 p.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 24th day of September 2019

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alissa Roston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Alissa Roston, Chairperson