



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

In-Person / Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

**RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
2:00 p.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: April 25, 2023 / 2:03 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

JR Dzubak, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Lurie read the Civility Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Termeie, Sherry, Chair Lurie

Commissioners Absent: Javor, Vice Chair Mishler

Staff Present: Matthew Brown, Adrine Ovasapyan, Paul Paolone, Stephanie Harris,  
Patty Acuna, and Linda Kyriazi

Vice Chair Mishler arrived at 2:10pm

**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.

Magdalena Davis, Community Services Manager, read eight submitted emails into Public Comment in addition to two in-person expressing concern over after-hours school care.

Steve Walfish spoke on Tab #8.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Matthew Brown, Recreation Services Manager, requested Tab #3 to be moved to later in the Agenda to provide time for the AYSO Teams to arrive. Chair Lurie approved.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of Minutes from the Recreation and Parks Commission Regular Meeting from 03/28/2023.

MOTION by Vice Chair Mishler, SECONDED by Termeie to approve the Meeting Minutes as presented. (4/0)

AYES: Termeie, Sherry, Vice Chair Mishler, Chair Lurie

NOES: None

ABSENT: Javor

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

## REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

2. Beverly Hills Unified School District  
Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) board member updated the Commission on programs and activities being held at the schools:
  - BHBL, Youth Basketball League, and the AYSO, American Youth Soccer Organization, post season programming.
  - The middle school's artwork is currently on display in City Hall.

## PRESENTATIONS

3. Recreation and Parks Award  
American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Recognition  
The Commission presented their Recreation and Parks award to the two American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) championship teams, along with their coaches, in Recognition of Winning the Western States Championship.
4. Arts & Culture Programming  
Paul Paolone, Interim Recreation Services Manager, will provide an update on Music in the Mansion Festival
  - Paul Paolone, Interim Recreation Services Manager, updated the Commission on this weekend's successful Music in the Mansion Festival that was held at Greystone Mansion. This year marks the 29<sup>th</sup> year of Music in the Mansion.
  - National Auditions were just held at Roxbury Community Center on Saturday, April ???. Those selected will be performing at next year's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
5. Human Services – Two upcoming Wellness Proposals  
Christopher Paulson, Interim Administrator of Human Services, updated the Commission on the two upcoming events surrounding Wellness & Mental Health and requesting a joint participation in a Beverly Hills Day of Wellness being held in September 2023:
  - The event is tentatively scheduled to take place at Roxbury Community Center and Park  
Sunday, September 10, 2023 The event will focus on a variety of wellness-focused educational and interactive sessions.
  - The Health & Safety Commission additionally agreed to participate.
  - Mindfulness Mondays in May are additionally being scheduled starting on May 1, 2023. These pre-recorded sessions will air each Monday in May on Beverly Hills Cable-TV as well as online. A number of these showings will be the same practitioners at the September event.
  - Chair Lurie, along with the rest of the Commissioners, voiced their support.
6. Community Services Staff Updates  
Patty Acuna, Assistant Director of Community Services, introduced Adrine Ovasapyan, who is currently Interim Recreation Services Manager who will be overseeing the La Cienega team in addition to assisting Matthew Brown as staff liaison to the Recreation and Parks Commission.
  - The Community Services Department does have multiple vacancies that staff is actively working on along with the Human Resources Department to fill positions.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## CONTINUED BUSINESS

### 7. National Fitness Court Update

#### Results of Fitness Survey

In May, 2022, staff presented the National Fitness Campaign Outdoor Fitness Court to the Recreation and Parks Commission. Patty Acuna, Assistant Director of Community Services, provided an update from the Community survey:

- The equipment wasn't all encompassing
- The current equipment was fine; just needed to be updated or replaced
- The footprint, along with the cost, increased
- At this time, the recommendation would be to find replacements or updating the current equipment and bringing this proposal back when the La Cienega Master Plan discussions begin. The Commission concurred.

### 8. Pickleball Pilot Program Update

Matthew Brown, Recreation Services Manager, reviewed with the Commission the results of the Pickleball Pilot Program:

- **Phase 1: January 2020 – May 2022**
  - Launch of the Pickleball Pilot Program.
  - Halted for 1-year during COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Partially relaunched in March 2021 and expanded to original pilot model in December 2021.
  - Growth of pickleball popularity.
  - **Phase 2: June 2022 – Current (Court relocation study)**
  - Relocated La Cienega courts to #1 and #8 in response to noise concerns.
  - Negative feedback from tennis community to loss of court #1 for tennis.
  - Ongoing requests for additional courts and more availability during peak hours.
  - **Phase 3: September 2023/TBD (6-month court relocation study)**
  - Next phase to begin after completion of Beverly Hills Tennis Summer Camp season and summer tennis leagues.
  - Relocate pickleball from court #1 to court #12.
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of courts #8 and #12 as the next location for pickleball at La Cienega.
  - **Phase 4: As Needed/TBD (Court relocation study)**
  - Consider relocation of additional courts to Roxbury Park, based upon Phase #3 feedback. .
  - Consider alternate combination of court locations at La Cienega, based upon Phase #3 feedback.
- Steve Walfish, owner of Beverly Hills Tennis, introduced himself to the Commission and informed the Commission of the history of the Tennis Center.
  - Staff will run Phase 3 of the pilot program and will inform the Commission on the outcome of all 3 phases in addition to staff's recommendations.

- The Commissioner's recommendations will be taken to their City Council liaisons.

9. Community Services Department Showcase Update

- Adrine Ovasapyan, Interim Recreation Services Manager, provided a recap of this year's event including an overview of Community feedback. The Community Services Department Showcase was held on Sunday March 5, 2023, at the Beverly Hills Farmers' Market. This was the first Department Showcase since 2020 held in the full pre-pandemic configuration.
- This year's Department Showcase presented several challenges including inclement weather, long lines, and frustration for the need to register in person.
- The Commission and staff discussed future planning for optimizing both the Summer Camp registration process, and the purpose of the Department Showcase.

10. Needs Assessment Discussion

At the February 28, 2023 meeting, Commissioner Julian Javor requested that staff add to the agenda a needs assessment item and that the Commission discuss what types of needs should be researched and included in a needs assessment study.

- The Commission discussed and provided feedback to staff on what the desired outcome to the community at large would be by conducting a needs assessment.
- Commissioner Sherry commented that a needs assessment is looking at the land the City owns and what might be available in terms of recreation and parks along with City use; maybe developing new pickleball courts and programming. As we learned from the pandemic, our parks and services in our Community Centers, became one of the most critical spaces that residents relied on for their health and enjoyment. Our job as Recreation and Parks Commissioners is to protect our parks and give to the residents safe and beautiful outdoor spaces to congregate passively and recreationally. As a Commission we should be knowledgeable about land owned by the City so we can speak to projects and suggest alternatives as it relates to interrupting our green space. As a Commission and staff, we spoke about reviewing a land needs assessment at our July 2022 working retreat but with changes in staffing, it got dropped. I reviewed the strategic plan from 2019 – 2022 and under the multi-year department goals was: develop a parks and recreation open space master plan to set the vision for meeting a long-term recreational needs of the Community. This plan has since expired, and a lot has changed. This might be something to revisit and create a new one.
- Chair Lurie noted that with the City looking at reopening the City's La Cienega Master Planning at the same time knowing industrial facilities for water are being built in the parks which means we'll be losing park land. Additionally, City Council has declared surplus 4 parcels, including 1 parcel that is a dog park. We need to engage a Needs Assessment, with the input of the Community, to look at what we want, where we want to be and how to best meet the needs of our Community. We also need to look at where we can find

additional park space. The City's programming also needs to be reviewed with a focus on after school programs. There are ratios to determine if our park space is sufficient.

- Stephanie Harris, Director of Community Services, informed the Commission of the process to bring this request to fruition: A meeting with the Commission's liaison for approval to proceed

## **STATUS REPORTS**

### **11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **PROJECT UPDATES**

- Manager updates
  - The Commission will be invited to the pre-school graduations
  - Arbor Day is April 28, 2023 at 10:30am at Roxbury Park
  - This week is National Library Week
- Recreation & Parks Commission Priorities
- Community Services Events
  1. April 27, 2023: Beverly Hills Celebrates 100 Years of Independence: Greystone Theatre at Greystone Mansion, 5:30pm & 6:30pm
  2. May 4 – 7, 2023, MADE in Beverly Hills, various locations
  3. May 14, 2023: Jewish American Heritage Celebration, Farmers' Market, 9am – 1pm
  4. May 20 & 21, 2023: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Beverly Hills Art Show, Beverly Gardens Park
  5. May 22, 2023: Beverly Hills Active Adult Club (BHAAC) Prom, Roxbury Park Community Center, 1pm – 3pm.
- Community Services Events Calendar

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

### **12. Chair Report**

- a. Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
  - Meeting Minutes Reviewed
- b. Ad Hoc Committees
- c. Recreation and Parks Commission Upcoming Meetings
  - Review calendar and attendance
  - Commissioner Termeie informed the Commission that she will not be able to attend the June 2023 meeting.
- d. Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities
  - The Commissioners wished Commissioner Javor the best and congratulated Commissioner Sherry on her son's win and award that was presented today.

#### **PREPARATION OF NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA**

**NEXT MEETING:** May 23, 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

Date / Time: April 25, 2023 / 4:54 p.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 23rd day of May 2023

  
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Myra B. Lurie, Chairperson