

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

Thursday, April 17, 2025

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles convened the Regular Meeting at 9:02 a.m. Present were, President Renata Simril, Commissioner Fiona Hutton, Commissioner Marie Lloyd, and Commissioner Benny Tran. Also present were, Matthew Rudnick, Executive Officer, Deputy City Attorney IV Steven Hong and Deputy City Attorney III Brendan Kearns.

The following Department staff members were also present:

Cathie Santo Domingo, Assistant General Manager Planning Maintenance, and Construction Branch
Chinyere Stoneham, Assistant General Manager, Recreation Services Branch
Brenda Aguirre, Assistant General Manager, Special Operations Branch
Noel Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Administration Branch

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

President Simril called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 3, 2025. Commissioner Hutton made such motion, and it was seconded by Commissioner Tran. There being no objections, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Lloyd joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Gandy Diaz a Senior Field Deputy from Council District 8 gave opening remarks

GENERAL MANAGER'S UPDATE

Matthew Rudnick, Executive Officer began his update by introducing Deanne Dedmon, Superintendent of the Pacific Region Recreation Services Branch. Deanne Dedmon provided an introduction of the facility and staff at Jackie Tatum Harvard Recreation Center. Deanne introduced Mike Lorenz and LAPD Captain who oversee the CSP Program at JT Harvard Park

Mr. Rudnick recognized Gordon Dupree and his staff at JT Harvard as well as all Recreation and Park Staff. Mr. Rudnick mentioned that most parks across the city will be hosting spring events, including egg hunts, earth day activities and a variety of other programs. Please visit laparks.org for more information.

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Mr. Rudnick provided a quick update, as it relates to wildfire recovery. I want to make the Board aware that RAP was notified by the LA County regional parks and open space district that the city of LA will be the recipient of a 1 million dollars Grant under the Measure A restore funding to support park related wildfire recovery efforts. So, we would like to thank LA County for their support and partnership. We will be coming back to the board with more information on the scope of those improvements, and where those dollars are going to be spent.

Mr. Rudnick stated additionally, you may have seen in the news media last week that the Mayor announced a public-private partnership between the City and Lakers Coach JJ Reddick's LA Sports strong foundation and steadfast LA. For the Renovation and rebuilding of Palisades Park and Recreation Center, which, as you know was damaged in the wildfires in January. RAP will be coming back to the board with updates regularly on the status and process regarding the various activities happening at Palisades Park.

Mr. Rudnick provide an update on the Budget. RAP has not seen the final details of the RAP operating budget, but we expect to see some significant reductions across all city departments. Given, the city's budget challenges the City Council's budget and Finance Committee will immediately begin its consideration of the Mayor's budget after its release, and we were informed yesterday that the RAP budget hearing will be tentatively heard on May 2nd by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Mr. Rudnick provided an update on the LA 28 the LA Games Organizing Committee announced on Tuesday an Updated venue plan this is relevant for RAP, because a number of parks and park assets under the Department's purview are proposed to host various sports events during the games.

Chinyere Stoneham, Assistant General Manager, Recreation Services Branch provided an update on our Senior section, also known as our active adult 50 plus section. So, the Department has a total of 29 senior centers, serving over 4,000 adults, 50 and up per year. Our senior centers offer fitness classes, sewing, ceramic tech assistance, assistance trips, social hours and games.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments on matters within the Board's jurisdiction were invited, 8 such requests were submitted.

BOARD REPORT PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD REPORTS

Public comments relevant to the Board Reports were requested; 0 such request was submitted.

BOARD REPORTS

- 25-058** Valley Plaza Park – Council District 2 Pallet Housing Project – Extension of Emergency Use of a Portion of the Park for a Temporary Homeless Shelter/Low Barrier Navigation Center Facility for a Period Not to Exceed One Year – Statutory Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21080.27.5 and 21080.10(c) Applicable to Leasing, Financial Support, Operating, or Contracts to Provide Services Related to Low Barrier Navigation Centers; Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) Applicable to Specific Actions To Prevent or Mitigate an Emergency, as Reflected in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) and Government Code Section 8698.4(a)(4) Applicable to Lease, Conveyance, Encumbrance, Financial Assistance, or Contract to Provide Services for People Experiencing Homelessness

Board Report No. 25-058 was taken on consent.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

- 25-059** El Sereno Recreation Center – Richard Alatorre Pool Heater Replacement (PRJ21834) Project – Allocation of Quimby and Zone Change Fees – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article 19, Section 15302 [Replacement or Reconstruction of Existing Structures and Facilities where the New Structure will be Located on the Same Site as the Structure Replaced and Have Substantially the Same Purpose and Capacity] of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III, Section 1, Class 2 of City CEQA Guidelines

Board Report No. 25-059 was taken on consent.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

- 25-060** Dockweiler State Beach – Approval of a Right of Entry Permit for the Installation of Four (4) Underground Conduits for a Fiber Optic Cable Network – Consideration of the EIR, Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Los Angeles Trans-Pacific Telecommunications Cable Hub EIR (SCH No. 2016101050) and its Addendum

Board Report No. 25-060 was taken on consent.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

- 25-061** Vermont Square Park Playground Improvements (PRJ21842) Project – Commitment of Park Fees – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article 19, Section 15303(e) [Installation of Accessory (Appurtenant) Structures Including Garages, Carports, Patios, Swimming Pools, and Fences] of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III, Section 1, Class 3(6) of City CEQA Guidelines

Board Report No. 25-061 was taken on consent.

.DISPOSITION: APPROVED

- 25-062** West Adams Heights Park – Playground Replacement (PRJ21855) Project – Commitment of Park Fees – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article 19, Section 15302 [Replacement or Reconstruction of Existing Structures and Facilities where the New Structure will be Located on the Same Site as the Structure Replaced and Have Substantially the Same Purpose and Capacity] of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III, Section 1, Class 2 of City CEQA Guidelines

Board Report No. 25-062 was taken on consent.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

- 25-063** Granada Hills Park – Art Installation Project – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article 19, Section 15311 [Placement of Minor Structures Accessory to (Appurtenant to) Existing Commercial, Industrial, or Institutional Facilities] of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III, Section 1, Class 11(6) of City CEQA Guidelines

Board Report No. 25-063 was taken on consent.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

- 25-064** Westwood Park – Roof and HVAC Replacement (PRJ21845) Project – Commitment of Park Fees – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article 19, Section 15302 [Replacement or Reconstruction of Existing Structures and Facilities where the New Structure will be Located on the Same Site as the Structure Replaced and will have Substantially the Same Purpose and Capacity] of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III, Section 1, Class 2 and Class 2(6) of City CEQA Guidelines

Board Report No. 25-064 was taken on consent.

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

- 25-065** Van Ness Recreation Center – Roof and HVAC Replacement (PRJ21846) Project – Commitment of Park Fees – Categorical Exemption from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Article 19, Section 15302 [Replacement or Reconstruction Of Existing Structures and Facilities where the New Structure will be Located on the Same Site as the Structure Replaced and will have Substantially the Same Purpose and Capacity] of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III, Section 1, Class 2 and Class 2(6) of City CEQA Guidelines

Board Report No. 25-065 was taken on consent

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

25-066 Griffith Park Train Ride Concession – Proposed Ticket Price Increase

DISPOSITION: WITHDRAWN

25-067 As-Needed Special Event Planning and Production Services – Award of Contracts

Board Report No. 25-067 was taken on consent

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

25-068 Award of Contract for Recreation Management and Reservation System Software, Support, Maintenance, Equipment, and Training

Board Report No. 25-068 was taken on consent

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

President Simril requested a Motion to approve the Board Reports that were taken on Consent 25-058, 25-059, 25-060, 25-061, 25-062, 25-063, 25-064, 25-065, 25-067 and 25-068. It was moved by Commissioner Tran and seconded by Commissioner Lloyd . There being no objections, the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

Board Report 25-066 was Withdrawn

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS

Discussion with Neighborhood Council Representatives on Neighborhood Council Resolutions or Community Impact Statements Filed with the City Clerk Relative to Any Item Listed or Being Considered on this Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Meeting Agenda (Los Angeles Administrative Code 22.819; Ordinance 184243)

There was one such comment from Neighborhood Council Representatives relative to the Agenda Items being considered.

COMMISSION TASK FORCE UPDATES

Commission Task Force on Concessions

This Task force did not meet.

Commission Task Force on Facility Repair and Maintenance

Commissioner Lloyd mentioned the park needs assessment and that the information can be found in the back of the meeting. She also stated RAP has done a number of community outreach meetings, pop ups, other events as well as the online survey. There's a 5 min survey and a 15 min survey, and we encourage everyone to participate in it. We've received more than 3,000 responses. We are also working with a number of community service providers and nonprofit organizations as part of our task force with the parks needs assessment. President Simril requested a report back on Culver Slauson situation with the transfer of staff. Commissioner Lloyd also requested an update on the Budget.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Comments from the Commissioners on Matters within the Board's jurisdiction and Requests by Commissioners to Schedule Specific Future Agenda Items were requested. Commissioner Lloyd requested a report back on the status of our Child Care Centers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

ATTEST

PRESIDENT

BOARD SECRETARY