



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
City Hall Room 280-A
455 North Rexford Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

MINUTES

**RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, October 13, 2015
2:00 p.m.**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Rosoff, Anderson, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Zoet, Hunt-Coffey, Meyerowitz, Angel, Pfalzgraf, Harris, Knebel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Frances Bilak.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

**Tab 1. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES
Regular Meeting of August 25, 2015**

MOVED by Rosoff, SECONDED by Bilak, to approve as presented. (5/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Anderson, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Special Meeting of September 8, 2015

MOVED by Rosoff, SECONDED by Gersh, to approve as presented. (5/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Anderson, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS/STAFF REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Tab 2. Review of Proposed Dog Park Design Options and Additionally Required Action Items

The commission listened to comments from the following speakers:

Nadine Gerson
Vera Markowitz
Harold Markowitz
Joan Lopatin
Benjamin Thompson
Jerry Sweet
Michael Rosenberg
Rob Gaudio
Marcia Hobbs
Marc Saleh
Noah Margo
Michael Baum
Netfhel Boram
Galina Samuel
Pini Dunner
Barry Novack
Teri Austin – Amanda Foundation
Paul Divito –
Tammy Weisman – Burton Way HOA
Ben Reiss
Tina Sinatra
Tracy Jones - Amanda Foundation
Annette Saleh
Steve Taub

The Commission took a break at 3:27 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 3:35 p.m.

Arumie Schnitzer
Alma Ordaz
Denita Huerta
Barbie Marshall-Moas
Bill Crowe
Gita Rosenwald
Sharka Divito
Lisa Milstein
Michael Novack
Arthur Cohen
Terrie Gerber
Dr. Sharon Ignarro
Vicki Talbot – BH Courier

Comments from speakers included concerns of not enough space for the dogs, not a good area for the park, limiting the number of dogs, cleanliness, limiting city's access to the land, lighting concerns, shade, design, zoning, video surveillance, safety, waste management, and liability issues.

Chair Friedman reminded the audience that the Recreation and Parks Commission is an advisory board and the City Council will make the final decisions on the project.

The public comment closed. Community Services Director Steve Zoet reviewed the Staff Report included in the Commission Packet which contains an updated list of public communications received, proposed design options and a public street parking assessment. The public communications includes petitions that recently came to our attention and emails received by the Recreation and Parks Commissioners and Staff.

The Commission reviewed the previous actions taken by the Commission. The Commission agreed that the motions previously taken accurately reflect their opinions. These included use requirements, licensing/spay and neutering of dogs, the allowable number of dogs (per person and total for the park), no breed restrictions, and patrons under 14 require an adult guardian. Previously discussed design components include entry areas for large and small dogs, surface material being decomposed granite, one portable restroom in each park area and various amenities. Finally, hours of operations, rules of use, operating costs and access issues were discussed. A revised list of rules will be reviewed.

Associate Planner Timmie Tway, made a brief presentation about the Mitigated Negative Declaration. She has been managing the dog park project with Rincon, a consultant. It is a state requirement to do an environmental review to ensure environmental impacts are identified and the community has a chance to review when considering a project. Four areas that were identified for mitigation are; cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, air quality and noise. The potential impact is not significant if these items are mitigated as outlined in the document. The document, still in draft form, will include comments received after a twenty-day public comment period. City Council will make the final determination in approving the document.

After Commissioner discussion, the following votes were recorded:

Finalization of Proposed Rules

A tag needs to be displayed indicating that the dog has had proper identification verified. The tag could be in the shape of the Beverly Hills sign/shield so it is not easily replicated.

MOVED by Friedman, SECONDED by Rosoff, to finalize the proposed rules with the addition of a dog tag to identify that the dog has met the standards set in Beverly Hills (5/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Anderson, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

The Commission took a break at 4:43 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 4:51 p.m.

Preferred Surface Material

Due to high costs of purchase of installation and maintenance, artificial turf is not recommended at this time.

MOVED by Friedman, SECONDED by Rosoff, that the preferred surface material will be (decomposed granite) DG. (5/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Anderson, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Controlled Access System

Access options will continue to be researched to integrate with the design of the project.

MOVED by Friedman, SECONDED by Gersh, that there will be a controlled access system at the entrance and exit. (5/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Anderson, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Staffing

The Commission did not support an on-site Park Ranger during all hours of operation, but discussed the possibility as an additional area of patrol and an opportunity for feedback of the location.

MOVED by Rosoff, SECONDED by Bilak, for the first four Saturdays of the park opening, a Park Ranger will be placed at the dog park for four hours from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and that the Park Ranger will provide observations and information to be presented at the next Commission Meeting. (5/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Anderson, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Recommendation Regarding the Permitting Process

Staff recommended entrance to the park for *Beverly Hills residents* only for the initial opening of the dog park. Commissioners agreed the initial opening should be limited to residents and understand that once a system is established the topic will be revisited and assessed.

MOVED by Friedman, SECONDED by Rosoff, to initially limit the use of the dog park to residents only. (5/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Anderson, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Recommendation of Preferred Site Option

Mandana Motahari, a Principal with RTK Architects, Inc., provided explanation of the existing site plan of the area as well as the conceptual drawings for the dog park. Physical size of the site is approximately 19,244 square feet with base amenities of benches, decomposed granite as the ground surface, doggy bag dispensers, drinking fountains (for humans and pets), fencing, signage/rules, site drainage, tree protection for current trees, and waste/trash containers. Also reviewed was zoning of the area, site analysis of the surrounding parking, sound transmission, site approaches, shade and shadows and basic amenities. The Commission discussed priorities for enhanced amenities ranking cinderblock walls (specifically the eastern wall), key card access, shade structure as "high priority," CCTV (for security), a separate walkway along Foothill Drive as "middle priority," irrigation and landscaping, new LED lamp/pole, portable restrooms, additional trees, additional benches and portable restrooms as "low priority." Additionally the other cinderblock walls in the area were identified as being a lower priority, but would rise to the highest priority if damaged during the mitigation efforts.

MOVED by Friedman, SECONDED by Rosoff, to accept the base design option of the dog park with entrances from Option B and curved interior fence and as many amenities in the priority order that have been discussed.(5/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Anderson, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

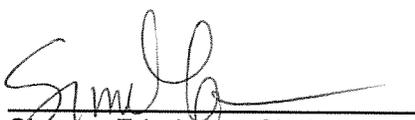
Parking

An assessment of the parking in the area was reviewed. Spaces were monitored and counted in the surrounding streets at different times of day. The overall average was 91 spaces were taken out of 272 available spaces. This count did not include the parking structures at 3rd Street and Foothill Road, Civic Center Drive and Rexford Drive. Staff suggested that ample parking was available during the times that the counts were performed.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 12 day of November, 2015.



Simone Friedman, Chairperson