



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

MINUTES

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 28, 2015
2:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Rosoff, Anderson, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff Present: Zoet, Meyerowitz, Angel, Pfalzgraf, Knebel

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Tab 1. Regular Meeting of March 31, 2015

MOVED by Rosoff, SECONDED by Bilak, to approve as presented. (3/0)

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

ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Speakers

- Mark Elliot spoke about re-interest in an off-leash dog park at Roxbury Park.
- Hilary Kraft spoke about her view regarding personal training at Roxbury Park.

Both concerns will be agendized at a future Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS/STAFF REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Tab 2. Park Way Ficus Trees

Speakers

- Mark Elliot voiced his disagreement to remove Ficus Trees along Parkway.
- Abraham Assil, resident on Parkway, is concerned with the safety issues from the natural fallings from the trees and supports the removal.

- Alan Berro, resident on Parkway, prefers a mitigation strategy, not just removing the trees.

Parks and Urban Forest Manager Ken Pfalzgraf reported on the specific tree in the area that is causing the residents concern. It is City Code that the property owners need to keep the right of way clean and free of hazards. There was a continued discussion about the trees on El Camino (TAB 3) as there are similar concerns with debris and root growth.

MOVED by Rosoff, SECONDED by Gersh. The Recreation and Parks Commission directs Parks and Urban Forest Manager Ken Pfalzgraf to produce a Master Plan for the replacement of trees on Parkway and return with a report to the Commission as to the conditions to which the replacement will occur, the trees recommended for replacement and the fiscal impact of the project. (5/0)

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

Tab 3. Automated Replacement of Declining Ficus Trees

Speaker

- John Prabu – Company is completing extensive renovation of buildings at 150 & 151 El Camino including exterior. There are concerns with the trees and the trip hazard the roots have created as well as concern with the trees proximity to the building. He suspect’s the roots are growing into the plumbing systems and may be entering the city sewer. There is also a required ADA Ramp at one location and tree root system is infringing upon the sidewalk/location. He requests replacing with a more appropriate species and is in favor of Podocarpus.

Parks and Urban Forest Manager Ken Pfalzgraf suggested that streets that have Ficus Trees would be replaced with Podocarpus when certain criteria are met.

The Commission discussed and agreed that Mr. Pfalzgraf would submit a report at a future Commission Meeting outlining a Master Plan for replacement trees on El Camino.

Tab 4. Water Conservation

Parks and Urban Forest Manager Ken Pfalzgraf reviewed the Stage D Water Conservation efforts in context of the Parks Division which include ceasing the watering of the Burton Way and Sunset Medians as of April 1, 2015. A practical approach is being taken at the park sites to reduce watering.

In the future, this topic will be discussed monthly under the Director’s Report Tab.

Chair Friedman and Commissioner Rosoff will be liaisons in a new Ad Hoc Committee with the Public Works Commission. A representative from the Public Works Commission will be invited to a future meeting.

Tab 5. Park Bench and Plaque Program

Community Services Administrator Gisele Grable reviewed the current program for recognition plaques on park benches. The Commission agreed to give the option at the donor's request to obtain a second plaque (within the ten year time period) that would replace the first plaque to add or modify the information it contained. In addition, it was discussed to remove the hold on bench purchases in parts of Beverly Gardens Park. The Foothill/Elm block will be held as there is a proposed large donation anticipated.

Donations have been received for 4 benches in Beverly Gardens Park, 9 more are available. One other bench/plaque has been sold in Roxbury Park. If Staff receives any unusual request for verbiage on a plaque, it will be brought back to the liaisons for approval.

Tab 6. Capital Improvement Projects Update

The following items were included in the report from Community Services Director Steve Zoet:

- Gateway Signage Projects – both locations are underway and being monitored by the Public Works Department. Completion is anticipated by late summer.
- Roxbury Park Playground Restoration Ribbon cutting and celebration took place with all Commissioners in attendance. There was a memorable performance by the Roxbury preschool children.
- Beverly Gardens Restoration – The Electric Fountain project is moving forward and is on budget with the estimated completion in late August. A meeting was recently held to combine blocks for landscape improvements for future phases of the Beverly Gardens Project.
- Veterans' Memorial – Project was presented to City Council on April 7 and garnered unanimous support. Survey work has been completed and is being reviewed. Further updates will be given to Commission.
- La Cienega Park and Community Center Public Assessment – An upcoming meeting is scheduled with Council Liaisons seeking direction on the next steps.
- Dog Park – Staff is waiting for direction from the Community Development Department.
- Greystone Theater Restoration - Improvement plans were submitted for review to make the theater at Greystone occupiable.

Tab 7. Director's Report

Community Services Staff updated the Commission on the following items:

- BH Swim Challenge – Beverly Hills residents are encouraged to take the "water safe" challenge and if successful, will be awarded a certificate. If participants need further instruction, there are classes available.

- Summer Camp Highlights – Recreation Supervisor Tim Duerr reported on the success of summer camp registrations at the recent Farmers’ Market Event and upcoming Summer Camp Programming. There will be 23 summer camps; 7 are new offerings.
- Peck Drive Street Tree Master Plan - Committee comprised of Peck Drive residents reviewed available trees and are currently arranging a visit to the nursery to see the available stock. If acceptable, Staff will report to City Council with the progress/decision of the Peck Drive residents.
- Arbor Day Celebration – The 30th Consecutive Tree City USA Award was presented by CalFire Representative Abigail Srader on April 24, 2015.
- Roxbury Park Dedication was discussed in Tab 6.
- California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) District 9 Awards and Installation Event was held at Roxbury Park Community Center. Awards were presented to Part and Full Time Employees, a Community Award was presented to Whole Foods Market and The City of Beverly Hills received the Agency Award. Recreation Supervisor Tim Duerr was installed as the President of District 9 for the upcoming year.
- Volunteer Recognition Event was hosted at Roxbury Park Community Center. All Commissioners attended event and celebrated the volunteers for the City of Beverly Hills from the past year.
- La Cienega Median Improvements – The report was not presented to City Council due to time constraints. Due to recent water issues, there are slight modifications to the report considering landscaping options. It will be rescheduled for the May 5 City Council meeting.
- Event Calendar and Meeting Dates were reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS INCLUDING TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Commissioners Gersh and Anderson will be attending a meeting to discuss the library space at Greystone. Commissioner Anderson expressed that the space should be used to highlight the City of Beverly Hills history, not just Greystone’s.
- Request made to review budget for The Friends of Greystone. Review of overall assets and how their money is spent;
- Commissioner Gersh asked for update on restoration and fence around the Kusama;
- A request was made to invite Public Works Representatives to the next meeting;
- A request was made to add an ad hoc committee with regards to Public Works for Chair Friedman & Commissioner Rosoff ;
- A request to review the Recreation & Parks Budget at a future meeting;

- Commissioner Bilak asked to be included in the next Quarterly JPA Meeting with the school district.

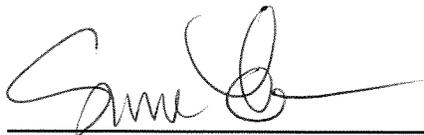
Tab 8. Ad Hoc Chairperson Reports

- a. City Council Liaison/Mayor's Cabinet (Friedman/Bilak) – No discussion.
- b. Beverly Canon Gardens (Friedman/Gersh) – No discussion.
- c. Farmers' Market (Bilak/Anderson) – No discussion.
- d. Fine Arts (Gersh/Rosoff) – No discussion.
- e. Gateway Signage Project (Anderson/Rosoff) – No discussion.
- f. Community Charitable Foundation (Bilak/Anderson) – No discussion.
- g. Greystone Park (Gersh/Anderson) – No discussion.
- h. Master Plan for La Cienega and Roxbury Parks (Friedman/Bilak) – No discussion.
- i. Seniors/Volunteers (Friedman/Gersh) – No discussion.
- j. Special Events/Concert Series (Bilak/Gersh) – No discussion.
- k. Sports (Friedman/Bilak) – No discussion.
- l. Street Tree Master Plan (Friedman/Anderson) – No discussion.
- m. Teens (Bilak/Gersh) – No discussion.
- n. Beverly Gardens Restoration (Anderson/Rosoff) – No discussion.
- o. Off-Leash Dog Area (Friedman/Bilak) – No discussion.
- p. Joint Powers Agreement (Bilak/Rosoff) – No discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 1st day of June, 2015.



Simone Friedman, Chairperson