



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2013**

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Olson, Nydam, Koblin, Berkuta and Kamar all present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Comments from the Public

None.

5. Approval of May 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Nydam to approve the May 8, 2013 Commission Regular Meeting Minutes. 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

6. La Cañada High School Cheer Park Permit for use of Memorial Park in support of Summer Cheer Camp.

M/S/C: Commissioner Nydam/Berkuta to approve the La Cañada High School Cheer Leading Park Permit request. 5-0.

7. La Cañada Kiwanis Park Permit and Fee Waiver Request for use of Memorial Park in support of Kiwanis Wine and Gourmet Food Tasting Event.

M/S/C: Commissioner Nydam/Koblin to approve the La Cañada Kiwanis Park Permit request. 4-0-1 (Berkuta abstaining).

8. Discussion on Development of Policy for the installation of recognition plaques along City trails.

The Commission opened public comment on this item, in which the following residents addressed the Commission regarding the issue:

- 1) **Randy Strapazon:** Opposes the placement of any plaques for volunteer projects along the trails. Ms. Strapazon described one of the teachings of the Boy Scouts called "Leave No Trace" with respect to their interaction with nature. Ms. Strapazon stated that the Boy Scout groups looking to place plaques along the trails would be in conflict with this value.

- 2) **Ernie Strapazon:** Opposes the placement of any plaques for volunteer projects along the trails. He stated that the plaques can present a tripping hazard in the ground along the trails.
- 3) **Debbie Tinkham:** Opposes the placement of any plaques for volunteer projects along the trails. She stated that all existing plaques are on County trails and wouldn't want to see the City allow plaques on City owned trails, which would mean Cherry Canyon.
- 4) **Liz Blackwelder** (via prepared letter read by Randy Strapazon): Opposes the placement of any plaques for volunteer projects along the trails.
- 5) **John Moe:** Favors the allowance of the placement of plaques for volunteer projects along trails. John Moe stated that the existing plaques along County trails are in honor in Eagle Scout projects, which require a minimum of 150 hours of work and some involve up to 500 hours of work. Mr. Moe explained that the existing plaques were approved for placement by the County of Los Angeles.
- 6) **Greg Brown:** Opposes the placement of any plaques for volunteer projects along the trails. Mr. Brown also suggested that the Commission consider adopting a policy that would still give public recognition to Trail Volunteer projects by presenting the volunteer with a certificate at a City Council or Commission meeting at the conclusion of their project. Mr. Brown stated that he has been involved with around 100 Eagle Scout projects on City property, School District property, and for various institutions and none of those projects involved the installation on a monument or plaque to commemorate the project. Mr. Brown feels that "recognition plaques" should be treated as "signs" which are referred to within the Trails Master Plan and are only allowed for safety or direction.
- 7) **Michael Devine:** Favors the allowance of the placement of plaques for volunteer projects along trails. Mr. Devine stated that the plaques are placed away from the trails flat along the ground and do not present a tripping hazard. Mr. Devine stated the eight projects that Boy Scout Troop 507 has completed total over 2,600 hours of volunteer labor.

Question: Commissioner Berkuta asked if recognition plaques were to be allowed for trail related projects if Mr. Devine would expect or accept a "sunset period". In the occurrence that a completed project (such as a fence) were to degrade to a point that it was no longer serviceable, would he expect the plaque to be removed?

Mr. Devine responded that he believed that in this situation to would no longer constitute a project and he would expect the plaque to be removed.

Parks & Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2013

Page 3 of 5

- 8) **Caroline Craven:** Opposes the placement of any plaques for volunteer project along the trails. Ms. Craven would favor the placement of plaques or another form of recognition in an alternative location.
- 9) **Eva Spurlock:** Favors the allowance of the placement of plaques for volunteer projects along trails. She feels the plaques that are mostly 4" by 8" are unobtrusive.

Alameda stated that the City is looking for direction toward developing a future policy regarding recognition plaques along City trails. Currently there is a lack of policy; the existing Trails Master Plans only addresses signage along City Trails. The new policy one developed will be forwarded to the County of Los Angeles and the County will be asked to adhere the City's policy with respect to County trails located within the City.

Alameda stated that the Commission should first answer the question: should plaques be allowed at all for trail projects? If yes, then the discussion regarding a policy could ensue to develop suggested guidelines. The policy would likely be implemented at the City staff level under the developed guidelines with any situations out of the norm coming back to the identified body (Commission or City Council) for discussion.

Chair Olson thanked all the speakers for their input and began the discussion he said that he knows of 12 existing plaques along the trails that are not all uniform. Mr. Olson does not like the approach of not allowing plaques for the Eagle Scouts projects, but does not want to see additional plaques along the City trails. He would like to see a central location identified to locate future plaques.

Commissioner Koblin also is grateful of the contributions of the Boys Scouts and said that one of the unique qualities of the City is the volunteer efforts from all the organizations within the City. Commissioner Koblin would like to see a plaque policy developed with guidelines that would allow continuing the recognition of volunteers. He would like to see the allowance of placement to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Kamar is supportive of the allowance of plaques but would want to see the placement of plaques at a central location within the City.

Commissioner Nydam is supportive of the allowance of plaques but would want to see the placement of plaques at a central location within the City.

Commissioner Berkuta would like to see any signage limited to direction and safety along the trails as the description for signage is laid out within the Trails Master Plan. He is not supportive of allowing plaques along City Trails.

City Manager Mark Alexander clarified the point that if a policy were to be developed that there would no appeal of the City Manager's (or his designee's) decision and that the only recourse would be to address the City Council during comments from the public. Mr. Alexander also stated that in his view that the Trails Master Plan is silent on the issue of recognition plaques along City Trails.

M/S/C: Commissioner Koblin/Nydam to allow for the allowance of plaques recognizing volunteer projects related to City trails, pending the development of a policy that will establish placement of such plaques at central location(s). 4-1 (Berkuta opposed).

Chair Olson suggested that existing plaques are allowed to remain in place and alternative locations to be considered as a “Central Location” for recognition plaques to include:

- Passive Use Park
- Olberz Park
- City Hall
- Memorial Park’s Retaining Wall

Chair Olson suggested that 200 hours of volunteer labor be a minimum qualification. Chair Berkuta also suggested that there should be an alternative financial contribution option (as opposed to labor hours).

9. Discussion of Permanent Name of “SCE Passive Use Park”.

Alameda presented four suggested names that City staff had developed at the request of the Commission at the previous meeting when the Recreation Facility naming policy was adopted. The four names would meet the standards of the policy and be fitting for the Passive Use Park, as follows:

- **Winery Channel Park** - The Winery Channel is the channel that the adjacent flume crosses.
- **Canyada Park** - The area is near the terminus of Alta Canyada and is adjacent to the area of the City known as the “Canyada Section”.
- **Flint Park** - Frank Flint developed a portion of the area which the trail winds through.
- **Trails Link Park** - Reflects the name of the trail passing through the park site.

Randy Strapazon read a letter authored by Liz Blackwelder. The letter first requested that the future Park not be named in her honor (this had been suggested at the May Commission meeting). The letter went on to discuss the importance of the site as a gathering place along Foothill Boulevard adjacent to the “Trails Council Link”. Ms. Blackwelder views the location as significant as it acts as a “trailhead”, which is a gathering place to start a trail hike. Ms. Blackwelder felt it important to incorporate “trailhead” into the site’s name to indicate anticipated usage. Second, Ms. Blackwelder felt that the location of the site, was important to provide locational information (Foothill Boulevard). Finally, Ms. Blackwelder felt that the City should be recognized with the name. These factors led Ms. Blackwelder to the suggested name: “La Cañada Flintridge Foothill Boulevard Trailhead Park”.

Commissioner Nydam supports the naming of the park site as suggested by Liz Blackwelder.

M/S/C: Commissioner Nydam/Koblin to approve the suggested name for the consideration of the City Council as "La Cañada Flintridge Foothill Boulevard Trailhead Park" with the alternative names of Canyada Trailhaed and Winery Channel Park. 5-0.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

12. Staff Comments

Alameda informed the Commission that City staff has ordered fans that have the City's logo and the 2013 Music-in-the-Park schedule on the back, which will be circulated at future concerts.

Alameda has had found a vendor to provide a popcorn machine, popcorn, and bags for the Movie Night in the Park on Sunday, June 16, 2013 at a cost of \$131.00. Commissioners Koblin and Kamar offered to donate \$50.00 each to offset the cost.

Alameda reminded the Commission that the next Commission meeting will be the annual meeting in Memorial Park, where typically nothing is on the agenda other than the approval of minutes and in August the Commission is dark. So, the recognition plaque policy would not return until the September 2013 meeting.

13. Items for Future Agendas

None.

14. Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Berkuta asked if the water at Ultimate Destination Park has been activated. Arabo Parseghian stated that the Public Works Department just completed their final inspection of the project and that the water is now active.

Commissioner Berkuta gave an update that at the last Joint Use Committee meeting that the installation of a building identification sign at the Lanterman Auditorium to be installed was discussed with installation to occur over the summer.

ADJOURN

Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:10 p.m.



**Carl Alameda, Senior Management Analyst II
(Staff Liaison to the Commission)**