



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014**

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Koblin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Koblin, Olson, Berkuta, and Kamar present.
Commissioner Kambe absent.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Comments from the Public

Chair Koblin stated Agenda Item Number 8 is a discussion about the potential of a Dog Park within the City of La Cañada Flintridge, not a discussion of animal control. Any comment for items not on the agenda can be made at this time.

Lisa Novick addressed the Commission regarding the presence of Yellow Star Thistle along the trails, which is toxic to horses. Ms. Novick also stated that trails within the Cherry Canyon Trail system are being "cut" by bike usage.

5. Approval of September 10, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.

M/S/C: Commissioner Berkuta/Olson to approve the September 10, 2014 Commission Regular Meeting Minutes. 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Discussion of off-leash dog park and potential locations.

Chair Koblin opened public comment noting he had received a number of public comment cards for this agenda item.

Dale Ball stated she would not use a dog park and wishes to continue to use the Cross Town Trail as an off-leash zone.

Carolyn Styler stated she has been harassed by animal control and would not use a dog park.

Marie Frazier stated she has been approached by an animal control officer multiple times along the Cross Town Trail and feels the complaints are all generated by one person.

Lisa Novick is opposed to a dog park as she believes they promote dog fights and carry germs.

John Streeter is opposed to a dog park and wants an off-leash zone.

Nancy Reaven stated she enjoys using the Cross Town Trail as an off-leash zone and is harassed by animal control.

Randy Strapazon suggested not looking at a conventional dog park, but instead exploring an “unconventional dog park” which could be more of a walking environment. She also stated she supports the leash law being enforced along the trails, as her husband has been bitten by loose dogs trying to break up fights.

Debra Pitts stated she is opposed to a dog park and prefers a leash optional zone.

Chair Koblin closed the Public Comment period on this item and opened the item for the discussion of the Commission.

Commissioner Olson stated he would be in support of looking for an off-leash zone, which could be a non-conventional dog park.

Commissioner Berkuta has spoken to a number of trail users over the past few weeks and has heard back they would like to see a dog park within the City. He suggested if there isn't space available within the City, a joint use project with the City of Pasadena utilizing Hahamongna Park could be a possibility.

Commissioner Kamar suggested approaching Descanso Gardens about the area the City's landscape contractor Oak Ridge stages their equipment as a possibility.

Chair Koblin is opposed to a “conventional” dog park; however, he would like to see the linear type dog park pursued. Exploring all options discussed.

M/S/C: Commissioner Koblin /Olson to request the potential of a City Dog Park to be explored by City staff, indenting a potential location to be discussed. 4-0

7. Discussion of Cherry Canyon Trail system access signage and points of interest signage.

Chair Koblin opened public comment noting he had received three public comment cards for this agenda item.

Caroline Craven, President of the Trails Council, stated the Trails Council has received complaints that directional signage within the Cherry Canyon trails system is incorrect. She stated that she likes the signage adopted by the City within the Trails Master Plan and would like to see future signage consistent with the signage in the Plan.

Lisa Novick supports new directional signage along the Cherry Canyon Trails system. Also she suggested the disposal of the Yellow Star Thistle could be a community event.

Randy Strapazon stated the Cherry Canyon Trails were part of a ten year project, completed with the installation of the water system and the Ultimate Destination. Most the signage installed was meant to be temporary. She suggested adopting a “Cherry Canyon Signage Project” to be assigned to City staff to demine the signage to be installed and the timeline. She suggested that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy might be interested on providing funding and the project could be capped off with a ribbon cutting.

Commissioner Olson supported the signage project to be driven by City staff with input from the Trails Council. He also supports the inclusion a few informational kiosks at key points to provide trail information.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson /Koblin to direct City staff to development a signage program and timeline for the Cherry Canyon Trails systems, including potential informational kiosks. 4-0.

8. Preliminary discussion of 2015 City-wide youth soccer tournament.

Al Koblin presented the idea of a City-wide youth soccer tournament within the City of La Cañada Flintridge, which he is in the initial stages of planning. The goal would be for the tournament to be hosted by AYSO, as they have the organizational process in place to host major soccer tournaments. An alternative host organization would be Cal South.

Chair Koblin stated a challenge is field space, as the City’s doesn’t have a sufficient number of joint use field to host a soccer tournament. He currently is discussing field usage with local private schools to see if field space could be made available.

Chair Koblin’s target date for the tournament would be June 2015. The tournament would also provide other groups the opportunity to raise funds with opportunities such as running a snack bar at the various locations.

Alameda stated in previous discussions with AYSO, it is preferred to have a centralized location. The challenge for soccer tournament spread across the City is that it stretches their volunteers to thin. The fields at La Cañada High School, if combined with St. Francis High School would make the tournament more feasible.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

9. Staff Comments

Staff Liaison Alameda mentioned the age restriction the Commission placed upon the Oak Grove Field for youth soccer is not being adhered to from calls received. City staff is getting more information.

Alameda also informed the Commission there has been a deer hunter present within the City, who is using City trails to access the Angeles National Forest. The Los Angeles County Sherriff's Department is looking into the issue.

10. Items for Future Agendas

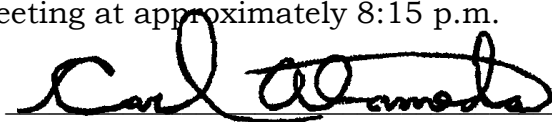
Chair Koblin would like to discuss the field 2015 permitting process for the Oak Grove Field at the upcoming meeting.

11. Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Kamar shared photos of the City Joint Use Fields from the last Joint Use Committee meeting he attended.

ADJOURN

Chair Koblin adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Alameda". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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