



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014**

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Koblin called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Olson, Berkuta, Koblin, and Kamar present.
Commissioner Kambe arrived at 7:09 PM.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Comments from the Public.

None.

5. Approval of November 10, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kamar to approve the November 10, 2014 Commission Special Meeting Minutes as revised (Olson asked to correct the definition of U8 as age 7 and under rather than 8 and under). 3-0-1 (Berkuta Abstaining).

2015 ANNUAL FIELD SCHEDULING

Staff Liaison Carl Alameda gave an overview of the 2015 community group requests for re-occurring annual community events. There are some conflicts with the new programming of La Canada High School with some of the youth user groups. These conflicts are noted within the staff reports and the proposed 2015 Recreational Facility Master Schedule in the Commissioner's packets.

Chair Koblin re-ordered the Agenda to consider Items No. 8A, 8B, and 8C first, as the applicants were present and their requests did not present any significant facility usage conflicts.

8. Community Group Requests.

A. The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge – Field Permit and Fee Waiver Request.

Carl Alameda presented the request of the Community Center of La Canada Flintridge, noting it would be a shared field. The Community Center will share with LCHS Athletics and the new program for Girls on the Run.

Maureen Bond, Executive Director of the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge and Amanda Balcazar, Program Director addressed the Commission on the specific programming of the Community Center and stated that the shared field arrangements had worked out well in 2014.

M/S/C: Commissioner Koblin/Berkuta to approve the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge Field Permit and Fee Waiver as requested. 4-0.

B. The LCF Chamber of Commerce – Facility Permit and Fee Waiver Request.

Carl Alameda presented the request of the La Canada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce for their 2015 Fiesta Days activities over Memorial Day weekend.

M/S/C: Commissioner Berkuta /Kamar to approve the LCF Chamber of Commerce Facility Permit and Fee Waiver request. 4-0.

C. Girls on the Run – Facility Permit and Fee Waiver Request.

Carl Alameda presented the request of Girls on the Run, a group who just started using the FIS Lower Field Track in 2014. For 2015, they are requesting to use the FIS Lower Field Track two days per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from February 24, 2015 to May 21, 2015 for their Spring program.

M/S/C: Commissioner Berkuta /Olson to approve the Girls on the Run Field Permit and Fee Waiver request. 4-0.

6. LCUSD Requests.

A. Review LCUSD Field Requests and Major Events.

Carl Alameda presented the programs and activities of La Cañada High School, which now includes usage of the FIS Lower Field. The other youth organizations permits are invalid on major event dates, such as, Back to School Night and Homecoming due to parking challenges. Alameda noted that LCHS Football is again requesting use of the LCHS Baseball Fields for the week of their “Hell Week”. In 2014, the LCHS Football program also requested practice time on the LCHS Baseball Fields mid-season to prepare for an away game against an opponent who has a natural grass field.

Kristina Kalb, LCHS Athletic Director and Mark Evans, the Chief Business and Operations Officer at LCUSD addressed the Commission on the 2015 proposed usage of the La Cañada Unified School District, focus on the programs of La Cañada High School and LCHS 7/8 Athletics.

Kalb stated the need for the LCHS Baseball Field for LCHS Football will continued, as the Varsity and Junior Varsity programs rotate away games, so one level will need the field to prepare for Temple City High School.

Commissioner Berkuta asked what conflicts LCHS Football usage might create in the Fall. Alameda stated that the usage is just two weeks days, when they are in pads and they are complete prior to the arrival of the youth sports users. But, the request is before the Commission due to non-traditional higher impact usage.

Walter Calmette of LCBSA addressed the Commission that in the past, the former Athletic Director Craig Frazen worked with LCBSA by scheduling games on the Lower FIS Field as early as possible to allow LCBSA as which time as possible, due to day light saving time.

Alameda noted there is a conflict on the FIS Lower Field, as LCHS is asking for the field in support of 7/8 Soccer and Lacrosse until 5:30 PM, which the LCBSA requests starts at 5:00 PM. Kalb stated LCHS will change their request to end at 5:00 PM. On the game days, the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge will need to move to the FIS Upper Field.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson /Koblin to approve the request of the La Cañada Unified School District Facility Permit Requests. 4-0.

B. LCE PTA – Park Permit and Fee Waiver Request.

Alameda presented the request of the LCE PTA for usage of Memorial Park in support of their End of the Year parties.

M/S/C: Commissioner Berkuta/Kamar to approve the LCE PTA Park Permit and Fee Waiver Request. 4-0.

C. PRC PTA – Park Permit and Fee Waiver Request.

A Palm Crest Elementary parent, Holly and Caroline Anderson presented the request of the PCR PTA for usage of the PCR Field for the Annual PRC Springamajig to be held on April 24 – April 25, 2015.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kamar/Berkuta to approve the PCR PTA Field Permit and Fee Waiver Request. 4-0.

7. LCF Sports Collation Requests.

Alameda gave an overview of the Fee Waiver process and eligibility requirement, noting a letter mailed out to all the youth user groups. Groups have to meet a minimum of two of the four criteria, in order to be able to request a fee waiver, to be considered by the Commission.

A. Gladiators Football– Field Permit and Fee Waiver Request

Kevin Lacey, President of the La Cañada Gladiators, introduced himself and noted two of their teams won their League. Mr. Lacey presented the request for the group's 2015 request, which is identical to last year; expect they will no longer be using the LCE Field. They expect to add another game this year, for a total of 11 games.

Commissioner Berkuta asked how many teams they expect to field this year. Mr. Lacey stated they will stay at the five teams: Gremlin, Junior Pee-Wee, Pee-Wee, Junior Midgets, and Midgets.

Commissioner Koblin asked what percentage they are at for La Cañada Flintridge residents. The staff report put the percentages at 41.4 percent overall, with Football at 35.6 percent and Cheer at 68.6 percent.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kamar to approve the Gladiators Fee Waiver and Field Permit as requested. 4-0.

B. La Cañada Baseball/Softball Association (LCBSA) – Field Permit and Fee Waiver Request.

Walter Calmette of LCBSA introduced himself and presented the 2015 field request, which they had worked out with LCHS Athletics. LCBSA has had a direct line with the LCHS Baseball Coach, which has worked well to coordinate field times.

Commissioner Berkuta asked if games potentially are going to be cancelled, is a three week closure really needed. Alameda stated when the fields are closed the City invests a substantial amount of money for aeration and re-seed the fields. He doesn't see a closure of two weeks as being long enough to make this work long enough to be effective. Alameda stated with a closure of July 13, 2015 at the LCHS JV/Varsity Baseball Fields the high school could still have all their games and the closure period would almost be one month. The date would be the same on the Oak Grove Field unless LCHS Softball makes Play-Offs, then the closure date would be July 20, 2015.

M/S/C: Commissioner Berkuta/Olson to approve the LCBSA Fee Waiver and Field Permit 5-0, with amendments as noted by City staff of an earlier field closure date of July 13, 2015 pending potential play-offs.

C. AYSO – Field Permit and Fee Waiver Request.

Alameda gave an overview of the 2015 AYSO Field Permit request, noting they are not requesting the PCY or LCE Fields in 2015. AYSO has over 550 participants in 2014 who were residents of La Cañada Flintridge.

Marco Quezada introduced himself to the Commission and offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Kambe thanked Mr. Quezada for all his efforts to prior youth soccer in the Community.

Quezada stated the restriction placed on the Oak Grove Field a year ago for the 2014 sports season. The U8 restriction placed on the Oak Grove Field created a problem for the U10 programs. The Oak Grove Field is the only field in the City that has correct dimensions for U10 practice and play (Maximum 75 yards long by 50 yards wide). The U10 play is 7 players against 7 players.

Alameda stated he learned that the younger soccer groups, such as, U8 are only allowed to practice until 7:30 PM and U10 until 8:00 PM. However, last year the City had scheduled the field lights as requested until 9:30 PM. He suggested cutting back the field light times to 8:00 PM would reduce the field usage time by an hour and a half per day. This would prevent any pick-up usage and substantially assist the field with less usage.

Alameda suggested permitting U10 usage on Oak Grove for Tuesday, Thursdays, and Saturdays with a stop time of 8:15 PM. The U8 usage would be permitted Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with a stop time of 7:00 PM. Sundays could be permitted to LCBSA, with the understanding that AYSO could access on Sundays for make rain dates when needed.

M/S/C: Commissioner Koblin /Kambe to approve the 2015 Field Permit request of AYSO Region 13 and Fee Waiver Request modifying the usage of the Oak Grove Field to U8 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays until 7:00 PM and limiting usage to U10 (LAPFC) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays until 8:15 PM. AYSO will not be permitted the Oak Grove Field on Sundays. 5-0.

D. LAPFC – Field Permit and Fee Waiver Request.

Alameda gave an overview of the 2015 LAPFC Field Permit request for the LCHS JV/Varsity Baseball Fields.

The Oak Grove Field will be permitted to LAPFC on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays until 8:15 PM.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kambe/Koblin to approve LAPFC for use of the LCHS JV/Varsity Baseball Field and Oak Grove Field as noted. 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Update on FIS Tennis Courts Potential Renovation Project.

Alameda updated the Commission that the improvement project at the FIS Tennis Courts had been placed on hold. The City applied for a competitive grant, which if received would allow the City to do a wide array of improvements to the facility. The City should be notified in February 2015 on the outcome of the grant selection.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

10. Staff Comments

Alameda stated the City will be closing the application period for Recreation Specialist and to date the City has received quite a few applications.

Alameda noted that every January the City installs the dividing fence between the LCHS Varsity and Junior Varsity Baseball Fields. However, the fence is currently so badly damaged it can't be installed this year. The fence serves as a home-run fence and prevents pick-up soccer usage. Walter Calmette asked about the status on the replacement of the fence. Alameda stated a full replacement likely isn't needed, as it consists of segments and only a few of the segments are really damaged.

11. Items for Future Agendas

Commissioner Olson asked if a discussion of the potential dog park would be on the next agenda.

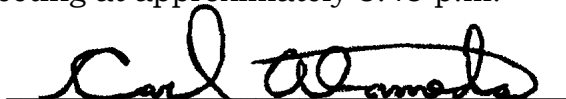
12. Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Kamar thanked Alameda for the preparation of the 2015 scheduling packet.

Chair Koblin thanked the sport groups for another year of outstanding cooperation in the 2015 field scheduling process.

ADJOURN

Chair Koblin adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:43 p.m.



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