



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015**

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Chair Koblin, Vice Chair Kambe, Commissioner Olson, Commissioner and Commissioner Kamar present. Commissioner Berkuta absent.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Comments from the Public

None.

5. Approval of February 11, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kamar to approve the February 11, 2015 Commission Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended. 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

6. La Cañada Elementary Park Permit and Fee Waiver Request for use of the Memorial Park in support of Gold Rush activities.

Staff Liaison Alameda provided an overview of the Park Permit and Fee Waiver request of the LCE PTA for their annual Gold Rush event in Memorial Park on March 27, 2015.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kambe/Olson to approve the Park Permit and Fee Waiver request of the LCE PTA for use of Memorial Park on March 27, 2015. 4-0.

7. Dilbeck Real Estate Park Permit and Fee Waiver Request for use of Memorial Park in support of Annual Easter-in-the-Park event.

Staff Liaison Alameda provided an overview of the Park Permit and Fee Waiver request of Dilbeck Realtors for their annual Easter-in-the-Park event in Memorial Park on April 4, 2015.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kambe to approve the Park Permit and Fee Waiver request of Dilbeck Realtors for use of Memorial Park on April 4, 2015. 4-0.

8. Seeds of Love Foundation Park Permit and Fee Waiver Request for use of Memorial Park in support of overnight event.

Staff Liaison Alameda informed the Commission this first time request for use of Memorial Park could be granted. However, the Fee Waiver request could not be granted, at this time, as the group had not submitted complete information on their organization. The application does not provide: 1) information on who they serve, 2) if their membership is a majority of La Canada Flintridge residents, or 3) how the funds being raised would be used. The Commission can grant the permit and not the fee waiver, grant the permit and make the fee waiver contingent upon receiving complete information, or deny the request.

Stephanie Mines of the Seeds of Love Foundation presented their request for Memorial Park on September 12 and September 13, 2015. They plan to set-up on the morning of Saturday, September 12, with their group consisting of high school students. The students will sleep overnight in the park in cardboard boxes for the students to gain insight on the experience of being homeless. The students will leave the morning of Sunday, September 13, 2015.

Vice Chair Kambe asked if they had students interested in participating in the event at this time. Mines responded they hadn't marketed the event yet, as they don't have a confirmed venue for what will be their first sleepover event. They plan to target high school students in the La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, and Glendale areas.

The Commission expressed concerns about an event of this nature in the most visible area of the City and don't see a strong interest in high school students to participate.

The Commission decided not to vote on this item, as they do not have complete information on the organization or the event. They informed Ms. Mines she could return to the April meeting if she wishes, but they would need the requested information for consideration of the Park Permit and Fee Waiver.

9. Discuss Cherry Canyon Trails Signage project.

Staff Liaison provided an update on the Cherry Canyon Trails signage project. The Commission had completed a tour of the Cherry Canyon trails in September 2014 and had a discussion of potential improvements at the October 2014 Commission meeting.

At the October 2014 Commission meeting the Commission asked the Trails Council come back to the Parks and Recreation Commission with all the projects broken down into a phased approach.

Randy Strapazon provided the Commission an overview of the Four Phases to address the Cherry Canyon Trails project. The First Phase begins with smaller maintenance items, such as, replacing missing signage to the later Phase Four including an informational kiosk. Ms. Strapazon also showed the Commission a sign blank of what the new signs would look like to be installed by the City.

Alameda stated if the Commission is interested in pursuing this would come back at their April meeting as a budget request. Alameda stated that recreational facilities projects of this nature are more likely to be approved by the City Council if they are presented with a community group funding source, as it shows community interest and need for the project.

Management Analyst Parseghian informed the Commission the abandoned water tank listed in Phase One was removed last week by the City. It was a safety concern, as the top had failed and there was a concern someone could become trapped in the tank.

Caroline Craven, President of the LCF Trails Council stated they potentially are looking at funding the cost of the sign blanks. Once they know the costs, they will make a decision as a full board.

Wes Seastrom a new member of the Trails Council and new user of the trails stated he has found the trail signage to be lacking and at times confusing.

Alameda stated staff is looking for the Commission to provide a recommendation up to a certain phase level to come back for budget discussion.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Koblin to direct staff on providing costs for the trail signage project for Phases One, Two and Three. 4-0.

10. Cornishon Athletic Field Protective Netting Project.

Staff Liaison Alameda informed the Commission the City will be scheduling an extension of the Cornishon Left Field fence in April 2015. The extension will be netting six feet high above the existing 18 foot high fence. The City had first been contacted by the resident adjacent to the field over a year ago about people being able to look into his yard, which the City addressed with mesh screening on the fence. The resident contacted the City again 6 months later about baseballs being struck onto his title roof which he is replacing as part of a remodeling project.

The City had gotten an estimate on this netting system for \$5,400, which Al Koblin had gotten the LCF Sports Coalition to agree on the contribution of one-third of the cost (\$1,800).

11. Memorial Park fencing project request.

Staff Liaison Alameda presented a request the City had received to enclose Memorial Park with fencing all the way around. The resident specially stated she was interested in installing this fencing for soccer play within the park, to keep stray balls from escaping.

Alameda stated the City parks are not meant for athletic use, as is reflected in the Municipal Code and the turf in the parks are maintained in a different manner not combatable with this type of usage. Public Works had recently extended the fencing along Foothill Blvd, to prevent people from walking where the drainage swale is exposed.

Alameda said he would have concerns fencing the entire park would only encourage greater athletic usage and have negative aesthetic impacts.

M/S/C: Commissioner Koblin/Olson to deny the request to consider additional fencing at Memorial Park. 4-0.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

12. Staff Comments

Staff Liaison Alameda reminded the group the next Joint Use meeting will be held March 26, 2015, at 8:30 AM. The Lanterman Auditorium Air Conditioning project is being discussed. The City Council just received an update and is interested in pursuing.

The Music in the Park series bookings are going well, with six groups currently booked and one group pending of the total 14 dates.

13. Items for Future Agendas

Commissioner Kambe asked if the Leash Optional zone was going to be addressed at the next meeting. Alameda stated currently Management Analyst Parseghian is currently working on the feasibility of the project. It has to go through two approval phases with outside agencies before being discussed as a possibility. If it is a possibility, it will come back to the Commission for a Public Hearing with the adjacent residents being notified. However, this will likely not be for several months due to the time the agencies take to review.

Commissioner Kamar would like a future discussion on a potential shade project for the LCE Athletic Field.

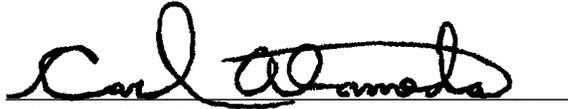
14. Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Olson is excited about the Cherry Canyon Signage project the Commission will be undertaking.

Commissioner Kambe thanked Alameda for his work on the scheduling of the Music-in-the-Park Series.

ADJOURN

Chair Koblin adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carl Alameda", written over a horizontal line.

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