



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019**

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**PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Decker called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Commissioners Decker, Kambe, Kamar, Kozakar and Olson present.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Comments from the Public**

None

**5. Approval of December 12th, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Kambe provided a few modifications to the minutes.

Chair Decker stated she did not recall accusing AYSO of vandalism.

Division Manager Parseghian stated that section was to summarize the Chair statement mentioned receiving parents that the soccer group had damaged nets, waters fountain and running across the infield. He said he could go back and relisten to the audio and list out the issues brought up by the chair during that discussion.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kozakar to continue the approval of the December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes to a future meeting. 5-0, Continued.

**New Business**

**6. Permit and Fee Waiver Requests**

**A. La Canada Presbyterian Church for the use of Memorial Park**

Division Manager Parseghian presented the staff report. He stated this was an annual request made by the group.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kozakar/Kambe to approve the La Canada Presbyterian Church, permit and fee waiver request, for the use of Memorial Park. 5-0, Approved.

**B. Flintridge Guild for the use of Memorial Park**

Division Manager Parseghian presented the staff report. He stated this was an annual request made by the group.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Decker to approve the Flintridge Guild, permit and fee waiver request for the use of Memorial Park. 5-0,

**C. Girls Scouts for the use of Paradise Canyon Elementary Athletic Field**

Division Manager Parseghian presented the staff report.

Chair Decker asked for clarification on the applicability of the "open to the public" criteria for the event.

James Evans, representing the group, stated the event was not open to the public but open to resident girl scout troops. He stated the fundraising is to pay for the event and funding for the program.

Division Manager Parseghian clarified the staff's interpretation of open to the public did not mean a particular event may not have participation criteria such as the even being considered by the Commission. But rather the group is open to the public to register and participate in. He added the Commission could make the final interpretation.

Commissioner Kozakar reminded the group to keep the campfires, and the debris contained and dispose of it properly.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kambe/Olson to approve the Girl Scouts, permit and fee waiver request for the use of Paradise Canyon Elementary Athletic Field. 5-0, Approved,

#### **7. Discussion of Municipal Code Section 5.24**

Division Manager Parseghian presented the staff report. He stated the Commission was not limited to discuss only the Organized Team definition but could look at other areas of the municipal code.

Commissioner Kozakar supported keeping the definition by merely eliminating the reason why the group was there and only defining it by the number of people.

Vice Chair Kambe stated his concern was the proposed definition would eliminate simple pickup games by high school students. He said his concern with over-regulating and lack of enforcement.

Commissioner Kamar stated the problem is outside groups who take advantage of field closures.

Commissioner Kozakar stated at a minimum the word "supervised by a coach."

Vice Chair Kambe stated if the existing definition's enforcement occurred, there wouldn't be an issue. He noted making enforcement even more complicated would not address the issue.

Chair Decker asked Todd Reynolds what the challenges they are observing.

Todd Reynolds, representing Sports Coalition, stated the most significant issue is outside user groups who use the fields during a field closure for both annual and due to the weather. He said enforcing the field closure, would address most of the problems.

Division Manager Parseghian stated the municipal code's lack of explicitly requiring a permit for organized play is an issue. He noted having a language which explicitly says organized teams need a permit will address the

enforcement issue. He also noted the definition of organized play could be whatever the Commission recommends, but not requiring a permit limits the level of enforcement possible. He also noted the language would allow for Sheriff's Deputies to cite violators. Furthermore, he suggested adding language for field closures to allow citations when groups use the fields during closures.

Chair Decker gave an example of bikers who had gathered at the Memorial Park on a first come first serve bases without a permit. She asked if the language proposed would prevent those groups going to athletic fields for the same type of event.

Division Manager Parseghian stated the same code governs parks and fields. He said with the proposed language of "organized teams are anyone with 6 or more people" would apply to parks. He stated the definition could require permits for most activities including those hosted by local schools.

Commissioner Kozakar supported including the permit requirement and the field closure language. He stated his concern with other non-coach supervised activities becoming a problem.

Vice Chair Kambe stated his concern of having the change in the definition might prevent residents ability to play without a permit.

Division Manager Parseghian clarified removing the term "supervised by a coach" eliminated everyone regardless of the of their size to use the fields without a permit. He stated as written the first definition "supervised by a coach" covers individuals who use the fields for private drills while the second definition covers groups of people 11 or more.

Commissioner Kozakar recommended including the language suggested by staff and revisit the issue in the future for further improvement.

Vice Chair Kambe and Commissioner Olson supported the field closure language but had concerns with requiring permits for organized activity as being too restrictive.

Commissioner Kozakar emphasized the importance of having enforcement power when it comes to unpermitted organized play. He supported including the number in the definition.

Vice Chair Kambe asked if this definition would apply for the parks.

Division Manager Parseghian stated if the Commission agreed, staff could recommend having the definition be for the athletic fields only.

Vice Chair Kambe suggested leaving the code as is and only adding the field closure language.

Chair Decker supported leaving the definition as is but adding the two provisions including requiring a permit for organized play and the field closure.

Commissioner Kozakar supported the recommendation.

Commissioner Olson supports the field closure language but not the permit requirement for organized play.

Division Manager Parseghian stated he would work with the City Attorney to discuss the language necessary to prevent unpermitted use while not being overly restricting for community use.

## **6. Discussion of Recreational Facility Improvement Projects**

Division Manager Parseghian presented the staff report. He stated the high priority project for staff was the Lanterman Auditorium lighting project.

Chair Decker asked why the baseball groups did not support the LCE shading projects.

Division Manager Parseghian stated at the time, little over a year ago, the representative for the baseball group did not support as it would impede on gameplay.

Commissioner Kozakar provided further clarification, stating the main concern from baseball was there were other pressing improvements, the seating area, fencing and so on, needed for the LCE field not necessarily that it would impede on gameplay. He stated the baseball association continues to work with the District on improvements. He asked to take the list back to the baseball association for suggested projects.

Chair Decker stated softball fields need improvements such as new bleachers and fencing.

Division Manager Parseghian stated although the commission is welcome to recommend bleacher or fencing projects, under the joint use agreements those are responsibilities of the District.

Chair Decker asked about potentially moving the air conditioning project and having the groups contribute towards it.

Division Manager Parseghian stated the air conditioning project has been going through the JUC project and has not progressed further as there is no interest by the District nor the City to pay for the improvement. He stated the commission could ask the groups for funding.

Commissioner Olson stated in recent years the sports group have contributed under \$10,000 towards community projects.

Division Manager Parseghian stated the JUC Project List only showed Joint Use projects which the sports group have contributed. However, user groups contribute to other field improvement projects outside the JUC projects.

Chair Decker stated her belief that there should be more funding coming from the sports groups toward community projects.

Division Manager Parseghian stated the commission had absolute right to identify projects for improvements and staff would work with the sports group for funding.

Commissioner Olson suggested asking for contributions toward the Lanterman Auditorium Air Conditioning project.

Division Manager Parseghian stated the commission could. He went on to say; the Commission should consider whether it wanted to spend so much capital on a building owned by the District and used mainly by outside groups.

Commissioner Kozakar asked to continue the item for a future meeting to allow time for the groups to discuss potential projects and make a recommendation to the Commission.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kozakar/Kamar to continue the discussion of Recreational Facility Improvement Projects to a future meeting.

## **CONCLUDING BUSINESS**

### **7. Staff Comments.**

Division Manager Parseghian provided an update on the Cornishon Tennis Courts Resurfacing Project. He stated the design of the project is ongoing. He also noted the recently completed projects at the La Canada High School Varsity Baseball Fields including the infield replacement project and the Netting project. Finally, he notified the Commission of the Flint Canyon Trail closure from Berkshire Ave to Chevy Chase January 21<sup>st</sup> until February 4th. He stated the closure is due to the Southern California Edison improvement project.

### **8. Items for Future Agendas.**

Chair Decker requested continued discussion of the Municipal Code modifications.

Commissioner Olson requested an item to discuss qualification criteria for the user groups. He also stated his concern with certain groups taking over the fields. He also indicated his concern with LA Primer's residency and their non-profit status.

Division Manager Parseghian stated the Commission could discuss these concerns with the Municipal Code modification.

Chair Decker requested a discussion about reviewing certain usage restrictions per field.

Division Manager Parseghian stated the Commission can combine this discussion with the municipal code discussion.

**9. Comments from the Commission.**

Commissioner Kamar thanked the staff for providing information on the municipal code and helping the Commission maneuver through it.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Decker adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.



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**Arabo Parseghian, Division Manager  
(Staff Liaison to the Commission)**