



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016**

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

Commissioner Koblin arrive to the meeting at 6:40PM.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Comments from the Public

None.

5. Approval of December 9, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kamar to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2015. (4-0).

NEW BUSINESS

6. LAPFC Permit and Fee Waiver Request for usage of the LCHS Outdoor Basketball Courts.

Staff Liaison Parseghian presented the request from LAPFC. He stated the request was for use of one basketball court for LAPFC's soccer futsal program. He stated \$990.00 fee waiver was being requested. He stated the group does qualify for the fee waiver request as a resident applicant under LCF Municipal Code Section 5.24.035 (a) and (b).

Commissioner Olson asked for the conditions to be met to grant a fee waiver.

Division Manager Castro stated a resident applicant can qualify for a fee waiver if they meet two of the four conditions under LCF Municipal Code Section 5.24.035:

A. The resident applicant is a non-profit or not-for-profit organization recognized as such by the state of California.

B. The resident applicant agrees to provide in-kind services or perform community service.

C. The activity/event for which the permit has been requested is open to the public, free of charge.

D. The city council is a partner, co-sponsor, or has formally endorsed the event for which the permit is being requested.

Commissioner Olson stated his concern with having basketball courts to be used for soccer purpose.

Commissioner Kamar stated his concern with having basketball courts being used for soccer.

Commissioner Olson stated his preference to having the courts available to the public for basketball usage.

Open Public Comment

Marco Quezada, representing LAPFC, presented the request. He stated the group will use the court closest to the LCHS baseball fields. He stated a divider will be placed between the two courts to contain their activity on one court.

Commissioner Olson asked if LAPFC has reached other agencies for field options.

Mr. Quezada stated they are reaching out to other agencies including Pasadena.

Commissioner Olson stated his concern for using the courts for soccer. He stated his belief that the City is not responsible for providing fields to accommodate futsal.

Chair Kambe stated the fields are for multi-use purpose. He stated not using the basketball courts may only push the activity to another field. He stated his belief that the City is responsible for providing fields to recreational activities in which local youth participate. He also suggested LAPFC look at the ball room under the library at LCHS.

Commissioner Berkuta asked if futsal was a new program. He also stated his understanding that due to recent rains turf activities are being moved to hard surfaces. He also asked if the program would be ongoing.

Mr. Quezada stated it was a program they are starting. Mr. Quezada confirmed that El Niño weather is forcing them to look for alternatives in order to continue their program. Mr. Quezada stated the goal is to continue the program.

Mary Hazlett, Assistant Principal of La Canada High School (LCHS), respectfully asked the Commission to deny the request. She stated that many users, families and the fire department use the courts. She also stated that LAPFC is utilizing many of the fields.

Chair Kambe stated the goal of the Commission is to maximize the usage of the fields which are maintained by the as part of the Joint Use Committee (JUC) agreement for the community.

Commissioner Olson agreed with Chair Kambe. He stated his preference to keep the courts available to the public for basketball use.

John Wein, parent, described the incident with one of the LAPFC coach at the basketball courts. He stated one day they were kicked off the

courts by a LAPFC coach who claimed they had a permit for the court which they did not. He stated that the public does use the courts.

Chair Kambe stated with half of the courts available there are three smaller size courts available for basketball use.

Close Public Comment

Commissioner Berkuta stated the request is just an extension to their already approved permit from last month's meeting.

Staff Liaison Parseghian stated the request is from January 14th until February 29th, 2016 from 5:15PM to 8:00PM, Monday through Friday.

M/S/C: Commissioner Berkuta/Kambe to approve the LAPFC Permit and Fee Waiver Request for usage of the LCHS Outdoor Basketball Courts. 2-2-1. Motion did not carry.

7. Park Needs Assessment Workshop

Division Manager Castro presented an initiative the County of Los Angeles is working on to get a picture of what cities would like to have done in terms of improving parks. He stated, County will use the information gathered at the workshop for a potential initiative being developed for potential voter approval. He stated, County has asked to have all agencies submit 10 project ideas that have to do with developing/improving parks. He emphasized that the top ten projects identified at the meeting are just ideas, the City will not be obligated to any of them. He stated there is uncertainty as to whether County will go through with the ballot measure or even if the measure will pass.

Present from the community:

Maureen Bond, Director of the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge,

Mark Evans, Chief Business and Operations Officer for the La Canada Unified School District,

Pat Anderson, President of Chamber of Commerce,

David Brown, Director of Descanso Gardens, and;

Rachel Young, Director of Horticulture and garden Operations at Descanso Gardens

Open Public Comment

David Brown, Director of Descanso Gardens, provided a brief history on how the County came to collecting project ideas for a ballot measure. Mr. Brown stated the project ideas should be grand regardless of cost implications. He identified three projects that Descanso Gardens was considering for submittal: renovation of their parking lot, water conservation and productivity project, and relocation of their existing boundary fence to the property line.

Rachel Young, Director of Horticulture and garden Operations at Descanso Gardens, provided workshop examples from other agencies

she attended. She also mentioned other efforts Descanso Gardens were taking to identify projects for the workshops.

Randy Strapazon, via email, proposed hiring of a trails maintenance contractor to provide ongoing maintenance of the City trails including regular grading, repairing erosions, and ruts.

Staff Liaison Parseghian, explained Mrs. Strapazon's project proposal did not meet the criteria for a park project as her request is about maintenance services on a trail. He stated the idea is noted but would not be considered for the Park Needs Assessment.

Close Public Comment

Commissioners Berkuta proposed a project to replace the Community Center, add new restrooms at all parks and Joint Use Committee (JUC) fields, and replace the natural turf with artificial turf at FIS Lower Fields.

Commissioner Olson proposed a project to replace the natural turf with artificial turf at LCHS Oak Grove field.

Chair Kambe proposed a project to replace the natural turf with artificial turf at LCHS Junior Varsity baseball fields.

Commissioner Koblin proposed a project to build a new park over a section of the 210 freeway.

Division Manager Castro explained that building a new park over the freeway will count as three separate projects, one acquisition of land, general park infrastructure, and two types of amenities.

Commissioner Olson proposed a project to build a community pool at LCHS.

Staff Liaison Parseghian provided a list of all projects being considered:

- Replace the Community Center
- Add new restrooms at all parks and JUC fields
- Build a new park over a section of the 210 freeway
- Replace the tennis courts at FIS
- Replace Oak Grove softball fields with artificial turf
- Add a shade structure at Memorial Park
- Add a community pool at the La Canada High School JUC field
- Replace the Tennis Court at Glenhaven Park
- Replace JV baseball fields with artificial turf
- Add a dog park amenity
- Add a Fitness Zone amenity
- Add a Picnic Shelter amenity
- Replace the Splash Pad at Mayors' Discovery Park
- Repair the Gazebo at Memorial Park
- Replace fencing and gates at Cornishon Field
- Replace FIS Lower fields with artificial turf

Division Manager Castro provided instructions for the Commission and the public on casting their votes for the sixteen identified projects

Staff Liaison Parseghian reported the vote tally for the projects:

Replace the Community Center – 18 Votes
Add new restrooms at all parks and JUC fields – 16 Votes
Build a new park over a section of the 210 freeway – 16 Votes
Replace the tennis courts at FIS – 10 Votes
Replace Oak Grove softball fields with artificial turf – 8 Votes
Add a shade structure at Memorial Park – 7 Votes
Add a community pool at La Cañada High School – 7 Votes
Replace the Tennis Court at Glenhaven Park – 3 Votes
Replace JV baseball fields with artificial turf – 2 Votes
Add a dog park amenity – 0 Votes
Add a Fitness Zone amenity – 0 Votes
Add a Picnic Shelter amenity – 0 Votes
Replace the Splash Pad at Mayors' Discovery Park – 0 Votes
Repair the Gazebo at Memorial Park – 0 Votes
Replace fencing and gates at Cornishon Field – 0 Votes
Replace FIS Lower fields with artificial turf – 0 Votes

Chair Kambe asked for the top ten identified projects:

Staff Liaison Parseghian listed the top ten identified projects:
Add new restrooms at all parks and JUC fields – 16 Votes
Build a new park over a section of the 210 freeway – 16 Votes
(considered as three separate project)
Replace the tennis courts at FIS – 10 Votes
Replace Oak Grove softball fields with artificial turf – 8 Votes
Add a shade structure at Memorial Park – 7 Votes
Add a community pool at La Cañada High School– 7 Votes
Replace the Tennis Court at Glenhaven Park – 3 Votes

Division Manager Castro stated the top ten projects with staff's costs estimates will be submitted to County.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

8. Staff Comments.

Staff Liaison Parseghian informed the Commission the Joint Use Committee Capital Improvement Sub-Committee will be meeting again on January 26, 2016 to review the five-year CIP for any needed revisions.

9. Items for Future Agendas.

Commissioner Olson inquired about the status of the Johnson Trail.

Staff Liaison Parseghian stated the trail near the Johnson's property is County trail. He stated the City's new Trails Coordinator is working

with County on this item. He stated, staff will update the Commission at a future meeting as more information is provided by the City's Trails Coordinator.

10. Comments from the Commission.

Chair Kambe thanked the public for participating in the City's Park Needs Assessment.

ADJOURN

Chair Kambe adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:35 p.m.

**Arabo Parseghian, Senior Management Analyst
(Staff Liaison to the Commission)**