



**DRAFT MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019**

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Decker called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Comments from the Public

George Chumo, representing LCSBA, stated his concern with one soccer group's unpermitted use of Cornishon Field. He also noted the group disregards field closures and uses the fields regardless. He indicated their use has severely damaged the field.

Steve Cook, La Cañada High School Lacrosse Team Representative, suggested finding out who the group was to contact them directly. He stated he used to play with a soccer group, but they always respected the rules. He said he would contact City staff to provide the name of the group should he find it.

5. Approval of February 13, 2019, Regular Meeting Minutes

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kamar to approve the February 13, 2019, Regular Meeting Minutes as modified. 5-0, Approved.

New Business

6. Permit and Fee Waiver Request:

A. Dilbeck Real Estate for the use of Memorial Park

Division Manager Parseghian presented the staff report.

Commissioner Kamar stated his concern with potential applicant handing out peanuts to kids with allergies.

Division Manager Parseghian stated the permit only gives the applicant permission to use the park. He noted the applicant accepts liability for any potential harm their activity has on their attendees. He stated, the City is not liable for the activity. He also stated the applicant must provide liability insurance with the City named as an additional insured. He said regulating food is handled by the County Department of Health and the City should not start that practice. He did state the Commission is welcome to place condition if it has concerns for public safety.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kozakar to approve the Dilbeck Real Estate, permit and fee waiver request for the use of Memorial Park. 5-0, Approved

B. LCE PTA for the use of Memorial Park

Division Manager Parseghian presented the staff report.

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

C. La Cañada High School Boys Lacrosse for the use of Memorial Park

Division Manager Parseghian presented the staff report. He stated there would be a condition in the permit prohibiting Lacrosse game at the park.

Commissioner Olson stated his concern with the District's decision to allow the use of their fields by other groups is pushing their groups' usage to public parks with similar requests.

Commissioner Kozakar stated the City's use of Joint Use fields does limit the use by the District and particularly groups like Lacrosse.

Vice Chair Kambe clarified the Joint Use agreement exists because the District could not maintain their fields. Therefore, the City took over the maintenance of the fields in return for joint use.

Chair Decker asked if the group could use the Cornishon field.

Division Manager Parseghian stated City Council must approve Sunday permits for Cornishon Field. Mr. Parseghian stated the Commission could approve a fee waiver while staff reaches out to one of the existing permit holders to vacate one of the fields to allow the applicant use of that field.

Steve Cook, representing LCHS Boys Lacrosse team, explained the event. He stated the goal is to promote the sport and begin collecting support from the community. He noted the goal is to gain public interest.

George Chumo, stated La Cañada Baseball Softball Association, would vacate FIS Upper Field to Lacrosse for their fundraiser.

Division Manager Parseghian requested Mr. Cook to work with Christina Nguyen, Management Analyst, in securing the FIS Upper Field for their event.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kambe/Olson to approve the La Cañada High School Boys Lacrosse, permit and fee waiver request for the use of Memorial Park. 5-0, Approved.

D. Terry Engler for the use of Memorial Park

Division Manager Parseghian presented the staff report. Mr. Parseghian stated the Commission is asked to review the request as this constitutes a special event setting potential precedents for future requests. He indicated staff does not have any concern with the request and would support granting the permit.

Commissioner Kozakar asked what proportion of La Cañada Flintridge residents are in their party.

Terry Engler stated approximately five percent.

Commissioner Olson stated his view of the event is similar to a small birthday party where a resident is requesting a permit to use the park where the guests may not be from La Cañada Flintridge.

Chair Decker is concerned with potential larger wedding requests in the future.

Vice Chair Kambe stated his support of the event. He clarified as it stands, individuals can host weddings at Memorial Park without a permit on a first come first serve basis.

Commissioner Olson stated if the City sees an uptake in wedding requests then the Commission could revisit the matter.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kambe/Olson to approve Terry Engler, permit and fee waiver request for the use of Memorial Park. 5-0, Approved.

7. Continued Discussion of Municipal Code Section 5.24

Division Manager Parseghian presented the staff report.

Vice Chair Kambe cautioned against creating regulations which could be used by others, particularly those who do not support recreational activities at the fields, to extremely limit the usage of fields.

Todd Reynolds, representing the LCF Sports Coalition, suggested locking up the fields/citing users during field closures. He stated his belief that the significant challenge is enforcing the field closure. He noted the organized team definition was okay. He reemphasized the main issue was keeping users off the field

during field closure. He supported locking the fields even the FIS lower field regardless of the track.

Division Manager Parseghian stated if the Commission decided to require permits for any activity regardless of the size then the fields would need to be locked and opened when a permit is issued.

Commissioner Kozakar stated the use of the fields had reached capacity. He said since the permitted use is not reducing, there needs to be a mechanism to reduce the overall usage of the field. He also stated his belief that the fields are not maintained well and there is a lack of proper enforcement during field closure.

Chair Decker stated her support to increase the field closure period to allow more rest for the field.

Commissioner Kamar stated the permitted user groups always respect the fields and help in maintaining them. He noted the main issue is the one unpermitted soccer group who continue to use the fields during field closures.

Vice Chair Kambe suggested moving forward with the proposed language regarding field closure and citing them.

Commissioner Kozakar suggested also moving forward with locking the fields during field closures to prevent a resident from accidentally using the fields and getting cited. He also noted seeing La Cañada Flintridge residents using the fields as a dog park during a field closure.

Vice Chair Kambe asked if there was a potential enforcement issue with District leases who have an agreement with the District for the use of the fields.

Chair Decker stated her belief that the local laws supersede any lease agreement between two parties.

Division Manager Parseghian stated current practice requires during field closures all users must remain off the field.

Chair Decker summarized that the Commission supported locking the fields during a field closure and introduce trespassing language in the code for users who use the field during closures.

Division Manager Parseghian stated City Attorney would determine the fee amount for a violator. He indicated staff could bring that amount back when the redline version comes to the Commission.

Commissioner Kozakar suggested putting a language that allows the deputies to cite and have them determine the violation.

Division Manager Parseghian stated staff would work with the attorneys to draft the language and bring a redline version to the Commission for formal support and recommendation to the City Council.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

6. Staff Comments.

Division Manager Parseghian reminded the Commission of the new City Hall dedication ceremony on Tuesday. He also provided an update about the FIS Tennis Court bid schedule. He informed the commission the bid schedule was being reviewed by resident experts to ensure the correct standards are being proposed. He also provided an update about the Joint Use Needs Assessment committee progress. He stated the committee was looking at expansion projects and looking at field closure methods. He said the staff would work to get the group's final recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission before taking it to Joint Use Committee. He also stated the City has been working with Flintridge Prep to secure field space for Joint Use purposes. He stated so far unofficially Flintridge Prep has agreed to Sunday use. Mr. Parseghian also invited the Commission or anyone the commission knows to contact him regarding any suggestions to improve the City's website.

7. Items for Future Agendas.

Vice Chair Kambe asked for information about how the City maintains trails.

Division Manager Parseghian suggested for Vice Chair Kambe to meet with staff first to discuss the City's maintenance plan and then if needed the item can come to the Commission.

Chair Decker asked to revisit the Senior Citizen Needs Assessment.

Division Manager Parseghian suggested having the item in April during the Commission next fiscal year budget requests. He also stated the Commission still needs to discuss setting criteria for the database.

Chair Decker asked to bring an item for the fitness at the park activity.

Commissioner Kozakar asked to bring an item to create a list of various community projects.

Division Manager Parseghian also informed the Commission that the City Council does provide funding for Eagle Scout Projects.

Chair Decker asked the Commissioners to start compiling a project list to bring for the discussion.

8. Comments from the Commission.

None

ADJOURN

Chair Decker adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

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