



**DRAFT MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018**

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Decker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Comments from the Public

Bill Koury, 5314 Godbey Drive, presented a new sport called Pickleball to the Commission. He requested the Commission consider a future discussion on the sport and potentially convert a tennis facility so that it is conducive to Pickleball.

5. Approval of November 14th, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kamar to approve the November 14th, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes as modified. 5-0, Approved.

2019 Annual Field Scheduling

8. Community Group Requests

A. LCF Chamber of Commerce – Facilities Permit and Fee Waiver Request

Management Analyst Nguyen presented the staff report along with the staff's recommendation.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kozakar to approve the Chamber of Commerce, permit and fee waiver request per staff's recommendation. 4-0-1, Approved, Commissioner Kamar recused himself on the item.

Division Manager Parseghian announced a few projects which could impact field usage. From December 21st through January 8th the Varsity infield replacement project will take place. He stated this was a project led by Edgar Garcia, La Cañada High School baseball coach, in collaboration with the District and the City. Although the project will conclude on January 8th, 2019, the Varsity infield may remain closed until the new grass is established.

Mr. Parseghian also mentioned two District future projects one at La Cañada Elementary and another at Paradise Canyon Elementary which could impact

field usage. The estimated project start date is June 2019. He stated permits would not be valid for the duration of the said projects.

7. LCF Sports Coalition Requests

A. AYSO – Field Permit and Fee Waiver Request (Re-ordered)

Management Analyst Nguyen presented the staff report along with staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Kozakar asked Marco Quezada, a representative for AYSO, what percentages of their group is made up of La Cañada Flintridge residents versus Pasadena.

Marco Quezada introduced himself and provided a brief history of the sports coalition. He stated 2/3 of their field usage is in Pasadena while 1/3 in La Cañada Flintridge. He also stated respectively 1/3 of their members are from La Cañada Flintridge.

Commissioner Kambe commended the groups for working well together.

Chair Decker asked why AYSO is requesting additional hours for the upcoming year.

Marco Quezada indicated that AYSO is requesting the same number of hours as last year.

Division Manager Parseghian confirmed the request was the same as previous years. He clarified not all AYSO hours may have been captured in the permit, due to staffing changes last year.

Chair Decker mentioned receiving complaints from baseball players and parents regarding the condition of the outfields. She stated her concern with the amount of time AYSO was requesting. She noted the request was very expansive to the point of precluding others from using the fields. She also stated receiving complaints from parents being kicked off the field because AYSO had a permit. She also indicated receiving complaints regarding AYSO players not respecting the fields, running across the infield, kicking balls into the baseball nets, and damaging water fountains at the high school. She emphasized the importance of not running across the infield by AYSO and Gladiators football.

Division Manager Parseghian stated the City has never received any complaints regarding AYSO. He stated that it was the first time City staff was hearing about these complaints. He reminded the Commission to redirect those who wish to report an issue or make a complaint to reach out to City staff and not the Commission. He commended AYSO for working well with the City and being

accommodating to the Community. Mr. Parseghian cautioned the Commission in accusing AYSO with vandalism without any evidence.

Marco Quezada stated whenever there is a soccer group on the field, they are wrongfully associated with AYSO.

Division Manager confirmed that outside soccer groups have on many occasions been mistaken as AYSO.

Commissioner Kozakar stated the issue with the condition of the fields is due to over usage. He noted the Commission's goal is to reduce the amount of usage. He indicated concern that there is limited availability for community usage due to permitted usage.

Division Manager Parseghian explained that all of the groups requesting usage are considered "Resident Applicant" per the City's Municipal Code. He stated that if the Commission's goal is to allow more rest period for the fields to recover, then the annual field closure periods should be extended. He stated not permitting a user group only leaves the fields vacant for non-permitted usage. He also noted the Joint Use Committee is looking into the field usage and ways to improve the condition of the fields.

Commissioner Kozakar stated he could not get a permit because the fields were in use. He asked if AYSO would be willing to reduce their Sunday use at Paradise Canyon Elementary School.

Marco Quezada stated the group was willing to reduce their usage but emphasized that it would open the fields to non-permitted groups.

Vice Chair Kambe stated his concern that reducing the permitted hours might open the field to unpermitted groups who may damage the fields. He said that accomplishing the goal of reducing usage the requires extending field closure.

Commissioner Kozakar stated concern that four groups occupy the majority of the fields which potentially prevents other groups from accessing the fields.

Marco Quezada stated AYSO and LAPFC have always accommodated to other groups at the request of the City.

Commissioner Olson asked what would happen if a baseball group requests a permit, but the field was already permitted.

Division Manager Parseghian stated if the group is a resident, applicant staff would work with the permit holder to vacate the date and allow for the new group to use it. He stated if the group was a

non-resident applicant then priority goes to the resident applicant permit holder.

Vice Chair Kambe stated his priority was the established community groups who have worked well with the City, who have supported the fields for years, and accommodated to the City's requests.

Kristina Kalb, Assistant Principal at La Cañada High School, supported maintaining the status quo. She emphasized the excellent relationship between the District and the user groups. She stated that the majority of the problem groups are the un-permitted groups. She supported the JUC subcommittee's project of reviewing the field conditions and providing new solutions.

Kevin Callahan, representative for Friends of La Cañada Baseball, spoke of his experience with lack of field availability. He stated that knowing the informal process for the use of the field with the user group will help to resolve a few of the concerns brought up by some of the Commissioners.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kambe to approve the AYSO, permit and fee waiver request per staff's recommendation. 5-0, Approved.

B. LAPFC Soccer – Field Permit and Fee Waiver Request (Re-ordered)

Management Analyst Nguyen presented the staff report along with staff's recommendation. She stated there was a correction on Oak Grove field, LAPFC would be using the field on Tuesday and Thursday instead of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Commissioner Olson asked about the use of the basketball court for futsal. He stated his concern with having a private group use public resources.

Marco Quezada stated that LAPFC was a non-profit based in La Cañada Flintridge with 500 La Cañada Flintridge participants. He said they also provide programs for the District. He noted the purpose of futsal on the courts was to take players off the grass to reduce field usage.

Commissioner Olson stated his concerns that allowing LAPFC usage of the basketball courts for futsal would potentially deprive others of using the courts.

Vice Chair Kambe asked if LAPF used all courts.

Marco Quezada stated they only use one court which leaves the other court available for basketball.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kozakar/Kamar to approve the LAPFC Soccer, permit and fee waiver request per staff's recommendation. 5-0, Approved.

6. LCUSD Requests

A. Review LCUSD Field Request and Major Event

Management Analyst Nguyen presented the staff report along with the staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Kozakar asked regarding the use of FIS and Cornishon for a softball field. Kristina Kalb, Assistant Principal at La Cañada High School, provided history of groups coordinating between the two fields.

7. LCF Sports Coalition Requests

A. Gladiators Football – Field Permit and Fee Waiver Request

Management Analyst Nguyen presented the staff report along with the staff's recommendation.

Division Manager Parseghian provided a brief history of the field closures. He stated the closures must align with School District breaks which was shifted to a later time, pushing the closure into Gladiators Football program.

Kevin Lacey, explained the Gladiators practice dates are set by the league with a mandatory start date which falls during the field closure. He also clarified the league only allows the team to practice in La Cañada Flintridge.

Commissioner Kozakar asked for Gladiators qualification for a fee waiver.

Management Analyst Nguyen stated the group is considered a resident applicant since their bona fide location is La Cañada Flintridge. In addition, as a resident applicant, they qualify for a fee waiver since the group is a non-profit organization and it is open to the public.

Kevin Lacey announced willingness of the sports coalitions to purchase divider fencing to prevent players getting onto the infield.

M/S/C: Commissioner Olson/Kambe to approve the La Cañada Gladiators Football, permit and fee waiver request per staff's recommendation. 5-0, Approved.

B. LCBSA – Field Permit and Fee Waiver Request

Management Analyst Nguyen presented the staff report along with the staff's recommendation.

Commission Kamar reminded LCBSA baseball regarding the lack of lights at the FIS and Cornishon fields which reduces their usability.

Chair Decker reiterated her concern with over usage by the user groups.

George Chumo stated with over 800 members, 80 percent of their members are from La Cañada Flintridge. He said they try to minimize the number of field usage as much as possible. In addition, he said they work well with the groups and the District to accommodate them. In addition, he stated the LCBSA had contributed \$5,000 towards the Varsity infield project.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kamar/Decker to approve the LCBSA, permit and fee waiver request per staff's recommendation. 4-0-1, Approved, Commissioner Kozakar recused himself on the item.

8. Community Group Requests (Continued)

A. The Community Center of LCF – Field Permit and Fee Waiver Request

Management Analyst Nguyen presented the staff report along with the staff's recommendation.

Chair Decker stated her observation of kids using the FIS fields during the field closures.

Maureen Bond clarified the kids were from the Preschool. She stated during the closure the Community Center cancels their programs.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kambe/Decker Commissioner Kambe/Decker to approve the Community Center of LCF, permit and fee waiver request per staff's recommendation. 5-0, Approved.

B. The Girls on the Run Permit and Fee Waiver Request

Management Analyst Nguyen presented the staff report along with the staff's recommendation.

Chair Decker asked about the community service the participants perform.

Molly Snow, Executive Director for Girls on the Run, explained part of the program the participants have to perform community impact projects, such as fundraising for shelters and disaster relief funds.

M/S/C: Commissioner Kozakar/Kamar to approve the Girls on the Run, permit and fee waiver request per staff's recommendation. 5-0, Approved.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

9. Staff Comments.

Division Manager Parseghian thanked Christina Nguyen for all the hard work she put in scheduling the 2019 field schedule. He also praised the community groups for all their hard work and working well to ensure a smooth permitting

process. He also provided an update regarding the Cornishon Tennis Courts Resurfacing Project. Mr. Parseghian stated the City and the District would fund the project equally.

10. Items for Future Agendas.

Vice Chair Kambe requested an update about the Flintridge Trail Project.

Chair Decker requested an update regarding the fitness at the park for the upcoming year.

Commission Olson requested an item to discuss pickleball.

Commission Kozakar requested an item to review the municipal code definition of organized sports.

11. Comments from the Commission.

Commissioner Kamar thanked Christina Nguyen and the user groups for all their hard work.

Vice Chair Kambe thanked everyone for working well and all the hard work they have put in.

Chair Decker also thanked everyone for their hard work.

Commissioner Olson reiterated his concern with LAPFC use of the fields and the impact they have on the fields.

ADJOURN

Chair Decker adjourned the meeting in honor of Paul Murray and Catherine Erskine at 7:55 p.m.

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