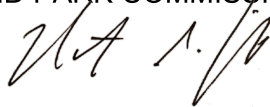


INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

April 04, 2024

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager 
SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

<u>From</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
Griffith Park Pony Ride comments		Referred to General Manager
1) Michael Westbrook comments regarding Robert F Kennedy Inspiration Park	#9532a	Referred to General Manager
2) Michael Maslin comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9578a	Referred to General Manager
3) Michael Flynn comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9578b	Referred to General Manager
4) Jake Hilliard comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9578c	Referred to General Manager
5) Erik Stenholm comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9578d	Referred to General Manager
6) Kevin Stewart comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9578e	Referred to General Manager
7) Joey Franklin comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9578f	Referred to General Manager
8) Larry Tate comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9578g	Referred to General Manager
9) James Ido comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9578h	Referred to General Manager

10) Davorin Kristo comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9578i	Referred to General Manager
11) Bob Cash comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9578j	Referred to General Manager
12) Chris Hall comments regarding Golf Tee times	#9578k	Referred to General Manager
13) Sue Chang comments regarding Golf Tee Time	#9578l	Referred to General Manager
14) Aimee Ritter comments regarding Point Fermin Park	#9582	Referred to General Manager
15) Lionel Mares comments regarding Sun Valley Recreation Park Advisory Board	#9583	Referred to General Manager
16) Simon Partridge comments regarding glider flying at Point Fermin	#9584	Referred to General Manager
17) Maryam Zar comments regarding Pacific Palisades meeting	#9585	Referred to General Manager
18) Andrea Shintani comments regarding Cheviot Hills Tennis	#9586	Referred to General Manager
19) Anne Choi comments regarding registering for Camp Hollywoodland	#9587	Referred to General Manager
20) Gerry Hans as President of Friends of Griffith Park comments regarding (BR 23-085)	#9588	Referred to General Manager
21) Jared Hovsepian comments regarding Snyder Park	#9589	Referred to General Manager
22) Cynthia Fan comments regarding Van Nuys Sherman Oaks War Memorial Park Soccer Fields	#9590	Referred to General Manager
23) Monica Smith comments regarding Pickleball Courts	#9591	Referred to General Manager
24) Tessie Cruz comments regarding Pickleball Courts	#9591a	Referred to General Manager

25) Esteban Rojas comments regarding Pickleball Courts	#9591b	Referred to General Manager
26) Atarah Dymally-Williams comments regarding Pickleball Courts	#9591c	Referred to General Manager
27) Elise Ruden comments regarding Pickleball Courts	#9591d	Referred to General Manager
28) Jeaneen Tang comments regarding Pickleball Courts	#9591e	Referred to General Manager
29) Motown Maurice comments regarding Pickleball Courts	#9591f	Referred to General Manager
30) Terri Breed comments regarding Pickleball Courts	#9591g	Referred to General Manager
31) Camille Jamandre comments regarding Pickleball Courts	#9591h	Referred to General Manager
32) Jason Saunders comments regarding Fig Slauson Park: 5800 Figueroa	#9592	Referred to General Manager
33) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Grove Park Graffiti	#9593	Referred to General Manager
34) Dennis Chew comments regarding New Community Center in Los Feliz	#9594	Referred to General Manager
35) Marilyn Bush comments regarding New Community Center in Los Feliz	#9594a	Referred to General Manager
36) Carole Nese regarding New Community Center in Los Feliz	#9594b	Referred to General Manager
37) Donald Seligman comments regarding Community Center in Los Feliz	#9594c	Referred to General Manager
38) Paul J comments regarding resurfacing Westchester tennis courts	#9595	Referred to General Manager
39) Aurora Corona comments regarding Alvarado Terrace Park - Donation of Dog Waste Station	#9596	Referred to General Manager

40) Brian Averill comments regarding Venice Centennial Park and Windward Park	#9597	Referred to General Manager
41) Jon comments regarding indoor basketball permits	#9598	Referred to General Manager
42) Howard Yonet comments regarding Dog Park, Temescal Canyon Pacific Palisades	#9599	Referred to General Manager
43) Eric Chu comments regarding items at Griffith Park	#9600	Referred to General Manager
44) Ethan Greenspan regarding Tennis Courts in Mar Vista	#9601	Referred to General Manager
45) Karen Thornton on behalf of Griffith Park Advisory Board regarding Griffith Park Safety and Active Transportation Improvements Project	#9602	Referred to General Manager
46) Dean Dana comments regarding Van Nuys Tennis Courts	#9603	Referred to General Manager
47) Ricardo Gomez comments regarding Bridge Home in Griffith Park	#9604	Referred to General Manager
48) Anthony Harvey comments regarding change order for Pickleball Courts at Mar Vista	#9605	Referred to General Manager
49) Bill Schwartz comments regarding Rustic Canyon Recreation Center Tennis Courts	#9606	Referred to General Manager
50) Victor Adjemian comments regarding South Griffith Park Master Plan	#9607	Referred to General Manager
51) Garcia Incareal comments regarding graffiti at Sycamore Grove Park	#9608	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Carolyn Shannon-Joyner, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: R&P Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers in Robert F. Kennedy Inspiration Park

2 messages

Javier Solis <javier.solis@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 10:17 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cc: Julio Hernandez <julio.hernandez@lacity.org>, Edwin Canales <edwin.canales@lacity.org>, Rob Simanovich <rob.simanovich@lacity.org>

Thank you for sharing.

Equipment Div. is working diligently on replacing gas powered equipment to battery operated...it will take some time to replace all equipment.

We will see if a battery operated blower is assigned to the area for the Gardener to use.

On Wed, Mar 27, 2024, 10:05 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Morning,
Please see email below. Please advise

Thank you,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael Westbrook** < >
Date: Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 9:55 AM
Subject: Re: R&P Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers in Robert F. Kennedy Inspiration Park
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Hello,

A gas-powered leaf blower was used again at [Robert F. Kennedy Inspiration Park](#) on 3/27/2024 by a Recreation & Parks employee. It is illegal to use gas-powered leaf blowers within 500 feet of residential buildings.

Please help us to address this issue. This has been an ongoing problem and it is disturbing residents.

I have attached photos of the employee and the Recreation & Parks vehicle.

Thank you,
Michael Westbrook

On Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 11:47 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 11:20 AM Michael Westbrook < > wrote:

Hello,

The use of gas-powered leaf blowers has continued in Robert F. Kennedy Inspiration Park (). A gas-powered leaf blower was used again on Tuesday, March 26 at around 11:00 AM.

It is illegal to use a gas-powered leaf blower within 500 feet of a residential building. This park is within 500 feet of the . The Recreation & Parks employees are regularly disturbing residents.

Please help us address this issue as it has been an ongoing problem.

I've attached pictures of the maintenance person's truck.

Thank you,
Michael Westbrook

On Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 8:04 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Sun, Mar 10, 2024 at 12:05 PM Michael Westbrook < > wrote:

Hello,

I reached out in December regarding Department of Recreation & Parks employees using gas-powered leaf blowers in [Robert F Kennedy Inspiration Park](#) (). The use of gas-powered leaf blowers within 500 feet of a residential building is illegal in the City of Los Angeles at all times.

Unfortunately, Recreation & Parks employees have continued to use gas powered leaf blowers. This has been an ongoing problem.

On the morning of Sunday, March 10, at around 9:15 AM, I approached an employee using a leaf blower and had a discussion with him about it. That discussion was unpleasant and he told me to call it in.

I'm working with LAPD Olympic Division to address issues in this park. The City Council office for District 10 has been getting involved as well. Please work with us to address this issue.

I have attached pictures of the employee and the Recreation & Parks vehicle with the licence plate visible.

Michael Westbrook

On Wed, Dec 27, 2023 at 8:59 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Dec 27, 2023 at 8:43 AM Michael Westbrook < > wrote:

Hello,

I am a resident of the , directly across the street from Robert F. Kennedy Inspiration Park (). The park is maintained by City of Los Angeles Recreation & Parks. Five days a week, Recreation & Parks employees use gas-powered leaf blowers in the park, which is illegal to do within 500

feet of a residential building. They operate the gas-powered leaf blowers within 500 feet of two residential buildings:

The park is on Los Angeles Unified School District's property as it is a part of the Robert F. Kennedy Schools' campus. However, the school and the city of Los Angeles have an agreement that the city's Recreation & Parks department maintain the park.

Numerous complaints have been filed with the city through 311 and the police have been called countless times.

Please address this issue with the employees who maintain the park. They can legally use electric leaf blowers.

Michael Westbrook





NO STOPPING
ANYTIME

TURN AWAY
NO STOPPING





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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Golf Tee Times - Bots

1 message

Michael Maslin < >
To: Rick Reinschmidt <rick.reinschmidt@lacity.org>
Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 9:44 AM

Amazing - thank you, Rick.

Michael Maslin
Phone:
Email:

On Mar 5, 2024, at 9:43 AM, Rick Reinschmidt <rick.reinschmidt@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello Michael

Thanks for sharing. We are aware of this Instagrammer's post and have already taken initial action. All LA City Golf tee times advertised on his post have been canceled and released to the public. I'm already in talks with our Vendor, GolfNow, with ideas to end this type of activity. I'll keep you updated on what those are and when they are implemented.

On Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 9:38 AM Michael Maslin < > wrote:
Hi Rick,

Thanks again for bearing with my multiple emails.

There is a golf influencer, Dave Fink who shared evidence of the bot booked tee times then being sold.

I'm attaching the screenshots to this email. This type of activity has been making it extremely difficult for normal golfers like myself to get tee times. What's worse, is that I'm confident many of the golf course employees are fully aware that this type of thing is ongoing.

Please do something about this. Thanks in advance.

Michael Maslin
Phone:
Email:

On Feb 23, 2024, at 10:04 AM, Rick Reinschmidt <rick.reinschmidt@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello Michael

Thank you for your email. As I mentioned before, our long-term golf tee time vendor, GolfNow, monitors this activity with a special bot-squasher that was created specifically for the L.A. City golf tee time booking engine. By the time a golf reservation hits our tee sheets, it is virtually impossible to know how it was booked other than if it was booked via the web, call center, or mobile app. If our bot-squasher detects suspicious activity or unusually fast activity, it will automatically throw a CAPTCHA on that IP address to prevent future activity. I've been working with our Department's City Attorneys and we've sent Cease

and Desist letters to multiple companies such as Loop Golf. There are several of these companies popping up lately.

As for the alleged brokering of tee times goes... that's a whole different issue. Again, without specific names and contacts, we have no way of tracking if this is taking place. Much of what is posted online in these forums are simply not true or extremely exaggerated. We are, however, coming up with ideas for the near future that would help prevent some of this activity if in fact it is taking place.

Thank you

On Fri, Feb 23, 2024 at 6:38 AM Michael Maslin < > wrote:
Just following up on this.

Bots continue to be an issue and it's disappointing that nothing is being done. It's also very frustrating that in all of my prior emails, you've denied their existence. Why are you denying it, rather than trying to find a solution?

Here's a forum from December 2023.

From the golf community on Reddit
reddit.com

At Rancho, I've heard the starter say during a prime time weekend morning "how did you get this tee time? it's usually booked by a regular." With the amount of competition, it would literally be impossible to have a regular tee time without a bot.

Please advise.

Michael Maslin

Phone:

Email:

On Jan 2, 2024, at 9:19 AM, Rick Reinschmidt
<rick.reinschmidt@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello Michael

Thank you for your email regarding LA City Golf tee times. We are well aware of the SEVERAL companies such as Loop Golf who offer services to notify golfers when there are open tee times on multiple booking engines. We are working with our City Attorneys to see what our options are and what we can do about it. To our knowledge, these sites are not booking anything and do not have access to customer accounts. They simply notify golfers when tee times become available and the golfers still need to book the tee times. This is nothing that golfers cannot do themselves.

As far as those multiple tee times all of a sudden becoming available at Rancho Park Golf Course on the morning of December 23, that was not done by a bot. That was done by staff at Rancho Park Golf Course. We cancelled a pre-booked tournament at the last minute due to inclement weather and it was determined early that morning that carts were not to be permitted on Rancho Park Golf Course. Per our Tournament Policy, groups may cancel if pre

booked and prepaid carts are not available at the time of the event.

Thank you

On Sat, Dec 23, 2023 at 8:31 AM Michael Maslin

< > wrote:

Hi Rick,

Happy Holidays!

In your previous reply, you indicated that it's not clear if people are still using bots. Well, I'm sharing proof that the issue still exists. Attached are screenshots of an alert my friend got this morning from an app that gives notifications when tee times become available from cancellations etc.

A block of 6 prime time tee times (4somes from 9:30a - 10:20a) become available all at the exact same time. This would not be possible without someone having a bot to book them all up and cancel them all at the same time.

I'm hopeful that steps will be taken to help the average LA golfer get tee times.

Can you please let me know what your thoughts are?

Warm regards,
Michael

Michael Maslin

Phone:

Email:

On Nov 9, 2023, at 9:20 AM, Michael Maslin

< > wrote:

Thank you for the response.

Unfortunately, it is clear that not enough is being done, or, whatever is being done by GolfNow is still being circumvented.

The fact of the matter is, there are bots being used every day and individuals are hoarding tee times and reselling them. This is not speculation - what you are hearing is a legitimate issue - and it must be too difficult to catch the individuals who are violating the rules.

A likely solution would be for GolfNow to make adjustments to how they restrict / catch bots. It's likely that they need additional pressure from the LA municipality to make changes, otherwise this is going to continue without any resolution.

Michael Maslin

Phone:

Email:

On Nov 9, 2023, at 9:01 AM, Rick Reinschmidt <rick.reinschmidt@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello Michael

Thank you for your email regarding the LA City booking engine. We understand it has become extremely difficult to obtain a golf tee time over the last couple of years. Especially since we have a lot less inventory (10 minute intervals as opposed to 6 or 8 minutes). Our tee time vendor, GolfNow, built a "bot-squasher" into our booking engine. When it detects suspicious or unusually fast activity at 6:00 a.m., it automatically places a CAPTCHA on that IP address to prevent that from happening in the future. As far as reselling of tee times, yes we've heard of that happening. We have not seen that happening. If we do catch any company or any golfer violating our policy, we take action and suspend their Player Card and/or playing privileges.

We thank you for your concerns and your patronage.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rap Commissioners
<rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 10:38 AM
Subject: Re: Golf Tee Times - Bots
To: Michael Maslin
< >
Cc: RAP Golf <rap.golf@lacity.org>, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Tue, Nov 7, 2023 at 12:25 PM Michael Maslin < > wrote:

To whom it may concern:

I am an avid golfer and frequent the

city's municipal courses as much as I can. However, over the last few months, it has become nearly impossible to get a tee time.

I wake up at 6am every morning to try to get one, but they are gone within seconds.

It has been brought to my attention that there are people who have bots that scoop up every tee time as soon as they become available, and then they are being re-sold to people in the know.

Is the Rec and Parks division aware of this issue? Is anything being done to fix this?

I've paid for a players card, I pay my taxes, etc. and something needs to be done so I (and thousands of others) can actually enjoy the courses.

Looking forward to hearing back.

Best regards,

Michael

Michael Maslin

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park
Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
[221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300](https://www.laparks.org)
[Los Angeles, CA 90012](https://www.laparks.org)

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Tee time bots/kak

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To:

Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 1:22 PM

Your email has been received by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael Flynn** < >
Date: Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 6:09 AM
Subject: Tee time bots/kak
To: <rap.golf@lacity.org>

Hey LA city golf,

Did you know that this guy has a monopoly on tee times for all the courses in LA!?!? What the actual

How do you guys not prevent this from happening? This is ruining golf for everyone in LA, I literally have not been able to get a tee time for Wilson or Harding since 2021.

This guy should be in jail!!!!!!

Please let me know how you guys are going to prevent this and make golf accessible for everyone!!!!

Let me know if I need to get my contacts to Mayor Bass on this one.

Again the guy who is doing this should be severely punished and never allowed to play golf in LA again.

6:04



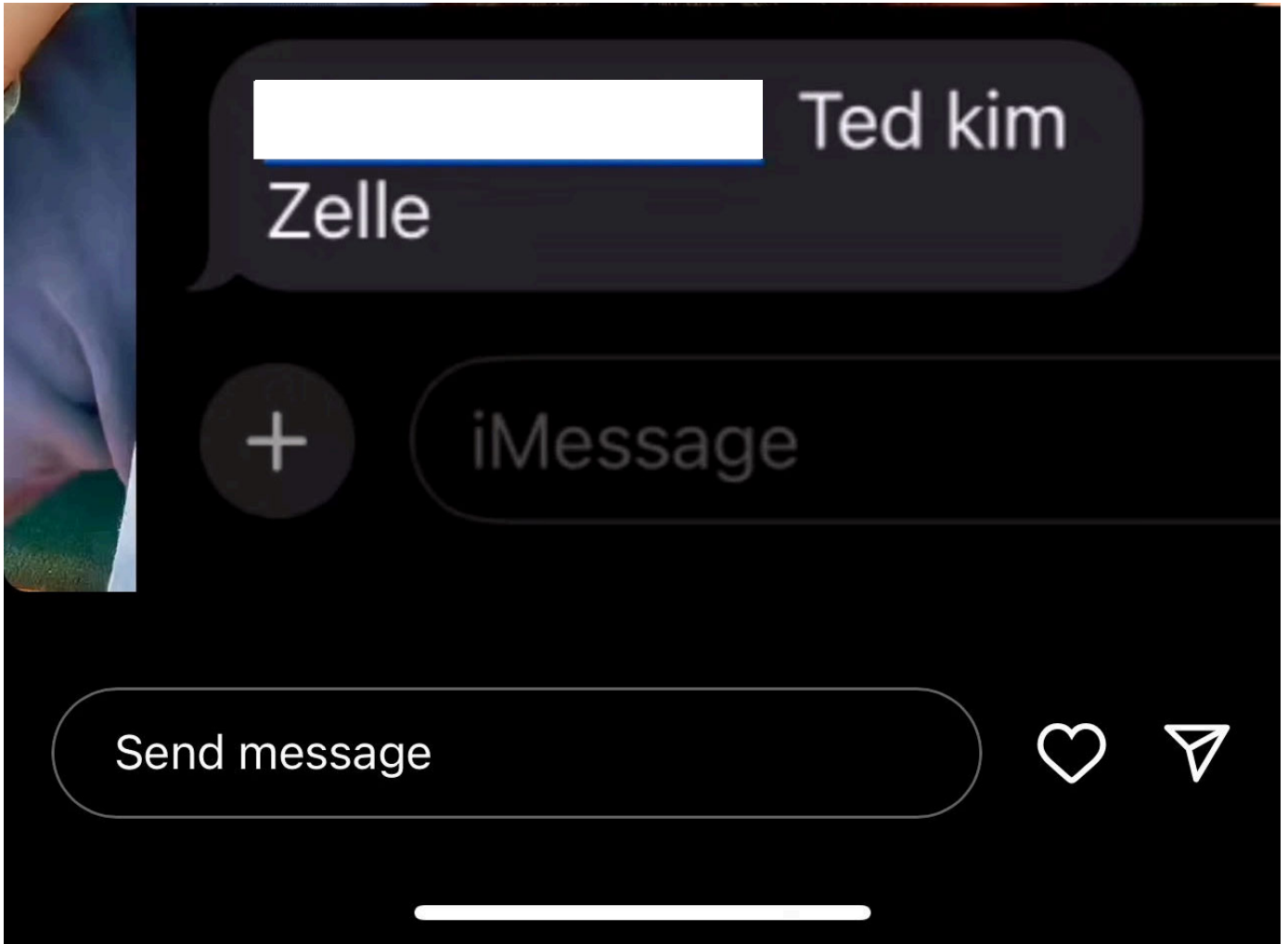
[Redacted] @ [Redacted] 15h



**trying to use my platform for good.
FOR THE PEOPLE.**

**but you're gonna check in
under this guy's**





6:04



****03/09/2024 Sat****



[Redacted name] 15h [Redacted]



Brook
550 60

trying to use my platform for good.

FOR THE PEOPLE.

TUSTIN RANCH (Booking Fee \$30)
900 910 920 930 940 950 960 970 980 990(2)

this is what

HIDDEN VALLEY (Booking Fee \$30)
900(2) 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140

COYOTE HILLS (Booking Fee \$30)
1024 1036 1048 1224 1248

WESTRIDGE (Booking Fee \$30)
804 812

WILSON (Booking Fee \$30)
NOT AVAILABLE

HANSEN DAM (Booking Fee \$30)
640 830(2)

LOS VERDES [4 PLAYERS ONLY]
(Booking Fee \$40)
5:55 1:00

RANCHO PARK (Booking Fee \$30)
NOT AVAILABLE

BALBOA (Booking Fee \$30)
600 1000 1020 1120

HARDING (Booking Fee \$30)
610

LAKWOOD(Booking Fee \$30) 6:00



MOUNTAIN MEADOW (Booking Fee \$30)
540 550 1240

LA MIRADA (Booking Fee \$30)
551

WHITTER NARROW : (Booking Fee \$30)
[5명 가능] 542 824 1254

MARSHALL CANYON (Booking Fee \$30)
833 842 909 918 927

SANTA ANITA (Booking Fee \$30)
[5명 가능]



Send message



6:04



0:54 [icons] 5GUC 81%



****03/09/2024 Sat****

using

Brookside #2 Nay (Booking Fee \$30)
550 600

TUSTIN RANCH (Booking Fee \$30)
900 910 920 940 950 1000(2)

HIDDEN VALLEY (Booking Fee \$30)
900(2) 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140

COYOTE HILLS (Booking Fee \$30)
1024 1036 1048 1224 1248

WESTRIDGE (Booking Fee \$30)
804 812

WILSON (Booking Fee \$30)
NOT AVAILABLE

HANSEN DAM (Booking Fee \$30)
640 830(2)

LOS VERDES [4 PLAYERS ONLY]
(Booking Fee \$40)
5:55 1:00

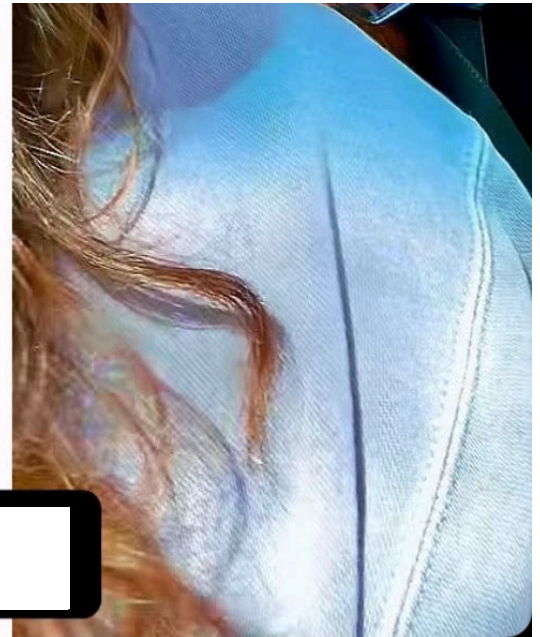


RANCHO PARK (Booking Fee \$30)
NOT AVAILABLE

BALBOA (Booking Fee \$30)
600 1000 1020 1120

HARDING (Booking Fee \$30)
610

LAKWOOD(Booking Fee [redacted])



Send message



Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!



City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: The Problem with LA City Golf

1 message

Jake Hilliard < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Cc: Matthew Rudnick <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 11:38 AM

I appreciate you guys being on top of this!

Just trying to get some good rounds in on the courses i was always around.

My uncle tells me stories of Wilson and Harding as if they are the lost city of Atlantis hahaha
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 5, 2024, at 11:27 AM, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

Thanks for sharing. We are aware of this Instagrammer's post and have already taken initial action. All LA City Golf tee times advertised on his post have been canceled and released to the public. The Golf Manager is already in talks with our Vendor, GolfNow, with ideas to end this type of activity.

On Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 11:19 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,
Please see below.
Thank you,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jake Hilliard** >
Date: Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 11:17 AM
Subject: Fwd: The Problem with LA City Golf
To: <rap.publicinfo@lacity.org>

This message is for Matthew Rudnick

Thank you
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jake Hilliard < >
Date: March 5, 2024 at 10:59:51 AM PST
To: Matthew.Rudick@lacity.org
Subject: The Problem with LA City Golf

Hello Matthew

I saw your email on a popular tik tok explaining the current scene with LA city golf.

It was talking about the famed "tee time dealer"

I've grown up in west LA as have my parents, their parents, and even some of their parents' parents. It looks like we are both from Mar Vista according to your page. I played little league there when I was a kid. My mom also grew up in Mar Vista as well (she grew up on stoner and I grew up right behind windward school)

Our local courses are Penmar and Rancho. When I started playing golf around high school age (about 10 years ago), we would easily be able to walk up to penmar and wait a little bit and get a tee time. That is no longer the case. Obviously there has been a boom in the popularity of golf and people in LA, but it seems that everyone I talk to on the course (when I actually get to play) is running into the same issue. All the tee times are being snatched up right as they become available.

My cousin has a player's card and gets online right when the tee times drop and the earliest tee time is late afternoon.

Obviously I would love to play the courses that my grandfather and his dad played together, but I am forced to play Westchester because those are the only tee times available to get all 18 in.

I wanted to check with you and see if there is anything being done to combat the scalping of tee times. It is super unfair to all of the dedicated golfers that were born and raised coming to these courses. The first bucket of balls I ever hit was at rancho park back when my uncle just wanted to hit the range but had to baby sit us little kids.

I also think this practice of selling tee times is unfair to the elderly who aren't as savvy. My uncle is 61 and can't even get on the course on a random Tuesday.

Let me know if there is anything I can do to help fix this problem that is ruining the game of golf in our beloved city.

Thank you
Jake Hilliard

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!



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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
[221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300](https://www.laparks.org)
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: LA Muni Tee Times (And A Simple Fix!)

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 11:22 AM

To:

Bcc: Rick Reinschmidt <rick.reinschmidt@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

Thanks for sharing. We are aware of this Instagrammer's post and have already taken initial action. All LA City Golf tee times advertised on his post have been canceled and released to the public. The Golf Manager is already in talks with our Vendor, GolfNow, with ideas to end this type of activity.

On Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 11:01 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see Patron's forwarded message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Erik Stenholm** < >

Date: Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 10:37 AM

Subject: LA Muni Tee Times (And A Simple Fix!)

To: <rap.golf@lacity.org>, <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>, <matthew.rudick@lacity.org>, jimmy.kim@lacity.org
<jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

To Matthew Rudick + Jimmy Kim,

I'm an LA citizen living in Larchmont. I play golf every weekend but find it almost impossible to play at any of the municipal courses due to the lack of tee times. I'm sure you receive thousands of these emails, but on the off chance you're not familiar with exactly what's happening, I'll lay it out for you and how incredibly simple it is to fix.

The seven major 18 hole courses (Wilson, Harding, Rancho Park, Hansen Dam, Encino, Balboa, and Woodley Lakes) each have all of their weekend and holiday morning and early afternoon tee times scooped up by a bot seconds after release. It is physically impossible to book these tee times even if you get up at 6AM 9 days in advance with your players card (which I pay \$25 a year for for no apparent reason). I often get these prime tee times into my cart but then can't check them out and confirm them. The only way I ever play a decent course on the weekends is to snag a cancelation 24-48 hours prior to the tee time.

I know and play with a ton of LA City golf players, and know exactly how two of these systems work. One is run out of Korea, through an app called Kakao where you message a guy who usually has 10-15 weekend morning foursomes at each of those seven courses. You then pay him \$40 per person per tee time for the group. And then you pay the tee time rate when you check in. No idea how the starters at each of the seven courses allow this when it clearly states you have to provide your ID when checking in. Either they don't care, don't check ID, or someone at LA City is in on it.

The second is a Brazilian based bot system run similarly but this guy has accounts with the correct names on them and only lets a small number of "elite" players into this group for a massive fee (rumors are the fee is in the thousands which is hilarious because why not just join a club at that point). I was told I could be connected with this guy and chose not to, out of principle. There's also a guy out there running Instagram ads on his behalf which I did some digging into, it eventually just gets you to a WhatsApp group where you get pricing on his program.

Almost every week I drive to Moorpark, Simi Valley, Riverside, Jurupa Valley, etc. so my foursome can play. I was even a member at Braemar CC for a year after months of struggling to get any tee times within a half hour drive. I would **much** rather play near my home and support the city rather than non-muni courses. I love Rancho, Wilson, and Harding particularly. I know this is a similar issue at other local munis like Los Verdes and Brookside, which also have those same two bot programs involved.

There are two ways to fix the issue at hand, and I'd love to know if LA City is just not interested in a solution or actively against one with someone in the know getting a cut of the bot profits. The first is insanely simple - do as the best run courses in SoCal do and require fully charging for the tee time at checkout. There is obviously massive demand for golf in LA given the scarcity of courses and how much the game has grown in popularity since COVID. But the demand is not so insanely high that these tee times will be scooped up seconds after release given the \$250ish deposit required. It gives real golfers and real LA citizens a shot again.

The second solution is less simple but would be even more effective, and that is enforcing the policies you claim to already be enforcing. Use a website that is bot-proof (it currently isn't, despite the "checking that you are a human" screen). Actually check the ID's of the players checking in for morning rounds especially on the weekends. If a name or email address is associated with multiple tee times on the same day, ban that account permanently. If someone is checking in under a name that's not in the group, ban them. It's not rocket science.

I know this is a tough job, and this particular issue is low-priority to you and your office. But I'd appreciate a reply. And I'd especially appreciate a reply that acknowledges the problem, because many of my friends who've reached out get the same nothing-burger responses which only further enhances the feeling among the tens of thousands of LA muni golfers that someone at LA City is in on the bot money.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Erik Stenholm

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Golf tee times scandal. Please help us stop this.

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To:

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 10:44 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

Thanks for sharing. We are aware of this Instagrammer's post and have already taken initial action. All LA City Golf tee times advertised on his post have been canceled and released to the public. The Golf Manager is already already in talks with our Vendor, GolfNow, with ideas to end this type of activity.

On Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 10:33 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see Patron's forwarded message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kevin Stewart** < >
Date: Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 10:29 AM
Subject: Golf tee times scandal. Please help us stop this.
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Hello and to whom it may concern:

As you may have heard already, there is a viral video circulating instagram in which an illegal golf broker is somehow gaming the system and reselling tee times for an upcharge. This is beyond unfair and frankly its been going on for way too long. You guys need to step in and put an end to this. As a tax payer, its our right to be able to book tee times without this scandal going on.

See my email below to LA city golf, which got no answer:

Be sure to click on the video link and watch because it exposes what's going on.

Hello, as an avid golfer and LA resident I try to play as many LA City courses at premium tee times as I can but as you know it's almost impossible to get them. Now we know why and there is proof of it in the video below.

It had been rumored for months that someone was buying tee times and reselling them and now we know it's true. This is a disgrace and an embarrassment to LA City Golf, I pay \$25 a year to be able to book tee times in advance and I can never get preferred tee times. Please watch this video:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C4GjbMzPFDT/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

I expect some kind of action. Please let me know what we can do to make this stop.

Thank you in advance.

A concerned tax payer.

--

Department of Recreation and Parks

Public Information Office

Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org

Phone: 213-202-2700

Website: www.laparks.org

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--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: TIMELY (reply requested) - Bots taking tee times

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To:

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 2:57 PM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

Thanks for sharing. We are aware of this Instagrammer's post and have already taken initial action. All LA City Golf tee times advertised on his post have been canceled and released to the public. The Golf Manager is already in talks with our Vendor, GolfNow, with ideas to end this type of activity.

On Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 9:48 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see Patron's forwarded message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joey Franklin** < >
Date: Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 7:39 PM
Subject: TIMELY (reply requested) - Bots taking tee times
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

To whom this may concern,

Instead of writing a long winded email, i just want to bring this urgent matter to your attention regarding tee time reservations.

please watch the link below:

<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZPR3TkYfD/>

How do we stop second parties like this app kakaotalk from taking all the tee times and charging everyone on top of the LA city greens fees? This is wild that it hasn't been stopped yet.

Feel free to email me back directly or call my cell.

Thank you for your efforts in advance!

Joey Franklin
M:



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Complaint about bots buying tee times for golf on all city courses

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 2:38 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

We are aware of this Instagrammer's post and have already taken initial action. All LA City Golf tee times advertised on his post have been canceled and released to the public. The Golf Manager is already in talks with our Vendor, GolfNow, with ideas to end this type of activity.

On Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 12:22 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the forwarded message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Larry Tate** < >
Date: Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 6:41 AM
Subject: Complaint about bots buying tee times for golf on all city courses
To: <info@parks.lacounty.gov>
Cc: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Hello. It has come to my attention that a group of people are using bots to buy the tee times up in advance and sell them online for a profit. This has to be illegal??

It might be that you are not aware of this, but if you are, what are you prepared to do to fix this issue?

I have a players card and it has been practically impossible to make a tee time even 9 days in advance for a full round of 18 holes at any city golf course. I'm surprised that you do not have a CAPTCHA installed on the cityoflapcp website for making tee times.

Please let me know how you are going to deal with this issue, if you are at all. Would appreciate some feedback. I love playing golf at the city courses and miss being able to find a tee time.

Thank you,

Larry Tate

--

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Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Golf course reservations

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 2:53 PM To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

We are aware of this Instagrammer's post and have already taken initial action. All LA City Golf tee times advertised on his post have been canceled and released to the public. The Golf Manager is already in talks with our Vendor, GolfNow, with ideas to end this type of activity.

On Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 2:21 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello

Please see Patron's message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: James Ido < > Date: Sat, Mar 16, 2024 at 9:23 PM Subject: Golf course reservations To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Why does the city allow brokers to reserve tee times and they sell it to golfers for brokers fee. Fees up to \$40 and more.

Sent from my iPhone

--

Department of Recreation and Parks Public Information Office Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org Phone: 213-202-2700 Website: www.laparks.org

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City of Los Angeles Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: LA City Golf booking system abuse - NEWS TIP

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 2:44 PM

To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

We are aware of this Instagrammer's post and have already taken initial action. All LA City Golf tee times advertised on his post have been canceled and released to the public. The Golf Manager is already in talks with our Vendor, GolfNow, with ideas to end this type of activity.

On Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 12:28 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see Patron's forwarded message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Davorin Kristo** < >

Date: Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 8:53 AM

Subject: LA City Golf booking system abuse - NEWS TIP

To: <Fernando.Campos@lacity.org>, <ethics.commission@lacity.org>, <RAP.PUBLICINFO@lacity.org>, <cityatty.help@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org>, <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <cd10@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <councilmember.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>

Cc: <fox11news@fox.com>, <tips@nbcla.com>, <lanewsdesk@charter.com>, <social@scng.com>

Hi,

I am wondering what the city including the parks and recreation division is doing about the rampant abuse of the LA City Golf website happening. It has been proven again and again that unethical individuals are using software bots to book tee times and resell them to others. Further, this is being abused by individuals who hide the resale websites behind language barriers. The courses have become effectively unavailable to the public, yet they are designated as public courses. There are technology solutions available to stop these abusers, but the city has to recognize the problem first.

Does the city have plans in place to course correct here?

Best,

Davorin Kristo



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: LA City Golf Reservations

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 7:16 AM

To:

Bcc: Rick Reinschmidt <rick.reinschmidt@lacity.>

for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

Thanks for sharing. We are aware of an Instagrammer's post and have already taken initial action. All LA City Golf tee times advertised on his post have been canceled and released to the public. The Golf Manager is already in talks with our Vendor, GolfNow, with ideas to end this type of activity.

On Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 3:33 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the forwarded message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bob Cash** < >
Date: Sun, Mar 17, 2024 at 6:44 PM
Subject: LA City Golf Reservations
To: <RAP.PUBLICINFO@lacity.org>
Cc: John Lade < >, Bronaugh, Don < >, Tom Molter < >, Bob Cash < >, jerry melton < >

Well the scam has been uncovered, horribly plaguing the golf reservation system since Jimmy Kim took over! Isn't it interesting how the scandal centers on Koreans! What's Jimmy's take?

I have documented reservation **confirmation** that was stolen away by these cheats, replaced! I will forward my data to Karen Bass, certainly not to the Dept of Parks. Not a good performance for a new Mayor.

Sincerely,
Robert Cash

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Problems Getting T-Time on Los Angeles City Golf Courses

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:45 AM

To: CHRIS HALL

>

Cc: Jeff Cooper <

>, Ed Sauve <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:28 AM CHRIS HALL <

> wrote:

March 19, 2024

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department

Office of Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 86328

Los Angeles, CA 90086-0328

Email Address: RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG

Re: Problems Getting T-Time Reservations at Harbor Park

For the past three years our golf group has had significant problems getting a T-time reservation at Harbor Park because we get the **"spinning wheel"** that locks up the screen on our cell phones and computers. We have contacted the staff at Los Angeles City Golf about our reservation problems on Nov. 3, 2021; Nov. 7, 2022; Dec. 5, 2022; Sept. 18, 2023; Oct. 23, 2023; Nov. 13, 2023; Dec. 11, 2023; and Jan. 29, 2024.

Some of us have been playing at Harbor Park since 1986 and have never had this much difficulty. We know that we am not the only ones; all golfers are complaining. Because of the inability to obtain reservations for 5 players, and inability to get a T-time in the morning when everyone can play, our group has disbanded. We are lucky if we can get 3 players.

From our perspective, the problem is not "bots" locking up the system, or T-Time brokers grabbing times that should be available to us; we do not see any evidence that this is happening at Harbor Park. After all, it is a 9-hole course that probably isn't worth marketing.

Instead, we see evidence that your reservation system is overloaded. This has evolved since the COVID-19 restrictions were put into effect in 2020 and has gotten progressively worse. Some of the reasons are listed below along with possible solutions:

1. You now allow singles to reserve a T-time 9 days in advance. Once they grab a T-time, it locks out any group of 5 that wants to play at Harbor Park.
 - a. This can be solved by going back to the pre-Covid procedure where singles had to make their reservations later to fill empty spots. You have answered previously that

this can't be done because it was not equitable for single players. Now you are making it disadvantageous to groups of two or more and especially seniors.

2. Since it is becoming increasingly difficult to get a T-time, many groups are having more than one player in their group log on to get a time; they then select the best time and cancel the rest. This would overload any reservation system.

a. You should appeal to golfers to only have one player booking a T-time for their group so as to avoid overloading the system.

b. If the system is locking up due to overload, you can go to a staggered advance reservation time for each course (e.g.: 6:00 am for Harbor Park; 6:10 am for Rancho Park; 6:20 am for Wilson).

3. If T-time brokers are a major problem:

a. You could disallow the transfer of reservations unless it is done through the starter at the course or your Los Angeles City Golf office in Chavez Ravine. The starters know their regular players and should be able to spot unauthorized reservations.

b. In order for players to transfer reservations, you could require that they cancel the reservations, thereby allowing someone else to rebook them. Twenty years ago this was how we had to do it if the person in the group who made the reservation couldn't play; one other player in the group would re-book the reservation in his name.

As a last resort, one solution might to be to go back to the call-in reservation system which worked until the computer system was installed in its place. It worked to fill the same number of T-times and golfers that the current system is supposed to accommodate.

James Chris Hall

--

City of Los Angeles
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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Blocking access to tee time reservations

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 7:50 AM

To: Sue chang <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 11:11 AM Sue chang <

> wrote:

Commissioners,

We're blocked to tee time reservations & trying to figure out why ! The following was emailed to the Rec & Park but only response to our email was "having technical problems" that was not an acceptable response to our concerns.

We want to know if any specific group or community is blocked to the golf reservation system !

Please respond to our questions ASAP. Any specific group is/was limited to tee time reservations? YES OR NO ?

Below is our prior email to Rec & Park. Also the blocking to the reservation system messages are attached hereto:

" Please respond why we are blocked to access to tee time reservation ! My husband & I both were trying to make tee time reservations with senior cards, but kept getting this message for the last two days !

We feel very offended. Is this access limitation practice targeted to a specific group ? If so, it is certainly discriminatory practice in the public office.

Please respond & explain what this is all about ASAP. We will pursue the truth in any way we can until we hear reasonable/justifiable explanations on this matter!

Anxious to hear your response ! "

Sue Chang

Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Blocking access to tee time reservations

1 message

Sue chang < > Sat, Mar 23, 2024 at 9:15 AM
To: RAP Golf <rap.golf@lacity.org>
Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

I'm still blocked to tee time reservation this morning!

I'm only one blocked to the reservation system amongst my other golf friends! You will have to explain why !

If you need my membership number to investigate for the explanation, I'll be more than happy to provide you.

Expecting your prompt response on this matter.

Sue Chang

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 22, 2024, at 10:31 AM, Sue chang < > wrote:

The problems still continues as of this morning. The blocking to the reservation system doesn't seem to apply everyone & many of specific group of golf members are having this problem.

We need to know more reasonable response than "having technical problems" as this is serious & offensive discrimination if the ban is targeted to specific group of residents.

Also why the City does't do anything to stop the tee time brokers who take multiple tee times to sell ? If this current reservation ban is to resolve those tee time broker situations, it is not only wrong but serious discriminatory practice on your part!

We are furious about not only those tee time brokers but also being selected for this ban with no reason !

Expecting more reliable explanation on these issues; what's being done to stop the brokers & explanation why we are blocked !

Sue Chang

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 22, 2024, at 8:57 AM, RAP Golf <rap.golf@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello Ms. Chang,

We have been experiencing technical difficulties since yesterday. In an attempt to add more security measures to our booking engine, our vendor inadvertently added way too much security which caused for many customers to experience being "banned" from the system. This did not happen to any one specific group but was an overall issue that affected hundreds of golfers trying to access the reservation system. Our vendor continues to work to fix this issue.

Thank you

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Date: Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 7:59 AM
Subject: Fwd: Blocking access to tee time reservations
To: Rick Reinschmidt <rick.reinschmidt@lacity.org>

Good morning Rick,

Please see email below and attachments regarding Golf tee time. Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Date: Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 7:50 AM
Subject: Re: Blocking access to tee time reservations
To: Sue chang < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 11:11 AM Sue chang < > wrote:
Commissioners,

We're blocked to tee time reservations & trying to figure out why ! The following was emailed to the Rec & Park but only response to our email was "having technical problems" that was not an acceptable response to our concerns.

We want to know if any specific group or community is blocked to the golf reservation system !

Please respond to our questions ASAP. Any specific group is/was limited to tee time reservations? YES OR NO ?

Below is our prior email to Rec & Park. Also the blocking to the reservation system messages are attached hereto:

" Please respond why we are blocked to access to tee time reservation ! My husband & I both were trying to make tee time reservations with senior cards, but kept getting this message for the last two days !

We feel very offended. Is this access limitation practice targeted to a specific group ? If so, it is certainly discriminatory practice in the public office.

Please respond & explain what this is all about ASAP. We will pursue the truth in any way we can until we hear seasonable/justifiable explanations on this matter!

Anxious to hear your response ! "

4:42

Done



Error 1015

Ray ID:

2024-03-21 11:41:47 U

You are being rate

4:36

Done



Error 1015

Ray ID:

2024-03-21 11:35:35 U

You are being rate

11:05

Done



f

Error 1015

Ray ID:

2024-03-21 06:04:44 U

You are being rate



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: PETA: RE: Glue Traps set at Los Angeles Parks & Recreation Point Fermin Park 807 W Paseo Del Mar and Angel Gate Office 613 Leavenworth Drive in San Pedro

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 1:49 PM

To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 1:45 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the forwarded email below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Aimee Ritter** < >

Date: Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 12:23 PM

Subject: RE: PETA: RE: Glue Traps set at Los Angeles Parks & Recreation Point Fermin Park 807 W Paseo Del Mar and Angel Gate Office 613 Leavenworth Drive in San Pedro

To: RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

February 26, 2024

To: Ms. Norma Edith Garcia-Gonzalez, Director Los Angeles Parks & Recreation**From:** Aimee Ritter, Cruelty Caseworker, PETA**Re:** Glue traps**Thank you in advance for your urgent consideration.**

PETA is an animal protection organization with over 650,000 members and supporters residing in California. We are receiving complaints that glue traps are being set at the Los Angeles Parks & Recreation office located at 807 W Paseo Del Mar in San Pedro and additionally, the Angel Gate Office located at 613 Leavenworth Dr. in San Pedro, with the apparent intent to trap rodents. If this is accurate, then please know that *glue traps should be avoided at all cost as this controversial, dangerous method presents absolutely zero advantage in any scenario including for the purposes of monitoring rodent activity.* Footage of an ensnared rodent can be viewed at <http://www.peta.org/issues/wildlife/glue-traps.aspx>.

Glue traps are a danger to human health. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) cautions against their use due to disease risks; the EPA has stricken them from its website; massive hospital conglomerate Kaiser Permanente Healthcare has banned them nationwide, as has international foodservice leader Compass Group North America; and the National Restaurant Association struck them from its ServSafe® program. **Glue traps are also notoriously cruel** since panicked rodents struggle mightily, tearing apart flesh and bone, becoming more entangled in the gooey adhesive only to die terrified/exhausted, often over the course of days, from shock, dehydration, asphyxiation, or blood loss. And the cries of ensnared rodents are highly upsetting to compassionate individuals stymied by what to do. Further, **glue traps are wholly indiscriminate**, posing definitive risks to myriad non-target wildlife including protected species; sadly, PETA receives countless reports annually regarding "unintended victims" becoming ensnared in these devices. And finally, **glue traps are cost prohibitive** because their adhesive becomes inert after two weeks.

Respectfully we ask that Los Angeles Parks & Recreation department join the countless entities that have sworn off glue traps. May we hear from you soon?

Sincerely,



Aimee Ritter

Cruelty Caseworker

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office

Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org

Phone: 213-202-2700

Website: www.laparks.org

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: PARK ADVISORY BOARD

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To:

Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 1:25 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lionel Mares** < >
Date: Sun, Mar 3, 2024 at 11:22 PM
Subject: PARK ADVISORY BOARD
To: <SUNVALLEY.RECREATIONCENTER@lacity.org>
Cc: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Hello,

I would like to know the status of the **Sun Valley Recreation Park Advisory Board**. We had our first meeting last year but haven't heard since then.Is the **Sun Valley Recreation Park Advisory Board** still active?

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

--

Respectfully,
Lionel Mares, MPA

Board Member,
[Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council](#)
Region 1 - [Budget Advocate](#)
District 6 Representative,
[Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee](#)

**Affiliations are for identification purposes only*

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS

SUN VALLEY RECREATION CENTER

8133 Vineland Avenue Sun Valley, CA 91352

(818) 767-6151

sunvalley.recreatiocenter@lacity.org



PARK PROUD LA

PARK ADVISORY BOARD (P.A.B.)

Are you interested in making a difference in your community?

Do you have any special resources or talents that you would like to share?

Would you like to help promote the values of Recreation and Parks services in your community?

JOIN OUR PARK ADVISORY BOARD AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!



Park Advisory Boards and their members are essential to the overall operation of a recreation facility. The Department of Recreation and Parks believes that the partnership between staff and the community is of primary importance in identifying and meeting the recreational needs of the community. A Park Advisory Board works to make facilities safe, clean, and hospitable while offering guidance and assistance on programming and fundraising.

A Park Advisory Board member must be a community stakeholder and understand the community's needs and interests. A member should support park improvements and help establish goals for the park. A member should also assist with special events and fundraising for park improvements. All PAB members are selected by the Department of Recreation and Parks staff. All PAB meetings are open to the public and have allotted time for public comments.

- We are looking for people to serve on our Park Advisory Board.
- Inquiry Forms are being accepted! Ask for one at the office.
- For additional information please contact the Recreation Center office.





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: PARK ADVISORY BOARD

1 message

Laura Island <laura.island@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 6, 2024 at 1:03 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cc: RAP SunValley RC <sunvalley.recreationcenter@lacity.org>, Craig Edemann <craig.edemann@lacity.org>, Juan Aynat <juan.aynat@lacity.org>

Good afternoon!

Sun Valley is having a PAB board meeting on Friday March 22 at 6pm. The Director will inform Lionel Mares.

Thank you

Laura Island

Principal Recreation Supervisor II

Valley Region

City of Los Angeles

Department of Recreation and Parks

6335 Woodley Avenue

Van Nuys, CA 91406

(818) 756-8060

Mail Stop 641

laura.island@lacity.org

Find out the latest about our PlayLA Adaptive Sports program at:

<https://adaptivesportsla.org/>



On Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 1:44 PM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Please see email received by the Board office below and advise. Thank you

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Date: Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 1:25 PM

Subject: Re: PARK ADVISORY BOARD

To: >

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lionel Mares** <>

Date: Sun, Mar 3, 2024 at 11:22 PM

Subject: PARK ADVISORY BOARD

To: <SUNVALLEY.RECREATIONCENTER@lacity.org>

Cc: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Flying at Point Fermin

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To:

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 8:10 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 4:23 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the forwarded message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **simon Partridge** < >
Date: Thu, Feb 29, 2024 at 11:26 PM
Subject: Flying at Point Fermin
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Dear Dept of Recreation and Parks,

I was saddened to learn recently that model glider flying has been banned at Point Fermin. Although I've never been to Pt Fermin, and am unlikely to ever travel to the US, I've always enjoyed hearing stories and watching videos from my friends who were local flyers at the Point. Point Fermin has always been important to the slope glider flying culture. It's reached iconic status in the RC glider world, on par with Bells Beach for surfing, Whistler for winter sports and Laguna Seca (unfortunately also under threat through no fault of its own)) for motorsport. It's too bad that the flyers couldn't be accommodated and the city retained a small but vibrant dimension to the community. I understand the reasons put forward for the ban but still feel somewhat disappointed that one of the world's great flying sites has been lost, evidently to placate the few.

Kind regards,

Simon Partridge

Adelaide, South Australia.

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: A forward welcome to Pacific Palisades

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 8:14 AM

To: Maryam Zar <

>

Cc: Jimmy Kim RAP <desiree.ramirez@lacity.org>, Kortley Norris RAP <Kortley.norris@lacity.org>, Jasmine Dowlatshahi <jasmine.dowl@lacity.org>, Cathie Domingo <cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org>, Darryl Ford <Darryl.Ford@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Joe Halper < David Card >, PPCC PPCC >, vp < >, Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>, Michael Amster <michael.amster@lacity.org>, Traci Park <traci.park@lacity.org>, Andy Starrels <

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 3:30 PM Maryam Zar <

> wrote:

Dear GM Kim and RAP Commissioners,

As Pacific Palisades looks ahead to welcoming the Commission to our community at our Recreation Center where the Commission meeting will be held on March 21st, we share with you a note of welcome as well as a review of our community priorities.

Please see our letter attached.

Best, Maryam Zar
PPCC president

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Pacific Palisades Community Council

www.pacpalicc.org

info@pacpalicc.org

March 1, 2024

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
City of Los Angeles

Subject: Welcome to Pacific Palisades

Dear LA City Recreation & Park Commissioners,

PPCC, the most broad-based representative voice in Pacific Palisades since 1973, *welcomes you* to Pacific Palisades as you prepare to hold your March meeting at the Palisades Recreation Center.

On December 10, 2022, our community celebrated the long-awaited opening of the George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon (Potrero Canyon Park). George was a former, two-time, president of the PPCC and a mentor to many who still hold leadership roles on the Council. The community welcomed the Park and while there were concerns rooted in public safety as our small community began to learn how to host a vast passive park with no active monitoring, we've worked closely with the city through our Potrero Canyon Oversight Committee (PCOC) to resolve any rising concerns. The result has been a collaborative process that has effectively addressed most issues related to park safety and canyon maintenance.

Today, as we contemplate Rec Center improvements as well as coastal access for Potrero Canyon Park - which is adjacent to and overseen by the staff at Palisades Recreation Center - new concerns arise. We wish to share those with you as you visit our beautiful, expanding park.

Coastal Access: There are currently two projects underway to connect Potrero Canyon Park to the coast. These include the Bridge project (for which the City has received \$1 million from the State for a footbridge over PCH), as well as the Lateral trail which is a proposed path along PCH (for which a Congressional grant secured by our former Congressman allocated \$1.125M). The pre-design phase of the bridge has already begun with public outreach recently underway. At the same time, we are informed that trail project planning is also underway.

Coastal access will make Potrero Canyon Park more accessible to Angelenos as it will allow direct access for people to visit the beach and Potrero Canyon Park. The introduction of this pedestrian and bicycle pathway promises to bring new exposure to our small community and people have raised concerns about the impact of that new traffic. LAPD has expressed a need for more resources when that time comes.

Regional Park: These projects will enhance the regional recreational appeal of the park to people from all over Los Angeles. The Park Advisory Board and PPCC have requested that LA City recognize Potrero Canyon Park as a Regional Park representing the continuum of parks along the bluff line from Chautauqua to Temescal Canyon Road, so we may access the resources afforded to Regional Parks. This may include greater Park Ranger support (something our Councilmembers, present and past, have requested), to an allocation of resources to buttress LAPD support along this park-rich ridge (from Pali Rec Center to Asilomar Bluffs Park and along RAP owned coastal chaparral land to Temescal Canyon Park). We ask that you support the designation of Potrero Canyon as a regional Park, and that you remain mindful of our community's needs as plans evolve and the park develops.

(please see https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2023/23-0600-S94_misc_06-16-2023.pdf)

Cameras & Public Safety: At the Palisades Recreation Center itself, we have a need for a camera system to address a growing problem with vandalism and fireworks at the Rec Center. Our excellent Park Director, Jasmine Dowlatshahi has communicated these challenges to her superiors at RAP, but problems persist, and residents are growing increasingly anxious. Our community has mobilized to develop a combination of cameras and foot patrols to help monitor the park after hours, but we are challenged by limitations and requirements on the part of RAP. We are working with their leadership to address these issues but we will likely need an allocation of funds (coupled with community fundraising) to effectuate a plan in collaboration with LAPD and RAP staff suggestions. We ask for your support as this plan develops.

Rec Center Improvements (bathrooms & Playground): Our Park is also undergoing some much-needed improvements. This includes a project to upgrade our bathrooms from their original form to ADA compliant restrooms, and a playground improvement project that would bring our decades-old sand box playground with outdated recreation equipment to the modern-day. Again, city regulatory compliance is a major motivating factor in this planned facility upgrade which recently saw the allocation of Quimby funds for design development and construction. We ask that you acknowledge our needs here at the Pali Rec Center and support the swift start and completion of this project.

Paved Parking lot: The driveway leading to our parking lot and the lot itself are in dismal shape, in contrast with the beautifully paved upper parking circle that was recently resurfaced as part of the Potrero Canyon project (pursuant to coastal commission requirement for additional parking spaces). We ask that you please support us in requesting the resurfacing of that parking driveway and lot.

Historic Rustic Canyon Recreation Center: Finally, the historic landmark Rustic Canyon Recreation Center which just celebrated its 100th anniversary as a community park, has a public pool built in the 1960s that is a treasure that operates only in the summer. The last few summers it has not been open, ostensibly due to lack of available lifeguards. We ask that you please staff and open it for use this summer.

We thank you again for visiting Pacific Palisades and hope you will enjoy your visit to our beautiful environs, on this western-most edge of LA City. If time allows, our PCOC and PAB members would be glad to show you our parks and walk you down the pathways at Potrero Canyon Park to the gorgeous vistas that offer unparalleled views of the Pacific Ocean.

Best,
Maryam Zar
PPCC President



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pay tennis reservations

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 9:56 AM

To:

Cc: RAP Cheviot Hills Tennis <cheviothills.tennis@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 9:05 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrea Shintani** < >
Date: Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 8:33 AM
Subject: Pay tennis reservations
To: <rap.publicinfo@lacity.org>

Hi. I'm sure you are aware how difficult it is to reserve tennis courts in the evenings during prime hours. I know to login at 8am on the dot if I want to have a chance at a court, particularly at Cheviot Hills, and often all the courts are already taken within the first minute.

I am also aware that the schools are currently using courts at night for team practice. I was playing at Cheviot last night, and noticed that Courts 1 and 2 were vacant from 5-6pm. I presumed these were courts reserved for school practice because they would not be vacant if they were available on the reservation system. If the schools know they are not going to be using the courts, they should be released to the public. It's becoming so hard to reserve a court anywhere between 5 and 8 pm, so seeing unused courts like this is frustrating.

Best regards,
Andrea Shintani

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: CAMP Hollywoodland

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 8:55 AM

To: anne choi <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners, also note you may address the Commissioners at a Meeting of the Board during General Public comment. You may find a listing of meetings at: <https://www.laparks.org/commissioners/meetings>

On Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 4:54 PM anne choi <

> wrote:

Hello,

I would like to request a meeting with one of the Commissioners about my experience registering for Camp Hollywoodland. I contacted Jimmy Kim's office and did not receive a response.

It was clear that the registration site could not handle the number of applicants and particularly the requirement to add a section of the registration fee, which did not match the number of available spots when you looked at each individual week of camp. And when you actually called camp, there was no way that you could be placed on hold because apparently there is no queuing system but that's actually not the crux of my complaint which I would like to talk to someone about.

I believe that this particular registration system is inequitable to working class people into people of color, whom the parks and rec service claims to serve in an equitable manner. If you are an adult who works having registration at 9 AM on a Friday is almost impossible especially if you work in a grocery store or you drive a truck or you're a nurse or teacher. And even if you had permission to take time off from work to try to register your child for summer camp, the process took well over 30 minutes at minimum, and most employers would not be willing to accommodate that.

Additionally, you would need either a smart phone and high-speed Internet and a computer with advance processing speed to be able to register for summer camp. This means that the vast majority of working class and under resourced folks who might have wanted their child to go to summer camp, would not be able to have the same opportunity to register their child. This means then summer camp because it's already expensive. Becomes some thing that only middle-class people can afford. But since there are mechanisms for lower income folks to have summer camp, partially subsidized the obstacle then should not be the registration process. I thank you for reading my email and I look forward to meeting with you in person to talk about this issue and perhaps it might be a conversation that would need to involve more people. I would be happy to contact the council person in the fourth district as well as the mayor's office to see if we can have a fruitful discussion about this issue.

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Comment 24-059, Alcohol Policy Revision

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 3:49 PM

To: Gerry Hans <

>

Cc: Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Matthew Rudnick <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, Andrea Conant <andrea.conant@lacity.org>, Mehmet Berker <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, Stefanie Smith <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, Courtney McCammon <jennifer.hull@lacity.org>, GPAB <rap-gpab@lacity.org>, Tracy James <tracy.james@lacity.org>, Jennifer Hull <jennifer.hull@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 3:33 PM Gerry Hans <

> wrote:

Dear Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners,

Please see our comment letter regarding the new version of the revised Alcohol Policy (24-059), along with our letter from last year (23-085).

Thank you,

Gerry Hans
President<https://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/>

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573

Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573

friendsofgriffithpark.org

March 5, 2024

Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Re: Alcoholic Beverage Policy revision, Board Report 24-059

Dear President Renata Simril and Commissioners,

Friends of Griffith Park again respectfully requests postponement of the approval of these tremendously significant and radical changes to the Department's Alcoholic Beverage Policy.

Previously on April 20, 2023 we asked that the public be granted an active role in the acceptance of Alcohol Policy revisions. ([Board Report 23-085](#)),

After the former Commissioners agreed to postpone the approval from last April, FoGP submitted comments to the General Manager and Commissioners. **Our May 5, 2023 letter which follows below was an attempt to begin a dialogue.** Yet, ten months later, there has been no response to, or acknowledgement of our comments. Nor are we aware of any further outreach to Griffith Park Advisory Board or other organizations. The revised policy for open area events is an enormous step that may adversely affect the Park experience, with respect to not only recreation, but also safety and ecology.

We recognize the changes made versus the April 2023 version. However, the two main edits are relatively minor, and offer no solace to our concerns:

1. Included in the new version, only the General Manager can authorize an **unlimited number** of "open-area events" instead of assigning this role to another authority, namely Park Superintendents. This change in decision makers is not something that was requested, and will matter little.

2. Making the policy a "two-year Pilot Program," does not alter the fact that conditions for responsible use of Park land have not been defined within the Policy. We are especially concerned about wildlands, and would like to remind the commissioners that 800 acres burned in 2007, and Griffith Park sees an average of about a dozen fires per year.

There are also no conditions to discourage displacement of existing park users during "Open-area Events." Although no alcohol is permitted at the Griffith Park Haunted Hayride, this venue highlights one such example of an event that has grown dramatically, affecting picnickers in the historic Crystal Springs Picnic Area for four months out of the year.

In Section 2 (Location), while the General Manager can approve “events small gatherings,” within buildings that “cannot interfere with or disrupt the public’s normal use or enjoyment of the Department facilities,” the size of “open-space events” is totally undefined, as long as it is completely contained. Also, nothing in the language regarding disrupting of the public’s normal use or enjoyment in the “open-area event” is stipulated.

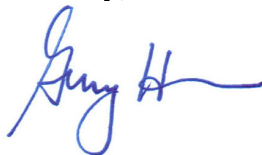
Relinquishing areas for commercial use cannot continue to occur on this free (and limited) public open space, especially in a Park that was gifted to the City with intentions set by Col. Griffith J. Griffith. We note the stated Goal #6 is to “Build Financial Strength and Innovative Partnerships,” yet there are no parameters defined for balancing income against the value of free open space for recreation.

Every City Park is different. For Regional Parks, in particular, each needs to have its own set of guidelines for open-space events.

A large portion of Griffith Park is delineated as “Wilderness Area.” If wilderness areas are not restricted from Alcohol Open-area Events, surely an environmental review is required in order to disclose and mitigate potential adverse impacts. While we have trust in the current RAP management, we stand with other Park advocates against sweeping policy changes that put the ecological health of wildlands at risk well into future decades.

As mentioned above, the following letter expresses our reasoning and the recommendations made on page 2. Above all, we request further review and discussion with the public.

Sincerely,



Gerry Hans, President

About Friends of Griffith Park:

Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) is a California non-profit 501(c) (3) dedicated to preserving and protecting Griffith Park’s natural habitat, biodiversity, and historic features, for current and future generations. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles’ largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.

Please See May 5, 2023 Below...



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573

Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573

friendsofgriffithpark.org

May 5, 2023

Jimmy Kim, General Manager
City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
(email)

Re: Alcohol Beverage Policy Revision, Board Report 23-085

Dear Mr. Kim,

During the April 20th Commission meeting, Commissioners generously granted Friends of Griffith Park's (FoGP) request to postpone the approval of the Alcohol Beverage Policy Revision. Our verbal and written pleas for community outreach and transparency relating to the proposed policy changes are much appreciated. We thank the Commissioners for granting the postponement, a request also made by the Griffith Park Advisory Board.

FoGP has now closely considered the details of the policy revision, taking into account input from our constituency which holds Griffith Park in high esteem and recognizes the Park's value to people from across the City who enjoy it in many different ways.

Most provisions of the proposed Revision are acceptable to us; however, alcohol consumption can be a sensitive and volatile issue since it relates to public safety. This sensitivity is heightened when alcohol sales take place **on public property**. The provisions for security, insurance, containment, and licensing show that RAP considers the sale of alcohol in City Parks an extremely significant matter.

We respectfully seek a modification to proposed Section 1, pertaining to the **unlimited** number of public open area event approvals. We believe this provision is too broad to be applied to Griffith Park, despite the high level of scrutiny we'd expect from our Superintendent, the single person who would have complete responsibility for approvals.

Requests for approvals in Griffith Park could become more frequent should word circulate of a more liberal attitude toward open-air gatherings, conventions or celebrations. Why not have a wedding outdoors rather than inside at Friendship Auditorium? Companies might find it exciting to host their regional employee jamboree in a park setting.

Our concern for special events in open areas, particularly picnic grounds, is deep-rooted in FoGP's commitment to prevent existing Park patrons and historic user groups from being displaced, whether temporarily or not. This principle was upheld by the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group, and distilled into text of *A Vision for Griffith Park*, adopted by the

Commission in January, 2014: “*Avoid Evicting or Displacing Established Park Users,*” where there is particular reference made about picnickers, since they have no advocacy group speaking specifically for them in Griffith Park.

Our Recommendation:

1. For Griffith Park, retain the limit on approved “public open area events” at the current level, one approved event per year, rather than having no number limitation.
2. No “public open area events” should occur within the “Wilderness Area,” as defined by Griffith Park Historic-Cultural Monument #942.

For clarity purposes, the Alcohol Beverage Policy would also be improved: 1) by defining an approved event as only a one-day event, 2) by specifying that open area events are allowed only during official Park visitation hours, and 3) by counting any event that spills over into open areas from a “special event venue” as an open area event.

The changes FoGP recommends are specific to Griffith Park, but may also be well-advised for other regional Parks, such as Elysian or Debs. RAP may consider listing other Regional Parks as exemptions to the revised provision regarding the number of open area events, as well, and retain the current limit of one per year.

As alcohol sales and revenue streams increase with more expanded event venues, a commensurate level of protections must be provided to ensure a safe recreational experience in our Parks. Equally important, preventing unintentional displacement to loyal Park users should be considered a top priority.

Sincerely,



Gerry Hans
President

Cc: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners, Councilmember Nithya Raman, Matt Rudnick, Brenda Aguirre, Stefanie Smith, Mehmet Berker, Jennifer Hull.

About Friends of Griffith Park:

Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) is a California non-profit 501(c) (3) dedicated to preserving and protecting Griffith Park’s natural habitat, biodiversity, and historic features, for current and future generations. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles’ largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Diego Rivera Baseball

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 6, 2024 at 2:57 PM

To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Mar 6, 2024 at 2:39 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the forwarded email below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hovsepian, Jared** <j >

Date: Wed, Mar 6, 2024 at 12:37 PM

Subject: Diego Rivera Baseball

To: Sandra Pineda <sandra.pineda@lacity.org>, RAP Ross Snyder RC <RossSnyder.RecreationCenter@lacity.org>, RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Good Afternoon,

Snyder Park has not been available and it does not look like it will be available for baseball for weeks.

Can you help us with trying to secure another park in the city to play baseball on. I have called about 4 different numbers, and no one has been able to help us see if we can get another field.

We cannot simply just wait for the field to dry out, especially after more rain today.

Thanks,

Mr. H
PE Teacher (CATS)
Assistant Athletic Director
Baseball Coach
Diego Rivera

--

Department of Recreation and Parks**Public Information Office**Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org

Phone: 213-202-2700

Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Baseball Field Rental

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Hovsepien, Jared" >

Wed, Mar 6, 2024 at 2:58 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Mar 6, 2024 at 2:54 PM Hovsepien, Jared < > wrote:

Good Afternoon,

We booked 11 games at Ross Snyder Park. Snyder Park has not been available and it does not look like it will be available for baseball for weeks due to half the field is covered in mud from the rain.

We need someone to help us with trying to secure another park in the city to play baseball on. I have called about 4 different numbers, and no one has been able to help us see if we can get another field.

I have emailed many other parks, but no response yet.

We were hoping a supervisor can transfer us from Snyder to another available park.

We have already paid Snyder Park. We need to get these HS Varsity baseball games played.

We cannot simply just wait for the field to dry out, especially after more rain today.

Thanks,

Mr. H
PE Teacher (CATS)
Assistant Athletic Director
Baseball Coach
Diego Rivera

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: item 6, 24-054, of March 7, 2024 agenda, War Memorial Park plastic turf is not CEQA exempt

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Cynthia Fan <c >

Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 10:56 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Mar 7, 2024 at 4:25 AM Cynthia Fan < > wrote:

Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles,

The Van Nuys Sherman Oaks [War Memorial Park Soccer Fields Replacements Project](#) is not exempt from CEQA.

This project is being considered under item 6, 24-054, of March 7, 2024 agenda.

Please see the attached letter, also available at <https://tinyurl.com/laplasticturfnotexempt>thank you,
Cynthia Fan

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Re: For item 6, 24-054, of March 7, 2024 agenda, **choose natural turf or perform a CEQA analysis.**

March 7, 2024

Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles
(rap.commissioners@lacity.org),

CEQA's Common Sense Exemption does not apply to item 6, 24-054, of the March 7, 2024 agenda, the Van Nuys Sherman Oaks War Memorial Park Soccer Fields Replacements Project. CEQA's Common Sense Exemption only applies when there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Installing more artificial turf absolutely has a significant effect on the environment. Choose natural turf or perform a CEQA analysis.

By the way, artificial turf installation cannot qualify for CEQA categorical exemptions either, given that both the unusual circumstances and cumulative effects exceptions apply.

I. CEQA Requirements

Fortunately, CEQA makes environmental protection a mandatory part of every local agency's decision-making process. CEQA provides that it is the legislature's intent that "all agencies of the state government which regulate activities of private individuals, corporations, and public agencies which are found to affect the quality of the environment, shall regulate such activities so that major consideration is given to preventing environmental damage, while providing a decent home and satisfying living environment for every Californian." Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21000(g). CEQA accomplishes this purpose through its procedural mandate that requires public agencies through the environmental review process to disclose the significant environmental effects of a project, generally through preparation of an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR"). While the action-forcing provisions are procedural, CEQA includes a substantive obligation that public agencies "should not approve projects as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of such projects." *Id.* § 21002. Thus, CEQA's purpose is to "assist public agencies in systematically identifying both the

significant effects of proposed projects and the feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures which will avoid or substantially lessen such significant effects.” *Id.*

Even if a project qualifies for a categorical exemption, exceptions to the exemptions may foreclose their use. Relevant here, exceptions to the categorical CEQA exemptions may be based on:

- Unusual Circumstances—for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- Cumulative Impact—when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

A. Unusual Circumstances Apply

A party can establish the presence of unusual circumstances by showing “that the project has some feature that distinguishes it from others in the exempt class, such as its size or location,”—i.e., something that makes it unique or unusual. *California Construction & Industrial Materials Association v. County of Ventura*, 97 Cal. App. 5th 1, 14 (Nov. 13, 2023); *Fairbank v. City of Mill Valley*, 75 Cal.App.4th 1243, 1260 (1999). Where there is a *reasonable possibility* that the project will have a significant effect on the environment as a result of those unusual circumstances, a categorical exemption cannot be applied. *Berkeley Hillside Preservation v. City of Berkeley*, 60 Cal 4th 1086, 1103, 1105 (2015).

When the city decided to initially install artificial turf on this site, it was many years ago. In the years since, evidence of previously-unrecognized and previously under-appreciated environmental harms from plastics and PFAS have come to light, and the scientific research on these subjects has evolved considerably in recent years. As a result, much more is now known about the environmental consequences of artificial turf than could have been known a decade ago. With this knowledge now in hand, we must make wiser choices. As Maya Angelou said, “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.”

Included in this letter is a variety of information regarding the environmental and human health effects of artificial turf which distinguish this “replacement” or “repair” project from others. This letter ensures that substantial evidence that this Project is not exempt from CEQA is part of the administrative record before a decision is made on whether to approve construction with artificial turf.

1. PFAS science and evidence have evolved

One of the significant adverse environmental impacts of artificial turf that wasn't yet recognized when these artificial turf systems were installed over a decade ago was PFAS pollution. It wasn't until 2019 that toxic PFAS chemicals were first found in artificial turf.¹ That was in fact the first time that PFAS chemistry used in plastic production had been found in finished consumer products.² Testing of numerous artificial turf samples detected elemental fluorine, and specific PFAS chemicals. Turf patents and industry literature were found discussing the widespread use of PFAS as a plastic processing aid (PPA) to enhance smoothness and reduce friction.³ PFAS are used in the base material for artificial turf as a slip agent that is intentionally added to the molten hydrocarbons in order to make the plastic grass blades free of defects. PFAS are also used during the extrusion process for artificial turf's plastic fibers in order to avoid clogging of the extruding machines. In 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drastically reduced the lifetime health advisory levels for several PFAS, bringing PFOA down to 4 parts per quadrillion (ppq) and PFOS down to 20 ppq.⁴ Parts per quadrillion levels are so tiny that this federal advisory means there are virtually no safe levels of these chemicals.

A CEQA analysis of this Project needs to discuss the impacts associated with PFAS in the artificial turf, their ability to leach into the groundwater, surface water, and drinking water, as well as potential impacts on the athletes using the fields.

Regulatory bodies and state and federal governments have, over the past several years, increasingly prioritized rules related to PFAS reduction and safety for good reason. PFAS is a very serious threat to the environment with irreversible

¹ Sharon Lerner, *Toxic PFAS Chemicals Found in Artificial Turf — The presence of the PFAS chemicals in turf adds to growing concerns about the grass replacement that covers more than 1,000 acres around the country* The Intercept (Oct. 8, 2019), available at <https://theintercept.com/2019/10/08/pfas-chemicals-artificial-turf-soccer/>

² David Abel, *Toxic chemicals are found in blades of artificial turf* Boston Globe (Oct. 9, 2019), available at <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2019/10/09/toxic-chemicals-found-blades-artificial-turf/1mVxXjzCAqRahwgXtfy6K/story.html>

³ The Ecology Center *Toxic "Forever Chemicals" Infest Artificial Turf* (Oct. 10, 2019), available at <https://www.ecocenter.org/toxic-forever-chemicals-infest-artificial-turf>

⁴ United States Environmental Protection Agency *Questions and Answers: Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOA, PFOS, GenX Chemicals and PFBS*, (June 2022), available at <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs#q5>

consequences. PFAS are a class of human-made chemicals comprised of thousands that provide heat, stain, and water resistance. Due to the strong carbon-fluorine bonds that occur in these molecules, PFAS do not easily break down in the environment and are called “forever chemicals.” Well-studied PFAS are toxic to humans in concentrations as small as parts per quadrillion (ppq).

Even minute amounts of PFAS are dangerous. Even if artificial turf has “minimal” PFAS or *less* PFAS than some other consumer products, that does *not* mean it's safe. As an example, consider PFOS. PFOS is a type of PFAS. *Any* amount of PFOS should be viewed as a risk given that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a health-based value, the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), for PFOS, of zero,⁵ which is the same as the MCLG for lead⁶. In other words, there is no safe level of exposure to PFOS. California’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment recommends, as health protective limits, 7 ppq of PFOA and 1 ppt of PFOS⁷. Tests show that PFAS compounds leach off artificial turf at levels much higher than this. “Every sample of artificial turf tested by academic institutions and NGOs have resulted in positive results for PFAS,” writes Dr. Kyla Bennett of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. For evidence, refer to the testing from (a) Oak Bluffs⁸, MA, (b) Franklin⁹, MA, and (c) Woodbridge¹⁰, CT. Also find evidence in that every

⁵ United State Environmental Protection Agency *Proposed Rule - PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Rulemaking* (Mar. 29, 2023), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/03/29/2023-05471/pfas-national-primary-drinking-water-regulation-rulemaking>

⁶ United States Environmental Protection Agency, *Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water* (Jan. 25, 2024), available at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

⁷ Pesticide and Environmental Toxicology Branch - Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment - California Environmental Protection Agency *Second Public Review Draft — Perfluorooctanoic Acid and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid in Drinking Water* (July 2023), available at <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/water/public-health-goal/pfoapfosseconddraft071423.pdf>

⁸ Horsley Witten Group *Synthetic Turf Laboratory Testing and Analysis Summary Report Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School* (Mar. 1, 2021), available at [https://www.mvcommission.org/sites/default/files/docs/210301_Turf%20Laboratory%20Testing%20Report%20Review_HWSIGNED\(1\).pdf](https://www.mvcommission.org/sites/default/files/docs/210301_Turf%20Laboratory%20Testing%20Report%20Review_HWSIGNED(1).pdf)

⁹ Kristen Mello, *PFAS in Artificial Turf - NEWMOA Conference presentation links and slide deck* (Apr. 6, 2022), available at <https://www.oakbluffsma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8437/Kristen-Mello-WRAFT---May-4-2022>

¹⁰ *Id.*

sample of dozens of artificial turfs tested by university researchers, regardless of the manufacturer, have shown PFAS¹¹ in the grass blades, the backing, and sometimes the shock pad and the infill. Moreover, Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedures (SPLPs) show that these PFAS leach off the fields into surrounding waters.^{12 13}

The results of testing performed on a sample of a FieldTurf product proposed for use by a southern California school show that 4 distinct PFAS and a number of metals and semi-volatile organic compounds will readily leach off the artificial turf into surrounding soil and waters and expose field users to these carcinogenic chemicals.¹⁴ Among the PFAS detected were perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanesulfonamide (PFOSA), and 6:2 fluorotelomer sulfonic acid (6:2 FTSA). A recent study shows that PFOSA can lead to cardiac diseases in fish.¹⁵ PFOSA is a precursor to PFOS. Studies conducted on the PFAS 6:2 FTSA show adverse impacts on animals and humans.¹⁶

Risking the addition of more bioaccumulative PFAS to the watershed via PFAS-laced microplastics and nanoplastics and PFAS-contaminated stormwater is also of grave concern for biota. PFAS are already ubiquitous in bird eggs, harbor seals,¹⁷ and

¹¹ Kristen Mello, *PFAS in Artificial Turf - NEWMOA Conference presentation links and slide deck* (Apr. 6, 2022), available at <https://www.oakbluffsma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8437/Kristen-Mello-WRAFT---May-4-2022>

¹² Kristen Mello, *PFAS in Artificial Turf - NEWMOA Conference presentation links and slide deck* (Apr. 6, 2022), available at <https://www.oakbluffsma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8437/Kristen-Mello-WRAFT---May-4-2022>

¹³ Horsley Witten Group *Synthetic Turf Laboratory Testing and Analysis Summary Report Martha's Vineyard Regional High School*, (Mar. 1, 2021), available at https://www.mvcommission.org/sites/default/files/docs/210301_Turf%20Laboratory%20Testing%20Report%20Review_HWSIGNED%281%29.pdf

¹⁴ Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility *Summary of PFAS and Other Chemicals of Concern in Harvard-Westlake's Proposed Field Turf Vertex Core 2.5* https://docs.google.com/file/d/1S-edneZWm-bfoxL9GZVDnNAgYPaVewNg/edit?usp=doclist_api&filetype=microsoftword

¹⁵ HongHong Chen et al. *Perfluorooctane Sulfonamide (PFOSA) Induces Cardiotoxicity via Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Activation in Zebrafish* (Jun. 2, 2022), available at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.est.1c08875>

¹⁶ *PFAS-Tox Database - Easy Access to Health and Toxicology Data on PFAS*, available at <https://pfastoxdatabase.org>

¹⁷ San Francisco Estuary Institute & The Aquatic Science Center *Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)*, available at <https://www.sfei.org/projects/pfas>

fish, including sport fish, which in the most recent study¹⁸ showed concentrations of PFAS exceeded thresholds established by other states for the development of consumption advisories. In addition, recent research highlights that cocktails of PFAS compounds can be additively toxic to wildlife, jeopardizing their reproductive success.¹⁹

There is potential for artificial turf fields to contribute to PFAS exposure for field users. Routes of exposure for PFAS include ingestion, inhalation, and dermal absorption. EPA states that routes of PFAS exposure include, “Breathing air containing PFAS [and] [u]sing products made with PFAS.”²⁰ Recent studies have shown that some PFAS can migrate from car seat fabric to sweat, showing a potential dermal exposure route.²¹

Dr. Jamie DeWitt, current director of the Environmental Health Sciences Center at Oregon State University and former Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University researching the toxicity of PFAS and how they affect the immune system, explains: “All PFAS, regardless of their specific chemistries present, have at least one ‘characteristic of concern’ associated with them. The vast majority of PFAS are persistent, which means that they will remain in the environment for years, to decades, to centuries, serving as continual sources of exposure. Many PFAS are known to bioaccumulate, or move from the environment into the bodies of living organisms where they can potentially interact with biological molecules to produce toxicity.”²²

¹⁸ Nina Buzby et al. *Contaminant Concentrations in Sport Fish from San Francisco Bay: 2019* (Apr. 30, 2021), available at https://www.sfei.org/sites/default/files/biblio_files/2019%20Sport%20Fish%20Report%20-%20FINAL.pdf

¹⁹ Tyler D Hoskins et al. *Chronic Exposure to a PFAS Mixture Resembling AFFF-Impacted Surface Water Decreases Body Size in Northern Leopard Frogs (*Rana pipiens*)*, (Aug. 2023) available at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.3c01118?_ga=2.268456433.1617854846.1708957681-879159149.1708957681

²⁰ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency *Our Current Understanding of the Human Health and Environmental Risks of PFAS* <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas>

²¹ Yan Wu et. al, *Side-chain fluorotelomer-based polymers in children car seats*, (Jan. 1, 2021) <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0269749120361650>

²² Dr. Jamie DeWitt *Letter recommending Harvard Westlake River Project not use artificial turf* (Jul. 6, 2023), available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DT-UQ5bEeD4kfFhtxLcSNDYTmhLn8D9L/view?usp=drivesdk>

A compilation of PFAS toxicity studies shows that virtually every PFAS examined is correlated with adverse health outcomes.²³ PFAS are associated with cancer and have been linked to growth, learning, and behavioral problems in infants and children; fertility and pregnancy problems, including pre-eclampsia; interference with natural human hormones; increased cholesterol; and immune system problems.²⁴ Epidemiological studies have found decreased antibody response to vaccines, and associations between blood serum PFAS levels and both immune system hypersensitivity and autoimmune disorders like asthma and ulcerative colitis.^{25 26} The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a “Statement on Potential Intersection between PFAS Exposure and COVID-19,” which recognized the “evidence from human and animal studies that PFAS exposure may reduce antibody responses to vaccines... and may reduce infectious disease resistance.”²⁷

For the time being, industry regulation of artificial turf remains sorely lacking. The term “PFAS-free” is not defined. The hype around “PFAS-Free” artificial turf amounts to greenwashing. Communities are repeatedly misled by manufacturer and vendor claims of “certified PFAS-free” synthetic turf. Learn from the cautionary tales of the public agencies that have become greenwashing victims. The City of Portsmouth, N.H. was promised a “certified PFAS-free” synthetic field by their engineering consultants and manufacturer FieldTurf. This promise was not delivered; The community was deceived. The full story is recounted in the first-person²⁸ and by a third-party news source.²⁹

²³ Northeastern University PFAS Project Lab, *PFAS Systematic Evidence Map*, available at <https://pfasproject.com/pfas-toxic-database/>

²⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry *Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls* (May 2021), available at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp200.pdf>

²⁵ Sunderland, E. M. et. al., *A Review of the Pathways of Human Exposure to Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs) and Present Understanding of Health Effects*, 29 *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology*, no. 2, (2018), available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30470793>

²⁶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Drinking Water Health Advisory for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)*, 39 (May 2016), available at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-05/documents/pfoa_health_advisory_final_508.pdf

²⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, *Statement on Potential Intersection between PFAS Exposure and COVID-19*, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html> (last visited Feb. 26, 2024).

²⁸ Diana Carpinone, email (July 5, 2023), available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15sCXsM6BTgHyBmECg-GwOdcSvCOjUcP5/view?usp=drivesdk>

Experts had advised the City to have comprehensive PFAS testing of the artificial turf system components performed and completed prior to approving construction. The City opted not to heed the advice, so concerned residents arranged to have brand new, unused samples tested for PFAS by a certified lab. The results indicated that both the plastic carpet and shock pad had elevated fluorine levels, indicating the presence of PFAS chemicals.³⁰ This motivated the City to have its own testing performed, and indeed it confirmed the same. Those PFAS-free promises made by the manufacturer and consultant turned out to be false. The promise had been based on a narrow risk assessment that did not evaluate leaching and contamination of PFAS into the surrounding area. South Philadelphia is home to another community that fell prey to the greenwashing. The community spent \$7.5 million to install an artificial turf system at the rec center for which the turf manufacturer, Sprinturf, had provided a lab report to support its claim the turf did not contain the so-called forever chemicals. Three independent experts who separately reviewed the test results concluded the lab test is flawed and inadequate and that the turf likely still contains the PFAS chemicals.³¹ The test selected was both inappropriate and of incredibly narrow scope. The lab used a PFAS detection limit set about 20,000 times higher than what is typically used to determine presence of PFAS.

Request PFAS test results from artificial turf system component manufacturers. Have the lab test selections, PFAS detection limits, and test results reviewed by an independent expert unaffiliated with the industry. Your procurement and sharing of such test results and interpretive reports is essential to providing the decision-makers and public with transparent disclosure about the environmental risks of the artificial turf.

Objective voices must be a priority in environmental analyses. Signed affidavits from manufacturers and associated industries have been proven false, are reportable, and are not acceptable in lieu of independent third party testing. Independent experts

²⁹ E.A. Crunden and Ariel Wittenberg, *'Our Community has been Deceived': Turf Wars Mount over PFAS*, E&E News (Aug. 3, 2022), available at <https://www.eenews.net/articles/our-community-has-been-deceived-turf-wars-mount-over-pfas/>

³⁰ Non Toxic Dover New Hampshire *Tests Detect Dangerous PFAS Chemicals in Portsmouth's New Synthetic Turf Field* (Sep. 15, 2021), available at <https://nontoxicdovernh.wordpress.com/2021/09/15/tests-detect-dangerous-pfas-chemicals-in-portsmouths-new-synthetic-turf-field/>

³¹ David Gambacorta and Barbara Laker. *City officials believed a new South Philly turf field was PFAS-free. Not true, experts say*. The Philadelphia Inquirer. (Feb. 23, 2024), available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xZUt9BzSfrvc8iiXzsRP4rETQ9Baqply/view?usp=drivesdk>

should be consulted when it comes to questions around appropriate PFAS test methods. Dr. Graham Peaslee³² at University of Notre Dame is a leading researcher on the topic and would make an excellent resource.

When it comes to artificial turf, CEQA document authors and readers are urged to critically review any input provided by Gradient, described as “rented white coats”,³³ any input provided by Exponent, described as “science-for-hire,”³⁴ any input provided by Laura Green,³⁵ and any input provided by David Teter.

David Teter has been brought into public agency meetings here in California to downplay environmental concerns about synthetic turf. Mr. Teter’s input can not be considered unbiased given his work as a paid industry consultant for the synthetic turf trade association and artificial turf manufacturers. His work for this trade association was specifically aimed at keeping synthetic turf from being investigated by California's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), an agency which could potentially require artificial turf manufacturers to label the toxic chemicals in their products. The Synthetic Turf Council³⁶ website at one point included the following text:

³² Graham Peaslee and Kristen Mello, *PFAS in Artificial Turf* (Apr. 6, 2022) available at <https://www.newmoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/PFAS-in-Artificial-Turf.pdf>

³³ David Heath, *Meet the ‘rented white coats’ who defend toxic chemicals* (Feb.8, 2016), available at <https://publicintegrity.org/environment/meet-the-rented-white-coats-who-defend-toxic-chemicals/>

³⁴ Myron Levin and Paul Feldman, *Big Companies in Legal Scrapes Turn to Science-for-Hire Giant Exponent* (Dec. 13, 2016), available at <https://business-ethics.com/2016/12/13/1724-big-companies-in-legal-scrapes-turn-to-science-for-hire-giant-exponent/>

³⁵ E.A. Crunden and Ariel Wittenberg, *Toxicologist who belittled PFAS risks resigns from EPA role* (Dec. 12, 2021), available at <https://www.eenews.net/articles/toxicologist-who-belittled-pfas-risks-resigns-from-epa-role/>

³⁶ Synthetic Turf Council, <https://www.syntheticurfCouncil.org>



Mr. Teter ultimately failed in his mission to compel DTSC to drop artificial turf from the short list of products it is now prioritizing³⁷ and currently studying. The fact that our state's own Department of Toxic Substances Control has concerns over synthetic turf's hazards despite Mr. Teter's input warrants that city board and staff be cautious about assuming that Teter's input represents a comprehensive and balanced professional opinion on synthetic turf hazards.

PFAS are manmade chemicals, not naturally occurring in the environment. Every bit found in the environment, soil, rainwater, tap water, dust is there because of human activity. The fact that our environment has already been polluted with PFAS is not a reasonable justification to pollute further, especially given that these chemicals are persistent and bioaccumulative.

Artificial turf promoters claiming a product contains no PFAS are routinely found guilty of citing the results of testing that uses very high detection limits designed to find no PFAS.

Often the referenced tests:

- fail to reflect real-world abuse the product takes during the years it is installed on the site, such as harsh weathering conditions, frequent mechanical abrasion, and extensive UV exposure

³⁷ California Department of Toxic Substances Control Safer Consumer Products Program *Three Year Priority Product Work Plan (2021-2023)*, available at <https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2021/04/Final-2021-2023-Priority-Product-Work-Plan.pdf>

- fail to conduct Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (SPLP) tests, which shows what actually leaches off a field
- test for a mere fraction of the thousands of toxic PFAS (Absence of proof is not proof of absence when only a small percentage of PFAS are tested for.)

For example, the California Proposition 65 and US EPA Method 537 are not relevant standards³⁸ for asserting a product is PFAS-free. Although more appropriate EPA-approved testing exists, these two aforementioned standards continue to serve as the basis of PFAS-free confidence by many of the misled and under-informed electeds, landscape architects, civil engineering firms, and construction firms across the country who are unaware of this critical detail or who are uninterested in it given determination to promote or defend the choice of artificial turf.

There are artificial turf manufacturers claiming “PFAS-free” products while presumably hoping customers won’t notice they are self-defining “PFAS-free” to mean their product may contain no more than 100,000,000 ppt of fluorine (i.e. 100 ppm of fluorine).

100,000,000 ppt of fluorine can translate into a **very** significant amount of PFAS. Let’s put this in perspective... PFOS is one of the PFAS chemicals routinely found in artificial turf. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency states that PFOS is likely to cause cancer. EPA states that, similar to lead, there is no dose below which PFOS is considered safe. EPA has proposed a goal of 0 ppt of PFOS in drinking water but due to the limitations of testing will tolerate up to 4 ppt.³⁹ With a goal of 0 ppt PFOS and a limit of only 4 ppt PFOS, how could an artificial turf’s whopping 100,000,000 ppt of fluorine possibly be safe??

Ecology Center recommends⁴⁰ that an artificial turf manufacturer claiming PFAS-free turf fiber be expected to produce testing results evidencing no more than 1,000,000

³⁸ The Ecology Center *PFAS-free Turf Recommendations* (Dec. 19, 2021), available at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H7jCbrN9vhlFvXpOaOAAftGSvbPdCIkbwZd4NpGa5kg/edit>

³⁹ United State Environmental Protection Agency *Proposed Rule - PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Rulemaking* (Mar. 29, 2023), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/03/29/2023-05471/pfas-national-primary-drinking-water-regulation-rulemaking>

⁴⁰ Ecology Center *PFAS in Synthetic Turf Fiber* (Jun. 1, 2020), available at https://nontoxicdovern.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/june1_portsmouthpfas.pdf

ppt of total organic fluorine (TOF) or total fluorine. Stated more simply, the recommendation is no more than 1ppm TOF. “A company claiming PFAS-free turf fiber should thus be able to produce testing results showing less than 1 part per million of total organic fluorine or total fluorine. We recommend that companies be required to test products and provide these results.”

Insist the manufacturer prove that there are *zero* amounts of these specific PFAS and their precursors:

- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
- Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)
- Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)
- Hexafluoropropylene oxide-dimer acid (GenX)
- Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)
- Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)
- Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)
- Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)
- Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)

The reason to add this stipulation on top of meeting the 1ppm TOF limit advised by Ecology Center is that the above 9 PFAS encompass the PFAS that are to be regulated in drinking water plus the PFAS that the EPA proposed on Jan 31, 2024 to be listed as hazardous constituents under RCRA⁴¹. EPA has evidence that each of those 9 PFAS has “toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic or teratogenic effects on humans and other life forms.”

To summarize, **before the city accepts an artificial turf system, verify the results of independent SPLP testing**. SPLP is a test method that demonstrates what leaches off the test subject. (Be vigilant! Manufacturers are notorious for choosing tests that do not reflect the real-world conditions to which artificial turf is subjected, for not specifying detection limits, or for setting detection limits too high.⁴²) **Verify that the results of SPLP testing indicate the system as a whole has (a) less than 1ppm**

⁴¹ United States Environmental Protection Agency *Proposal to List Nine Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Compounds as Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Hazardous Constituents* (Feb. 8, 2024), available at <https://www.epa.gov/hw/proposal-list-nine-and-polyfluoroalkyl-compounds-resource-conservation-and-recovery-act>

⁴² David Gambacorta and Barbara Laker. *City officials believed a new South Philly turf field was PFAS-free. Not true, experts say*. The Philadelphia Inquirer. (Feb. 23, 2024), available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xZUt9BzSfrvc8iiXzsRP4rETQ9Baqply/view?usp=drivesdk>

TOF and (b) less than the lowest limits of detection available at commercial labs for each of these 9 PFAS:

PFOA
PFOS
PFBS
GenX
PFNA
PFHxS
PFDA
PFHxA
PFBA

This testing should not be limited to the synthetic turf carpet fibers. It should also include the turf carpet backing, infill, and shockpad.

2. Microplastics science and evidence have evolved

A second significant adverse environmental impact from artificial turf that wasn't yet as pressing when these artificial turf systems were installed over a decade ago is microplastic pollution. However, by 2020, research reports indicate that microplastics have become an "intense global concern. These particles are present in aquatic environments in high concentrations and may adversely affect aquatic organisms. An additional concern is the ability of microplastics to adsorb inorganic and organic pollutants and subsequently liberate them into marine and freshwater systems."⁴³ "Microplastic and now nanoplastic research [have] grown rapidly in the last 10 years" and it suggests they are "detrimental to ecosystems and species health, modifying mobility, fecundity and mortality."⁴⁴ Very recent research (in 2023) has identified artificial turfs as "widespread pollutants of aquatic environments." The researchers found that "artificial turf fibers accounted for up to 15% of meso- and microplastic abundance" in rivers and sea surface waters.⁴⁵ Artificial turf systems therefore represent a significant

⁴³ Xu, et al., *Microplastics in aquatic environments: Occurrence, accumulation, and biological effects*, Science of the Total Environment, Volume 703 (Feb. 10, 2020), available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S004896971934690X>.

⁴⁴ Steve Allen, Deonie Allen, Samaneh Karbalaei, Vittorio Maselli, Tony R. Walker, *Micro(nano)plastics sources, fate, and effects: What we know after ten years of research*, Journal of Hazardous Materials Advances, Volume 6 (2022), available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hazadv.2022.100057>

source of plastic pollution to natural aquatic environments. Artificial turf fibers are found in Lake Tahoe.⁴⁶ They are found in the ocean.⁴⁷ There is risk that microplastics from the city's artificial turf are, and will continue to be, flushed into the watershed and make their way into the Pacific Ocean.

Microplastics escape from synthetic turf into the environment. These microplastics include both primary and secondary microplastics. Primary microplastics are intentionally engineered particles; secondary microplastics are the result of degradation of larger plastics. Primary microplastics include plastic-based artificial turf system infill pellets, such as tire crumbs, polymer-fused cork, and plastic-coated sand. Secondary microplastics include pieces of synthetic turf fibers that detach from the carpet backing or break off the plastic carpet pile, as well as smaller fragments that plastic carpet fibers and plastic-based infills break down into. Despite synthetic turf industry claims that the plastic carpet fibers do not break down, real-world evidence proves otherwise.⁴⁸ This degradation into secondary microplastics can result from the aging and weakening of the carpet and infill as it is subjected to ultraviolet rays, heat, wind, rain, and the extensive mechanical abrasion that results from repetitive friction that the carpet and infill are subjected to under grooming equipment, heavy foot traffic, and cleats, as well as the grinding action against infill materials (such as sand, plasticized pellets, walnut shells, olive pits, Zeolite, etc.), some of which are more abrasive than others. The degradation of the plastic carpet fibers may be the reason some artificial turf manufacturers only warranty that their plastic carpet will retain 50% of its pile height (and tensile strength) after 8 years,⁴⁹ and it may be the reason some

⁴⁵ Haan, et al., *The Dark Side of Artificial Greening: Plastic turfs as widespread pollutants of aquatic environment*, *Envtl. Pollution*, Volume 334 (Oct. 1, 2023), available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965>.

⁴⁶ Madison Schultz, *UC Davis Environmental Research Center fundamental at Lake Tahoe*, *Sierra Sun* (Dec. 25, 2022), available at <https://www.sierrasun.com/news/uc-davis-environmental-research-center-fundamental-at-lake-tahoe/>.

⁴⁷ Gerry Hadden, *Surfing scientists in Spain are hunting down microplastics*, *The World* (July 29, 2022), available at <https://theworld.org/stories/2022-07-29/surfing-scientists-spain-are-hunting-down-microplastics>.

⁴⁸ Public Hearing Regarding Artificial Turf Proposal, Massachusetts (April 2021), available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8OLBfWmt7g>

⁴⁹ *SYNLawn Warranty* (2021), available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kENxS7B4-gRillKBSR2e8h3x7ksF--kb/view?usp=drivesdk>

manufacturers, like FieldTurf, as shown in the warranty for the system installed at Saratoga High School in 2023, do not warranty fiber pile height retention at all.⁵⁰

Because a single microplastic particle may break down into millions of nanoplastics⁵¹, nanoplastics also escape from synthetic turf into the environment.

3. Greenhouse gas emissions science and evidence have evolved

A third significant adverse environmental impact from artificial turf that wasn't yet properly-quantified when these artificial turf systems were installed over a decade ago are their greenhouse gas emissions. In 2019, oceanographer and plastic degradation scientist Dr. Sarah-Jeanne Royer reported that the amount of GHGs emitted into the atmosphere in the form of ethylene, methane, and propylene by artificial turf carpet and shock pad represent a significant adverse environmental impact⁵² and should be calculated as part of a public agency's CEQA analysis. The expert opinion of Dr. Royer, supported by recent research findings⁵³, is that "the environmental health impacts posed by plastic carpets and polypropylene shock pads are likely significant and should be at the forefront of any decision regarding these materials." Dr. Royer's research has revealed that the breakdown of plastic represents a significant source of greenhouse gas pollution. The amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted by artificial turf is especially significant due to the following:

- The type of plastic from which synthetic turf is typically made is polyethylene.

⁵⁰ *FieldTurf Warranty for Saratoga High School* (2023), available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d6cRVDBDOPWIA_cCNVV7HmmtGi1T-RiE/view?usp=drivesdk

⁵¹ Yee MS, Hii LW, Looi CK, Lim WM, Wong SF, Kok YY, et al. *Impact of microplastics and nanoplastics on human health*. *Nanomaterials* (Basel) 11(2):496. (2021), available at <https://doi.org/10.3390/nano11020496>.

⁵² Sarah-Jeanne Royer *Synthetic turf will contribute to greenhouse gas problems* (Feb. 20, 2019), available at <https://www.mvtimes.com/2019/02/20/synthetic-turf-will-contribute-greenhouse-gas-problems/>

⁵³ Sarah-Jeanne Royer *Production of methane and ethylene from plastic in the environment* (Aug 1., 2018), available at <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0200574>

- Old news: GHGs are released during the manufacturing of synthetic turf. (Producing one ounce of polyethylene releases⁵⁴ one ounce of carbon dioxide.)
- Much more recent news: Plastics emit GHGs when exposed to UV light and air, and polyethylene is the plastic found to release GHGs at the highest rate. This means that significant GHGs continue to be released while the synthetic turf and shockpads are in use and as they degrade.
 - Methane and ethylene are among the significant GHGs emitted by polyethylene. Methane has been shown to be 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Ethylene is produced in even greater amounts.
 - Land based plastics produce 2 times more methane and 76 times more ethylene than those found in our waterways and oceans.
 - While methane and ethylene offgassing is triggered by solar radiation, the offgassing continues in the dark and likely over the lifetime of the plastic.
 - The amount of offgassing is based on the surface area of the plastic. Synthetic turf represents enormous surface area because:
 - The synthetic turf here occupies, when all 3 synthetic turf systems are accounted for, more than 4 acres.
 - Each individual blade of plastic grass represents additional surface area.
 - The surface area of the plastic further increases due to degradation from weather, foot traffic, ultraviolet radiation, and resulting fragmentation. As a result, the amount of GHGs emitted accelerates *exponentially*.

There is no evidence that attempts to mitigate environmental impacts are adequate. For example, there is no evidence that bioretention systems can adequately remove PFAS from the water that runs off an artificial turf system. PFAS in the dissolved form (i.e., less adherence to sediment) may leach through the mulch/biotreatment soil media and enter the underdrain of the bioretention systems and/or native soil. There is no evidence that even “state of the art” attempts to mitigate micro- and nano-plastic migration can adequately limit the escape of macro- and micro-particulate and chemically laced dust from the site of the synthetic turf system. While local filtration systems (drain filters installed beneath the field, along its perimeter, or in

⁵⁴ Samantha Staley *The Link Between Plastic Use and Climate Change: Nitty-gritty* (Dec. 2009), available at [https://stanfordmag.org/contents/the-link-between-plastic-use-and-climate-change-nitty-gritty#:~:text=Carbon%20Calculations,of%20polyethylene%20\(PET\)%20produced](https://stanfordmag.org/contents/the-link-between-plastic-use-and-climate-change-nitty-gritty#:~:text=Carbon%20Calculations,of%20polyethylene%20(PET)%20produced)

nearby drains on the property), catch basins, grates, barriers, netting, cleaning stations, walk-off mats, and regular grooming, can prevent some volume of plastic fragments from being washed by rain into a storm system, plastic fragments smaller than the pores of the filters would not be prevented from entering the storm system. These mitigation measures are unable to adequately capture the microplastics and nanoplastics carried much further from the field by wind, shoes, and clothing, where they would logically be rinsed into other storm drains, eventually flowing to the San Francisco Bay and carrying PFAS with it. Citizen scientists have provided plenty of photographic and video evidence of the small plastic fibers and infill blowing long distances from artificial turf fields where they can contaminate the local watershed and also be washed into storm drains. This microplastic migration phenomenon is evidenced by the fact that broken fragments of plastic grass fibers sometimes collect in areas with a physical barrier such as walls of nearby structures. It is reasonable to assume plastic grass fibers that don't encounter a physical barrier migrate further as they are readily lofted into air and washed into soil. It is also reasonable to assume that there are smaller fragments of plastic grass fibers that aren't visible to the naked eye, known as nanoplastics, also being carried similar distances from the field. What pollutes the land eventually pollutes the water. During rain events, land pollution is swept into storm drains where it then flows into local creeks and the bay.

This relatively recent evolution in the body of scientific research and evidence around the adverse environmental impacts of PFAS, microplastics, and greenhouse gas emissions from artificial turf constitute an unusual circumstance.⁵⁵ In other words, this replacement project is not like others where the environmental effects of the use of the materials are well-understood and have been previously studied. This unusual circumstance warrants the city's re-evaluation of environmental impacts before installing

⁵⁵ At the state level, the California Coastal Commission ("CCC") recently acknowledged the significant effects of artificial turf. California Coastal Commission, Notice of Impending Development UCS-NOID-0002-23 (Baseball Stadium Turf) (Nov. 30, 2023), available at <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2023/12/W13.1a/W13.1a-12-2023-report.pdf>. In December 2023, the CCC, considered a proposal by the University of California Santa Barbara to replace an existing 3-acre natural grass baseball field with artificial turf. Citing the potential impacts, including plastic degradation, microplastic migration, chemical leaching, water quality impacts, and project-related water demand (switch from use of reclaimed to potable water for maintenance), and sustainability aspects, the CCC determined that artificial turf at the site "cannot be considered the environmentally superior alternative." CCC, Summary at 2. Applying CEQA § 21080.5(d)(2)(A), which prohibits approval of a proposed development where there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available to lessen significant adverse effects, the CCC determined it could not approve artificial turf, and conditioned the project to require natural grass replacement.

Given that a state agency with environmental experts on staff is so concerned about significant adverse environmental impacts of artificial turf that it did not allow its use, it is illogical that a local agency should be able to install artificial turf without having to first at least properly evaluate the unusual circumstances contributing to artificial turf's environmental impacts.

new artificial turf. There is a reasonable possibility that these CEQA-projects would result in significant adverse environmental impacts due to these unusual circumstances, which were never previously considered by the city.

B. Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effects exception applies when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant. CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2(b). Cumulative effects under the exception refer to two or more individual effects, which when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental effects. CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2(a). Cumulative effects may result from different aspects of the same project, successive projects of the same type, or a number of separate projects. *Aptos Residents*, at 1049 (citing CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2(b)). Cumulative effects are the “change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time.” CEQA Guidelines § 15355.

Moreover, it is not just the disposal of the existing fields and replacement with artificial turf that must be considered, but also the subsequent and eventual disposal of the replacement fields that will become necessary once they reach the city of their useful lives. Accounting for the 3 artificial turf fields at this site, the city will need to dispose of over 4 acres (174,370 square feet) of artificial turf material every 10 years, forever. With approximately 40,000 pounds of plastic carpet per 80,000 square foot regulation-sized athletic field, that requires more than 43 tons of virgin-plastic turf carpet be manufactured for this site every 10 years. These “successive projects” must be considered together, and disposal and the inability to genuinely recycle the fields causes some of the greatest long-lasting and severe environmental effects.

Due to ultraviolet rays and heavy use, so much of the plastic carpet pile height of artificial turf has broken off and/or matted down after a mere 8-10 years (typical warranty period) of use, that the carpet fibers become unable to keep the infill material contained, rendering the whole carpet due for replacement. The issue of how to handle artificial turf waste once it wears out is a significant environmental concern given both the sheer volume of the waste and the hazardous nature of its content. Each regulation-sized plastic turf soccer field covers 80,000 square-feet and when disposed of would fill between fifteen and twenty 30-yard dumpsters.⁵⁶ For a visual of the volume of waste

generated by just *one* artificial turf sports field replacement (Saratoga High School, summer 2023), see the brief video at the following link: <https://twitter.com/banplasticturf/status/1691640297812627701?s=61&t=aykVGXwuYJp rFxosgnti2Q>. Now, because this site has 3 artificial turf systems, imagine 3 times that volume of waste. Now, imagine generating *that* volume of waste *every* 8 years. “Where do the millions of square feet of synthetic turf go to die? ... to landfills, to rural and urban stockpiles and ‘scattered in ravines, deserts, woods, and empty lots,’ according to a FairWarning investigation.”⁵⁷ It can cost tens of thousands of dollars to dispose of a single field’s worth of plastic carpet in a landfill. This is likely why there have been a number of cases where the artificial turf waste has been illegally dumped.⁵⁸ The environmental impacts of illegal dumping are especially concerning given the accelerated pollution shedding from degraded, end-of-life plastic turf.

While environmentally-conscious electeds are rightly uncomfortable with landfilling this much waste, the solution is well-managed natural grass. The Synthetic Turf Council (STC), the world’s largest organization representing the synthetic turf industry (with over 200-member companies from over 10 countries) explains, “Synthetic turf systems have a limited lifespan that ranges between 8–10 years... As with any recycle, reuse and recovery effort, the diversity of component materials may represent economic or technical challenges.”⁵⁹ “Artificial turf is extremely difficult and expensive to recycle since all the different plastics, rubber, and other materials used must be separated from each other” and “there are no turf recycling plants in the U.S.,”⁶⁰ explains a scientist and attorney formerly with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency after

⁵⁶ Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility *Artificial Turf’s Big Lie: Old Fields Not Recycled* (Jan 30, 2020), available at <https://peer.org/artificial-turfs-big-lie-old-fields-not-recycled/>

⁵⁷ Marjie Lundstrom *Artificial turf, touted as recycling fix for millions of scrap tires, becomes mounting disposal mess — Where do the millions of square feet of synthetic turf go to die?* https://www.salon.com/2019/12/21/artificial-turf-touted-as-recycling-fix-for-millions-of-scrap-tires-becomes-mounting-disposal-mess_partner/

⁵⁸ Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility *Artificial Turf’s Big Lie: Old Fields Not Recycled* (Jan 30, 2020), available at <https://peer.org/artificial-turfs-big-lie-old-fields-not-recycled/>

⁵⁹ Synthetic Turf Council *A Guideline to Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose and Remove Synthetic Turf Systems* (Oct. 2017), available at https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.syntheticurfCouncil.org/resource/resmgr/guidelines/STC_Guideline_for_Recycle_Re.pdf

⁶⁰ Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility *False Artificial Turf Recycling Claims Ripped — FTC Enforcement Urged to End Deceptive Turf Industry Greenwashing* (Mar 7, 2022), available at <https://peer.org/false-artificial-turf-recycling-claims-ripped/>

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). However, this reality unfortunately hasn't dissuaded "artificial turf makers and vendors" from using "recycling claims as a promotional ploy to portray [artificial turf] as an environmentally responsible alternative to traditional grass fields." (PEER has "filed a complaint⁶¹ with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), seeking FTC enforcement action to end misleading turf manufacturer and vendor claims.")

For manufacturers and vendors to promote artificial turf as being "recyclable" is misleading. The synthetic turf industry, like the broader plastics industry, has been greenwashing consumers for years when it comes to the subject of recycling. "Underpinning the plastic waste crisis is a campaign of fraud and deception that fossil fuel and other petrochemical companies have created and perpetuated for decades... Big Oil and the plastics industry have deceptively promoted recycling as a solution to plastic waste management for more than 50 years, despite their long-standing knowledge that plastic recycling is not technically or economically viable at scale."⁶² As reported by Beyond Plastics Bennington College and The Last Beach Clean Up in "The Real Truth About the U.S. Plastics Recycling Rate,"⁶³ the recycling rate for post-consumer plastic waste in the U.S. in 2021 was less than 6%. The report explains that the other 94% was disposed of in landfills, burned in incinerators, or ended up polluting our oceans, waterways, and landscapes. Even when millions of tons of plastic waste per year were counted as recycled when exported to China, the post-consumer plastic waste recycling rate still never even reached 10%. It was also revealed that while plastics recycling is on the decline, the per capita generation of plastic waste has increased by 263% since 1980. It is neither a safe nor realistic solution to bank on promises that plastic recycling will in future become a scalable tool for achieving meaningful reductions in plastic waste and pollution.

⁶¹ Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility *Complaint of Deceptive and Unfair Advertising of Artificial Turf* (Feb 28, 2022), available at https://peer.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3_7_22-Filed-FTC-Complaint-2.28.22.pdf

⁶² Center for Climate Integrity *The Fraud of Plastic Recycling — How Big Oil and the plastics industry deceived the public for decades and caused the plastic waste crisis*. (Feb. 2024), available at <https://climateintegrity.org/uploads/media/Fraud-of-Plastic-Recycling-2024.pdf>

⁶³ Bennington College Beyond Plastics and The Last Beach Cleanup *The Real Truth About the U.S. Plastics Recycling Rate* (May 2022) <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eda91260bbb7e7a4bf528d8/t/62b2238152acae761414d698/1655841666913/The-Real-Truth-about-the-US-Plastic-Recycling-Rate-2021-Facts-and-Figures-5-4-22.pdf>

True recycling of artificial turf is a notoriously challenging task, not economically viable over the long-term, and constitutes a source of further microplastic and chemical pollution. Recycling of plastic is reported to pollute the air⁶⁴ around the facility. Like PEER, we are not aware of any facility in the country successfully recycling artificial turf at scale. Claims that facilities capable of recycling at scale will be operational in time for the replacements necessary 10 years down the road are a tired sales tactic. Despite decades of repeated assurances from industry that scalable artificial turf recycling is just-around-the-corner, attempts to make this a reality have encountered one failure after another^{65 66}, like violating environmental laws, and may never come to fruition. Of course, from the industry's point of view, there's no incentive to let customers know that. If recycling of artificial turf were a long-term economically viable, environmentally safe, scalable solution, then massive stockpiles of unwanted, used turf wouldn't be a thing. Those stockpiles are a thing. Society can not afford to continue to rely on the future *potential* for scalable recycling to justify massive plastic purchases.

Being “recyclable” is not the same as being “recycled”.

Repurposing is not recycling.

Incineration is not recycling.

“Mechanical recycling” is not recycling. It's just chopping materials into smaller pieces.

“Advanced recycling”, a.k.a. “chemical recycling”, is not recycling. It's greenwashed terminology for pyrolysis, a form of incineration.⁶⁷ “What they are doing is

⁶⁴ *Recycling can release huge quantities of microplastics, study finds — Scientists find high levels of microplastics in wastewater from unnamed UK plant – and in air surrounding facility* The Guardian, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/may/23/recycling-can-release-huge-quantities-of-microplastics-study-finds>

⁶⁵ *Bethany Rodgers Turf recycler hit with environmental violations as it works to open PA plant* (Apr. 2, 2023) <https://www.phillyburbs.com/story/news/environment/2023/03/20/pa-officials-say-turf-recycler-is-violating-environmental-laws/69995371007/>

⁶⁶ *Barbara Laker and David Gambacorta 'Forever Fields': How Pennsylvania became a dumping ground for discarded artificial turf — Danish company Re-Match secured state incentives to open a recycling plant in 2022. It hasn't happened yet. Meanwhile, thousands of rolls of the fake grass, containing PFAS, are piled up on farms.* (Dec. 13, 2023), available at <https://bit.ly/foreverfields>

burning it. Burning it. It's incredibly environmentally harmful. It is probably the worst thing you could do with these fields, because it emits all sorts of chemicals to the fenceline communities... And it puts the PFAS that is in this field into the air where it then travels about 150km where it falls to the ground," explains Dr. Kyla Bennett, PhD in Ecology.⁶⁸

Downcycling is not recycling. Question the long-term viability of a waste management solution that depends on a high level of sustained demand for downcycled products, like plastic decking, plastic lumber and other construction materials incorporating plastic waste, especially given the materials would contain hazardous and undisclosed chemicals like PFAS that will continue to contribute to environmental and human health burdens.⁶⁹ Historically, industries have favored the low cost and high economic gain of virgin plastics so have not established high demand for recycled plastics.⁷⁰

As for downcycling artificial turf into plastic lumber, prolific use of plastic in the construction industry is likely a key contributor to plastic pollution and climate change and, in turn, global social injustice. Research shows that incorporating plastic waste into building materials and infrastructure:⁷¹

- represents ongoing efforts at greenwashing
- delays and distracts from real solutions to the plastic pollution crisis
- exacerbates negative ecological impacts of plastic waste
- exacerbates negative health impacts of plastic waste

⁶⁷ Natural Resources Defense Council “*Chemical Recycling*” is Not Recycling: *The Plastic Industry Is Greenwashing Incineration* (Sep. 2022) <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/chemical-recycling-plastic-greenwashing-incineration-fs.pdf>

⁶⁸ Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc. *Advanced Recycling is the Latest Greenwashing of the Synthetic Turf Industry* (Apr. 25, 2023) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzdi2cWWZdw>

⁶⁹ Svetlana Wagner Legacy additives in a circular economy of plastics: Current dilemma, policy analysis, and emerging countermeasures (Jul. 2020) <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S092134492030121X>

⁷⁰ Merrington, A. *Recycling of plastics in Applied plastics engineering handbook: Processing, materials, and applications*. 2nd, 167–189. Elsevier, Amsterdam, Netherlands, (2017), available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/B9780323390408000092>

⁷¹ Erica Cirino et al. *Assessing benefits and risks of incorporating plastic waste in construction materials* *Front. Built Environ., Sec. Sustainable Design and Construction* (July 2023), available at <https://doi.org/10.3389/fbuil.2023.1206474>

- increases demand for continued production of new (virgin) plastics by creating new markets for plastic wastes
- supports an unsustainable pattern of plastic production, use, and disposal
- contributes to the rapidly escalating increase in global plastic production
- is responsible for significantly harming human health and driving serious societal injustices⁷²
- is not circular and does not address the core problem of plastic pollution
- greenlights continued manufacturing of plastic material items, perpetuating the cycle of increased pollution and injustice⁷³

A significant adverse environmental impact of shredding or pelletizing plastic waste for incorporation into composites and lumbers is that it generates microplastics and nanoplastics. These particles, along with chemical additives and sorbed contaminants travel widely through air⁷⁴, the ocean⁷⁵, and soils⁷⁶—and into living bodies including humans.⁷⁷ The need to incorporate additive chemicals and/or new materials to plastic waste to maintain structural and performance integrity introduces additional environmental risk and diminishes a material's circularity and safety.⁷⁸

⁷² Landrigan, P. J., Raps, H., Cropper, M., Bald, C., Brunner, M., Canonizado, E. M., et al. *The minderoo-Monaco commission on plastics and human health*. *Ann. Glob. Health* 89 (1), 23. (2023) <https://annalsofglobalhealth.org/articles/10.5334/aogh.4056>

⁷³ Plastic Pollution Coalition joined by frontline activists from communities of color across America's industrial plastic and petrochemical corridors. *From the Frontline: Petrochemicals, Plastics, and Cancer Alley* (Feb. 15, 2024) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfsRFM3VI4w>

⁷⁴ Amato-Lourenço et al. *An emerging class of air pollutants: Potential effects of microplastics to respiratory human health?* (Dec. 20, 2020), availability at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969720352050>

⁷⁵ Erikson et al. A growing plastic smog, now estimated to be over 170 trillion plastic particles afloat in the world's oceans—Urgent solutions required (Mar. 8, 2023) <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0281596>

⁷⁶ Cramer et al. *Microplastic induces soil water repellency and limits capillary flow*. (2023) <https://access.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/vzj2.20215>

⁷⁷ Amobonye et al. *Environmental Impacts of Microplastics and Nanoplastics: A Current Overview* (Dec. 14, 2021) <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/microbiology/articles/10.3389/fmicb.2021.768297/full>

⁷⁸ Sara Parece et al. *A Methodology to Qualitatively Select Upcycled Building Materials from Urban and Industrial Waste* (Mar. 15, 2022) <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/6/3430>

Repurposing, chopping, landfilling, and incinerating waste do not constitute true recycling and are not sustainable. True recycling, if it generates microplastic pollution, is also not sustainable. True recycling of a relatively small number of fields is not the same as true recycling at scale.

If you're told there's a facility doing *true* recycling of artificial turf *at scale*, please request and share the facility name, location, years in operation, evidence of the volume of artificial turf it recycles annually, and evidence that it is true recycling, as opposed to one of the situations listed above. Please also factor into your budget the cost of transporting the used turf to the facility, especially if you'd be sending it to a facility across the country or overseas.

If you are told the manufacturer commits to recycling all 3 of these end-of-life artificial turf system carpets, for example turning it into a PP/PE blend that will then be sent to third party consumer markets to be manufactured into products like plastic lumber, park benches, and trash receptacles, questions you should ask include: Who is the third party? Why aren't the third party and its customers concerned about the PFAS? Where is the third party? Is the third party even domestic? Is the third party facility sited in a sacrifice zone near disadvantaged communities? Are there social and environmental justice issues at play?⁷⁹

Is the facility's acceptance of these 3 plastic carpets a small-scale performative operation crafted primarily as a strategy to increase artificial turf sales, i.e. to market to municipal and school district decision-makers, like yourselves, that have pre-purchase inquiries about the environmental sustainability of artificial turf? How much waste will be generated by the recycling process for this artificial turf and will that waste be landfilled or incinerated?

Is the facility's artificial turf carpet "recycling" experimental? There was a recycling operation featured in a December 2023 news report which alluded to artificial turf being extruded for use in plastic lumber. However that news report describes that operation as a "trial" and, curiously, the "partners" were kept secret from the reporters.⁸⁰

⁷⁹ United Nations Environment Programme *Plastic pollution is an environmental injustice to vulnerable communities* (Mar. 30, 2021) <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/plastic-pollution-environmental-injustice-vulnerable-communities-new>

⁸⁰ Barbara Laker and David Gambacorta 'Forever Fields': How Pennsylvania became a dumping ground for discarded artificial turf (Dec. 13, 2023) https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HMD-hqWeE0THBRcx_TWuB8hIM5uOtByT/view?usp=drivesdk

The City of San Francisco had 3 fields removed as part of FieldTurf's "take back" program to be recycled into products like park benches and trash receptacles. While FieldTurf's slideshow advertising the program failed to mention where the waste would ultimately go, city records state it was shipped over 8,000 miles to Malaysia.⁸¹ Will any of the city's plastic waste be shipped abroad?

Chain of Custody documents have been falsified. How will the city be reassured its artificial turf carpet is taken to a recycling facility and ultimately turned into other products?

Site demolition and turf recycling are expensive. What makes the city confident the million taxpayer dollars it is putting toward demolition and recycling is indeed resulting in legitimate, sustainable, local, or at least domestic, recycling of 100% of the artificial turf waste?

With regard to the never-ending repetition of disposal of massive quantities of artificial turf product component waste not yet safely recyclable at scale, the city lacks substantial evidence to support a finding that no significant cumulative adverse environmental impact exists. The inability to safely and genuinely recycle artificial turf at scale causes great long-lasting and severe environmental effects.

Plastic waste sent to a landfill will never decompose. The capacity of many landfills are reported to be rapidly depleting. Even if there's room in a landfill, the PFAS and nanoplastics may contaminate local groundwater. PFAS leach from landfills⁸² and are released into the air by incineration⁸³. Please confirm local landfills have remaining capacity to house the volume of never-ending, never-decomposing artificial turf waste you would be regularly disposing of every ~10 years. Recognize the possibility that, especially as chemical regulation increases, artificial turf disposal in landfills may eventually be prohibited; It may become a requirement to treat artificial turf as

⁸¹ Marjie Lundstrom *Artificial turf, touted as recycling fix for millions of scrap tires, becomes mounting disposal mess — Where do the millions of square feet of synthetic turf go to die?* https://www.salon.com/2019/12/21/artificial-turf-touted-as-recycling-fix-for-millions-of-scrap-tires-becomes-mounting-disposal-mess_partner/

⁸² Tolaymat et al. *A Critical Review of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Landfill Disposal in the United States*. Science of the Total Environment, Elsevier BV, AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, 905:167185, (2023). https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?dirEntryId=359168&Lab=CESER

⁸³ Earthjustice and Sierra Club *Incineration is not a safe disposal method for PFAS* (2022) <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eoDownloadDocument?pubId=&eodoc=true&documentID=251195>

hazardous waste, given known hazards, like PFAS, which may also increase the city's future disposal costs.

Ongoing PFAS and microplastic pollution from plastic turf represent significant cumulative adverse environmental impacts. PFAS and microplastic pollution occur:

- from the facilities where PFAS, plastic, and plastic turf are manufactured
- during transport to this park
- from this park where the plastic turf sits for 10ish years
- during transport from this park
- from the sites where the plastic turf is taken after the city is done with it (such as empty lots where they may be stored or sites on which they are repurposed, landfilled, or incinerated)
- from the PFAS-laced plastic products the plastic turf is downcycled into plastic lumber, park benches, and trash receptacles

Every 10 years, forever, another 43 tons of plastic carpet enters that pipeline. At some point, the market for plastic lumber, park benches, and trash receptacles will be saturated. Every 43 ton batch of carpet will still exist in some form or another on this earth centuries from now, possibly spread between the post-consumer products it will theoretically be recycled into, stockpiles of crumbling plastic carpet rolls, and a "microlayer" of floating microplastics and nanoplastics in our oceans.

Because the artificial turf carpet is not truly and safely recyclable into new artificial turf carpet, this system is linear, not circular. This system takes as its input fossil fuels to create more virgin plastic turf, and as its output, it continuously generates a stream of PFAS-laced plastic pollution and every 10 years hundreds of rolls of degraded PFAS-laced plastic carpets. A linear system of plastic production, pollution, and waste inevitably represents a significant cumulative impact. This plastic and this pollution never go away. PFAS are called "forever" chemicals because they last essentially forever. Plastics also last essentially forever. Every bit of plastic manufactured for these fields and every bit of PFAS and microplastic pollution that escape during the product's journey detailed above are forever. The PFAS and microplastics loose in the environment will circulate through our air, water, and soil forever. The amount of PFAS and microplastics we are breathing in, swallowing in our drinking water, and consuming in our food will continue to increase if our societies do not begin making radical changes in our approach to plastics. This is the premise of much scientific input that has been laid out in the recent discussions about the Global Plastics Treaty being developed.⁸⁴

Greenhouse gas emissions are also cumulative. Now that 4 acres of natural grass have been eliminated from this site, there are significantly fewer soil microbial communities and plants on the land to draw down carbon.

Successive iterations of artificial turf replacement projects, which will be necessary every 8-10 years ad infinitum, or until prohibited by law or regulation, constitute significant cumulative adverse environmental impact.

Remove artificial turf from the proposed replacement Project in favor of natural grass, or halt all actions in furtherance of the Project while the required CEQA analysis is performed. As discussed below, natural grass is a feasible and environmentally preferable alternative.

II. Feasibility of Natural Grass

A proper evaluation of the feasibility of well-managed natural needs to be documented and publicly shared by the city. The infeasibility of well-managed natural grass fields is often implied by a field design firm, a field construction firm, coaches, field users, etc. However, it is likely that none of them have the professional credentials to conclude natural grass is infeasible. They also likely do not have the professional credentials to conclude artificial turf has no significant adverse environmental consequences. And since the city has failed to inform these well-meaning individuals of these consequences or of the option to have well-managed natural grass, it would not be surprising to find many of them lobby for artificial turf. Most have been misled into believing the only realistic options are either natural grass that is poorly managed, unavailable during and after rain, offline for long stretches of time during the playing season, etc. or artificial turf.

The city and the public need to be educated about the environmental consequences of artificial turf and the alternatives to using artificial turf prior to a final decision to approve the Project. This is the purpose of undertaking the CEQA review process.

Before the city rushes into another ill-advised decision to approve artificial turf, consult with professional sports field managers who have had long-term success

⁸⁴ United Nations Environment Programme *Historic day in the campaign to beat plastic pollution: Nations commit to develop a legally binding agreement* (Mar. 2, 2022) <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/historic-day-campaign-beat-plastic-pollution-nations-commit-develop>

keeping natural grass sports fields, fields that have high-volume usage and year-round availability needs comparable to the city's, in safe condition on a public agency budget. They are the only experts qualified to conclude whether natural grass is infeasible for the city's needs. The city is urged to consult professional sports field managers that have a record of long-term success (10+ years) with year-round, high-volume natural grass sports fields for public agencies. These experts exist and the city should be talking to them.

The following experts are recommended for the city's consideration:

- Professional sports field managers made available to public agencies by the nonprofit Beyond Pesticides through their "Parks for a Sustainable Future" program. Reach out to their team at sustainableparks@beyondpesticides.org to learn more. Through this program, city staff can be trained to economically keep natural grass in safe condition. This program is teaching public schools and Parks & Rec departments how to prevent worn/bare spots, mud, and pests on high-use natural grass playing fields in order to give the kids a consistent, level playing surface. The program would serve as an ideal vehicle for demonstrating to the community that real grass sports fields can be affordably kept in safe condition for the city's year-round high-volume usage needs. The program's emphasis would be on training the managers of city's natural grass fields and supporting their success. With the professional development gained via this training program, the city's grounds team would learn to keep soil rich with microbial life, enabling resilient, thriving natural grass. (Both a bonus and a key to success of this program is that the field management methods are organic and create more resilient turf that retains moisture and requires less watering. Organic management is safer for the grounds crew, field users, and the environment.)
- Certified Sports Field Managers ("CSFMs") that have demonstrated years of success managing real grass fields on a public agency budget for communities with usage and availability needs similar to the city's. Not many field design firms or construction firms have a CSFM, especially not one that fits this description. Are the city's field manager(s) certified as CSFMs? CSFMs are certified by the professional association called Sports Field Management Association ("SFMA"). The SFMA board president, Sun Roesslain, may be particularly helpful in helping the city assess the feasibility of natural grass. She is a CSFM that is part of a 2-person crew managing national-award winning natural grass fields for a set of 6 public high schools. She is also networked with a number of the 250ish CSFMs

across the country, and may therefore be able to recommend other CSFMs for the city to talk to regarding strategies for successful management with natural grass under the city's year-round high-volume usage needs. She should also be able to refer you to professional development opportunities for the city's field manager(s) to supplement information and training from the Beyond Pesticides training program. The city is encouraged to consider supporting the city's field manager(s) in earning CSFM certification.

III. Conclusion

A full CEQA review of this project would transparently explore:

1. the breadth and gravity of the environmental consequences that come with continually covering and re-covering acres of land with artificial turf and
2. the true feasibility and practicality of well-managed, drought-tolerant natural grass.

At the conclusion of the CEQA review, the city and the community will recognize that, over the long-term, well-managed drought-tolerant natural grass reduces significant adverse environmental impacts and therefore deserves fair and thorough consideration.

Therefore, please do not approve installation of artificial turf. If you still desire it, undertake a comprehensive and legally proper CEQA review prior to the final decision.

Very truly yours,
Cynthia Fan



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: More pickleball courts

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Monica Smith <

Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 11:00 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Mar 7, 2024 at 6:15 AM Monica Smith <

> wrote:

Hello Commissioners,

I am writing to let the commissioners of LA Parks and Recreation know that I support the city's installation of pickleball courts on existing park property, especially in the Central APC zone. There are no pickleball courts within an LA Park between Westchester to the west and Montecito Heights to the east. And none in between Montecito Heights to the south and Sherman Oaks to the north.

It is an easy and budget friendly fix to modify tennis court space and purchase a few pickleball nets. The court lines can be placed in such a way that players of both sports can share the same space on a rotating schedule.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States. In fact, many tennis players are transitioning over to pickleball. Here is a January 2023 [video](#) produced by *Fortune* that explains pickleball's growth potential and the health and mental health benefits for people's lives. The City of Los Angeles would be doing a great service to their communities by providing more pickleball courts.

I urge the Commissioners of LA Park and Recreation to consider installing more pickleball courts in the city of Los Angeles, particularly in the Central APC Zone.

Best regards,

Monica Smith, an enthusiastic pickleball player

--

City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: More Pickleball Courts

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Tessie Cruz <

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 1:08 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 11:26 AM Tessie Cruz < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to urge you to support the installation of pickleball courts at more LA Park and Rec locations.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States, enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

In addition to being an incredible sport, pickleball builds community that reflects the rich diversity of Los Angeles.

Pickleball courts can be created by converting existing tennis courts with tape and a net. They can be easily converted back to tennis courts, as needed. Additionally, three pickleball courts can be set up on one tennis court. Pickleball is typically played in a doubles format, resulting in 12 pickleball players being able to use one tennis court.

A pickleball revolution is taking place in LA and in communities throughout the country. I hope that the Rec. and Parks Commission will support this movement by providing additional courts. Thank you for your consideration.

I'm 73 years old and found out I can be active again playing this sports instead of sitting in front of Tv.

Appreciate hearing from your end.

Best regards,

Tessie Cruz

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Support the installation of pickleball courts

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Esteban Rojas <

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 1:09 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 12:44 PM Esteban Rojas < > wrote:
Esteemed Commissioners,

My name is Esteban Rojas I recently moved to the city and would like to ask you to support the installation of pickleball courts at more LA Park and Rec locations.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States, is very accesible as it can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. Pickleball has proven, in my case to be a great sport and a way to feel more connected to the community, showcasing the diversity and inclusivity of Los Angeles.

Pickleball courts can be created by converting existing tennis courts with tape and a net. They can be easily converted back to tennis courts, as needed. Additionally, three pickleball courts can be set up on one tennis court. Pickleball is typically played in a doubles format, resulting in 12 pickleball players being able to use one tennis court.

A pickleball revolution is taking place in LA and in communities throughout the country. I hope that the Rec. and Parks Commission will support this movement by providing additional courts. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Esteban Rojas

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: More pickleball courts

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 7:41 AM

To: Atarah <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:18 PM Atarah <

> wrote:

Dear, Commissioners.

I'm writing to urge you to support installation of more pickleball courts at LA Park and Rec locations.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States, enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

In addition to being an incredible sport, pickleball builds community that reflects the rich diversity of Los Angeles.

Pickleball courts can be created by converting existing tennis courts with tape and a net. They can be easily converted back to tennis courts, as needed. Additionally, three pickleball courts can be set up on one tennis court. Pickleball is typically played in a doubles format, resulting in 12 pickleball players being able to use one tennis court.

A pickleball revolution is taking place in LA and in communities throughout the country. I implore the Rec. and Parks Commission to support this movement by providing additional courts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Atarah Dymally-Williams

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please provide more Pickleball courts throughout Los Angeles

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 7:41 AM

To: Elise <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:29 PM Elise <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to urge you to support the installation of pickleball courts at more LA Park and Recreation locations.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States, enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

In addition to being an incredible sport, pickleball builds community that reflects the rich diversity of Los Angeles.

Pickleball courts can be created by converting existing tennis courts with tape and a net. They can be easily converted back to tennis courts, as needed. Additionally, three pickleball courts can be set up on one tennis court. Pickleball is typically played in a doubles format, resulting in 12 pickleball players being able to use one tennis court.

A pickleball revolution is taking place in LA and in communities throughout the country. I hope that the Rec. and Parks Commission will support this movement by providing additional courts. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Elise Ruden

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: More pickleball courts

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Jeaneen Tang <

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 7:41 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:51 PM Jeaneen Tang < > wrote:
Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to urge you to support the installation of pickleball courts at more LA Park and Rec locations.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States, enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

My son is 11 years old and has special needs. He only has use of his left arm/hand. He's grown to love playing pickleball and it's great for his physical training.

In addition to being an incredible sport, pickleball builds community that reflects the rich diversity of Los Angeles.

Pickleball courts can be created by converting existing tennis courts with tape and a net. They can be easily converted back to tennis courts, as needed. Additionally, up to four pickleball courts can be set up on one tennis court. Pickleball is typically played in a doubles format, resulting in 16 pickleball players being able to use one tennis court.

A pickleball revolution is taking place in LA and in communities throughout the country. I hope that the Rec. and Parks Commission will support this movement by providing additional courts. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,
Jeaneen Tang

Sent from my iPhone

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: More Pickleball Please

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Motown Maurice <

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 7:41 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:58 PM Motown Maurice < > wrote:

Greetings Commissioners,

I'm writing in support of the installation of pickleball courts at more LA Park and Rec locations.

Pickleball is an important social activity and it cultivates LA's rich diverse community.

We should not delay. The time is now to expand and support the pickleball movement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Peace and many blessings.

Motown

The Future of Late Night

Motown Maurice

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Increased Pickleball courts in Los Angeles

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:06 AM

To: Terri Breed <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:05 AM Terri Breed <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

As a LA resident, I'm writing to urge you to support the installation of pickleball courts at more LA Park and Rec locations.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States, enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

In addition to being an incredible sport, pickleball builds community that reflects the rich diversity of Los Angeles.

Pickleball courts can be created by converting existing tennis courts with tape and a net. They can be easily converted back to tennis courts, as needed. Additionally, 2 to 4 pickleball courts can be set up on one tennis court. Pickleball is typically played in a doubles format, resulting in 8 to 16 pickleball players being able to use one tennis court.

A pickleball revolution is taking place in LA and in communities throughout the country. I hope that the Rec. and Parks Commission will support this movement by providing additional courts. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Terri Breed

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: More pickleball courts

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Camille Jamandre <

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 7:27 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Mar 23, 2024 at 10:31 PM Camille Jamandre < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to urge you to support the installation of pickleball courts at more LA Park and Rec locations.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States, enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

In addition to being an incredible sport, pickleball builds community that reflects the rich diversity of Los Angeles.

Pickleball courts can be created by converting existing tennis courts with tape and a net. They can be easily converted back to tennis courts, as needed. Additionally, three pickleball courts can be set up on one tennis court. Pickleball is typically played in a doubles format, resulting in 12 pickleball players being able to use one tennis court.

A pickleball revolution is taking place in LA and in communities throughout the country. I hope that the Rec. and Parks Commission will support this movement by providing additional courts. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Camille Jamandre

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Request to be agendized before the Parks Commission

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Jason Saunders <

Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 12:24 PM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

Neighborhood Councils may submit Community Impact Statements, questions and/or concerns to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org

Also, please be aware members of the General Public can not be placed on the Agenda, however they may attend any of our Scheduled Meetings and address the Commissioners during General Public Comment.

See the attached for meeting information: <https://www.laparks.org/commissioners/meetings>

Thank you.

On Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 11:24 AM Jason Saunders <

> wrote:

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the Voices Neighborhood Council regarding Bill Greene Memorial Park (known locally as Fig Slauson Park: 5800 Figueroa). Our neighborhood council is requesting a pause in development of this park until a design can be created in collaboration and with the feedback of the community. Construction has not yet begun.

Despite the community's documented desire for a open, green and sustainable park the design the city produced is a design that is approximately 85% hardscape and surrounded by steel institutional security fencing. The neighborhood council has twice now drafted resolutions in opposition to the city's design. All public comment we have received has been in opposition to this design.

We would like to be agendized before the parks commission to request a pause in development and ask the department to take another look at their overly hard and institutional design. We would also like the opportunity to provide input on the naming of the park in which we were not consulted.

Thank you,

Jason M. Saunders

Vice Chair
Voices Neighborhood Council

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFITTI CD1 (EUNISESS HERNADEZ

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 9:12 AM

To: Garcia Incareal >

Cc: Yovonte Robinson <yovonte.robinson@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 6:42 PM Garcia Incareal < > wrote:

MARCH 11

Council member CD1 Eunisses Hernandez the Sycamore Grove Park has graffiti.

Attach are pictures

Mauro Garcia

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Letter to Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners: Community Center (Senior Center) on Riverside Drive near Mulholland Fountain

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: D Chew <

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 9:16 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 7:44 PM D Chew <

> wrote:

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department

Office of Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 86328

Los Angeles, CA 90086-0328

March 11, 2024

Commissioners,

As a nearby resident in the Los Feliz Estates, within Griffith Park area, and attending community member, I am excited with the possibility of a new Community Center (Senior Center) in the area based on the Master Plan presented February 29, 2024, at a community meeting at the Friendship Auditorium in Los Feliz. Our esteemed local groups, the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA) and the Griffith Park Advisory Board (GPAB), have supported a community-driven Master Plan; BUT this was NOT what was presented at the 2/29/24 meeting arranged by 4th Council Office.

I understand from the attendees at community meeting, that the money secured by CD4 that was earmarked for the Griffith Park pool, some for planning for the Master Plan, and a consultant did not impress the community members attending... NOT enough work/progress was shown for the 4 years.

The recent community meeting at Friendship Auditorium of 100 plus attendees did not address the need for the community center, that we wanted it to be located on the site where the L.A. Shares building stood, and until the City is to dismantle the temporarily established Bridge Home Shelter adjacent. Criminal activity burnt down the LA Shares structure, which requiring the longstanding L.A. Shares

building to be raised. The community was promised in 2020 through a passed Council Motion by then CD4 Councilperson David Ryu, that the community center (and Senior Center) would be sited where LA Shares building was located. In Ryu's Motion it called for the current location of the Bridge Home Shelter was to return to a parking lot.

The Community DOES NOT APPROVE of the continuation of the temporary Bridge Home Shelter remaining in the area, it provides no revenue to Griffith Park Recreation & Parks Department (RAP) and in fact, it has established itself as the locus of crime and draws in the homeless, who use drugs without shelter operator's (PATH) intervention!

CD4 Councilperson Raman was in attendance at the meeting and was directly asked during the Master Plan presentation to address the timeline for decommissioning of the shelter in Griffith Park as required by the Council Motion. Councilperson Raman has not reported back to the RAP Commission from the June 2023 meeting for the shelter's closure timeline as requested by the RAP Commission Board. Our Community has been more than patient, waiting for our elected official to report back... NO RESULTS!

We now know the Bridge Home Shelter for the past 3.5 years has increased crime 300% to the immediate neighborhood of Los Feliz and which created a 468% increase in homeless to the area and it's due to drugs being readily available. There is the element of prostitution that has increased in our neighborhood; drug-addicted women deals/trade sex for drugs from shelter residents and alleged gang members. And men, who are outsiders, buy drugs outside of the shelter and uses sex as payment.

The safety of our Los Feliz Community is PRIORITY ONE. I implore the Rec & Parks Commission Board to work with our local community groups to close the shelter. Listen to OUR COLLECTIVE Community Voices, about details which are important to create a functional Community Center that facilitates Safety both within Griffith Park, and at the Community Center specifically. Our Councilperson's agenda does NOT represent the Peoples' voices in Council District 4. The Community temporarily volunteered for homeless housing, which recreated the Bridge Home Shelter. But this was a limited offer; this area has endured enough! We do not want to be railroaded into having a temporary function to remain in this community to become permanent.

As explained, The Ambassador Program proposed by Councilperson Raman, is to have 2 Staff members outside the facility, to "deescalate" the Bridge Home shelter, and pass out all ready available Narcan, then call police and fire with limited hours. It will be insufficient and will create a liability to Recreation & Parks - it is an anemic safety measure with very high liability. As explained, these personnel will be recruited from a yet-to-be identified third party vendor and will not have law enforcement training nor training or experience in clinical psychology. But these attributes are what is needed to ensure and secure safety of Ambassador Program Staff and the shelter residents. This measure will merely add untrained staff, which is not aiding and increasing the safety around Bridge Home shelter. The surrounding community have already called on multiple occasions for the Bridge Home to be removed. We need safety NOW in Griffith Park and to have our voices heard by the RAP Commission Board. The Community is being totally ignored by Council District 4 and her representatives.

Please reply to my letter at (" "). The favor of a reply addressing the above issues is appreciated in advance. We look forward to seeing our Board of Rec & Parks Commissioners at

upcoming meetings.

Thank You for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Dennis Chew

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Safety and Community Needs

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 2:57 PM

To:

Cc: Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 2:38 PM Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

I am adding [+Rap Commissioners](#) to ensure our commissioners receive this communications.

On Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 1:39 PM Marilyn Bush <

> wrote:

Marilyn Bush

March 11, 2024

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board of Commissioners
P. O. Box 86328
Los Angeles, Ca 90086-0328

As a homeowner and resident of the Los Feliz community since 1981 and a lifelong resident of Los Angeles, I am writing to solicit your assistance in the development of a new Community Center in our area based on the Master Plan presented at the Community Meeting at Friendship Hall February 29, 2024. As a Past President of the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA), Friends of Los Feliz Library (FoLFL) and Chairperson, Mulholland Memorial Fountain Restoration Committee, and member of the Greek Theater Advisory Board (GTAC), the Los Feliz community and Griffith Park itself needs your participation and guidance to prevent further deterioration of park property as well as the Los Feliz community.

Our past three CD4 Councilmembers have all supported in word and deed a community-driven Master Plan which is inclusive of the development of a Community Center including the very successful functions of our small current Senior Center (which must be removed) hovering in the corner of Friendship Halls parking lot. Unfortunately the recent community meeting with 115 in attendance did not address the need for a community center that has been developed and supported by past Council members as well as the Los Feliz Community. Ideal location for the center is on the site where the L.A. Shares building was located for many years. Unfortunately vandalism caused that building to be burnt down and it had to be raised. What was discussed on February 29th as far afield from the long awaited commitments from the City.

The experiment of the Bridge Home shelter on Park property has not been successful. In the past nearly 4 years crime has risen 300% in the immediate neighborhood. Homeless are drawn due to drug availability, crime,

prostitution and gang growth have all increased the crime activities which has spilled over into the neighboring residential streets. Drug dealers set-up near permanent location to ply their activities. The safety of our Los Feliz Community is increasingly compromised. There is already an enormous cost being expended in a failed effort to maintain a safe environment . Even more so-called safety measures are being proposed. The climate outside the facility is so toxic that proposals are being considered to staff two questionably trained person outside the shelter with life saving supplies to de-escalate current problems all at additional expense, The effort to establish clean and safe housing for the homeless is not successful in or around the Bridge Home It is my understanding that CD4 has neglected for a period now over 6 months to report back to RAP Board 's motion requesting as to the timeline for the shelter's closure timeline on Park property.

The quality of life and safety of the Los Feliz Community is in urgent need of your assistance. I urge the Recreation and Parks Commission to immediately begin working with our community groups to close the Bridge Home shelter and support details important to the development of our long awaited and safely located Community Center in south Griffith Park.

Your response to my letter addressing the above issues at Marilyn Bush,
will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to attending
upcoming meetings whenever possible.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Bush

Marilyn Bush

--

Jimmy Kim
General Manager

City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Los Feliz/Griffith Park Community Center

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Carole Nese < >

Fri, Mar 15, 2024 at 9:26 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Mar 15, 2024 at 7:25 AM Carole Nese < > wrote:
March 14, 2024

Dear Rec & Parks Management and Commission Board Members,

What is happening with the plans to for a new Community Center in the Griffith Park area? The Master Plan meeting on Thursday afternoon Feb 29, held by local Councilwoman Nithya Raman rep of CD4 never addressed this issue.

As a nearby resident and patron of the south Griffith Park area, I, along with my neighbors, are very excited about a new Community Center in the area.

It's been too long that we have had to tolerate an old broken down and asbestos-laden trailer that is the current adult community center. The community deserves better - much, much better.

In 2020, we were promised, through a passed Council Motion under then CD4 Councilman David Ryu, a new community center would be built where the L.A. Shares building stood for many years.

Much of the previous L.A. Shares space is now occupied by the Bridge Home shelter, which was to be a temporary, and has turned into an established locus of crime and draw for homeless who use drugs. All of this is being allowed, without shelter operator (PATH) supervision or intervention.

We are NOT okay with Bridge Home shelter staying in the area. Instead of making things better for everyone, it has made things much worse. The Bridge Home shelter in the last 3.5 years has increased crime 300% to the immediate neighborhoods of Los Feliz and created a 468% increase in homeless to the area due to drugs being readily available. The element of prostitution which goes along with crime and drugs, has increased in our neighborhood as well.

The Master Plan meeting on Feb. 29, led by CD4 Councilwoman Raman, was to provide a timeline for decommissioning the Bridge Home shelter in Griffith Park. Councilwoman Raman did not discuss or even touch upon known area safety issues or specifics of ensuring we have a community center we have been promised for so long. Our Councilperson's agenda does not represent the peoples' voices in Council District 4.

Our neighborhood has endured enough! The safety of our Los Feliz community is PRIORITY # ONE. We are asking the Rec & Parks Commission Board to work with our local community groups to close the shelter and listen to our collective community voices about details important to create a functional Community Center that facilitates safety both within south Griffith Park, and at the community center specifically.

We look forward to coming to an understanding to ensure much more safety for south Griffith Park, and having a community center, sooner rather than later, because none of us are getting any younger!

Please reach out to me at

Sincerely,

Carole Nese

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

March 14, 2024

Dear Rec & Parks Management and Commission Board Members,

What is happening with the plans to for a new Community Center in the Griffith Park area? The Master Plan meeting on Thursday afternoon Feb 29, held by local Councilwoman Nithya Raman rep of CD4 never addressed this issue.

As a nearby resident and patron of the south Griffith Park area, I, along with my neighbors, are very excited about a new Community Center in the area.

It's been too long that we have had to tolerate an old broken down and asbestos-laden trailer that is the current adult community center. The community deserves better - much, much better.

In 2020, we were promised, through a passed Council Motion under then CD4 Councilman David Ryu, a new community center would be built where the L.A. Shares building stood for many years.

Much of the previous L.A. Shares space is now occupied by the Bridge Home shelter, which was to be a temporary, and has turned into an established locus of crime and draw for homeless who use drugs. All of this is being allowed, without shelter operator (PATH) supervision or intervention.

We are NOT okay with Bridge Home shelter staying in the area. Instead of making things better for everyone, it has made things much worse. The Bridge Home shelter in the last 3.5 years has increased crime 300% to the immediate neighborhoods of Los Feliz and created a 468% increase in homeless to the area due to drugs being readily available. The element of prostitution which goes along with crime and drugs, has increased in our neighborhood as well.

The Master Plan meeting on Feb. 29, led by CD4 Councilwoman Raman, was to provide a timeline for decommissioning the Bridge Home shelter in Griffith Park. Councilwoman Raman did not discuss or even touch upon known area safety issues or specifics of ensuring we have a community center we have been promised for so long. Our Councilperson's agenda does not represent the peoples' voices in Council District 4.

Our neighborhood has endured enough! The safety of our Los Feliz community is PRIORITY # ONE. We are asking the Rec & Parks Commission Board to work with our local community groups to close the shelter and listen to our collective community voices about details important to create a functional Community Center that facilitates safety both within south Griffith Park, and at the community center specifically.

We look forward to coming to an understanding to ensure much more safety for south Griffith Park, and having a community center, sooner rather rthan later, because none of us are getting any younger!

Please reach out to me at

or :

Sincerely,



Carole Nese

March 9, 2024

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 86328
Los Angeles, CA 90086-0328

Dear Commissioners,

As a nearby resident in the south Griffith Park area, I am excited about the possibility of a new community center in the area based on the Master Plan presented February 29, 2024 at a community meeting in Los Feliz. Our esteemed local groups, the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA) and the Griffith Park Advisory Board (GPAB), have supported a community-driven Master Plan, which was NOT what happened at the 2/29/24 meeting put on by the CD4 Council Office.

I understand from the community meeting that the money immediately secured by CD4 is earmarked for the Griffith Park pool, some for planning for the Master Plan, and a consultant. That is some progress after 4 years yet not enough.

The recent community meeting of 115 attendees did not address the need for the adult community center that we want to be located on the site where the L.A. Shares building stood for years until homeless from the adjacent Bridge Home shelter and their affiliated criminals burnt it down, requiring the longstanding L.A. Shares building to be razed. In 2020, the community was promised through a successful Council Motion under then CD4 Councilman David Ryu that the adult community center would be erected where the LA Shares building was formerly located. Ryu's Motion also called for the current location of the Bridge Home shelter to return to a parking lot. We are NOT in favor of Bridge Home shelter staying in the area that provides no revenue to the Griffith Park Department of Recreation and Parks because it is an proven nexus of crime and draws homeless who use drugs without any intervention by the shelter operator!

Though in attendance, and while directly asked during the Master Plan meeting, CD4 Councilwoman Raman did not address a timeline for decommissioning the shelter in Griffith Park. Councilwoman Raman has refused to report back to the RAP Commission from the June 2023 for a shelter closure timeline as requested by the RAP Commission Board. Our community has been more than patiently waiting for our elected Council representative to report back.

The Bridge Home shelter for the past 3.5 years has increased crime 300% to the immediate neighborhoods of Los Feliz and created a 468% increase in homeless to the area due to drugs being readily available. The element of prostitution has increased in our neighborhood as well with drug-addicted women trading sex for drugs from shelter residents and gang members, as well as payment for sex by men who buy drugs outside the shelter.


The safety of our Los Feliz community is PRIORITY ONE. I implore the Rec & Parks Commission Board to work with our local community groups to close the shelter, while listening

to our voices about details important to the creation of a functional adult community center that facilitates safety both within south Griffith Park and at the community center specifically. Our Councilperson's agenda does NOT represent the peoples' voices in Council District 4 who recreate near the Bridge Home shelter. We have endured enough!

The Ambassador Program as proposed by Council District 4 Representative Raman to have 2 staff outside the facility to "deescalate" at the Bridge Home shelter and pass out already available Narcan, call police and fire with limited hours, will be insufficient and will create a liability for Recreation & Parks -- an anemic safety measure. As I understand, these personnel will be recruited from a yet-to-be identified third party vendor and will not have law enforcement training nor training or experience in clinical psychology, which is what is needed to ensure the safety of the Ambassador Program staff and shelter residents. Such a measure will merely add untrained staff, and will not aid in increasing the safety around the Bridge Home shelter that we in the surrounding community have already called for on multiple occasions to be removed. We need safety NOW in south Griffith Park and to have our voices heard by the RAP Commission Board because we are being gaslighted by our Council District 4 representatives.

Please reply to my letter at _____, or by calling _____ . The favor of a reply addressing the above issues is appreciated in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald A. Seligman" followed by a horizontal line and the initials "D.A.S.".

Dr. Donald A. Seligman



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Tennis Courts lacity

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To:

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 8:43 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 9:56 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Paul J** < >
Date: Sat, Mar 9, 2024 at 7:09 PM
Subject: Westchester Tennis Courts lacity
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Hi,

I heard that the courts will be resurfaced soon. Where on the website do we find the timing for the contractor work?

(Contracted start and finish dates)

Paul (Westchester resident and user)

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!



City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: CD1 Letter of Support - Alvarado Terrace Park - Donation of Dog Waste Station

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 11:09 AM

To: Secretary Council <>

Cc: Jose Rodriguez <jose.a.rodriguez@lacity.org>, Louie Leiva <louie.leiva@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

Community Impact statements may be sent If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at: NCSupport@lacity.org

On Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 10:41 AM Secretary Council <

> wrote:

Good morning,

I hope this email finds you well. We have yet to hear from the Board. Please forward our request again for the donation of a Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office for consideration on their upcoming agenda.

Thank you kindly,

Aurora Corona

Secretary

Chair, Quality of Life & Safety Committee

Budget Representative

[Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance Board Member \(nca.la\)](http://nca.la)



From Pinky's Phone

On Dec 13, 2023, at 2:50 PM, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you again for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 2:29 PM Secretary < > wrote:

Happy Friday,

Just circling back to see if there has been an update from the Board of Commissions regarding our proposal to donate a Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park.

Thank you, and have a great weekend.

Aurora Corona

Secretary & Chair, Quality of Life and Safety Committee

From: Rap Commissioners

Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:01 PM

To: Aurora Corona

Cc: councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org; ivette.erna@lacity.org; jose.a.rodriquez@lacity.org; Louie Leiva; Wendy Castro;

; Jovita Carrillo; T. J. Spaur; Darryl Ford; Tremell Parker; kevin Reagan; Bert Huerta; Raul Leon; Juan Guzman; Marilu Guevara; alfonso.manzo@lacity.org; javier.solis@lacity.org

Subject: Re: CD1 Letter of Support - Alvarado Terrace Park - Donation of Dog Waste Station

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Nov 14, 2023 at 1:01 PM Aurora Corona

< > wrote:

Honorable Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

Attached please find the Letter of Support for the Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park from our Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this project.

Best,

Aurora Corona

Secretary

Chair, Quality of Life & Safety Committee

Budget Representative

From: Rap Commissioners

Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 9:39 AM

To: Aurora Corona

Cc: councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org; ivette.serna@lacity.org; jose.a.rodriquez@lacity.org; Louie Leiva; Wendy Castro; ; Jovita Carrillo; T. J. Spaur; Darryl Ford; Tremell Parker; kevin Reagan; Bert Huerta; Raul Leon; Juan Guzman; Marilu Guevara; alfonso.manzo@lacity.org; javier.solis@lacity.org

Subject: Re: Alvarado Terrace Park - Donation of Dog Waste Station

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 5:37 PM Aurora Corona

< > wrote:

Honorable Recreation and Park Commissioners,



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Meeting request for Venice Parks

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 7:25 AM

To: Brian Averill <

>

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "matthew.rudnick@lacity.org" <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, Cathie Santo Domingo <cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Mar 15, 2024 at 3:47 PM Brian Averill <

> wrote:

Esteemed Commissioners,

We've had a significant amount of public inquiry about the future plans for 2 parks here in Venice, Centennial Park and the Windward park/playground at the beach that was demolished and removed. Could we arrange for a meeting or update session with the VNC in the near future? It would be immensely helpful for our stakeholders. I'm also enclosing two previously passed VNC motions, a meeting request from October 2023 and support for the Flying Carousel project from December 2020. Look forward to hearing from you.

Very much appreciated,

Brian Averill
President

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015



December 21, 2020

By email

Department of Recreation and Parks
Robert Davis robert.davis@lacity.org

Mike Bonin councilmember.bonin@lacity.org

Re: Support for Centennial Park Carousel

Dear Robert Davis and Mike Bonin:

Please be advised that at a regular public meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board of Officers held on November 17, 2020 the following Motion was approved.

MOTION:

Whereas the Venice Flying Carousel (VFC) is a not-for-profit community project initiated by Robin Murez in partnership with the Venice Chamber Community Foundation (501c3) and funded by community donations and pro-bono services, and with proceeds exclusively dedicated to benefit the community; and

Whereas the VFC is an off-the-grid, bicycle propelled, Venice themed, merry-go-round “playground equipment” engineered for adults and children to enjoy, permanently, under a “big top” securely enclosed tent in Centennial Park:

Be it therefore resolved that the VNC Board supports the Venice Flying Carousel initiative as detailed in the VNC Carousel Motion Attachment Summary & shall send a letter of support to the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin, Council District 11; and that Los Angeles City Council District 11 expedite its installation by providing substantial funding and cooperating as appropriate with other departments.

ACTION:

The motion was approved 11-0-1-1.



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015



Respectfully submitted,

Ira Koslow
President
Venice Neighborhood Council

Cc:

Council District 11:

Nisa Kove -- nisa.kove@lacity.org,

Len Nguyen -- len.nguyen@lacity.org

Venice Neighborhood Council
Robin Murez



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294
venicenc.org



Mr. Kim, Ms. Santo Domingo and Esteemed Commissioners,

At the October 17th, 2023 Venice Neighborhood Council meeting, the Board of Officers passed the following motion 19-0-0:

The Board of Officers of the Venice Neighborhood Council requests that the Department of Recreation and Parks confer with representatives of the Venice Neighborhood Council, prior to and ongoing, to see that plans for all Recreation and Parks locations in Venice retain and incorporate important features, enhanced access, community projects, and public interests.

Currently, we specifically request that RAP meet with VNC representatives prior to undertaking any further removal of existing assets, demolition, addition of non-permit compliant elements, expenditure of public funds or construction at Centennial Park and Ocean Front Walk Windward Playground.

We'd like to set a brief meeting on these two locations at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Averill'.

Brian Averill
President
Venice Neighborhood Council



**venice
neighborhood
council**



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Help Needed - Assistance with Reservations

1 message

Belinda Jackson <belinda.jackson@lacity.org>

Thu, Mar 14, 2024 at 8:25 AM

To: <>
Cc: Chinyere Stoneham <Chinyere.Stoneham@lacity.org>, RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

GM
I received your email request to permit our gyms. I'd like to get some additional information from you. Can you please call me on my cell at Thank you

Belinda Jackson
Assistant General Manager
Recreation Services Branch
[3980 Bill Robertson Lane](#)
[Los Angeles, CA 90037](#)
(213) 763-0121
www.laparks.org
PARK PROUD LA



Follow us on social media for everything LA Parks related!

On Wed, Mar 13, 2024 at 9:39 PM nlosangeles <> wrote:
Hope you're doing well and thanks for your help.

Our group of 10 LA residents has been trying to obtain a permit for an indoor basketball court for **over a year**. We've sent permit applications to over 25 parks directly and less than 5 have even replied. Those that did said they are not accepting permits.

We just want to reserve an indoor court for 2 hours on a Saturday morning and enjoy the facilities our taxes pay for instead of being excluded from them.

What do you suggest we do?

Thank you for letting us know and happy to provide any other info.

Appreciate your time!

- Jon



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Dog Park, Temescal Canyon, Pacific Palisades

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 7:29 AM

To: howard yonet <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Mar 16, 2024 at 11:45 AM howard yonet <

> wrote:

This note to the Commission is to present reasons why a dog park in lower Temescal Canyon is a terrible idea.

Firstly, the couple of off leash dogs offenders at the Pali Rec Center were professional dog walkers and they no longer use the park. If you station an observer in the park for an afternoon you will confirm that hardly any dogs are there. And rarely an off leash one. Next, almost no one from the Palisades is going to get in their car to go down Temescal Canyon. If they did they would have to travel down Temescal almost to PCH, encounter traffic entering PCH and also speeding uphill traffic. They would then make a dangerous U turn to get to the north side. or jaywalk. They will get broadsided by cars speeding up the hill. Dogs getting out of cars or the back of SUVs might be disorientated and might run into traffic. Next, there are ticks and lice down there in wet winters. Lyme disease has been reported

Next, and most importantly, the plan for a gigantic, expensive complex is contrary to the natural beauty of the canyon for walkers and picnickers. I am sure that an EIR would condemn such a structure and its required parking needs. On beach days the huge numbers of parkers on Temescal will make dog park use impossible. So for reasons I've enumerated placing a dog park in Temescal is unnecessary, harmful to environment, expensive and a danger to many. It's without a shred of merit.

The "do something" City Council member really does not know the situation intimately. So don't make a mistake and degrade the Canyon with that dangerous monstrosity. Please. I'd appreciate a response. Thanks.

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Concerns Regarding Vendors Selling Inappropriate Items at Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 2:18 PM

To: Eric Chu <

>

Cc: GPAB <rap-gpab@lacity.org>, Tracy James <tracy.james@lacity.org>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 11:04 AM Eric Chu <

> wrote:

Hello!

My family and I are frequent visitors to Griffith Park and have a deep appreciation for the park's facilities and the hard work put in by the staff to maintain them.

During a recent visit to Shane's Inspiration playground, I noticed vendors selling silly string to children. The kids would purchase the silly string and spray it all around the park, leaving a mess for everyone to deal with, including the dedicated staff of Griffith Park who work tirelessly to keep the area clean and safe for visitors.

I believe that allowing vendors to sell such items is inappropriate and detrimental to the park's cleanliness and overall experience for all visitors. The silly string not only creates unnecessary litter but also poses a potential safety hazard for children and adults alike.

I kindly request that you bring this matter to the attention of the park management and urge them to take action against vendors selling inappropriate merchandise, such as silly string, within Griffith Park. It is crucial that we maintain a clean, safe, and enjoyable environment for all visitors, and this issue affects everyone who uses the park's facilities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your efforts in helping to preserve the beauty and integrity of Griffith Park. I look forward to seeing positive changes implemented to address this concern.

Best regards,
Eric Chu

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

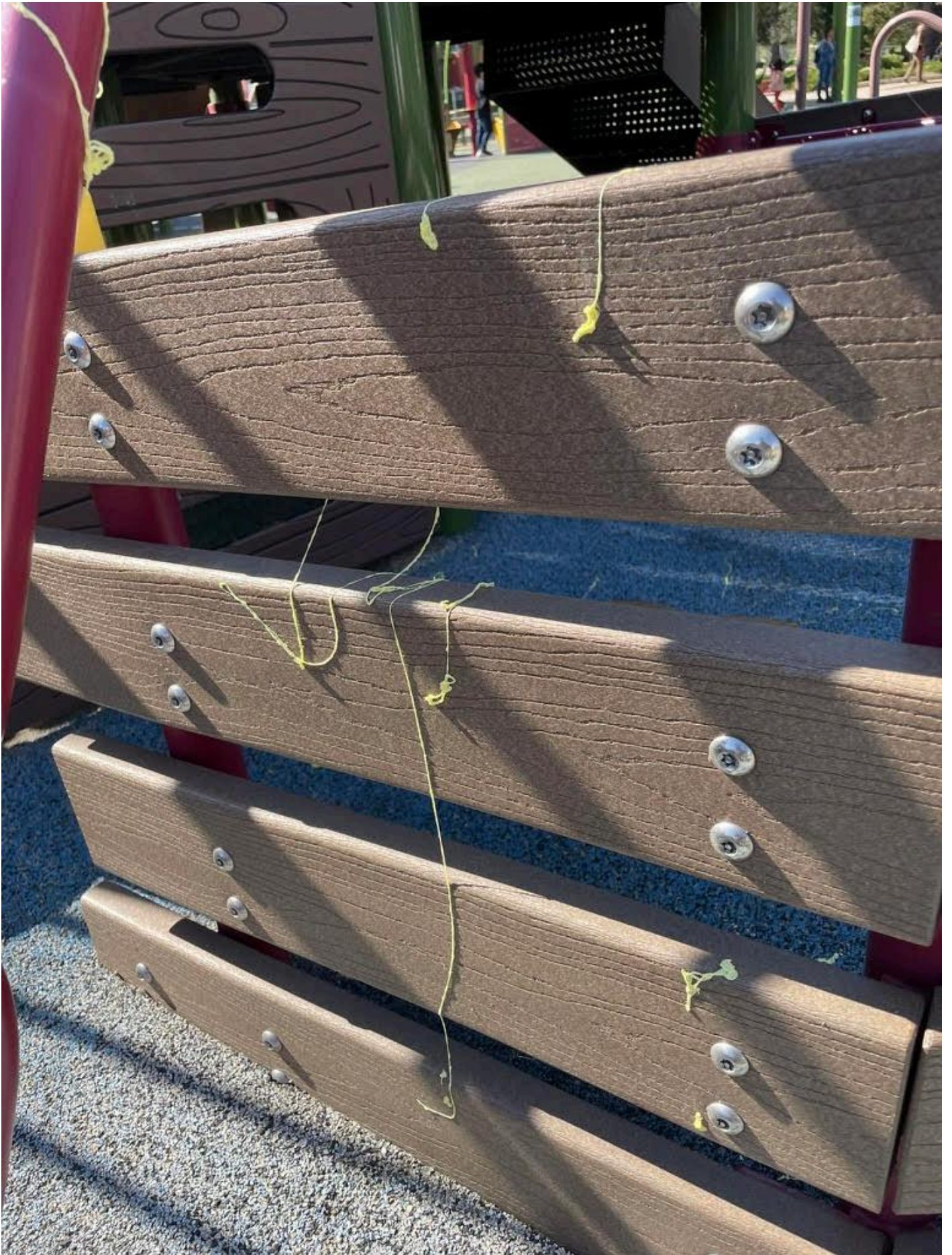
Re: Concerns Regarding Vendors Selling Inappropriate Items at Griffith Park

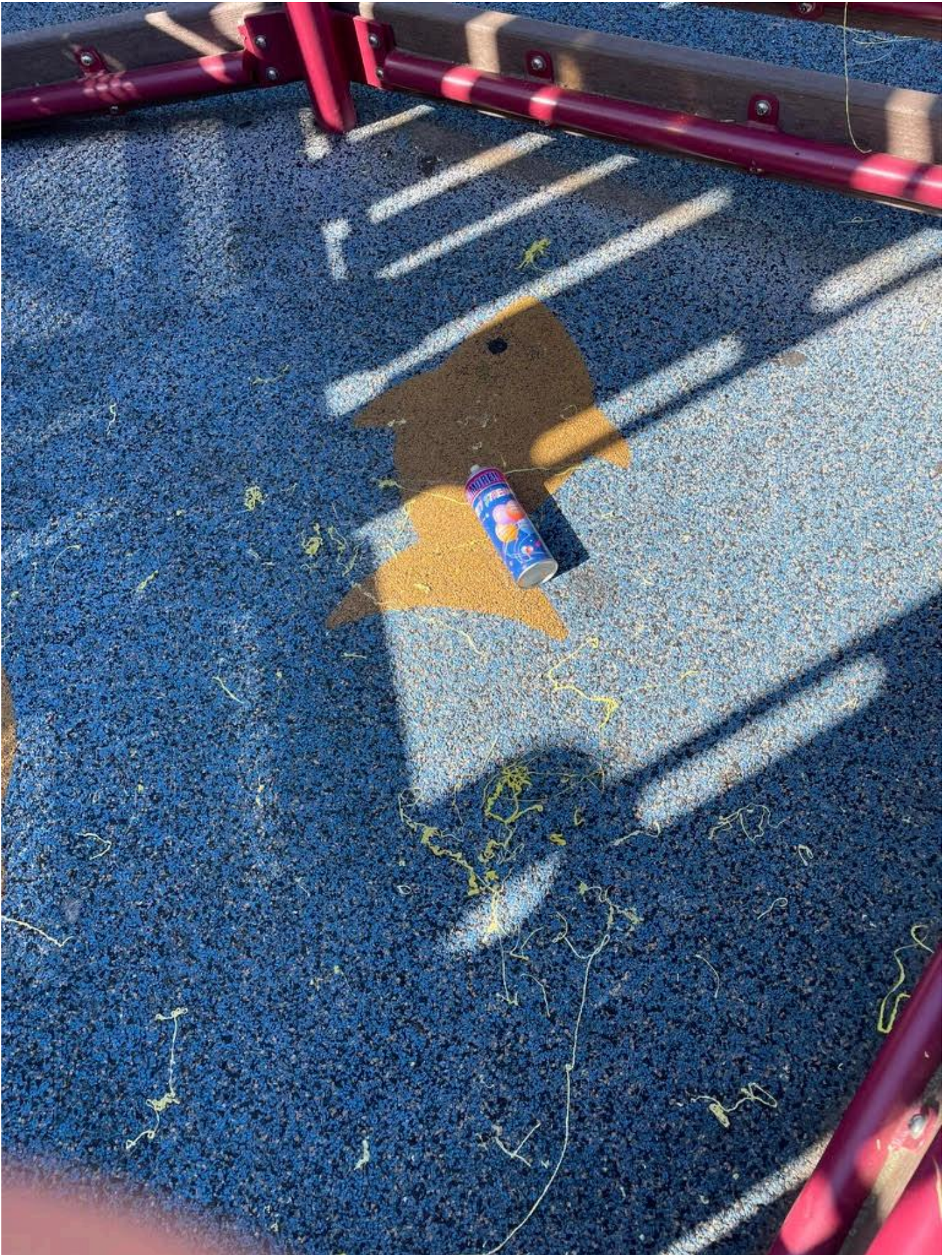
1 message

Eric Chu < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 10:49 PM

If possible, can you show these photos as references? I took them yesterday. How is this good for anybody except the vendor selling it?





On Mar 18, 2024 at 2:27:20 PM, Eric Chu <

> wrote:



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: mar vista tennis courts

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 2:39 PM

To:

Cc: RAP Mar Vista RC <marvista.recreationcenter@lacity.org>, "Ethan Greenspan, ohb." >

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 12:28 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ethan Greenspan, ohb.** < >

Date: Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 3:14 AM

Subject: Fwd: mar vista tennis courts

To: L. A. City Parks & Rec. <rap.publicinfo@lacity.org>, councilperson park <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, Christina Saman <christina.saman@lacity.org>

Subject: mar vista tennis courts

good morning 🤔

- hope all is well
- i am a very active heathy senior who plays tennis every morning!! at mar vista park with a large similar aged group.
- in fact, we met there last year at a meet-and-greet tent 🌟 you set up on the lawn!
- i have heard a rumor that the mar vista tennis courts are going to be 'demolished' starting june 6th?
- IS THAT TRUE?
- as a longtime structural contractor, i do agree they do need patching and resurfacing but there are no cracks or damage at all to the concrete base!! NONE!!
- that simple resurfacing could be done in less than a month as they are now doing in culver city!!
- why is anything else needed?
- and if so, is the city wasting big \$\$\$ again???
- i would be glad to meet you or a representative any morning there at the tennis courts for a walkthrough inspection 🤔

- hopefully the city parks and recreation is not going to have another 'penmar park' fiasco where it has taken over a year to try and 'fix' the tennis courts and IT IS STILL NOWHERE NEAR FINISHED and seemingly abandoned by the incompetent contractor!!!

- i look forward to your prompt reply.

ciao
ethan greenspan

taxpayer !!

--

**Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office**

Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org

Phone: 213-202-2700

Website: www.laparks.org

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!



--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: GPAB Letter of Support - Crystal Springs Project

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Karen Thornton <>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 2:50 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 2:19 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see Patron's message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Karen Thornton** >
Date: Sun, Mar 17, 2024 at 10:03 PM
Subject: GPAB Letter of Support - Crystal Springs Project
To: <rap.publicinfo@lacity.org>

Attached is the letter for the commissioners.

Thank you

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

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--
City of Los Angeles



Griffith Park Advisory Board

Community Stewards of LA's Largest Park & Great Urban Wilderness

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department Board of Commissioners
221 N. Figueroa St, Ste 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Griffith Park Advisory Board Support for Griffith Park Safety and Active Transportation Improvements Project – Phase 3 – Crystal Springs Drive

Dear Commissioners,

From the start, the Griffith Park Safety and Active Transportation Improvements Project has shown great promise in fundamentally re-shaping how people interact with Griffith Park – reducing cut-through traffic, improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and better connecting the park with surrounding neighborhoods. For these reasons and more, our board has offered strong support for the work of the Kimley-Horn consulting team, acting under direction of RAP staff, who have provided clear guidance and a visionary approach.

Now, thanks to leadership from Assemblymember Laura Friedman and Councilmember Nithya Raman, Phase 3 improvements are fully funded and ready to move forward. While our board has not yet had the opportunity to formally consider the specifics, we are on record in strong support of the fundamental issues. In fact, our mission statement calls for both increasing access and dramatically reducing private vehicles in Griffith Park. As such, I am confident that my colleagues will join me in welcoming these improvements and cheering their progress.

Sincerely,

K Thornton

Karen Thornton
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Karen Thornton; Vice Chair – Alex Crow; Secretary – Chris Laib; Jane Carlson; Aaron Chung; Jason Greenwald; Billy Griffin; Alex Phillips



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Van Nuys Recreation Center in disrepair (tennis courts)

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 9:52 AM

To: Dean Dana <

>

Cc: councilmember.padilla@lacity.org, RAP PublicInfo <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>, karen.bass@asm.ca.gov, cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 8:50 AM Dean Dana <

> wrote:

Me and my friends had to go out and buy tape to temporarily fix these tennis nets which have been slowly falling apart for years. These courts never get washed, nor are maintained. We also purchased the "center strap" for one of the court's net as the existing ones were torn. Its very common for there to be urine, human/dog feces and vomit on these courts. The local staff does very little when concerns are reported.

Jimmy Kim (General Manager of the LA Department of Recreation and Parks) and Cathie Santo Domingo should be reprimanded for failure to do their jobs. They boast (on the city website) about maintaining 319 tennis courts within the city of Los Angeles, yet they and their staff do nothing while letting our city parks fall into disrepair.

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org









Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Master Plan Feb 29, 2024 community meeting, Bridge Home

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Ricardo Gomez >

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 12:39 PM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 11:27 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see Patron's forwarded message below.

Thank you,

Caro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ricardo Gomez** < >
Date: Thu, Mar 14, 2024 at 6:27 PM
Subject: Griffith Park Master Plan Feb 29, 2024 community meeting, Bridge Home
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Hi,
Please read the attached letter and add it to the file as my public testimony.

Thank you
Ricardo Gomez

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!



--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

RICARDO J. GOMEZ

March 14, 2024

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 86328
Los Angeles, CA 90086-0328

VIA USPS &
EMAIL

RE: Master Plan presented at February 29, 2024, community meeting, removal of Bridge Home shelter.

Dear Commissioners:

The Bridge Home does not belong in Griffith Park. Having the Bridge Home in Griffith Park grossly violates the Commission's duty to adhere to its Mission and Vision statements. Low-income residents desperately need the recreation services the Department of Recreation and Parks provides. The existence of the Bridge Home interferes with providing those services because it occupies needed park space and presents a danger to park patrons. While the unhoused need shelter, their needs should not be satisfied at the expense of those whose only affordable source of recreation is that provided by park space and services.

I implore you to remove the Bridge Home from Griffith Park as soon as practicable and return the south park area to one hundred percent recreational use in accordance with your Mission and Vision statements. The overwhelming testimony at the community meeting clearly established that the crime emanating from the Bridge Home has inundated the surrounding neighborhood and adversely impacted park patrons. Patrons, especially low-income patrons, need the proposed community center which should have full use of the area now occupied by the Bridge Home.

I had a long childhood history with the south Griffith park area. During my elementary school years in the 1960s, the south Griffith Park area offered a plethora of recreation services. My mother became a low-income single parent raising six children. I, and my siblings and friends, would spend entire days in the south park area during school breaks

Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board of Commissioners
March 14, 2024
Page 2 of 3

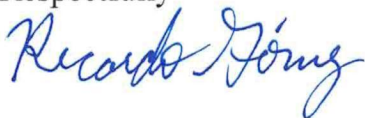
and on weekends. I learned how to swim at the pool. (Eventually got lifeguard certification.) There used to be an arts center just south of where the Bridge Home is now. (It burned down in the early 70s). I learned to appreciate the arts at that center. There were other classes. We trained our dog at the dog obedience classes offered on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings adjacent to the pool building. The Park provided all of these services for little or no cost. The extra nice benefit of these services, it was so safe that we almost always attended the south park area without any parental presence or supervision. We learned to be on our own. We developed our own little community there.

Because of the enrichment provided by these Recreation and Park services, I was able to stay out of trouble, finish John Marshall High School, attend Los Angeles City College, and later graduate with bachelor's and juris doctorate degrees from UCLA. (With honors.) The interpersonal and athletic skills I learned through those Park and Recreation classes provided at south park made me a well-rounded confident person who was very comfortable competing against and socializing with my much wealthier student colleagues at UCLA.

Having the Bridge Home in the south park area deprives today's low-income parents and children of the opportunities and safe environment the Department of Recreation and Parks afforded me during my childhood. When I jog through the area now, I am disgusted with some of the behavior I see. It is certainly not a safe environment for children. The dilemma of the unhoused is very unfortunate and needs solutions. However, it is not the business of this Commission nor of the Department of Recreation and Parks to attempt to solve the homeless crises by depriving low-income park patrons of needed resources and services.

Please carefully review the attached Department of Recreation and Parks Mission, Vision and Motto statements and ask yourselves, does keeping the Bridge Home comport with these statements? I think not. And, I think you will agree.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ricardo Gomez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Mar Vista Recreation Center (PRJ21763) Project (Project): Was a change order made relating to mar Vista tennis courts 1 & 2 for Pickle ball lines

1 message

Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 2:40 PM

To: Anthony Harvey-Jones < >

Cc: "cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org" <cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org>, "councilmember.park@lacity.org" <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, "matthew.halden@lacity.org" <matthew.halden@lacity.org>, "RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org" <RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org>, "sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org" <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, "Chinyere.Stoneham@lacity.org" <Chinyere.Stoneham@lacity.org>

Good Afternoon Mr. Harvey-Jones,

My staff has informed me that there has not been a change in the scope of work.

Thank you SO much

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:02 AM Anthony Harvey-Jones < > wrote:

Good morning, Jimmy, please could you confirm if this is the case. We would like the above question addressed as soon as possible. Some of the Mar vista community tennis players were informed during a site inspection that this was going to be undertaken at the courts .

This contradicts the scope of the work in "Board report 24-040 "(see attachment) and a discussion I had at the commissioner's meeting on February 1st, 2024 ,with a city official involved with this project concerning any change in the characterization of the use of the tennis courts .

I await your response.

Sincerely,

Anthony

--

Jimmy Kim
General ManagerCity of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Request tennis court repair due to liability

1 message

Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 4:29 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cc: Ramon Cerrillos <ramon.cerrillos@lacity.org>, Juan Soto <juan.soto@lacity.org>, Kortley Norris <kortley.norris@lacity.org>

We have requested staff put in another job order and meet with construction to assess the courts. If they are deemed dangerous they will be shut down.

Thank you

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 7:39 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning all,

Please see email received by then Board Office and advise. Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Date: Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 7:31 AM

Subject: Re: Request tennis court repair due to liability

To: < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 4:23 PM <

> wrote:

My name is Bill Schwartz and I play tennis 3 or 4 times a week at the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center tennis courts in Santa Monica.

Within the last six months I have fallen once, and on another occasion have slipped and pulled a leg muscle on the tennis courts. Thus, the tennis courts need to be repaired and resurfaced since they are now hazardous. More specifically, on the front tennis court, closest to the ball field, there is a square depression that is about three feet by three feet. This depression is easy to trip or stumble on. Additionally, at the back service line on the tennis courts, the surface has been completely worn down and is now very, very slick; especially if there is any moisture in the air, tree leaves, dust or dirt on the court. Thus, the courts need to be urgently resurfaced.

If needed, I can provide you the names and telephone numbers of other tennis players who have either slipped or fallen on the Rustic Canyon tennis courts. I could also provide photographs.

Please know that your maintenance team have maintained the buildings and grounds absolutely perfectly. They all work very hard at maintaining a clean and safe park. The building has never looked better with all the new paint, parking lines, along with all the new trees and removing fallen trees.

Please note that I emailed the same message at the Park's request and just received the following message below...in which I'm inclined to believe that the repairs do not have a start date, no one has secured new, competing bids and months will now go by without a scheduled gameplan; Thus, the inevitable is that this request will find its way to a 'black hole', and your reply seems nothing more than a pass-the-buck 'rubber stamp' response'. I hope note. However, this won't due based on the liability of this request, especially as you are already aware of this issue'.

Lastly, I tried leaving a message on your 213.202.2640 number three times...and no one picked up. This kind of lowers my confidence that anything will get done on a professional timeframe. Please confirm who is in charge of picking up the telephone.

Also, please confirm the telephone number of 'Katie' so I can call her directly...or please have Katie call me anytime at

Thanks for your effort. Bill

From: RAP Rustic Canyon RC <rusticcanyon.rc@lacity.org>

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 3:36 PM

To:

Subject: Re:

Hello,

Thank you for your email. I am so sorry that you had those incidents due to the worn out surface of our tennis courts. We are aware of this issue and have placed a job order for the tennis courts to be resurfaced, however, the city works at its own pace. We are also working on fundraising for the cause to get the resurfacing completed in a more timely manner, however, the price to get each tennis court resurfaced is \$12,500.

I look forward to your timely reply and very happy to help resolve these issues as soon as possible.

Kind regards, Bill

Bill Schwartz

From: RAP Rustic Canyon RC <rusticcanyon.rc@lacity.org>

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 3:36 PM

To:

Subject: Re:

Hello,

Thank you for your email. I am so sorry that you had those incidents due to the worn out surface of our tennis courts. We are aware of this issue and have placed a job order for the tennis courts to be resurfaced, however, the city works at its own pace. We are also working on fundraising for the cause to get the resurfacing completed in a more timely manner, however, the price to get each tennis court resurfaced is \$12,500.

If you're interested in helping us with the fundraising efforts, here is a flyer on how to help:

How YOU Can Help:

Have you ever felt the desire to help the park? Experienced its beauty, the events hosted by the facility, or walked through the eucalyptus grove and wanted to contribute to its up keeping and restoration efforts?

Here are some options:

1. You can help by volunteering for the various events we host throughout the year.
2. Make a donation at laparksfoundation.org under "Friends of the Parks."
3. Send us an email about what you think. We are here for the community, and what YOU think matters!
4. Participate in our programs.



laparksfoundation.org

Email us at rusticcanyon.rc@lacity.org for more information.

Feel free to email if you have any questions .

-Katie

On Thu, Mar 14, 2024 at 3:33 PM <

> wrote:

Dear Page:

My name is Bill Schwartz and I play tennis 3 or 4 times a week at Rustic Canyon tennis courts.

Within the last six months I have fallen once, and on another occasion have slipped and pulled a leg muscle on the tennis courts. The main reason for these accidents is that the tennis courts need to be repaired and resurfaced since they are now hazardous. More specifically, on the front tennis court, closest to the ball field, there is a square depression that is about three

feet by three feet. This depression is easy to trip or stumble on. Additionally, at the back service line on all the tennis courts, the surface has been completely worn down and is now very, very slick; especially if there is any moisture in the air, tree leaves, dust or dirt on the court. Thus, the courts need to be urgently resurfaced.

If needed, I can provide you the names and telephone numbers of three other tennis players who have either slipped or fallen on the Rustic Canyon tennis courts.

Lastly, please know that your maintenance team have maintained the buildings and grounds absolutely perfectly. They all work very hard at maintaining a clean and safe park. The building has never looked better with all the new paint, parking lines, along with all the new trees and removing fallen trees.

I look forward to your timely reply and very happy to help resolve these issues as soon as possible.

Kind regards, Bill

Bill Schwartz

--

Rustic Canyon Recreation Center

[601 Latimer Road](#)

[Santa Monica, CA 90402](#)

310-454-5734 office

310-575-8015 fax

Live Rustic!

Play Rustic!

Park Proud - L.A.!

Follow Us On The **Web:**

[Rustic Canyon Recreation Center - laparks.org](http://laparks.org)

Like Us On FACEBOOK:

[RusticCanyonRecreationCenter](#)

Follow Us On Instagram:

[@rusticcanyonreccenter](#)

Follow Us On Twitter:

[@rusticcanyonrec](#)

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
[221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300](#)
[Los Angeles, CA 90012](#)

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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--
Sonya Young Jimenez
Superintendent of Venice Beach and West Region

City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
2459 Motor Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90064
Cell: (213) 312-7966
Website: laparks.org





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

South Griffith Park Master Plan

1 message

Victor Adjemian < > Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 10:59 AM

To: "Jimmy.Kim@lacity.org" <Jimmy.Kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, "Takisha.Sardin@lacity.org" <Takisha.Sardin@lacity.org>, "RAP.Publicinfo@lacity.org" <RAP.Publicinfo@lacity.org>, "RAP.Commissioners@lacity.org" <RAP.Commissioners@lacity.org>

Pease see the attached letter regarding South Griffith Park.

 **bridge shelter letter email.pdf**
522K

Victor Adjemian

March 21, 2024

EMAIL DELIVERY

Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks
Office of Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 86328
Los Angeles, CA 90086-0328

Attn:

Jimmy.Kim@lacity.org

Brenda.Aguirre@lacity.org

Takisha.Sardin@lacity.org

RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org

RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org

Dear Board of Commissioners:

I'm a resident in the South Griffith Park area, and would like to express our support for a new community center as outlined in the Master Plan presented February 29, 2024 at a community meeting in Los Feliz. Local support groups including the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA) and the Griffith Park Advisory Board (GPAB), have supported a community driven Master Plan. However, at the 2/29/2024 meeting, CD4 presented their own vision, and it does not represent community needs and desires.

The recent community meeting was attended by well over 100 people did not address the need for a community center that would be located on the site where the L.A. Shares building stood until it was destroyed in a suspicious fire. In 2020, our community was promised a community center through a successful council motion under then CD4 councilperson David Ryu. The motion stipulated that the community center would be built where the L.A. Shares facility was located and that the adjacent Bridge Homeless Shelter would be removed and the site returned to its former status as a parking lot. I do not support, in any manner, the continued operation of the Bridge Homeless Shelter which has established itself as a source of increased area crime and drug use.

The safety of our Los Feliz community is of very high importance, and I respectfully ask the Recreation & Parks Commission Board to work with our local community groups to close the Bridge Homeless Shelter, and develop the long promised community shelter. Our councilperson has not listened to the constituents of CD4, and has not addressed the ill effects that the Bridge Homeless Shelter has fostered.

CD4 has proposed an Ambassador Program, that would have non rec and parks staff providing a loosely defined mission to perform some type of shelter support. This is totally inadequate, and would subject rec and parks to additional liability. As defined by CD4, these new area coordinators would be recruited from an undefined third party vendor and would not have any type of law enforcement training nor training or expertise in clinical psychology, which are the minimum requirements for any ambassador personnel. We need safety, using trained and proven rec and parks staff. After all, the Bridge Homeless Shelter resides on Griffith Park property, and the ultimate responsibility for park operations and safety lies with rec and parks.

Thank you for your attention to this need for a new community center, and your support to decommission the existing Bridge Homeless Shelter. Your acknowledgement of this submission would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Victor Adjemian



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 11:17 AM

To: Garcia Incareal <

>

Cc: Yovonte Robinson <yovonte.robinson@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 11:02 AM Garcia Incareal <

> wrote:

MARCH 26

LA City Council Eunisses Hernandez

The Sycamore Grove Park has graffiti

Also the bus stop at S.49 and Figueroa St.

Attach pictures

Mauro Garcia

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org







Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

(no subject)

1 message

Elvia Sedano

Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 9:52 AM

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Good Morning Commissioners,

I am writing to request a non animal model as I have become aware of the neglect that happens when using animals, it is costly and businesses owner want to save money so the animals suffer. There are so many other healthy options where families can engage with children like pickleball courts or take some ideas from the Kidspace Children's Museum in Pasadena.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elvia



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Non-animal model for Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Ruta Soltanpour >

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 7:59 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 7:54 AM Ruta Soltanpour < > wrote:

>
> Dear Recreation and Parks representatives,
>
> I am writing this to express my support for non-animal model at Griffith Park. I am so excited to hear about wonderful non-animal options for Griffith Park, all the ideas are so engaging for the children and the whole family and will provide so needed these days mental and physical stimulation!
> Any of these would be great in place of outdated and boring (can be even injury causing, whether it's skin infection when touching the animal, or physical injury) pony rides:
> -expansion of the park's train rides;
> -a water play area for children with splash activities - such as fun activity on a hot summer day!
> -a community garden, including educational programs on farming, growing fruits and vegetables, and farm to table;
> -an indoor-outdoor museum or nature center focused on environmental science education;
> -sports courts and fields;
> -miniature golf course;
> -indoor and outdoor adventure area with activities for children and adults such as rope climbing and rock walls;
> -a playground and play structures for children;
> -educational programs on the history of Los Angeles and indigenous peoples;
> -picnic and recreation area.
> All of these non-animal options are wonderful and create such great opportunities for growth and development of the children of all ages including adults. There is no logical comparison of these engaging, entertaining, and educational options with sitting on the pony and going in a circle on a hot scorching Los Angeles day.
>
> Please go forward with non-animal model for Griffith park!
>
> Kindly,
>
> Ruta Soltanpour
>

--
City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Equine Therapy and Reimagining the GP Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 9:00 AM

To: < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 1:31 PM rebecca < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

At the last meeting, (3/7) at Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Rec Center, there were so many speakers that Public Comment was understandably reduced from 2 minutes to 1 minute. I spoke with Vice President Luis Sanchez after the meeting and am forwarding you the full information I had planned to present and also the articles on which my comments were based.

I have been attending RAP meetings for over a year as my schedule allows for this commitment. I am well aware of others in my community who have important perspectives to contribute to the process but who are unable to be present, due to their work schedules. One of these people is a pediatrician and Los Feliz CD4 resident who is a supporter of bringing back the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

She shared two articles with me which she thought might be helpful to gaining perspective on the issue of the therapeutic benefits of horse riding to children.

The first article describes a large, randomized study by researchers at the University of Colorado Medical Campus. The study focused on children with autism spectrum disorder and showed a lasting reduction in irritability and other positive social and communication impacts on children with autism spectrum through therapeutic horse riding.

While the study was focused on children with autism spectrum the article quotes professor of psychiatry and the study's principal investigator as noting a broader application to children: Dr. Robin Gabriels states: "There is growing evidence that human-animal interventions can improve emotional health and social wellness in youth. . ."

Interestingly, the study of therapeutic horseback riding showed "significant improvements in irritability, hyperactivity, social skills and word fluency compared to a barn activity control group that met at the riding center to learn about horses but had no direct interaction with horses." In other words, there is no substitute for direct contact of children and animals. Learning from afar did not yield the same positive effects.

The second article addressed the benefits of Equine Assisted Therapy. Again, while specifically describing equine therapy, it mentions the broader truth that "research on the human-animal interaction indicates that contact with animals and horses significantly reduces physiological anxiety levels." In a world of

screens, in which children and youth are experiencing historically high levels of anxiety and depression, equine therapy and horse riding are a valuable contribution to mental health and well-being.

I think that the Commissioners should give serious consideration to sub-contracting with Equine Therapists at the site of the GP Pony Rides. The historic ring for pony riding could be easily used for this purpose during the week when there is lower attendance at the pony rides. Equine therapy would also provide a real contribution for children with special needs, and for their families, in the Los Angeles area.

What I would like to see, is for the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo to return with the addition of Equine Therapy and other innovations and improvements. Looking at animals or receiving education and information in a non-animal model is not enough. Direct contact between children and animals reaps benefits in childhood health and positive youth development and would help to fulfill the mission of the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Blake Beech,
Non-equestrian 25-year resident of

[Children with autism spectrum see benefits from equine therapy](#)

Children with autism spectrum see benefits from equine therapy

By David Kelly

Children with autism spectrum have immediate and long-term benefits from therapeutic horseback riding, researchers show

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/helping-kids-cope/201903/equine-assisted-therapy-unique-and-effective-intervention>



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Non-animal model for Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Ruta Soltanpour >

Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 11:05 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 6:51 AM Ruta Soltanpour < > wrote:
To whom it may concern,

Thank you so much for organizing and inviting the public to the events to discuss reimagining Griffith park pony rides! I am reaching out to urge for a non-animal model. There is absolutely no need to place any kind of animals in the Griffith park for entertainment. There are so many non-animal options instead that will keep kids visiting the park active and enjoy time in the nature!

Thank you,

Ruta Soltanpour

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Non-animal model!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Kathy Cullen

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 7:40 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 8:52 PM Kathy Cullen < > wrote:
To Whom it May Concern:

I am demanding a non-animal model for the safety of our community. I worked on helping close the Griffith Park & Pony Rides after recording 7 hours of horses & ponies receiving no break or water while walking in circles in hot weather. This was the first of many abusive activities that occurred at this establishment.

Councilmember Raman released a statement mentioning that at the end of last year, following a motion her office introduced to inspect the safety of the Pony Ride site, the inspection determined the ponies were not being properly cared for.

We must offer a park that is an example of a national model. Withheld by LA Cities standards of humane animal welfare policies, and consideration of child safety-this is only demonstrated with a non-animal model.

It a huge liability for the City of Los Angeles to have animals at their concession due to the transfer of illness and children being injured at the park which happened on several occasions at the former Griffith Park and Pony Rides in 2018 and 2021 when childrens' bodies were dragged on the ground while riding.

When will the Recreation and Parks disclose the whereabouts of the 6 missing ponies? Why hasn't Recreation and Parks looked into this? So far, we have 4 elderly ponies that are dead, however we are unsure if this is an accurate count since we do not know the whereabouts of the 6 missing ponies.

After the abusive situation we witnessed with the previous pony rides we will not accept ANY animal model as a replacement and will continue to protest until justice is served and a new non-animal model is opened.

Kathy Cullen

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Open forum 3/6

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 11:06 AM

To: Caine Ihilani < >
Cc: rap-reimaginingtheponyride@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 9:02 AM Caine Ihilani < > wrote:

Hello,

I am a lifetime resident of Los Angeles currently living in Alhambra that attended the presentation put on by RAP in conjunction with a consultant group, Placeworks, Inc. I appreciated the opportunity to voice my opinion about what will happen to the former "Pony Ride Site" as it has been deemed throughout this campaign. I will be upfront and say that I support a non-animal model for the site, and I have criticisms of this project that I want to share with you.

This is not to disparage the company that you used, but there are severe flaws in this survey. First of all, it is being presented as default as a "Pony Rides return or not". Why should the pony rides be considered the default option when they were exposed as being cruel and abusive to the ponies. There were sick, injured, dehydrated horses. The contract was not renewed for a reason. I don't see why it would change under a different vendor. Although RAP is not making money under this arrangement, whatever vendor is selected will have a profit motive to cut corners which will lead to the same problems developing again.

Secondly, the survey does not properly inform people of what exactly was the problem with the pony rides in the first place. I think if people knew the conditions that these animals suffer under, they would not want to see a return.

Third, let's not pretend this is for the children. Children seemed a lot more imaginative with what could happen to the site. It's not the children that want to bring back the pony rides, because children are free in spirit still and don't have their eyes closed to new possibilities. We can imagine a better way forward that will be in line with the values that will ensure a robust future. The abuse of ponies should not be part of this better future we are trying to leave for children.

The reason I bring this up is that the survey said "bring back pony rides for children" as part of the options. This framing is completely wrong. It's the adults that patronize these operations. And let's not confuse the potential amusement that kids might find in unknowingly participating in such a system with them being why the system exists in the first place. It's strictly the adults that are fighting for this. We are the ones that are supposed to be able to bring about justice in this world for the adults of tomorrow, not be the impediments of that progress.

Having said that, I do appreciate that we had a forum to interact with the people collecting data on the future of the site. I hope that my criticisms are taken into consideration when it comes to interpreting the results of the survey.

-Joey



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please replace the Griffith Park pony rides with a NON-ANIMAL MODEL

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 7:40 AM

To: Jeremiah Benjamin

Cc: rap-reimaginingtheponyride@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 2:54 PM Jeremiah Benjamin <

> wrote:

To whom it may concern,

It is of urgent importance that you vote for a NON-ANIMAL-MODEL to replace the inhumane pony ride operation in Griffith Park. DO NOT give in to pressure from the equestrians to reinstate the pony rides, do the right thing, thank you.

--

Jeremy Benjamin

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Reimagining the Griffith Park pony ride location

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 11:01 AM

To: Matt Rossell < >

Cc: "cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org" <cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org>, "brenda.aguirre@lacity.org" <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, "rap-reimaginingtheponyride@lacity.org" <rap-reimaginingtheponyride@lacity.org>, "belinda.jackson@lacity.org" <belinda.jackson@lacity.org>, "matthew.rudnick@lacity.org" <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "noel.williams@lacity.org" <noel.williams@lacity.org>, Elizabeth Putsche < >, Abbey Benesh < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Mar 7, 2024 at 11:47 AM Matt Rossell < >

wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners,

I was unable to attend your board meeting today but wanted to communicate my observations after attending the Open House last night about reimagining the Griffith Park pony ride location.

There are so many great ideas that don't involve animals that everyone in the community will enjoy, celebrate, and be proud of. On behalf of all our Animal Legal Defense Fund supporters in the area, I implore you to please choose a non-animal model for this site at Griffith Park.

It is now more than a year since the closure of this pony ride attraction, but if anything, the controversy surrounding it has only grown. That is solely because pony rides are still being considered at that site. In attendance last night were largely two very polarized groups, one of equine enthusiasts who want the pony rides back, and the other animal advocates who think pony rides or other animal attractions for entertainment are outdated and incongruent with our community's humane ethics.

The conversation around reimagining this space is an exciting exercise if we are thinking about the new possibilities. However, bringing back a controversial, inhumane business model doesn't fit that definition. Because of the RAP's non-negotiables of providing fun for a high volume of families at a low ticket price, animal welfare will likely be compromised no matter which animal exhibitor is chosen.

We see this whenever animals are used for entertainment. The circumstances and conditions necessary to operate a for-profit animal entertainment enterprise — with high care costs, food, husbandry, veterinary expenses, facility rent, maintenance, and staff — are simply incompatible with high animal welfare standards. That is why a reputable non-profit sanctuary that puts animal welfare first would never consider this model as an option — but unfortunately, that is also on the list of possible choices to bring to Griffith Park. A legitimate sanctuary would never consider this model, and neither should you.

Thank you for your service to the city and your careful consideration of what to do at this site. It would be tragic for both the animals and the community to bring back a controversial animal attraction and all the protests and conflict that would follow.

Sincerely,

Matt

Matt Rossell (he/him/his) | Campaign Manager
Animal Legal Defense Fund |



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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Request for Non-Animal Model in Recreational Park Development

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Sanjeeta Khullar

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 7:40 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 2:45 PM Sanjeeta Khullar <

> wrote:

Dear City of Los Angeles Officials,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to urge the consideration of implementing a non-animal model in the development plans for our city's recreational park. As a concerned citizen and advocate for animal welfare, I believe it is crucial for us to prioritize ethical and sustainable practices in all aspects of public development.

The inclusion of a non-animal model in our recreational park not only aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability but also reflects our values of compassion and empathy towards all living beings. Utilizing alternative materials and technologies for park amenities and attractions can significantly reduce the environmental impact and promote a more inclusive and humane recreational experience for residents and visitors alike.

I understand the importance of balancing various factors in park development, including cost-effectiveness and public preferences. However, I strongly believe that investing in non-animal models is not only ethically responsible but also beneficial in the long run for our community and the environment.

I urge you to consider this proposal seriously and to explore the feasibility of incorporating non-animal models into the design and construction plans for our recreational park. By doing so, we can demonstrate our city's leadership in promoting sustainability, compassion, and innovation in public spaces.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and actions on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Sanjeeta Khullar