

M I N U T E S

SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

September 14, 2004

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles convened in special session in the Northridge Recreation Center at 5:55 p.m. Present were President Mike Roos, Vice-President Christina Sanchez-Camino and Commissioners Christopher Hammond, Mary Luévano and Candy Spelling. Also present were Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager and Senior Assistant City Attorney Mark Brown.

The Board recessed at 5:56 p.m. for the Special Meeting Agenda and reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

Commissioners Sanchez-Camino and Luévano arrived at 6:11 p.m.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS

04-277 - Considered later in the meeting.

04-278

VAN NESS RECREATION CENTER - NEW GYMNASIUM
BUILDING - (#2602N) (W.O. #E170278F) - CHANGE
ORDER TO CONTRACT NO. 3114

04-279

GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY RENOVATION AND EXPANSION
(#1504C) - CHANGE ORDER AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT NO. 3068

04-280

ACCEPTANCE OF STOP NOTICES ON DEPARTMENT CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACTS - CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM - MASTER PLAN
IMPLEMENTATION (#1505D); SUNLAND RECREATION CENTER -
IMPROVEMENTS (#1166B) W.O. #E170244, AND RELEASE OF STOP
NOTICE ON CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS - STONEHURST RECREATION
CENTER - FACILITY UPGRADES (#1237C); BEE CANYON PARK -
DEVELOPMENT (#1203C)

04-281 - Considered later in the meeting.

04-282 - Considered later in the meeting.

04-283

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A RENEWAL APPLICATION TO
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE
2005 SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

04-284

POLIGON PARK ARCHITECTURE - REQUEST THAT THE GENERAL
SERVICES DEPARTMENT REISSUE PURCHASE REQUISITION

Item Withdrawn.

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04-285

ACCEPTANCE OF VARIOUS DONATIONS TO HUMAN SERVICES

04-286

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

It was moved by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Spelling, that the foregoing reports, with exceptions as noted, be approved, and that the appropriate Resolutions be adopted. There being no objections, the Motion was unanimously approved.

04-277 - Out of Order.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF RECREATION AND PARKS YEAR
ONE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT FACILITIES -
FINAL ACCEPTANCE

Kathleen Chan, Superintendent, revised Page 3 of the report to read, "...that the Board accept the project."

It was moved by Commissioner Spelling, seconded by Commissioner Hammond that Report No. 04-277 be approved as amended. There being no objections, the Motion was unanimously approved.

04-281 Out of Order. Considered later in the Meeting.

BELLEVUE RECREATION CENTER - OUTDOOR REFURBISHMENT
(W.O. #E17034F) - APPROVAL OF FINAL PLANS AND
CALL FOR BIDS

The Sr. Assistant City Attorney amended the report to reflect the Bid Receipt date as November 16, 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Spelling that the amendment to Report No. 04-281 be approved. There being no objections, the Motion was unanimously approved.

Following the approval of the amendment to the Report the Item was considered later in the meeting under the Special Meeting Agenda to allow for Public Comments and acknowledgment of the Community Impact Statement.

04-282 - Out of Order.

TRINITY RECREATION CENTER (#1572A) - BUILDING
ADDITION AND OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS - APPROVAL
OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS, DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF ENGINEERING AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

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The Acting Superintendent advised the Board of a minor modification to the Memorandum, being that the Department of General Services will be reporting on the financial expenditures of the construction on the project on a monthly basis rather than a weekly basis. No amendment to the report was required.

It was moved by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Spelling that Report No. 04-282 be approved. There being no objections, the Motion was unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

04-233

APPROVAL OF A ONE YEAR CONTRACT WITH LONG BEACH UNIFORMS FOR UNIFORM NEEDS RELATED TO DEPARTMENT-RUN RECREATION AND DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

Item Withdrawn.

04-270

CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM: LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH ROYAL POLARIS SPORTFISHING, INC. TO RETAIN THE ROYAL POLARIS FISHING VESSEL FOR A WHALE-WATCHING EXCURSION TO BAJA, CALIFORNIA - MARCH 13 THROUGH MARCH 21, 2005

It was moved by Commissioner Spelling, seconded by Commissioner Hammond that Report No. 04-270 be approved. There being no objections, the Motion was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION

Consolidation of Security Operations (Park Rangers): Presentation by the Department of General Services on Proposed Staff and Deployment for the New Office of Public Safety

Assistant General Manager (AGM) Jim Combs, introduced staff from the Department of General Services, Alvin Y. Blain, Interim General Manager, and Tony Royster, Assistant General Manager, who presented the Department of General Services' (GSD) proposal to consolidate security from several departments, including Park Rangers, into an office of Public Safety under General Services. AGM Royster briefed the Board on their report to the Mayor (see attached).

In response to an inquiry from President Roos, AGM Royster informed the Board that the focus of GSD is to provide full training for special officers on various areas that cannot be accommodated by LAPD or security officers, as well as to provide friendly customer service.

The General Manager (GM) advised the public that the consolidation would be a change to the community and with change comes risk, uncertainty and some concerns. He emphasized the importance of public comment and input. He also advised that the three areas in review were park security, traditional park rangers and some gray areas (e.g. fires), however, very real problems exist in urban impact areas and regional parks, and as crime escalates the City will need a more determined response. The GM

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expressed that he is against arming Park Rangers, however, GSD has P.O.S.T. certified officers trained to carry weapons and the Department is in need of such support. He further stated that per GSD, the Department will get more park security hours across the board and all 380 parks will have a better response. The GM advised that Park Rangers are the first response on the scene at incidents in the parks and they need to be provided with the tools and training to meet threats in the parks, and policy must be created that protects the City and its patrons. The GM expressed that consolidation of the security functions makes sense at this time, although it may cost more, it will provide better service; he also had strong concerns for the regional parks in the traditional ranger functions, and advised that the Department continues to work with the City Administrative Officer and GSD to resolve these concerns. The GM stated that at the direction of Commissioner Hammond, Chair, Park Safety Task Force, he will return to the Board with concrete plans on how the mission is perceived and the number of staff involved. In closing, the GM advised that there are currently 200 issues on the table that staff will be working on in conjunction with GSD, the Commission, and the Council Offices to meet or exceed the City's expectations.

Mr. Doug Kilpatrick, citizen, spoke in support of the consolidation, however, recommended three minor revisions to ensure that services are not reduced: 1) A dedicated "Parks Bureau" should be established, and the Ranger positions which transition to GSD should be placed in this "Parks Bureau"; 2) GSD needs to provide all the safety and visitor assistance services presently provided by Park Rangers; and, 3) Park Rangers who transition to GSD Special Officer positions should retain the working title of "Park Ranger". (See attached report.)

Barbara Ferris, Symphony in the Glen; Mary Ellen Crosby, Friends of O'Melveny Park; Gerry Hans, Oaks Homeowners Association; Kristin C. Sabo, Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC); and, Phyllis Hines, Hansen Dam Advisory Board, all spoke in support of ranger independence, the importance of rangers in the parks, additional public outreach, additional review of factors involved, including training, and opposition to the consolidation.

Pete Steur; John Keers, L.A. Park Ranger Association, Local 347 SEIU; and Jason Elias, SEIU, Local 347, all spoke in support of the consolidation.

COMMISSION TASK FORCES

Consideration of the creation of a Budget Task Force was held to allow the Commission President to discuss this topic with the General Manager.

Commission Task Force on Park Safety (Commissioners Hammond and Sanchez-Camino)

Commissioner Hammond reported that the Task Force met prior to the Board meeting and one of the primary concerns of the Committee was training on fire responsiveness which would normally not fit within the scope of work in which GSD normally responds. The Committee was advised that there would be a training program for rangers, at the same time there would be a cross-training for GSD staff, to be a more accommodating public service.

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Commission Task Force on Concession RFPs (Commissioners Sanchez-Camino and Spelling)

No reportable items.

Commission Task Force on Capital Projects (Commissioners Hammond and Luévano)

No reportable items.

GENERAL MANAGER'S ORAL REPORT

The General Manager reported on the following:

- Park Rangers - The GM met with two Council Offices and Wendy Gruel's Office and suggested augmenting Park Ranger functions with docent programs from various community based organizations. The GM will continue discussions with the Council Offices
- Ad Hoc Committee on the Budget - The GM is in support and will discuss in detail with the Board President
- Transition of Recreation and Parks resources to the Bureau of Engineering
- Five Pools have extended their summer operation for two weeks
- Anniversary of September 11th - Hubert Humphrey Park in Pacoima presented "Hands Across the Community" reception

The Board recessed at 7:02 p.m. for the Special Meeting Agenda and reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

04-281 Out of Order.
BELLEVUE RECREATION CENTER - OUTDOOR REFURBISHMENT
(W.O. #E17034F) - APPROVAL OF FINAL PLANS AND
CALL FOR BIDS

It was moved by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Spelling that Report No. 04-281 be approved as previously amended. There being no objections, the Motion was unanimously approved.

The Board recessed at 7:17 p.m. for the Special Meeting Agenda and reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

Superintendent Mark Mariscal announced the following upcoming events:

Kick-off of all flag-football and youth soccer programs citywide in the next two weeks.

Kids Day Festival L.A. - October 2, 2004 at Exposition Park - Media Sponsor is KTLA

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Roos read into the record a letter addressed to the Board from Councilmember Jan Perry regarding the placement of a plaque at the Ross Snyder Recreation Center in memory of Ms. Juanita Tate, whose commitment and work on behalf of the South Los Angeles community was beyond measure.

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FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Roos requested that the naming of an Alternate on the Coliseum Commission be placed on the upcoming Agenda.

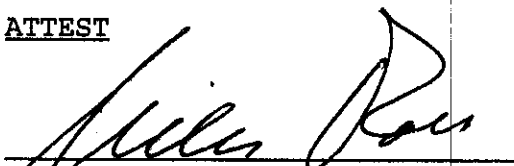
NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, October 6, 2004 at 9:30 a.m., The Garland Building Auditorium, 1200 West 7th Street, First Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

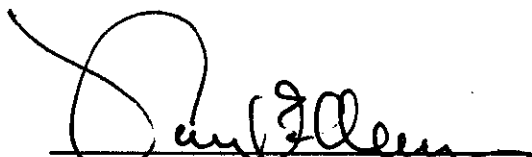
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Special meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

ATTEST



PRESIDENT



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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