INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

October 03, 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>	Action Taken	
Griffith Park Pony Ride comments		Referred to General Manager
1) Mauro Garcia comments regarding	#9728	Referred to General Manager
Graffiti at Sycamore Grove Park	110120	
2) Joanne D'Antonio comments		Referred to General Manager
regarding Policy Change Needed After Elysian Park Children's Arboretum	#9729	
Destruction		
Destruction		
3) Joanne D'Antonio comments		Referred to General Manager
regarding Proposed Budget for As-	#0700	i toron ou to Conorai manage.
Needed Tree Pruning and Removal	#9729a	
(BR 24-191)		
4) Joanne D'Antonio comments		Referred to General Manager
regarding Proposal for San Pascual	#9729b	
Park to be transferred to South		
Pasadena		
5) Beatrice Mondange comments		Referred to General Manager
regarding slide repairs at Lake Balboa	#9730	Referred to General Manager
regarding since repairs at Lake Baiboa		
6) Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate comments		Referred to General Manager
regarding a Request for an		3
Investigation into the Racial and	#9731	
Gender Discrimination at Northridge		
Park		

7) Marianne King comments regarding for BR 24-191 to be formalized as agenda item again	#9732	Referred to General Manager
agenda item again		
8) Ron Bitzer comments regarding BR- 24-201	#9733	Referred to General Manager
9) Thomas Wohlstadter comments regarding Rancho Park Golf Course Clubhouse	#9734	Referred to General Manager
10) Jeff Coggins comments regarding Rancho Park Golf Course Clubhouse	#9734a	Referred to General Manager
11) James Weissenbach comments regarding Rancho Park Golf Course Clubhouse	#9734b	Referred to General Manager
12) John Given comments regarding Rancho Park Golf Course	#9734c	Referred to General Manager
13) Yael Pardess comments regarding Arson Fire and Water Stoppage at San Pascual Park	#9735	Referred to General Manager
14) Ricardo Gomez comments regarding the Bridge Home Shelter at Los Feliz	#9736	Referred to General Manager
15) Ravi Sankaran comments regarding Explaining the Role of NCs and Standardizing Event/Programming Partnerships	#9737	Referred to General Manager
16) Valeria Granata comments regarding LAEC Proposed Rates Increase	#9738	Referred to General Manager
17) Leni Calma comments regarding Pickleball	#9739	Referred to General Manager
18) Jeff Van Wagner comments regarding Pickleball	#9739a	Referred to General Manager
19) Mike Layton comments regarding Tennis Fee Increase Prepared by Rosa Cartagena, RAP Com	#9740	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Rosa Cartagena, RAP Commission Office



Re: Petition ban on pony rides and petition for a non-animal model.

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Los Angeles Alliance for Animals

Fri, Sep 20, 2024 at 10:10 AM

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Sep 20, 2024 at 9:36 AM Los Angeles Alliance for Animals

wrote:

Hi Commissioner Simril.

Attached is the document we presented yesterday, and I wanted to provide them to you via email.

Document One: 81,022 individuals worldwide calling upon a ban on pony rides. 2,404 Angelenos calling upon a ban on pony rides.

Document Two: 12,000 emails sent to you urging for a non-animal model.

Last November 2023, we presented another 12,000 emails.

Equals 106,625 individuals calling upon no animal exploitation at the Griffith Park and Pony Rides and Petting Zoo.

Thank you for all that you do for the parks.

All my best to you,

Zohra Fahim

President and Founder of Los Angeles Alliance for Animals



We call upon the City of Los Angeles to shut down horse, pony rides, and petting zoos because these practices abuse animals for entertainment

https://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/586/217/400/

Author: Zohra Fahim

Recipient: Los Angeles City Council

Petition:

To Mayor Eric Garcetti, Councilmember Gil Cedillo, Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember Nithya Raman, Councilmember Paul Koretz, Councilmember Nury Martinez, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, Councilmember Marqueece Harris- Dawson, Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas, Councilmember Mike Bonin, Councilmember John Lee, Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Councilmember Kevin de Leon, Councilmember Joe Buscaino.

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles protects the lives of children who live and visit within the City;

WHEREAS, horses and ponies carry communicable diseases;

WHEREAS, petting zoo animals endure high stress during handling;

WHEREAS, horses and ponies tethered to a metal bar, plodding in endless circles in hot temperatures, with no access to water;

WHEREAS, horses and ponies are overworked;

WHEREAS, horses and pony rides pose immense safety risk to children;

THEREFORE, the City of Los Angeles condemns the use of horses and ponies to provide entertainment to children;

I, the undersigned, am a resident of the City of Los Angeles or I routinely visit the City of Los Angeles, I have read the petition, and I ask the City Council to adopt an ordinance consistent with the petition.

Communicable diseases: Commonly transmitted from horses to humans. Dermatophilosis - Dermatophilosis is caused by the bacteria Dermatophilus congolensis. This enters the body through an abrasion, insect bite, or laceration.

Safety risk to children: Lack of protective gear (helmet), and saddle not properly adjusted appropriately on child has proven to cause broken bones, and bodily damage.

Please contact the Los Angeles City Council urging them to ban Pony Rides, because it poses a safety concern to children, and huge animal welfare concern.

mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org; gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org; councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org; councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org; contactCD4@lacity.org; Paul.Koretz@lacity.org; councilmember.martinez@lacity.org; councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org; councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org; councilmember.price@lacity.org; councilmember.ridley-thomas@lacity.org; Karly.Katona@lacity.org; councilmember.bonin@lacity.org; councilmember.Lee@lacity.org; councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org; councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org; councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org;

There are over 2500 pages of signatures. The full signature pages are on file with the Board office and available upon request.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA COUNCIL HERNANDEZ

1 message

Anita Meacham <anita.meacham@lacity.org>

Sun, Sep 15, 2024 at 7:36 AM

To: Garcia Incareal

Cc: jose.garcia@lacity.org, jose.a.rodriguez@lacity.org, conrado.terrazas@lacity.org, editorial@egpnews.com, mel.ilomin@lacity.org, claudia.rodriguez@lacity.org, mayra.jimenez@lacity.org, councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org, 23506@lapd.online, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, ramon.cerrillos@lacity.org, sharon.nishihara@lacity.org, elizabeth.narvaez@lacity.org, edward.ocampo@lacity.org, kimberly.simonet@lacity.org, sandra.martinez@lacity.org, john.ruiz@lacity.org, yovonte.robinson@lacity.org, wayne.jong@lacity.org, rick.swanson@lacity.org, bertha.calderon@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, valentine.brown@lacity.org

I will look into this and get back to you.

On Sat, Sep 14, 2024 at 4:45 PM Garcia Incareal

wrote:

SEPTEMBER 14
LA council Eunisses Hernadez
The Sycamore Grove Park is full of Gang graffiti
Attach are pictures
When are you going to place cameras?
We also need gravel to be put in the exercise area.
It gets full of mud when you water the areea
Mauro Garcia













Re: CFAC Letter Requesting Policy Change after Children's Arboretum Destruction 1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Joanne D'Antonio

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 8:40 AM

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Sep 13, 2024 at 11:23 AM Joanne D'Antonio

wrote:

Please find the CFAC letter attached that was voted at our September 12th commissioners meeting at City Hall.

Joanne D'Antonio

Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) Chair and CD2 Representative

https://dpw.lacity.gov/commissioners-boardroom/community-forest-advisory-committee



To: Jimmy Kim, Executive Director RAP <u>jimmy.kim@lacity.org</u>

Matthew Rudnick, Chief Sustainability Officer RAP <u>matthew.rudnick@lacity.org</u>

RAP Commission Members <u>rap.commissioners@lacity.org</u>

September 13, 2024

RE: Policy change needed after Elysian Park Children's Arboretum destruction

Dear Executive Director Kim, Chief Sustainability Officer Rudnick, and RAP Commissioners:

The Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC), an appointed commission by the City Council and the Mayor, is dedicated to preserving and promoting a healthy urban forest, ensuring that all Angelenos experience its benefits, which include air quality, climate regulation, stormwater management, biodiversity and habitat, public health and well-being, community cohesion, aesthetic and cultural value, energy savings, tourism and recreation, heat reduction, mental health, and disaster resilience.

At our July CFAC meeting, we heard from the public about a City contractor who destroyed and removed over 100 trees and shrubs, Forest School plaques, and an ADA-compliant path at the Children's Arboretum at Elysian Park in June. Members of the community voiced their anger and concern over the devastation, demanding action from CFAC. At the meeting the Director of North East Trees, whose 25-year-old publicly-funded planting project was severely damaged, witnessed the community's shock and dismay. Two of our CFAC members with tree expertise reported they inspected the Elysian Park site and verified the reported destruction, which included

loss and damage to many native trees and plants destroyed by heavy equipment in the name of brush clearance.

At the August 2024 CFAC meeting, RAP Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Leon Boroditsky came to answer questions regarding the destruction of the Children's Arboretum. While he indicated a shed with flammable materials had been erected adjacent to this children's park, it is still unclear why there would be such a misguided choice of site, and what precisely necessitated this degree of plant and tree destruction, which LAFD indicated went beyond their brush clearance requirements (L.A. Times: "An Oasis, Till the Contractors Came*). In this article LAFD spokesperson Karla Tovar said, "We look forward to collaborating with [Recreation and Parks] in future endeavors to make sure something like this doesn't occur again." This offer from LAFD must always be utilized before brush clearance is ordered.

We were informed that the brush clearance contract required before and after photos, yet Supervisor Boroditsky had no knowledge of photos. These pictures need to be released. If these required photos were not taken by the contractors, it is a breach of contract and they should be held liable for all costs to restore the damage that has been caused, including the replanting of native trees and shrubs. Moving forward, a more responsible brush clearance company needs to be engaged for future work, and this one put on a do-not-hire list.

At our meeting Supervisor Boroditsky also claimed that no protected trees or shrubs were removed during the clearance project, but there appears to be evidence to the contrary. Native plants often start as seeds that can come from trees that are already growing in a woodland. Sometimes squirrels, birds, and even the wind plant trees by spreading seeds around. For example, a squirrel might bury an acorn, and that acorn can grow into an oak tree.

This failure to understand the basics of how native plants naturally grow and failure to consult with LAFD prior to the project is troubling. CFAC has also learned that RAP failed to consult its urban ecologist, a qualified specialist that could have ensured that biological resources were protected and handled with proper care. This includes nesting birds, which according to a CityWatch article were reportedly killed, the destruction of which is a federal offense.**

RAP has maintained that the June clearance and removals at Elysian Park complied with LAFD brush clearance "standards". CFAC wants to point out that it is not productive to sacrifice the very species of native trees such as oaks and walnuts that mitigate fire.

In past years CFAC met with LAFD brush clearance policy staff, assuring us that removing healthy trees is not part of brush clearance. This very specific information must be shared with all RAP staff and subcontractors prior to engaging in any work.

This incident illustrates to CFAC that the City needs to exert more oversight on both their staff and the contractors, because either through negligence or lack of knowledge and expertise, RAP and its tree contractors are clearly capable of doing things to our urban forest, and to a native woodland in particular, that are both wrong and reflect poorly on the City. What we heard motivated us to submit the following new policy to prevent a repeat of this tragic mistake.

We recommend instituting these new procedures as a **checklist** for any brush clearance work:

- Issue instructions that reflect the Los Angeles Fire Department's (LAFD) site specific Brush Clearance Requirements and L.A.M.C. Section 57.4906.5.1.1.1 through 57.4906.5.1.1.10.
 - Coordinate and seek clarification from LAFD on any work beyond the scope of past regular yearly brush clearance.
 - Provide brush clearance contractors with pre-project training under the supervision of the urban ecologist and educational materials identifying protected native trees and shrubs. Include diagrams of trees and shrubs that describe plants under 18 feet only trimmed to 1/3rd their height and trees over 18 feet trimmed up 6 feet.
 - Engage LAFD to determine the level of brush clearance required in the Second 100-foot Modification area (SEC. 57.4906.5.1.1.7.) potentially preserving brush for wildlife habitat.
- Any use of vehicle-based mechanized equipment or aggressive brush clearance on park grounds must be approved in advance by the RAP Grounds
 Maintenance Supervisor II and supervised by the RAP Urban Ecologist.
 - The RAP Urban Ecologist has the authority to intercede if trees, shrubs, and native plants are about to be harmed in excess of Brush Clearance Requirements, or in violation of the Protected Tree and Shrub Ordinance.
- A biologist or urban ecologist confirms that no nesting birds are present in compliance with the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Communicate to CFAC, the local Neighborhood Councils, Park Advisory Committees, and any established park user groups or organizations before yearly brush clearance.

More specifically at the Children's Arboretum, we support the following requests that have been made by the community.

- 1. Relocate the shed that is next to the Children's Arboretum to an area that already has buildings.
- 2. Give the Children's Arboretum and surrounding woodland an Environmental Label.

We are confident you are aware that the City Council has directed every City Department to step up its biodiversity practices, including native tree and plant preservation.

In these days of budget shortage, existing trees are an established investment that has been increasing over the years, which we cannot afford to lose.

Thank you for working with our recommendations. Please know that RAP always has a seat at CFAC's table, which can be utilized to work together for positive results.

Finally, members of CFAC, as the City's trees commissioners, request that we convene a meeting with the RAP Commissioners, Executive Director Kim, Chief Sustainability Officer Rudnick, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor II Leon Boroditsky, Urban Ecologist Courtney McCammon, the Park supervisors of hillside parks, and the LAFD brush clearance supervisor. This meeting can be held online and should include a formal presentation of your plan for how to deal with brush clearance in the future without destroying trees and habitat.

This supervision we have learned the hard way cannot be trusted to subcontractors. Going forward there needs to be, not only community notification as indicated in the LA Times article, but also a procedural change to be put in writing that includes environmental supervision of any brush clearance project. We want to witness visible agreement by everyone at the table that this will be the procedure going forward.

Please let us know when you are ready to schedule this.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: CFAC Advisory letter on RAP brush/pruning \$21 million proposal

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> To: Joanne D'Antonio

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 8:41 AM

Good morning,

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

On Sat, Sep 14, 2024 at 1:50 PM Joanne D'Antonio

wrote:

Please review the attached Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) advisory letter on RAP \$21 million brush/pruning proposal.

This letter was voted unanimously at CFAC's September 12th meeting at City Hall.

Joanne D'Antonio

Chair: Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) and CD2 Representative https://dpw.lacity.gov/commissioners-boardroom/community-forest-advisory-committee



BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

Renata Simril, President
Luis Sanchez, Vice President
Marie Lloyd
Fiona Hutton
Benny Tran

Jimmy Kim, RAP General Manager Matthew Rudnick, RAP Chief Sustainability Officer

September 13, 2024

RE: Proposed Budget for AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL 24-191

Dear RAP Commissioners, General Manager Kim, and Chief Sustainability Officer Rudnick,

The Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC), an appointed commission by the City Council and the Mayor, is dedicated to preserving and promoting a healthy urban forest, ensuring that all Angelenos experience its benefits.

The Recreation and Parks Commission is reviewing a budget proposal up to 21 million dollars over three years (up to 7 million annually) to fund a list of proposed service providers for as-needed tree pruning and removal, which includes data collection and urban forestry consulting.

This is a hefty sum to entrust to subcontractors. This is disproportionate to what Urban Forestry spends on pruning, and they need to clear tree limbs on roadways for trucks

to pass. This is not so much the case at our parks, where people want shade canopy. We hear complaints that there is insufficient watering and groundskeeping. Yet, that is not what these funds are slated for.

This past June, RAP pruned and cleared Elysian Park, a natural native woodland. A RAP supervisor approved the work of the contractor, Mariposa Tree Management, who used a skid-steer and removed all the plants, including native plants, that were labeled. Mariposa is on the list of contractors in RAP's funding request.

At our July CFAC meeting, the urgency of the situation at the Children's Arboretum at Elysian Park was palpable during public comment. Community members expressed their anger and concern over the devastation, demanding a response from CFAC.

Our investigation found that RAP failed to oversee Mariposa Tree Management, which they hired to clear Elysian Park. RAP apparently did not require Mariposa to comply with or enforce RAP's own Tree Protection Policy and Tree Protection Specifications (mentioned in the budget proposal), which states that they will "provide orderly protection of specified trees."

Many Coast Live Oak, Toyon, Walnut, and other native protected trees and shrubs were razed in the name of brush clearance at Elysian Park. The Tree Protection Policy also states, "The Board of Public Works must issue a permit before any alterations to protected trees are made that could cause them to be damaged, relocated, or removed. Pruning also requires a permit and must comply with the Oak Tree Pruning Standards set forth by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture." RAP took none of these actions before the brush clearance and pruning work at Elysian Park. Furthermore contractually Mariposa was to provide before and after pictures, and these were not taken.

The 7 million dollars yearly is proposed for work to be done **as needed**. The Elysian Park incident raises the question of how RAP provides the contractors with oversight and supervision. What approvals would be in place before these funds are accessed. Will more destruction take place? Subcontracting work was so poor that some years back Urban Forestry discontinued the use of subcontractors. To get good work from subcontractors requires careful supervision and ecological management by an environmental biologist. These are parks and nature preserves. This blank check could be a threat to our parks unless there are better controls in place. A systematic

revamp of funds access has to be in place. The subcontractors on the list do all levels of work, this was imparted to a CFAC member by one of the contractors on the list some years back. They need guidance or they do not know how to proceed. Yet this guidance was not evident at the Children's Arboretum. Built into this funding should be an urban ecologist that signs off on and supervises these projects so we do no damage to our parks and wildlife. Because our city's structure is so behind the times, that job description does not exist as a full-time position in the City's approved job descriptions. That problem needs to get solved first, as difficult as it is to do. If it is not done, destruction like the Children's Arboretum is going to happen again. Do we want to fix what the public called a disaster? Or do we just want to let it happen again?

This proposed budget is a one-size-fits-all proposal for "industrial" landscaping, not green infrastructure and does not consider that our parks are our nature preserves. For example, there are dead trees in the Sepulveda basin that are a haven for birds who eat the insects on the dead trees. Bird watching groups head there. Is it the plan to remove these? If so, it is a bad idea. This money is a big trust with no assurances that there will be environmental sensitivity in its disbursement.

Before committing to this contract (which is a substantial expenditure), how is the commission going to prioritize accountability and transparency, include public notification, institute environmental safeguards like checklists and environmental supervision, and not allow RAP to further undermine public trust?

Sincerely,

Joanne D'Antonio, CFAC Chair

Jeanne DAntonio

Letter voted at September 12, 2024 CFAC meeting

CC: City Council, Mayor Karen Bass

Sincerely,

Jeanne Myntonio

Joanne D'Antonio, CFAC Chair Letter voted at September 12, 2024 CFAC meeting

CC: Leon Boroditsky <u>leon.boroditsky@lacity.org</u>
Courtney McCammon courtney@cjbiomonitoring.com

*LA Times article:

*https://www.latimes.com/lifestyle/story/2024-08-09/los-angeles-city-contractors-destroyed-a-native-plant-garden-for-kids-what-now

**CityWatch article:

https://www.citywatchla.com/voices/29443-when-the-parks-department-takes-away-a-childrens-learning-garden



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Proposed San Pascual Park transfer to South Pasadena

1 message

Rap Commissioners rap.commissioners@lacity.org
To: Joanne D'Antonio

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 8:42 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, Sep 14, 2024 at 1:56 PM Joanne D'Antonio

wrote:

The Community Forest Advisory Committee unanimously voted to send the **attached advisory letter opposing the proposed Arroyo Seco San Pascual Project**, which would destroy a natural wildlife habitat park enjoyed by families, for the purpose of installing a water reclamation facility to irrigate a golf course in South Pasadena and ultimately transfer the land to that city.

Please read the attached letter.

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Joanne D'Antonio

Chair: Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) and CD2 Representative https://dpw.lacity.gov/commissioners-boardroom/community-forest-advisory-committee





To: Mayor Karen Bass
City Council Members
RAP Commission
Jimmy Kim, RAP General Manager
Matthew Rudnick, RAP Sustainability Officer

September 13, 2024

RE: Proposed San Pascual Park transfer to South Pasadena

The Community Forest Advisory Committee is the City's commission to advise about urban forest matters, and in that capacity we are voicing our concern regarding the advisability and legality of removing a park that is in use by the community, and where the many trees provide a haven in nature for families and a home for birds and wildlife, this in a city that is considered deficient in park space for the number of residents.

For this reason we oppose Pasadena's Proposed Water Reuse Project's San Pascual proposal to put permanent infrastructure on Los Angeles parkland, which will become a water reclamation site primarily for a golf course that is in another city, South Pasadena. Ultimately this Los Angeles land would be turned over to that city. This does not fit the Code below:

Los Angeles City Charter Section 594

Control and Management of Recreation and Park Lands, Section (c)
Restrictions on Transfer of Dedicated Parks. All lands heretofore or hereafter set apart or dedicated as a public park shall forever remain for the use of the public inviolate" but the board may authorize use of the lands for any park purpose, and for:

.(a) **Management and Control.** The Department of Recreation and Parks shall operate, manage and control all property now or hereafter owned or controlled by the City for public recreation, including parks, and shall have power in the name of the City to acquire

- and take by purchase, lease, condemnation, gift, in trust or otherwise, any and all property necessary or convenient for recreation, including park purposes.
- (b) **Acquisition of Property.** No real property shall be acquired by the City for recreation sites, including parks, unless first approved by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners.
- (c) **Restrictions on Transfer of Dedicated Parks.** All lands heretofore or hereafter set apart or dedicated as a public park shall forever remain for the use of the public inviolate; but the board may authorize use of the lands for any park purpose, and for:
- (1) Easements or rights-of-way for any work, improvement or structure necessary and convenient for giving service to the City or its inhabitants in connection with any public utility owned by the City. Under similar circumstances, similar permission may be given to any private public utility holding a franchise, and limited to the life of the franchise. These easements or rights-of-way shall be subject to regulation by ordinance.
- (2) Leases to the County of Los Angeles or the State of California or the United States for periods not to exceed 50 years, of sites in any public park for the erection and maintenance of public buildings consistent with public park purposes.
- (3) Taking and disposal of molding sand, or other natural resources under terms as the board may prescribe and in a manner as to work no substantial impairment of public use and enjoyment of the premises.
- (4) Opening, establishment and maintenance of streets or other public ways in and through the park lands controlled by the board.
- (d) **Transfer to Purposes other than Recreation and Park Purposes.** No sites under the management and control of the department shall be devoted or transferred to any other purpose in whole or in part, except in compliance with **all** of the following:
- (1) *Procedure*. Any transfer shall require a resolution of the board, approved by the Council by ordinance, incorporating the prescribed terms and conditions to be observed by the permittee. However, Council approval shall not be required for the granting of leases of property not immediately needed for the purposes of the department for a term **not to exceed three years.**
- (2) Restrictions on Transfer. No transfer shall be permitted if it would violate the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, or in any case where the proposed use violates a specific trust or dedication upon which the property was acquired.
- (3) Requirement of Equivalent Property or Funds. If property to be transferred to another use has been acquired from funds specifically provided for the Department of Recreation and Parks or its predecessors, the department shall be assigned the equivalent in property or funds as a condition of transfer of the property from its control, when required by the board.
- (e) Remaining Land Unsuitable for Park Use. Where lands forming a portion of an existing public park have been removed from the jurisdiction of the board by reason of their dedication or use for public purposes incompatible with park use, the remaining lands, or any portion thereof, within the park shall not

be subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section in the event that:

- (1) the board and Council find and determine that the remaining lands, or specific portion thereof, are unsuitable for further use as a public park; and
- (2) lands of an area at least equal to the lands found to be unsuitable for further use as a public park are acquired in the same portion of the City and set apart or dedicated as a public park.

Please note that AB 52 applies here as well, requiring public agencies to consult with tribes during the CEQA process, which hasn't happened. This is an historic area that has significance to indigenous tribes of LA as it contains ancient burial sites and sacred trees. No EIR was conducted that would have investigated these issues. The MND was not a Los Angeles document, but a City of Pasadena document, and furthermore it was written by Psomas, the construction company for the project. The City of Los Angeles will realize very few water benefits weighed against the number of trees, habitat and nature-based park use lost to this project.

We would like to point out that the area across from the proposed site, there is a large flat seldom utilized parking lot that should be considered as an alternative site for this whole project. Using this barren lot, will save trees, animal habitats, air, water and money. It makes no sense to destroy an ecosystem in this era of global warming, when you have an easily excavatable area across the river.

We have heard the public comment at the RAP Commission offered by members of the nearby community who use this park and recommend that you put the health of the community first by preserving the trees and place in nature that this park is providing. This project is counter to the 30x30 State initiative to protect 30% of California's natural land and coastal waters by 2030. We feel it is within the mission of RAP to protect a small forest with trees that capture water naturally rather than bring in invasive equipment to remove trees and build hardscape.

We have been informed that RAP's approval is for some reason designated to take place after the construction of the proposed water re-use project. If this is the case, why would RAP allow construction on park land prior to giving approval? San Pascual Park is a natural habitat for wildlife that will be decimated if 82% of the trees are removed and construction is allowed in the middle of the park area. The wildlife does not just return after two years of heavy equipment taking over their home, coupled with installation of light polluting fixtures in the area.

Outreach did not go to many of the park users in Mt. Washington. What little outreach there was was mailed the day before Thanksgiving, and the comment period was designated between November 22nd and January 15th – the holiday season. The tribes were not consulted at all.

This summer many stakeholders made the effort to come in person to the RAP Commission to protest this project, and their comments are worth paying attention to. Presentations against this project were made in August at CFAC and also at the LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance Trees Committee. • Trees Committee meeting, August 24, 2024

Please realize that this project will make a further contribution to tree canopy loss, and any replacement or mitigation trees will take many years to achieve the full canopy of the mature trees that are removed, and the understory plant life may not return or be overtaken by invasive plants. We feel it is in the best interests of the residents of Los Angeles to preserve this home for nature enjoyed by families and not move forward with Pasadena's Proposed Water Reuse Project's San Pascual proposal that is not a park purpose and has no benefit or service to Angelenos. We do not see how this use of the park can be legally justified.

Joanne D'Antonio, CFAC Chair

Jeanne DAnjones

Letter voted at September 12, 2024 CFAC meeting



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Sharp Metal on Play Structure

1 message LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 11:58 AM To: Beatrice Mondange Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Hello, Thank you for contacting us. Your email has been forwarded to the right personnel. Thank you, Neyda On Sun, Sep 15, 2024 at 1:46 AM Beatrice Mondange wrote: Hi there. Following up on the slide repairs we discussed back in June of 2021 for Lake Balboa. I'm surprised that after 3 years, all the slides at the park are still boarded up and even more fixtures broken/out of use. Curious to know if there is a timeline for full playground repairs? -Beatrice Mondange On Jul 28, 2022, at 4:30 PM, Beatrice Mondange wrote: Hi there. Please see photos attached of sharp metal pieces that sit right at child eye level near the blue fish slide. My child scraped his hand using it as a climbing aide. Another older child almost scratched his face leaning too close to it. Please prioritize repairs. While we appreciate the new flooring, it's really sad to see the playground falling apart more and more. My previous request in the tread about the broken slide last year has still not been fixed and additional slides and structures are now broken. Is there a timeline for the kids? Beatrice Mondange <image2.jpeg> <image3.jpeg> <image4.jpeg> On Jun 10, 2021, at 5:15 PM, Beatrice Mondange wrote:

Thank you all for the speedy response and quick action. We love the park and only wish to

-Beatrice

see it thrive.

On Jun 10, 2021, at 4:09 PM, Rap Commissioners rap.commissioners@lacity.org wrote:

Good Afternoon Ms. Mondange,

Please note that staff has been made aware and has taken the following actions:

After investigating the urgent concerns of Beatrice Mondange, maintenance discovered and removed the nail pictured in the Mosaic, Job order # 21-15118 was placed for the repairs and the area was caution taped. Job order # 21-15118 was placed for repairs to the crack in the slide, which is now caution taped and secured from public use. Job order # 21-15119 was placed for the missing Rocking Play unit and the area remains secure.

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 4:14 PM Beatrice Mondange < > wrote:

Hi there.

Not sure who to contact but I've been noticing hazardous damage at the Lake Balboa playground for over a month now. Please find photos attached.

I'm sure your team is white busy with the reopening of the county but please prioritize the park maintenance for the safety of our children. The key items below could cause serious injury for an unexpecting child.

- 1. Expose rusted nail along mosaic wall.
- 2. Large sharp crack near bottom half of slide

Less urgent but still a concern is how much trash and damage there is throughout the turf overall.

- Beatrice

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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 Fax: (213) 202-2610

Mail Stop: 625/15

Website: www.laparks.org

Department of Recreation and Parks Public Information Office

Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org

Phone: 213-202-2700 Website: www.laparks.org





Re: Request for Investigation into Racial and Gender Discrimination at Northridge Park

1 message

Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate

Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 7:17 PM

To: LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>
Cc: RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org, civilandhumanrights@lacity.org, "capri.maddox@lacity.org" <capri.maddox@lacity.org>, "mayra.medel@lacity.org" <mayra.medel@lacity.org>

Neyda -

How do you recommend I proceed with contacting them to ensure that this complaint is addressed with the highest degree of urgency and seriousness? Additionally, what further assistance can this office, as a publicly funded municipal entity, offer in this matter?

Regards, Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate

On Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 4:15 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote: Hello.

Thank you for contacting us. I believe they don't have an email.

Thank you,

Neyda

On Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 3:25 PM Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate Hello Neyda,

wrote:

Thank you for your response. Would you be able to share their email address?

Thank you,

Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate & Carlos Zarate

On Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 2:16 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote: Hello,

Thank you for contacting us. You may reach out to the Valley Region Office, who oversees the park, to inquire further.

Thank you,

Neyda

On Sat, Sep 14, 2024 at 1:47 PM Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate

wrote:

Good afternoon,

I am writing to bring to your attention a deeply troubling series of incidents my family and I experienced during the summer 2024 at Northridge Park, involving both racial discrimination and misogynistic behavior, largely perpetuated by park staff, including Mr. Roy Koh. We respectfully request your support and intervention to address the racism and discrimination perpetuated by L.A. City staff.

Throughout the season, we were subjected to racial microaggressions, hypervigilance, gaslighting, and overtly demeaning behavior. These actions reflect a broader issue of systemic bias that has been well-documented in academic research, particularly in relation to marginalized communities in public spaces.

A key example of these incidents occurred when the Director, Mr. Dwayne Finley, approached me—Carlos Zarate, an Indigenous Zapoteco brown man—during a basketball game, accusing me of undue aggression. In reality, the altercation was initiated by the opposing coach, a white man, who was not addressed by Mr. Finley at any point during or after the game. This reflects a common manifestation of racial microaggressions: the differential treatment of people of color under the guise of maintaining order. Research has consistently shown that hypervigilance—where individuals of color are disproportionately monitored or blamed for disturbances—can significantly affect mental well-being, reinforcing harmful stereotypes of perceived aggression or deviance.

The timing of this incident, on the heels of Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month, highlights the continued marginalization of Indigenous and Latinx individuals in spaces that should be inclusive. Discrimination against Indigenous communities, in particular, is well-documented, and it is alarming to see such attitudes persist within public institutions funded by taxpayer dollars.

Moreover, a separate but equally disturbing incident occurred with an opposing coach, Mr. Gil Flores, a professor at Cal State Northridge. Mr. Flores repeatedly directed misogynistic remarks at my wife, Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate, a Latina immigrant and volunteer coach. He yelled at her to "shut up and sit down, you're a woman," in full view of both the players and park staff. The unchecked misogyny displayed by Mr. Flores, compounded by the racialized context, serves to reinforce damaging stereotypes against women of color—particularly in sports, a field where women already face substantial gender-based discrimination. The fact that several staff members witnessed this behavior without intervening only perpetuates a toxic environment where such biases are allowed to thrive.

As a family of color, we are asking for nothing more than basic respect and fair treatment. Publicly funded park and recreation staff have a duty to serve all community members equitably, regardless of race or gender. Mr. Koh's dismissive response to being confronted about his behavior—stating, "I'm not racist because I have a Hispanic girlfriend"—is a harmful deflection often used to sidestep accountability. This defense perpetuates stereotypes and disregards the lived experiences of people of color, further contributing to a hostile environment for families like ours.

In light of these incidents, we respectfully request urgent intervention to address racial bias and equity training for Mr. Koh and other Northridge Park staff. It is deeply concerning that, in 2024, such behavior remains unchecked, particularly by individuals in publicly funded positions. An apology to our family, a mixed Latino/Indigenous Zapotec family, is also warranted, given the distress and harm these incidents have caused.

We have already reached out to organizations that advocate for racial equity and support Indigenous communities and will continue to pursue support from local elected officials. We trust that your office will take these concerns seriously and ensure a prompt investigation into the matter.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this urgent issue.

Sincerely, Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate & Carlos Zarate

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: Report back regarding item# 24-191

1 message

Rap Commissioners rap.commissioners@lacity.org To: Marianne King

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 8:48 AM

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, Sep 17, 2024 at 9:42 AM Marianne King Dear Commissioners,

wrote:

At the Sept. 5th regular RAP meeting, a number of people expressed concerns and objections regarding item# 24-191 - which is a \$7 mil per year, 3 yr contract, with 5 subcontractors to do tree pruning and removal. One of those sub contractors is Mariposa which caused significant damage to the Elysian Park Childrens Aboretum.

The Board approved the contract and noted, this is just the RFQ, request for qualification, that all subcontractors met and that an RFP would follow. The Board President, Renata Simril, heard our concerns and requested RAP staff have a report back at the next meeting that includes a checklist and specified policy to ensure there are safeguards in place to prevent future harm and clear cutting of trees and shrubs, including natives.

The agenda for the next meeting, Sept, 19th, has been posted but there is no item that addresses this report back. I spoke with the Commission Staff this morning who said we just have to listen at each meeting, it may come up under General Mgr. Update.

This is an onerous task for the public to have to wait and see and not have the opportunity to review this report back in advance.

Can this report back be formalized as an agenda item that the public can review before the meeting?

Please confirm,

Thank you, Marianne King CFAC member



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Public Issues for North Hollywood NE Neighborhood Council

1 message

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

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 8:51 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, Sep 17, 2024 at 2:02 PM Ron Bitzer
| Please refer to the attachment, Carol. Ron Bitzer

wrote:

September 17, 2024

RE: Pending Recreation and Parks Measure A Grant Request Report 24-201

Ms. Carol Rose Vice President North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council

Via Email and US Mail

Dear Carol,

Thank you for your questions about the publicized grant application from the City for Measure A funds for purchase of 170 freeway-adjacent undeveloped land for a park named STRATHERN PARK WEST.

Pending before the Recreation and Parks Commission at the September 19th regular meeting is RAP Report 24-201 (see pages 1-5 only attached); I do not find a final transaction approval in the full report, but I may be in error.

This expanded park would exist within the current boundaries of your Neighborhood Council. Your board may not have reviewed the current proposal for a Measure A taxpayer-funded grant; your board may want to consider the following issues, assuming RAP Commissioners approve Report 24-201.

• The Measure A grant request for the Strathern Park West project has been doubled to \$2 million in the most recent report (a) from \$1 million in the July 18th Measure A Status Update by General Manager Kim and (b) from the Proposition K Steering Committee approval of a \$1 million grant request at the August 29th meeting. These updates and actions are apparently only preliminary. Other questions, however, may be relevant for the Neighborhood Council.

• In view of the current proposal for a "land *appraisal* necessary for acquisition" Report 24-201, p. 5 (emphasis added), will the City share any such appraisal before the City opens escrow for this property transaction?

 In view of how City-sponsored Tiny Home shelters for people experiencing homelessness have existed in North Hollywood parks for more than 3 years (e.g. Alexandria Park), does the City plan to allow Tiny Homes or any other homeless encampments on a larger Strathern Park West?

Report 24-201 says "appropriate environmental documentation" will be available before a transfer decision (24-201, p. 3). This information should address current use of the property apparently at issue by rogue homeless camps (see attached photo dated 9/17/2024).

Very truly yours, /rbitzer/

Ron Bitzer

Cc: RAP Commissioners
Valley Plaza Recreation Center Staff



Property Running South & West Along 170 freeway at Strathern Ave. ----Probable Location of Strathern Park West & Illegal Campers, 9/17/2024

BOARD REPORT	NU. 24-201	
DATE September 19, 2021	C.D. 2	
BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK CO	MMISSIONERS	
APPLICATION FOR STRA	ZATION TO SUBMIT COMPETITIVE GRANTHERN PARK WEST ACQUISITION AND T IF AWARDED; AUTHORIZATION TO INITIAT IN ACTIVITIES	ГО
B. Aguirre C. Santo Domingo B. Jones C. Stoneham M. Rudnick *N. Williams	Tow Alli	
	General Manager	
Approved Disappr	oved Withdrawn	
If Approved: Board President	Board Secretary	

24 201

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to submit a grant application as detailed in Attachment No.1 to County of Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) under the Measure A 2024 Competitive Acquisition Only Program for the acquisition of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) owned land at Strathern Park West (Project);
- 2. Authorize RAP's General Manager to accept the RPOSD grant funds for the Project, if awarded, and execute the attached grant agreement with substantially the same terms and conditions as set forth in Attachment No. 2 of this Report, for the grant amount, scope, and the grant performance period for the Project, subject to the approval of the Mayor and City Council pursuant to Section 14.6(c) of the Los Angeles Administrative Code and approval as to the form of the grant agreement by the City Attorney;
- 3. Approve the resolution attached as Attachment No. 3 to this Report and recommend City Council adopt such Resolution for the Project;
- 4. Direct RAP as the designated Grant Administrator for the Measure A Grant Program to submit this request to the L.A. For Kids Steering Committee in accordance with City Council instructions (Council File 18-0611) and to the Mayor and City Council for approval pursuant to Section 14.6(c) of the Los Angeles Administrative Code;
- 5. Authorize RAP staff to make necessary technical adjustments to the Grant application as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report;
- 6. Authorize RAP staff to initiate the preliminary review and due diligence process and coordinate

BOARD REPORT

PG. 2 NO. <u>24-201</u>

preliminary acquisition activities for the potential acquisition of the property known as Strathern Park West (Property), approximately 6 acres in size. Preliminary activities include but are not limited to: coordinating with the relevant City Departments, researching title and environmental information, and identifying the necessary funding sources; and

7. Upon the completion of the preliminary acquisition activities, direct RAP staff to return to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) with all related documents such as transfer of title documents, and/or purchase and sale agreement, or quitclaim deed escrow instructions, and any other related documents for the Board's final approval to purchase the Property.

SUMMARY

RAP staff requests the Board to authorize submission of a grant application for up to \$2,000,000 under RPOSD's competitive Measure A Acquisition Only Program to acquire Caltrans-owned property along the Route 170 Freeway to expand City of Los Angeles' ownership of Strathern Park West. The Park is approximately 8 acres, of which 2 acres are City-owned and 6 are leased from Caltrans. Presently, the City of Los Angeles and Caltrans are in discussions with respect to the acquisition and the exact dimension and the purchase price of the acquisition will be determined at a future date. RAP staff will later return to the Board to seek approval of the land acquisition when such details are finalized.

Scope of Work: Acquire property owned by Caltrans that runs along the Route 170 Freeway to expand City of Los Angeles park property known as Strathern Park West. Conduct surveys and land appraisal necessary for acquisition.

Property Location: Area running along Route 170 Freeway between Strathern Street to the North and Saticoy Street to the South.

Measure A Acquisition Only program does not require matching funds. The 2024 competitive grant cycle has a submission deadline of September 27, 2024.

<u>BACKGROUND</u>

In 2016, Los Angeles County voters approved Measure A, which provides the City of Los Angeles formula-based annual allocations for capital improvement projects under Community-based Park Investment Program (Category 1) and Neighborhood Parks, Healthy Communities, & Urban Greening Program (Category 2); competitive grants for capital improvement projects and recreational access programs under Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection (Category 3); Regional Recreation Facilities, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility (Category 4); and additional competitive grants for Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement (Category 5) as well as an Implementation, Operations and Oversight Category. Additional annual allocations are available under a Maintenance and Servicing Program to offset Proposition A and Measure A funded capital projects. Funding through the Measure A grant program will be generated in perpetuity through the collection of a parcel tax. In October 2018, City Council designated the L.A. For Kids Steering Committee as the administering entity for Measure A with RAP serving as the Grant Administrator (Council File 18-0611).

BOARD REPORT

PG. 3 NO. 24-201

The goal of the Measure A Category 3 and 4 Acquisition Only Program is to increase parkland acreage totals through the acquisition of land for new parks and expansion of existing parks for purposes including: multi-benefit parks, regional recreation facilities, conservation, trails, access facilities and more. A minimum of 30% of the Acquisition Only funds will be awarded to projects in High or Very High Need Study Areas, as defined by the most recent Countywide Parks Needs Assessment. Strathern Park West is located in Study Area 120 Sun Valley – La Tuna Canyon which is categorized as a High Need Study Area.

TREES AND SHADE

Project will have no impact on existing trees and shade.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners' (Board) action consists of authorizing staff to submit a request for funding and initiate the preliminary review necessary for the acquisition of a property that is already leased and used as a park.

According to Article 20, Section 15378 of California CEQA Guidelines, a project subject to CEQA is "the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment", when is funded, constructed or approved by a public agency, or constructed on public land. Given the procedural nature of the activities authorized in this Board Report, staff finds that the proposed project does not fit the project definition included in Article 20, Section 15378 of California CEQA Guidelines and recommends that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners (Board) take no CEQA action.

Staff will come back to the Board with appropriate environmental documentation and determination when the Board will make a decision about the property transfer.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund in applying for Measure A Acquisition Only funds.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 3: Create and Maintain World Class Parks and Facilities

Result: Measure A Program will fund the acquisition of Caltrans owned land at

Strathern Park West

This Report was prepared by Yumi Sangen, Senior Management Analyst I, and reviewed by Steven Tran, Senior Management Analyst II, and Sondra Fu, Chief Management Analyst, Finance Division.

BOARD REPORT

PG. 4 NO. <u>24-201</u>

- LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

 1) Measure A Project Scope and Budget
 2) Measure A Grant Agreement
 3) RPOSD Grant Resolution

CD	Proposed Parks	Project Location	Proposed Project Scope	Study Area Name	Study Area ID	High and/or Very High Needs Study Area	easure A nt Request
2	Strathern Park West	Area running along Route 170 Freeway between Strathern Street to the North and Saticoy Street to	Acquire property owned by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) that runs along the Route 170 Freeway to expand City of Los Angeles park property known as Strathern Park West. Conduct surveys and land appraisal necessary for acquisition.	Sun Valley - La Tuna Canyon	120	Yes	\$ 2,000,000
TOTAL							\$ 2,000,000



Re: Sept 19 Meeting Concession #3A---Rancho Park Golf Course Clubhouse---Public Opinion

1 message

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

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 8:16 AM

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, Sep 18, 2024 at 2:02 PM Thomas Wohlstadter To Whom it May Concern,

wrote:

My name is Dr. Thomas Wohlstadter and I have lived in West Los Angeles for over 60 years and have played on Rancho Golf Course since I was a teenager. I currently reside two blocks from there for the last ten years and am a member of the Men's Club.

I am so disappointed in the current situation regarding the clubhouse which I assume you are all well aware of. I have not met one person who has not been upset with this fiasco which has dragged on for 5 years or so now. It sits as a daily reminder of the false hopes we all had when it was first started. So the question now before all of you is what solution will you put forth so that we get back on the right track?

There is so much potential to be had with this project in particular and how it will impact the surrounding community.

If I may be so bold as to offer a few suggestions:

- 1) Tear down the entire structure. To remodel a 100 year old building is fraught with roadblocks at every turn. Let's stop wasting time.
- 2) Rebuild with the same architectural style as before, maintaining the beauty and feel of that era.
- 3) Take the bold step to make it 2 stories so that a large beautiful restaurant/bar and deck can be built on top.
- 4) Proshop with the starter, bathrooms and meeting rooms on the ground floor.

With the volume of golfers Rancho sees each day, both on the course and driving range and the fact that we are the only public course in the entire West LA area, a new facility like this will attract an abundance of people if managed properly. San Francisco had a similar project at Harding Park Golf Course. After they finished their new construction they were able to host the PGA Golf Championship a few years ago. Which brings me to my next point, which is to hire a professional organization with experience and vision in these projects, to take over and allow this facility to reach its full potential and serve as a landmark for future generations.

I strongly urge you to assign this project (problem) to the City's most talented public and private transactional advisors. We have an opportunity here to do something special for all of LA. Let's not miss this chance.

Thankyou for your time,

Dr. Thomas Wohlstadter



Re: Rancho Park Golf Course

1 message

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

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 10:53 AM

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 Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 10:39 AM Jeff Coggins

wrote

My name is Jeff Coggins, and I have been a continuous member of the Rancho Park Golf Club since 1993. I wanted to write to you about the ongoing renovation of the Rancho Park Clubhouse. The renovation has been significantly delayed, five years and counting. Despite attempts to find more information, there needs to be more clarity from the responsible parties, primarily our councilperson, Golf Advisory Board, or City Hall.

I would greatly appreciate any help you could give in explaining the reasons behind the long renovation process. The clubhouse serves as an essential community space, and its extended closure has been frustrating for many residents who rely on it and members of the various golfing clubs that call Rancho Park home.

Key points:

The property has remained vacant and in disrepair for five years with no resolution. The public restrooms are insufficient, and temporary food truck services were shuttered due to Public Health violations. This neglected site poses a significant hazard and eyesore to the surrounding community and the daily influx of 1,000 to 1,500 municipal golf patrons and the City's employees.

Year after year, the City has offered several excuses for the delays, evading a direct answer each time. Initially, it was attributed to COVID-19, asbestos, lead issues, a hard-to-acquire electrical panel, new ballroom plans, permit delays and financing concerns. Every six months brings a new rationale, yet transparency remains elusive. The City is losing hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual revenue that could be reinvested into its coffers.

Where do the funds collected by the city golf courses go? The city courses are in disrepair, and there are no plans to upgrade or repair them, yet they just increased prices.

I would appreciate any insights or direction you can offer, whether through your contacts or by pointing me toward available public records. If this matter matches your interests or current coverage areas, I would be more than happy to provide any additional context or help you in any way I can.

The renovation of Harding Park Golf Course in San Francisco is a model the city of Los Angeles should use to renovate Rancho Park's iconic clubhouse and golf course.

https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/harding-golf-course-reopens-after-1-2-million-renovation/article f7e16595-6f73-5297-b4ef-38a7f88ec01a.html

I urge the city to take this renovation seriously and consider the long-term benefits this project can provide for the city for many years to come. HOW CAN I HELP?

Jeff Coggins



Attn: Fiona Hutton....re Clubhouse, part two

1 message

James Weissenbach

Fri, Sep 20, 2024 at 6:51 AM

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Good morning, Ms. Hutton:

Yes, it's me again

I woke up in the middle of the night realizing that the deal that Mr. Plummer made with the city is even worse than I realized.

In her report, Miss Ramos stated that the city was in the process of reimbursing Mr. Plummer for all of the capital improvements, such as the asbestos and lead abatement and the electrical code violations, in the amount of several millions of dollars. But, according to Mr.Plummer, this reimbursement is in the form of rental credit. Are you aware of that?

Obviously, this means that the millions of dollars added onto his budget, because of the decrepit condition of the clubhouse, will be financed by Mr. Plummer, which means he will be paying interest on these extra millions of dollars. Now, I don't know anybody in their right mind who would've agreed to the initial deal that Mr. Plummer signed with the city but when you add this little factor, it makes the whole project completely impossible. Unless of course, Mr. Plummer happens to be independently wealthy and didn't care at all about being solvent at the end of the project.

The city must stop playing games with Mr.Plummer. The reality is that you if decide that Mr. Plummer is not the man for the job, and from my point of view, everything he's done has proven that,, I can't imagine you will find anybody else stupid enough to take this kind of deal. This guy may be an idiot, but he is your commission's idiot.

Have a good day

Jim Weissenbach

Sent from my iPhone



Re: attn: Fiona Hutton re: Rancho Park Clubhouse followup

1 message

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

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 3:54 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 Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 3:49 PM James Weissenbach Dear Ms. Hutton:

wrote:

First, I want to express my appreciation for your concern and leadership at today's meeting. I saw real outrage regarding at the lack of progress of the Clubhouse renovations.

While I was glad that many of us were able to speak to the committee and vent our frustrations, I wish we had waited to speak until after the committee made their reports. As a result, I am writing to rebut a few of those comments, in particular to Ms. Rachel Ramos' report.

In regards to the "history" of this project, I would like to correct Ms. Ramos' timeline: In 2018, I witnessed the beginning of the demolition of the clubhouse (not 2020) where I spoke with the new Contractor, a very chipper older gentleman. This gentleman told me, very excitedly, that he had just finished a project at the Airport "months ahead of schedule and that's whats going to happen here". Days later, he was gone. That is when they found the asbestos. I'm not sure the motivations behind Ms. Ramos' editing the timeline but I can only surmise that it doesn't look great when a project is at least two years longer than reported. Perhaps Ms. Ramos wasn't around during that time; I would think, however, that her predecessor (if there was one) would have noted this.

In addition, I cannot express the amount of frustration to hear that both Ms. Ramos and Mr. Tran were unaware of the progress of the project; that Ms. Ramos was not aware of the "financial issues" until recently; isn't this her job? Is Ms. Ramos over-burdened? Was this project not important enough?

While I am gratified to know that this meeting has caused enough of a stir to generate some outrage and motivation for action, I must express my doubts that what I heard today will be token words. Therefore, it is extremely important for you to find some sort of mechanism to share the progress to the interested public. Better yet, it would be wonderful to find a way for those interested to be further involved in moving the project along.

Available to chat at any time.

Best,

James Weissenbach



Re: Rancho Clubhouse

1 message

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

Fri, Sep 20, 2024 at 1:32 PM

Good afternoon,

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

On Fri, Sep 20, 2024 at 10:32 AM John Given

wrote

Thank you for listening to the call to action from public golfers and neighbors - concerned citizens all - at yesterday's RAP Board meeting. In particular, I want to thank Commissioners Hutton and Tran of the Concessions Task Force for taking the matter in hand and directing specific follow-up reporting for the staff and Concessionaire.

The Rancho Clubhouse is a valuable City asset and landmark with capacity for broad based services generating hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual revenue. Due to deferred maintenance, out of date infrastructure, prescribed City requirements and the intense post-pandemic markets, the Rancho Clubhouse has escalated into an investment problem much too big for the City's Concession model. The Task Force Commissioners appear to understand this well and have directed staff and TRP/Plummer to pursue follow-up solutions:

- a) Commercially financeable lease provisions providing term extensions, assignability, and other forms of security. We would expect that Mr. Plummer will propose such terms as well.
- b) Investment of City funds to offset the overall amount of private financing required. The investment can be warranted in the context of forecasted percentage rent and the total cost of City required improvements and operating conditions.
- Other forms of security, ie guarantees, that might be required by lenders and investors.

These considerations require intense exchanges of information among the parties and engagement of executive leadership in the City to consider solutions beyond the scope of what is possible in the experience governing typical RAP Department projects. We ask that this iterative process occur over the next several weeks so that a report to the RAP Board and Concessions Task Force on October 3 includes definitive action items and schedules leading to financing of the project or taking alternative actions.

Sincerely	,
-----------	---

John Given



Re: Arson Fire and Water stoppage at San Pascual park today

1 message

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

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 12:31 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 Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 12:12 PM Yael Pardess

wrote:

CD14

Mr Kevin De Leon Council Member Alice Roth North East Area Director Recreation and Park

I wanted to inform you of another arson attempt at San Pascual Park last night. It is the not the first and unfortunately not the last.

It could be arson or another unhoused fire that got out of hand. Either way, this wooded area is vulnerable and not well protected or maintained.

You can see the damage to the palm trees. Fyi there are many birds and bats living in these trees. They must be protected!

Additionally, This morning the water flow to the park was turned off, and the water in San Pascual became a trickle. The damn at the southern side of the park went all the way down to the ground.

This intentional water turn off will harm and kill all the creatures and plants that depend on it.

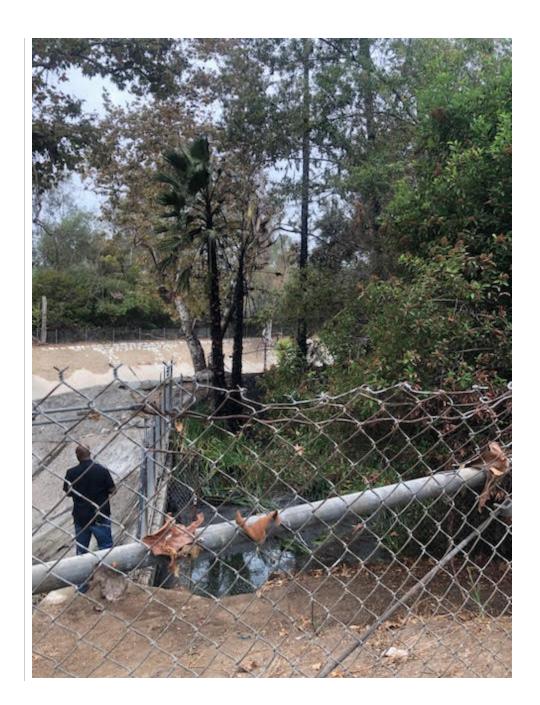
Please make sure it is turned on immediately and restore the water flow.

Thank you

Yael Pardess









Re: Bridge Housing on Riverside Drive, South Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners rap.commissioners@lacity.org To: Ricardo Gomez

Mon, Sep 23, 2024 at 7:58 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, Sep 21, 2024 at 8:26 PM Ricardo Gomez

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Please review the attached letter.

Thank you, Ricardo Gomez

RICARDO J. GOMEZ

September 21, 2024

Jimmy Kim, General Manager Recreation and Parks Commissioners Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department Office of Board of Commissioners 221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 350 Los Angeles, CA 90012

VIA EMAIL

RE: Bridge Home shelter located on Riverside Dr., South Griffith Park.

Dear General Manger Kim and Commissioners,

As a member of the community, I am grateful that you took the time to listen to our public comment during the June 20, July 18, and August 14 Commission meetings. Unfortunately, our community is disappointed that you did not find the substance of our concerns sufficient to deny renewing the lease for the Bridge Home shelter. We do take heart that you have held fast to requiring Council District 4 to implement the long-promised Ambassador Program. While this is some improvement, it does not constitute the necessary external policing needed to keep park patrons and neighbors safe from the criminal element which takes refuge at the shelter.

Hopefully, your request to the CAO's office for an audit will expose the financial condition of the Bridge Home and maybe find some funds to hire external policing. Regardless of the audit's results, 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.

Recreation and Parks Department Office of Board of Commissioners September 21, 2024 Page 2 of 2

Furthermore, Los Angeles' population is aging (See LA Times article "LA's Population is Aging Fast", July 2, 2024). We have waited years for an adult community center to be built on the site of the Bridge Home. What about our low-income seniors who will need the services of the center? Why are their needs being ignored? Now is the time to start building that community center.

I look forward to the day when the Commission removes the Bridge Home and returns the land to serve the recreation needs of our long neglected low-income community members.

Respectfully
Ricardo Gomez



Re: Del Rey NC letter to RAP

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 23, 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 Sun, Sep 22, 2024 at 6:46 PM

wrote:

Dear Mr. Kim,

Please see attached letter from the Del Rey Neighborhood Council (DRNC) board, which was approved at the September 12 DRNC board meeting. We look forward to discussing these topics further with you.

Regards,

Ravi Sankaran President Del Rey Neighborhood Council

Neighborhood Council Governing Board

Ravi Sankaran, President
Jeremy Schonwald, Vice-President
Sara Siegal, Secretary
Daniel A. Perez, Treasurer
Jillian Hegedus, Outreach
Jonathan Menendez, Communications
Pooja Bhagat, Land Use
Jason Damata, Area A
Barry Rosenthal, Area B
Michael Roth, Area C
Joanna Reynolds, Area D
Quenton Richards, Area E
Jeffrey Tropp, Area F
Maria delCarmen Sanchez, Area G
Greg Turquand, Area H

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



DEL REY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



Mailing Address: 4325 Glencoe Ave #9365 Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

September 14, 2024

Jimmy Kim, General Manager LA Recreation and Parks Department 221 N Figueroa Street Suite 350 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Sent via email

RE: Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) Partnerships with Los Angeles Certified Neighborhood Councils (NCs)

Dear Mr. Kim:

The Del Rey Neighborhood Council (DRNC) sincerely appreciates the invaluable role our parks and RAP staff play in maintaining our beautiful community spaces. These areas are vital to our community's well-being and serve as wonderful venues for various events and activities. In Del Rey, we are blessed to have a recreation center and a passive park in our boundaries that serve the neighborhood with distinction.

However, in partnering with our local parks facilities, and in collaborating with other NCs and other parks facilities in various regions throughout the city, we have encountered numerous instances in which facility directors are unfamiliar with NCs as part of the City family. Specifically, our NC and others have experienced:

- Different event fees being charged at different facilities for similar events
- Refundable deposits being charged at some facilities but not others
- Some parks but not others co-sponsoring similar events
- Parks staff unfamiliar with NC insurance coverage

Recognizing that community events are a primary tool for NCs to accomplish their mission of connecting city services to stakeholders, and recognizing that NC board members are volunteers, we hope that we can work with your team to optimize RAP-NC partnerships. We especially hope that enhancing our partnerships will help to amplify the work our dedicated RAP staff are doing in our neighborhoods.

Our Council is requesting a meeting with representatives from your staff and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) with the goal of writing a memo to all RAP facility directors

explaining the role of NCs and standardizing, as much as possible, event/programming partnerships.

We look forward to hearing back and to our continued successful partnership. Thank you for all you and your team do to make our City great.

Regards,

Ravi Sankaran President

Daniel A. Perez

Treasurer

CC:

Chinyere Stoneham, AGM Recreational Services, chinyere.stoneham@lacity.org
Thomas Soong, DONE Director of Government Relations, thomas.soong@lacity.org
Marian Ensley, Mayor's Office West Area Rep., marian.ensley@lacity.org
RAP Board of Commissioners, RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG



wrote:

Re: RAP MEETING - NEXT HEARING?

1 message

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

Mon, Sep 23, 2024 at 10:11 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Sep 23, 2024 at 10:07 AM Valeria G.

Please see below and advise per our call today. Thanks.

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

From: Valeria G.

Date: Sat, Sep 21, 2024, 6:58 PM

Subject: Re: RAP MEETING - NEXT HEARING?

To: LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Good evening, unfortunately I was not able to attend the meetings this week. Can you please confirm the proposed rates, let me know if they are for current borders or future borders, and let me know what is the applicable law to justify an increase of more than 3%?

Sincerely,

Valeria Granata Attorney at law

On Mon, Sep 16, 2024, 2:45 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote: Hello Valeria,

Thank you for your email. The next board meeting will be:

When: Thursday, September 19 from 9:00am to 11:00am.

Where: Palisades Recreation Center

851 Alma Real Dr.

Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

You may reach out to the Board of Commissioners Department at (213) 202-2640 for further inquiry.

Thank you,

Caro

On Sat, Sep 14, 2024 at 9:36 PM Valeria G. Good evening,

wrote:

I am writing in regards to the attached proposal.

When is the next meeting regarding the LAEC proposed rates increase, and where? Also, where and when we can file an opposition?

Regards,

Valeria Granata

--

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!



Re: Chatsworth park north and south.

1 message

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

Mon, Sep 23, 2024 at 12:18 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 Mon, Sep 23, 2024 at 11:59 AM leni calma

wrote:

Hi...hope all is well with you.

I am writing this letter to request for additional pickleball courts in our north side of the park. I know we already have at South Park. But this sport is getting Popular we need more courts to accommodate if not all but a lot of players in the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Leni C.

Get Outlook for iOS



Re:

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Sep 26, 2024 at 9:26 AM

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 Wed, Sep 25, 2024 at 4:16 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the forwarded message below.

Thank you,

Caro

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

From: Jeff Van Wagner

Date: Wed, Sep 25, 2024 at 2:31 PM

Subject

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

Cc: John Park

Please see attached correspondence concerning the playing of pickleball on the tennis court at the Palisades Recreation Center that is immediately adjacent to

Thank you.

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!





September 25, 2024

Via U.S. Mail and Email RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org

Jimmy Kim General Manager Department of Recreation and Parks 221 N Figueroa Street, Suite 350 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Impact of Pickleball Noise on the Park Family with Autistic Daughter

Dear Mr. Kim,

I represent John and Emily Park and their family, who reside at

The Park family have experienced significant noise disturbances caused by the recent decision to allow pickleball play on the tennis court immediately adjacent to their property. The pickleball has had a profoundly negative impact on the family, particularly Mr. Park's daughter, Caroline, who has severe autism and is acutely sensitive to loud noises.

Caroline's daily schooling and therapy sessions take place in the Park family's home, which backs up to the tennis court. The noise generated from pickleball play—characterized by repetitive, loud sounds—disrupts her ability to focus, learn, and participate in therapy. Caroline's sensitivity to noise is not merely an inconvenience; it can cause severe anxiety, meltdowns, and major setbacks in her educational and therapeutic progress.

Mr. Park had previously received assurances that pickleball play would not be permitted on this court. The noise is disruptive and significantly affects the calm and stable environment Caroline requires for her learning and therapy.

On behalf of the Park family, I request that you reconsider allowing pickleball play on the tennis court behind their home. The impact on Caroline and her family is considerable, and they require a quieter environment to ensure that her educational and therapeutic needs are met without further disruption.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We hope for your prompt response and a resolution that considers the well-being of all affected residents.

Very truly yours,

Jeff Van Wagner Attorney for the Park family





Re: Penmar Tennis Excessive Fee Increase: Punitive for Coaches, Unaffordable for the Community

1 message

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

Thu, Sep 26, 2024 at 1:31 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 Thu, Sep 26, 2024 at 12:19 PM Mike Layton Dear Los Angeles Parks Commissioners,

wrote:

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing to express serious concerns about the increase in tennis permit rental rates at Penmar Recreation, which is raising the cost October 1st, 2024 from \$8 per hour to \$35 per hour (daytime play) and \$45 per hour (night time play with lights), a 437.5% & 562.5% fee increase, respectively. While I understand the need to potentially adjust pricing to reflect the upgrades made to the facility, this sudden and dramatic price hike feels excessive, especially for a public facility intended to serve the community. Given that this facility is funded by taxpayers, it is crucial to ensure that any rate adjustments are fair, transparent, and considerate of the community's needs.

1. Timing and Communication

The notice received on September 16th, 2024, announcing the rate increase to \$35 per hour and \$45 per hour without advanced (months) written prior notice and detailed discussion is abrupt and disregards the community. Such a significant increase in pricing, particularly one that impacts regular users and businesses relying on the facility, requires a more thoughtful approach.

Changes of this magnitude should be communicated well in advance, ideally several months before implementation. This would provide stakeholders with the opportunity to review and respond to the proposed adjustments, offer feedback, and make any necessary changes to their plans. Clear communication about the reasons for the price increase and how the additional revenue will be utilized would also help justify the adjustments and maintain community support.

2. Moderate Price Increase to \$15 per Hour

Instead of an immediate increase to \$35/\$45 per hour, I recommend raising the hourly rate to \$15. This is nearly double the original rate, acknowledging the enhanced quality of the facilities while still being accessible to most users. We could consider a further increase in months ahead, but our goal should be to keep the courts affordable to encourage broad usage and fairness without overcharging. This approach also allows ample time for everyone to adjust and prepare.

3. Unreasonable Price Jump Compared to Neighboring City

The proposal to raise the rates to \$35/\$45 per hour is not only a substantial jump but also out of alignment with other nearby public tennis facilities. For instance, at all Santa Monica courts, coaching rates are:

- \$17 per hour for groups of fewer than 3 players
- \$25 per hour for groups of 4 or more players

Penmar Recreation Center is also a location listed within the LA Parks website and the tennis permit fees for 8 other locations are **\$15 per hour**. https://www.laparks.org/sports/tennis/pay

4. Impact on Coaches: A Punitive Increase

I am also particularly concerned about the \$35 and \$45 per hour abrupt rate increase for coaches because this seems deliberately punitive, especially for those who have kept their businesses afloat and remained loyal to the facility during the renovation period, when they were unable to access the courts for nearly a year. Coaches play a vital role in fostering a strong tennis community, introducing new players to the sport, and helping retain long term users. Targeting them with such a steep rate increase feels not only unfair but counterproductive to the long-term health of the facility and community.

I simply can't comprehend how any administrators could feel comfortable with a decision that appears to punish coaches who are essential to the community. A more balanced approach would be to set coaching rates around \$15 **per hour**, aligning with those at other nearby facilities within the LA Parks system. This would provide a fair increase without burdening those whose businesses depend on access to the courts.

5. A Call for Transparency and Justification

I believe it is also crucial to provide clear communication about how the increased rates will directly benefit the facility and its users. Transparency around how the funds will be used to maintain the courts, enhance services, or further improve the facility will help the community understand and accept the rationale for any new pricing structure presented.

In addition, tennis permit fees for all locations must be clearly posted on the LA Parks website to ensure transparency and fairness for the community. Currently, the LA Parks website lists eight locations with tennis permit fees set at \$15 per hour, establishing a clear standard that users rely on when planning their activities. If any changes to these fees are going to be implemented, they must be communicated openly and in advance on the website.

Please see the link: https://www.laparks.org/sports/tennis/pay

In summary, while I acknowledge the need for a price increase following the renovations, the proposed jump to \$35 per hour (daytime) and \$45 per hour (night time) is excessively steep and seems out of touch with the community's needs, especially considering the year-long wait for these improvements. A more reasonable and fair approach, such as aligning with standards from similar public facilities like those in Santa Monica or other LA Parks tennis facilities. Implementing a more modest increase to \$15 per hour will help keep the courts accessible and inclusive, while still reflecting the value of the upgrades made.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to discussing this further and finding a solution that benefits both the facility and its community of users.

Sincerely,

Mike Layton