

Hollenbeck Park Advisory Board Minutes of Meeting:

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 6:05pm

Submitted: by Stephanie Vendig and Armando Martinez, Staff- Ex Officio

PAB Members Present: Hollenbeck Classroom

Carlos Montes, Stephanie Vendig, Susana Betancourt, Don Baisa, and Vivian Escalante, Community representatives, Officer Cervantes, LAPD SLO Division, and Serapio Jarramillo, CalTrans Representative, Andre Branch & Peter Bautista, Supervisors, Maintenance Division, Joshua Smith, Park Ranger Officer, Armando Martinez, Ex Officio, staff. Quorum reached with five members.

Board Member Absent: Vilma Castro

*Director A. Martinez, welcomed community representatives and requested that Carlos Montes, lead out on the Agenda items and Carlos Montes accepted. Began at 6:05 pm

*Approval of Minutes of PAB meeting for July 9, were reviewed and approved by board. Vote: 5 yes, no: 0,

Community Reports: *Various Organizations. Updated the PAB members and community with local organizations who help the local unhoused community and people looking for mental health assistance.

*Senior Lead Officer Cervantes, a representative of LAPD gave an update on crime and issues in the Boyle Heights community. He reported removing the unhoused from areas where they hang out is not easy. Also, recommended using 311 to get services for the unhoused community. Also update PAB on special events such as a community five mile run schedule on November 23, 2023 from 8am to 12pm.

*Pedro Bautista & Andre Branch, Supervisors, RAP Maintenance, Shared various projects moving forward at Hollenbeck Park, such as the daily maintenance, clean-up of restrooms and taking out the trash three times per day. Updated the community on the trimming, landscape and other improvements in the cleaning and upkeep of the buildings at Hollenbeck Park. Also the fixing of the three fountainhead pumps which controls fountains.

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- Sarapio Jaramillo, the CalTrans Representative, Shared that he is working on relocating unhoused people from the Caltrans area about twice a week. Also requested that the PAB members use the Cal Trans Service Requests on line to get unhoused removed from CalTrans property and to remove graffiti on CalTrans walls.
- Joshua Smith, Officer with the Park Rangers of Rec. & Parks, Requested that we continue to place Job Orders to remove the Unhoused Encampments and for emergencies to call LAPD, 911, and for the Unhoused issues to contact LASA and CD 14 to get medical attention for Unhoused. Also gave us the dispatch number which is 323-644-3661.

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Matters Under Board Consideration:

1. First Item: Susana Betancourt as chair of the Clean-up committee Saturday, April 26, 2025 for Earth Day. The board agreed to the date. Vote: 5 yes, no: 0
2. Second Item: The Board voted on continuing the partnership plans with Roosevelt High School and the CD 14 Field Office on the high schools involvement. Stephanie Vendig proposed inviting the Biology teachers from Roosevelt High School to start the project of a Biology lab at Hollenbeck Park. Meeting with the staff and PAB volunteers and walking around the Lake to identify objectives and methods for carrying out the project. Vote: 5 yes, no: 0
3. Review of the Historic Hollenbeck Band shell Renovation Project . Built circa 1940's We need to work on various funding for security, programming and renovation needed to make the band shell functional again. A motion was made to write Mayor Karen Bass a letter requesting funding for renovation of the historic band shell. The motion passed. Vote: 5 yes, and no: 0.
4. Fourth Item: Based on Don Baisa's observations, a motion was made to develop strategies to address the crumbling infrastructure and ways to improve the park. Some examples are eroding retainer walls on the south side of the park, the crumbling bridge due to being locked up and the need for new modern drinking fountains. Vote: 5 yes, and no: 0

Informational Reports:

1. Director's Report: Armando Martinez, shared with the PAB and community, the current status of the restrooms and their maintenance. Also updated the board on the Fall programs. Finally, the director wanted to thank CD 14 for the five major activities which were achieved this year with the help of Kevin de Leon, the Mayor and the Department of Street Services and Engineering for the 5 million Beautification project and the new 25 million dollars for the Hollenbeck Lake Restoration which we hope begins in the Spring of 2025. Highlights of 2024: 1. The July 4, Fireworks Celebration, 2. The new 120 trees planted. 3. The New Sidewalks installed around Hollenbeck Park, 4. The over 40 new Street Lamps installed, and lastly, the new beautification planter and new Hollenbeck welcome sign.

Next Meeting: to be Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.