

PARK, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, June 11, 2009

A regular meeting of the Park, Recreation and Community Services Board was held in the Council Chambers in City Hall of Burbank 275 East Olive Avenue, Burbank, California. The meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm by Garen Yegparian, Chairperson.

ROLL CALL

Present Members Yegparian, Ferguson, Layfer and DePalo **Absent...** Member Prouty
Staff Present... Director Chris Dasté, Deputy Directors Linda Oseransky, Marisa Garcia, Teri Stein, Jan Bartolo; Recording Secretary Jessica Sandoval

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes approved for May (3-0)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received regarding aquatics.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Several individuals spoke regarding the Roller Hockey Program and one individual spoke on an Aquatics issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jess Talamantes was honored and recognized for his service on the Park, Recreation and Community Services Board, and was congratulated for his election onto City Council. Upcoming events were announced.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers

Mr. Ferguson moved that Mr. Prouty be elected Chair and the motion was seconded by Mr. Layfer. Mr. Layfer moved that Mr. Ferguson be elected Vice-Chair and the motion was seconded by Mr. DePalo. Mr. Ferguson moved that Mr. DePalo be elected Secretary and the motion was seconded by Mr. Layfer.

Given that Mr. Prouty (Chair) was absent, Mr. Ferguson (Vice-Chair) took over the meeting as acting Chair.

ACTION Boardmembers elected: Chair-Mr. Prouty, Vice-Chair-Mr. Ferguson, Secretary-Mr. DePalo

2. Board Liaison Selections

Mr. Ferguson relayed to the Board that Mr. Prouty preferred to stay on Youth Board and would be interested in the Golf Course Greens Committee. After discussion, Boardmembers determined the following appointments:

Youth Board: Mr. Prouty (alternate Mr. Yegparian)

BAF: Mr. Layfer (alternate Mr. DePalo)

Golf Course Greens Committee: Mr. Prouty (alternate Mr. Layfer)

Senior Board: Mr. DePalo (alternate Mr. Ferguson)

Child Care Committee: Mr. DePalo (alternate Mr. Ferguson)

Advisory Council on Disabilities: Mr. Ferguson (alternate Mr. Yegparian)

Youth Task Force: Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Layfer

Transportation Task Force: Mr. Yegparian (alternate Mr. DePalo)

The Art in Public Places liaisons would be discussed in August with Mr. Prouty in attendance.

ACTION Note appointments as agreed by the Board and bring back Art in Public Places Committee item back at August meeting.

3. Senior Board Presentation

Mr. Peter McGrath, Senior Board Chair, discussed the duties and activities of the Senior Board. The Senior Board focuses on many important issues relative to and affecting seniors in the community. He gave an extensive listing of groups that the Senior Board works with and provides input to, as well as responsibilities that the Board takes on to improve senior living. He noted that senior employment is one important issue for which there will be an upcoming Career Fair in September. This will provide seniors with available opportunities as well as information on how to go about getting a job. Another issue that was recently addressed was parking fees, for which he proposed a senior parking rebate program to the Board. The outcome of the proposal was participation by

4 out of 5 lots in parking fee discounts to seniors. Other responsibilities and duties include engaging in consultation and studies of the needs of the aged, and evaluation of all available resources. An invitation was presented to Ken Johnson, for example, to address concerns regarding the timing of street crossings, parking issues, curb cuts, etc. that affect seniors in Burbank. The Board was also responsible for providing the senior perspective (via the Senior Board Chair) when recruiting for the new Director position. The Board serves as liaison between local organizations and governmental agencies, which have an interest in aging adults (such as the County Agency on Aging, Advisory Council on Disabilities, Burbank SOSS, Youth Board, Transportation Task Force, Burbank Nutrition Committee and Joslyn House Committee). They constantly provide input and recommendations. Senior Board members also act as judges for the Older Americans Volunteer Service Awards for individuals who contribute outstanding service to their community. They receive monthly reports on senior programs and activities and developments in other communities. Mr. McGrath noted that Burbank has an outstanding senior program. In response to a question from a Boardmember, Mr. McGrath asked for support from the Park, Recreation and Community Service Board on specific items that were on the horizon. Two such items are the computer lab and exercise room. The Boardmembers thanked Mr. McGrath for his years of dedication and service, as well as for his work in providing for the needs of seniors in the community.

ACTION Note and File

4. Park Patrol Report

Ms. Oseransky reported that the Park Patrol detail is comprised of one officer dedicated to our parks 4 days a week, from September-June, for 10 hours per day. The other 3 days have been left to the regular patrol units. For the last few summers, the Park Patrol detail consisted of a Park Patrol officer assigned 3 days per week for 12 hours a day and supplemented by a School Resource Officer (SRO). The department appreciated the Police Department's commitment to the program. However, there were several issues at the parks and it was staff's desire to see what the value of a full time Officer would be. For several years in row, staff applied for Park Patrol funding through congressional grant awards and in 2008, the City was awarded the Edward Burn Memorial Discretionary Grant through Congressman Schiff's office for \$223,587. The funding would cover the overtime salaries for existing sworn officers to cover the remaining shifts (September through June, 7 days per week). It was estimated that under the current situation, this funding would provide support for a maximum of 2 1/2 years. Ideally, officers would be able to provide reports and information on issues that they encountered in order to gather statistical data, which would support 7 day per week coverage. Lieutenant Dilibert explained that one of Park Patrol's primary duties is securing the parks. Officers secure and patrol 24 sites, 14 with bathrooms and 11 with gates. The Park, Recreation and community Services Department secures between 7-11 of those. Due to budget cuts, the program has been reduced to one Officer (Cindy Guillen-Gomez) and the other Park Detail position, as well as a mall Officer, has been eliminated. The current plan for Officer Guillen-Gomez to work Monday-Wednesday and SRO Jimenez to work Thursday-Saturday left Sunday the only uncovered day of the week. As of July 1, it appears one of the Officers will have to be put back on patrol. It is undetermined if the SRO will remain on the program. The Grant, which was projected to cover unmanned hours for 2 1/2 years, may go much faster than that under the new circumstances. The Police Department will be dealing with the possibility of altering hours that the Officers are working to maximize the Grant dollars (shorter shifts to allow for better coverage). The Department's Gang Detail is also very active at looking at taggers at the parks, sports related issues, drinking in the park and smoking, which has been reduced in the parks.

In response to Boardmember's questions, Lt. Dilibert explained that the regular patrol units used to patrol the parks prior to the Park Patrol program as part of their regular beat. This changed because there was an increase in service calls during patrol, which did not allow Officers the time to cover the park detail. In addition, park usage increased and at one time, there was more gang activity at the parks. He added that different cities have different programs in place; for example, the City of Glendale has a Park Ranger Program (not Police) Since there will not be a dedicated Park Patrol Officer, regular units will drive by the sites as part of their patrol pattern. Depending on the circumstances, it takes approximately 6-10 hours for an Officer to patrol the parks. Lt. Dilibert added that improvements such as the automated timer lighting at the parks has been a tremendous help in maintaining a safer park and deterring crime.

ACTION Note and File

5. Work Program

Johnathan Frank presented the Department's Work Program. Highlights of completed projects for the 2008-09 fiscal year included: the completed art installations at DeBell Clubhouse; the distribution of 250 annual free trees; the planting of an additional 1000 trees with a special focus on Olive Avenue; Projected ridership for Burbank Bus for 2008 was 83,250 commuters, 462,390 rides for Senior and Disabled, and 45,735 rides on Got Wheels; completed the construction and had a grand opening for Ovrom Park; completed the renovation of Hank Riggio Playground in Winter 2008; reconstructed the Starlight Bowl stairs in April 2009; the new play equipment and shade structures project at Gross Park was recently completed; automatic satellite lighting control system at Pacific Park was installed this year; implemented a variety of senior citizen programs and continued to hold programs such as 12 health screening per year, 30 special education seminars and 4 special events for community volunteers; continued development of Starlight Bowl sponsorship and banner programs; just recently completed the facilitation of the Cultural Arts Masterplan which was accepted by City Council on June 9; and the Grand Opening of DeBell Clubhouse in January 2009. Highlights of some major items for the 2009-10 Work Program include: art installation and landscaping project at Five Points by November of 2009; develop and install new park signage and landscaping for the renaming of Pacific Park to Larry Maxam Memorial Park; staff will continue to work with

the City of Glendale and the National Guard to consolidate the Burbank and Glendale armories; commence with the construction of the Joslyn computer lab anticipated to commence in October 2009; continue further enhancement of tree canopy coverage by planting an additional 250 trees; take delivery of first hydrogen hybrid transit vehicle in Southern California by November/December 2009; initiate construction of the retaining barrier wall and road at Wildwood Canyon which should go out to bid by mid-summer; continue irrigation design at Carson Park; complete the installation of recycled water at the campground to be able to begin planting trees at this location; begin design and competitive bid process for new play equipment at Brace Park, Maple Street playground and Santa Anita Playlot by September 2009; return to City Council with step one in developing a pilot community garden; evaluate the availability of reprogramming the footprint of the Roller Hockey Rink at Foy Park; develop and implement programs at Ovrom Park; implement recommendations made by the Aquatics Renovation Analysis Report.

In response to questions from the Board, the following information was provided. A conceptual feasibility study has been completed and it is staff's goal to get recycled water at the campground to allow for planting of trees that will mature to provide shade. Temporary fencing at Wildwood Canyon has been removed and restoration of the eroded slopes has been completed. Staff in the process of renovating irrigation systems. The secondary project (to open up the rest of the trail system) should go out to bid mid summer. It is staff's intent, during the 90-day trial period at the Roller Hockey Rink, that the \$30,000 fund staffing to keep facility open as-is for drop-in play. This would give us time to release an RFP seeking an operator to run a league at the facility. A Professional Services Agreement is being executed with a design firm for the Larry Maxam Park project and staff hoped to have award and construction underway by Veterans Day.

ACTION Note and File

6. Robert Gross Park Project

Ms. Bartolo reported that City Council allocated funding to remove and replace the existing play equipment at Robert Gross Park as well as the installation of two new shade structures. The project has been completed on time and within budget. The playground equipment style is called EVOS and is designed for children to use their imaginations. The opening of the new play area was timed with the Summer Daze camp commencement, to the delight of the young participants.

ACTION Note and File

7. Going Dark for July Meeting

Boardmembers agreed to go dark in July.

ACTION The Board will go dark in July and reconvene in August

OLD BUSINESS

1. Aquatics Steering Committee

Ms. Garcia reported that staff is finalizing the renovation analysis that the Architect put together in preparation for the study session on September 23rd. Part of staff's presentation to City Council will focus on facility aspects as well as programming. There will be discussion on programming the pools for the traditional 3 summer months and an extended season as well as a proposal for year round use. Staff is working on having not only operational and maintenance costs but also personnel costs associated with each of those options.

Mr. Yegparian asked about the Aquatics Steering Committee. Ms. Garcia did not know if the Committee would continue since the tasks they were assigned to review have been completed. If City Council directs staff to continue with the Steering Committee, staff would bring the item back to the Board to appoint an additional liaison. .

ACTION Note and File

2. City Council Agenda Items

Mr. Dasté reported on the following: May 19- With a 5-0 vote, City Council authorized a revised agreement with the California Air Resources Board and Proterra for the construction and demonstration of a hydrofuel cell transit bus; May 21- All items on the discussion papers and Budget Study Session were approved including Larry L. Maxam Park, extension of the Aquatics season and the Brace Park Irrigation Project; June 2- Although not an item on the Council agenda, approximately 30 speakers addressed Council during oral communications regarding a coach suspension in the youth sports program (Council directed staff to call an emergency BAF meeting and hear an appeal). An internal review of the process will be conducted and the Board will be kept informed of the outcome.

ACTION Note and File

REPORTS

1. Ovrom Park

Mr. Layfer reported on the Grand Opening of the Park and the ceremony for Bud Ovrom.

Note and File

2. Cultural Arts Masterplan

Mr. Ferguson reported that the Plan was accepted by City Council and he looked forward to seeing a continued arts movement.

ACTION Note and File

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

None

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND STAFF

Mr. Yegparian asked if Ovrom Park should be removed from the list.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

CHAIR: _____ **Date:** _____

SECRETARY: _____ **Date:** _____