

PARK, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, February 12, 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, Talamantes, and Layfer (6:18) **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 February (3-0)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming events were announced and two youth volleyball teams from the City's 2008 Youth Volleyball League were recognized.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Colony Theatre Annual Report

Barbara Beckley and Trent Steelman, Artistic Director and Managing Director (respectively) from the Colony Theatre Company, provided an overview of the 2007/08 season. Although the theatre was slightly short of meeting their goal of attracting 26,000 patrons, they either accomplished or exceeded their other Year 3 goals. They briefly reported on subscriptions, improvements to signage and the exterior façade, events, plays, community usage, involvement in the Cultural Arts Masterplan, local school participation and opportunities that they provide for local youth.

ACTION Note and File

2. Chandler Shared Use

David Kriske, Community Development Department's Senior Planner, explained Council's request to explore possible safety issues on the bikeway due to shared use between bicyclists and other users. Council requested that staff look into making physical changes to make the bikeway safer, as well as the possibility of changing the name to reflect a slower, more leisurely activity area. Five varying alternatives were presented visually and discussed (from leaving the bikeway as is to removing all painted lines and creating one open path for all users to share). There were costs associated with all changes presented which ranged from minimal (adding signage) to very costly (re-striping or adding speed bumps). There were some liability concerns associated with suggestions to use a non-standard striping scheme and issues with name changes due to contractual obligations. Mr. Kriske reported that those present at the *Friends Of Chandler* meeting acknowledged that there were some users who had difficulty sharing the pathway and did not want to cooperate, however, they felt that this was only a small percentage of all users. Since the bikeway opened in 2004, there has only been one reported accident on the path.

The Boardmembers agreed that informing the public on the pathway's original intention was vital and one of the biggest challenges. Some felt that the lack of education on the basic rules between bikers and walkers who share a path (such as alerting others when passing, moving out of the way of oncoming traffic, and maintaining communication with others) might contribute to some conflicts. There was concern in adding or changing striping, which would restrict the path even more and take away from useable space. Members agreed that posting the Police Department's non-emergency number would be beneficial. A suggestion was made to install signage at the major intersections explaining the original intention of the path.

ACTION Note and File

3. Budget Kick-off for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Ms. Garcia reported on the Global Financial Crisis and its impact on California's economy, as well as the effect on the City of Burbank. To address the current economic situation, each department has been mandated to submit 5% budget reductions that are durable and affect programs that have the least impact on the public. Any new expenditures and revenues will be heavily reviewed. The first budget reduction scenario (of just over \$600,000) was submitted on February 5. Staff was also asked to submit new budget requests, upgrades to positions, capital outlay requests, revenue projections for 2009-10/2010-11, and fee schedule changes. The Financial Services Department will give feedback on the reduction submittals and staff will then present them to the Board. Submittals for increases in Materials, Services and Supplies, proposed budget worksheets, Professional Service Agreements, and contract listings are due by February 19. Staff will submit Capital Improvement Project Forms at the end of February, Work Program highlights and goals in late March, and Performance Measures in April. The Department's Budget Study session before Council will take place in mid-May, the Budget Public Hearing will take place on June 2, and the Budget will be adopted on June 9.

The Boardmembers commented on the current economic situation. A request was made to provide the members with more detailed listings of where the \$600,000 (5%) cut would be coming from within the department, as well as more detailed listings on capital outlay requests, proposed fee schedule changes, Work Program Goals and Highlights, and Professional Service Agreements.

ACTION Note and File

4. BMX Feasibility Study

Ms. Stein explained that interest in allowing BMX biking at the skatepark had been brought up at a Burbank Bicycle Masterplan meeting by a group of young community members. City Council requested that staff investigate the feasibility of doing so and on March 3rd staff will present their report to City Council. Staff consulted the City Attorney's office to interpret the California Government Code on Skateboarding and Bicycling. BMX biking fell under the Code as a hazardous activity. In addition, the City would need to receive design immunity, which involves the architectural firm attesting that the design of the facility could accommodate both skateboarding and biking. The firm was approached and did not give the City design immunity and would not recommend joint use. A professional architect would need to redesign the facility in order to grant design immunity. Joint usage might involve a redesign of the entire skatepark, including removal of fencing, creating additional cement areas, new barriers, replacing the fencing, import soil to expand the perimeter (since it was at an above grade elevation), irrigation modifications, and a staffed facility. There were concerns about the fencing at the facility. The idea of removing the fencing altogether and making the facility an unsupervised location lead to concerns regarding safety. This would also result in a loss of revenue. Staff is conducting surveys of other city's facilities, maintenance issues, and equipment worn.

Boardmembers discussed the feasibility and challenges of joint use at the skatepark. Their individual input included: a desire to see the cost figures associated with alterations to the facility, consideration that the changes needed were not feasible with the budget reductions that the City and Department are currently faced with, the feeling that supervision was crucial in these extreme sports, the need to be responsible to the community regardless of liability release, the significance of the original designer's opinion, and the lack of available funding for such projects through the anticipated stimulus package.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Aquatics Steering Committee

Ms. Garcia reported that the Committee would be meeting on the 23rd to look at conceptual designs from the Architect. Staff would like to present the initial designs and rough cost estimates to City Council for further direction. The Committee's and Community's input has been taken into consideration and the options are representative of their desires. Staff will bring the item back to the Park Board prior to presenting to City Council.

ACTION Note and File

2. City Council Agenda Items

Mr. Dasté reported that on January 27, City Council approved the Landscape Structures contract for play equipment and a shade structure for Gross Park. In the past, the Department has used the "piggyback" system where we have received a discount via other cities purchases from a particular vendor. In the future, staff will go out to bid on all projects to ensure the lowest price has been found. On January 27, the NRPA Youth Football Grant passed 5-0 and the renaming of Pacific Park passed 4-0. On March 3rd, BMX and the Starlight Bowl Sponsors will be presented to City Council.

ACTION Note and File

REPORTS

1. L.A. River Masterplan

Ms. Garcia reported that the Masterplan had been completed and the City of Los Angeles was looking for funding to put the project into motion. There will be a more detailed report at the next Board meeting.

ACTION Note and File

2. Park Detail Report

In response to an inquiry by a Boardmember, Ms. Oseransky clarified the notation on the Park Detail report regarding a private enterprise. An email was received regarding the possible use of our facilities for an organized paid sports program. The enterprise in question will no longer be conducting business at our facilities.

At Mr. Layfer's request, the Park Patrol Officer would be scheduled to attend a future meeting.

ACTION Note and File

3. Cultural Arts Masterplan

Mr. Ferguson reported that the Committee is finalizing the plan and will be inviting community members to review it soon. It will then be presented to the Board and City Council.

ACTION Note and File

4. Youth Task Force

Mr. Layfer reported that the Task Force had adopted a mission statement. Ms. Stein reported that staff will be going to City Council with a recommendation that \$20,000 go towards Challenge Day.

ACTION Note and File

5. Ovrom Park

Ms. Bartolo reported that progress on the park continues to develop and the building is nearing completion.

ACTION Note and File

6. Trails Committee

Mr. Yegparian mentioned that they outlined the signage they would like to see on the trails.

ACTION Note and File

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

None

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND STAFF

Mr. Yegparian noted that he was no longer the primary on the Youth Task Force and the agenda would be revised. Mr. Talamantes asked staff to put out an invitation to the Department's various committees to make a presentation before the Board. Mr. Yegparian mentioned an individual he had spoken to commented that the Meals on Wheels program was not geared towards the health needs of some participants. Ms. Oseransky responded that the County Grant had strict guidelines as far as salt content, trans fat, etc. and staff could not deviate from those guidelines. Home delivered meals and congregate meals had the same restrictions. She was not sure what specifically the individuals concern was. At the request of Mr. Dasté, Mr. Yegparian would attempt to get a contact number for the individual so staff could explain the mandated guidelines to them directly. It was clarified that the water inside of the Verdugo Pool came from recent rainfall. Mr. Yegparian asked that the armory and expanding Pacific Park be added to a future agenda for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

CHAIR: _____

Date: _____

SECRETARY: _____

Date: _____