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PARK, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

THURSDAY, February 14, 2008

A regular meeting of the Park, Recreation and Community Services Board was held this date in the Council Chambers in City Hall of Burbank, 275 East Olive Avenue, Burbank, California. The meeting was called to order at 6:25 pm by Todd Layfer, Chairperson.

ROLL CALL	
Present.....	Members Layfer, Talamantes, Yegparian, Ferguson and Prouty
Absent.....	None
Staff Present.....	Director Eric Hansen; Deputy Directors Garth Nelson, Teri Stein, and Linda Oseransky; Administrative Analyst Marisa Garcia; Recreation Supervisor Carol Mercado; Recording Secretary Caroline Arrechea
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	January meeting minutes approved (4-0 with Mr. Ferguson abstaining due to absence)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The pledge of allegiance was recited
WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS	None
ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	None
ANNOUNCEMENTS	None
	Announcements included the following: Applications are available for Older Americans Volunteer Service Awards; Walk with the Mayor on February 23 rd ; Burbank was selected as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People and were the only City in L.A. County to receive this distinction; Spring Break activities from March 24-28 include a Fun Daze Camp at McCambridge Recreation Center, Nature half-day camps at Stough Canyon Nature Center and drop-in activities at Verdugo Park.
NEW BUSINESS	1. <u>Glendale Trails Masterplan</u> Carol Mercado reported that the City of Glendale has conducted workshops to review the existing and proposed trail system in Glendale. She introduced Jeffrey Weinstein, Project Manager of the Glendale Trails Masterplan, who made a presentation discussing three major areas; the Verdugo Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains and San Rafael Hills. He passed out trail maps and

gave an overview of the Masterplan. His powerpoint presentation included photos of all three areas. The process included review of the maps by the public to mark areas where they would be interested in riding and hiking. They preferred to have loop trails and destination points. Mr. Weinstein expressed interest in promoting trails that parallel fire roads so as to limit conflict between different hikers, bikers, equestrian users. Glendale has 32,000 acres in the Verdugo Mountains, and the three areas of top priority are Brand Park (redoing trails systems, signage and kiosks), open space for the public, and areas where the public can stage and park vehicles to avoid conflicts in neighborhoods. The desire is to also add picnic tables and benches in areas for the public. In January, Glendale City Council adopted 3 trail maps and are now looking to develop masterplan guidelines. They are also looking at funding sources such as grants or partnerships since funding is limited. Through this effort, Glendale has been able to form partnerships with surrounding jurisdictions, and it will allow consistency in rules and regulations.

Mr. Talamantes asked if the Committee had given thought to signage involving the Boy Scouts or high schools. Mr. Weinstein noted that Rangers use Eagle Scouts for signage and that Grants sometimes give extra points to projects working with youth groups. They will also have volunteers help with maintenance of trails and as trail patrols. Mr. Yegparian noted that Glendale has a large amount of the mountains and Burbank has the facilities to compliment those areas. Mr. Weinstein added that Glendale and Burbank are partnering on the submittal of an application for the State Parks Department for the Hike Verdugo Event, in the hopes of receiving an award at the upcoming conference. There have been a number of open space acquisitions recently and within the last couple of months, a Burbank developer has donated approximately 180 acres of open space. The City of Los Angeles has acquired some in La Tuna Canyon as well, which can hopefully be linked together for the benefit of both people and animals in the area.

ACTION

Note and File

2. Little Theater Annual Report

ACTION

Item postponed until next month.

3. Aquatics Design Update

Eric Hansen provided a brief update. He explained that City Council had set aside funds to initiate the process of looking at both the Verdugo Park and McCambridge Park pools, which are over 50 years old, as well as the possibility of developing new facilities. Staff developed a Request for Quotation to provide consulting services to evaluate the current facilities and propose new facilities to meet the City's current needs. Four proposals were received mid-January. Later this month, City staff will be interviewing the four firms. Once interviews are completed, one firm will be selected. The Aquatics Design Group will initiate meetings sometime in late march. Mr. Layfer and Mr. Talamantes are the Board's representatives.

<p>ACTION</p>	<p>Note and File</p> <p>4. <u>Carson Agreement</u> Mr. Hansen reported that City Council approved a new, long-term (25 year) lease agreement with the City of Los Angeles for a 9.4 acre portion of Johnny Carson Park. They also approved a third party agreement with Providence High School concerning the continued access and use of the parking lot facility. The agreement will be presented to the Los Angeles Park and Recreation Board for their approval in March.</p>
<p>ACTION</p>	<p>Note and File</p> <p>2. <u>Cultural Arts Commission</u> Mr. Nelson reported that staff responded to City Council's request to research the potential of developing a Cultural Arts Commission. Staff initiated a survey and received 15 responses from major cities. Nine of them had some sort of Cultural Arts Commission. Six others did not, however, they supported the arts through programs, classes, and oversight. Three of nine also have existing Cultural Arts departments. City Council asked that staff return with additional information, which they will do in April.</p> <p>Mr. Layfer asked how this Commission would fit in with the others in the City. Mr. Nelson felt the intent of this Commission was to bring together the cultural community and allow them a vehicle to grow and develop arts within Burbank. Mr. Hansen added there have been discussions about creating an umbrella organization to bring the entities together under.</p>
<p>ACTION</p> <p>OLD BUSINESS</p>	<p>Note and File</p> <p>1. <u>Griffith Park Masterplan /Los Angeles River Revitalization Update</u> Ms. Garcia reported that the Griffith Park Masterplan Working Group met on February 4th. They completed all the chapters and consolidated them into one document. The next step is to write an executive summary, prepare an environmental impact report check-off list and format the document. The next meeting takes place March 3rd. There is no update on the L.A. River Revitalization project.</p> <p>Mr. Talamantes asked about the Mount Lee purchase that has been on the news. Ms Garcia noted that the working group is opposed to any further development and she would report any further discussion on the subject at the next meeting. Mr. Yegparian felt that anyone trying to build in the area would come up against much opposition.</p>
<p>ACTION</p> <p>REPORTS</p>	<p>Note and File</p> <p>1. <u>Ovrom Park</u> Mr. Hansen reported that the project is on schedule; trenching has been completed and the boards are up. The anticipated completion date is still in October.</p>

<p>ACTION</p>	<p>Note and File</p> <p>2. DeBell Clubhouse Project Ms. Bartolo reported that a substantial amount of water accumulated on site due to the recent rains. The northbound side of Walnut would be out of commission for approximately 66 days as of February 22nd. The project is approximately 30 days behind schedule. There were some issues with the fill found which was critical to the foundation. Mr. Yegparian asked if there was signage up announcing the road closure. There was not, but it could be done. Mr. Ferguson asked if there had been any impacts on the Nature Center. Mr. Bartolo responded that the Nature Center had fared well with the weather.</p>
<p>ACTION</p>	<p>Note and File</p>
<p>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD</p>	<p>Mr. Talamantes attended the Mary Brady naming ceremony and felt it was a pleasant event. He also attended the skatepark anniversary and was impressed to see so many parents in attendance. He reminded everyone about the campaign to raise funds for the athletic fields at the high schools and asked for community support.</p> <p>Mr. Yegparian asked about recycling bins in parks. Ms. Bartolo explained that there are several containers in the parks. They, unfortunately, are vandalized often. There are other internal logistical problems with pick up, maintenance and placement as well. The intent is to have a minimum of one can in each park. Mr. Hansen added that when there are special events or activities, additional containers are brought in.</p> <p>Mr. Ferguson thanked Mr. Hansen for his leadership and for being a mentor on behalf of the young people in Burbank. Mr. Layfer thanked him for his years of service.</p> <p>Mr. Layfer announced a new Park, recreation and Community Services Director had been hired, Chris Dasté.</p>
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.</p> <p>_____ Date: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secretary</p> <p>_____ Date: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair</p>

