



## STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** October 4, 2016  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Director of Community Services  
**Subject:** Role of the Recreation and Parks Commission in the Public Process Related to the 5 Acre Parcel

**Attachments:** 1. Draft of Recreation and Parks Commission Regular Meeting Minutes August 23, 2016

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### INTRODUCTION

The Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) has expressed an interest in providing a public forum at their meetings for the 5 acre parcel that is bounded by Third St., Foothill Rd. and Alden Dr. The scope of this public forum would be to explore a vision for the site, only if it were to become a park.

### DISCUSSION

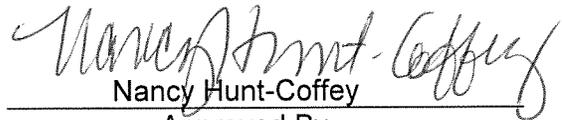
The concept of the RPC having involvement in the development of a vision for the 5-acre parcel was discussed at the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on August 23, 2016. Since there had already been direction given to the Community Development Department by Council to explore possible uses of this property, the issue was brought to the Recreation and Parks Commission liaisons Mirisch and Gold, and Recreation and Parks Commissioners Bilak and Gersh. The Council liaisons expressed concerns about creating a duplicate process to the public process that is being developed by Community Development. The Council liaisons indicated that the role of the RPC as a public forum should only be as a place where citizens can share their views in the event that it is determined that this parcel should be made into a park. The liaisons also emphasized that in this role the Commission could not be prescriptive or express an opinion for or against having the property developed as a park.

### FISCAL IMPACT

There would be no fiscal impact to this request.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Unless directed otherwise, the RPC will proceed with establishing a time in their meetings to act as a public forum for the possible development of the 5 acre parcel as a park.

  
Nancy Hunt-Coffey  
Approved By

# **Attachment 1**



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS  
455 N. Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210  
Room 280-A

**RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 23, 2016  
2:00 p.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: August 23, 2016/ 2:04 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gaby Alexander, Friends of Beverly Gardens Park.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Friedman, Rosoff, Anderson Vice Chair Gersh,  
Chair Bilak

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Gisele Grable, Teri Angel, Ken Pfalzgraf,  
Stephanie Harris, Tim Duen, Ilene Knebel

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the Agenda.

Speaker: David Gingold (Taken later in the meeting)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By order of the Chair, the Agenda was approved as amended. (TABS will be taken in the order as follows: 1, 14 (one item), 5, 3, 4, 11, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Commission Special Meeting of June 28, 2016.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Rosoff, SECONDED by Commissioner Friedman to adopt the minutes as amended (5/0).

AYES: Commissioners Friedman, Rosoff, Anderson, Vice Chair Gersh,  
Chair Bilak

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

CARRIED

## REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

None

## CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Proceedings for Inclusion onto Local Register of Historic Properties for the Lawn Bowling Green at Roxbury Memorial Park (Taken as last item)

This item was previously discussed with the Cultural Heritage Commission Liaisons. Staff is seeking a formal recommendation for the Lawn Bowling Green as a potential nominee for inclusion onto the Local Register of Historic Properties.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Rosoff, SECONDED by Commissioner Friedman based upon Commission discussion that the requirements for Cultural Heritage designation are not met and any such designation would hamstring the City from using the property for other purposes should that become necessary, it is the recommendation of the Commission that the Lawn Bowling site not be granted Cultural Heritage designation (4/0).

AYES: Commissioners Friedman, Rosoff, Vice Chair Gersh,  
Chair Bilak

NOES: None

ABSENT: Anderson (left meeting early)

CARRIED

3. Roxbury Park Trees (Taken out of order)

This item was requested to be placed on the agenda with no specifics by Commissioner Rosoff. As such, Parks and Urban Forest Manager Ken Pfalzgraf noted he did not prepare a staff report nor ready to respond to the speaker comments. There is a Street Tree Master Plan Ad Hoc Meeting scheduled and this topic can be discussed at that time. Chair Bilak noted previous litigation that had been concluded, but requested a report from Mr. Pfalzgraf for a future Agenda item.

Speakers: Kevin Davis, Larry Goodman, Lester Boxer (All speakers representing SHORP – Spalding Homeowners Overlooking Roxbury Park)

4. Placement of Historical Plaque at the Electric Fountain

Recreation Service Manager Teri Angel reviewed the previous history of this project. The revised plaque wording was presented to the Commission. After discussion, the Beverly Gardens Park Committee members in attendance at the meeting agreed to work with Commissioners Anderson and Rosoff to rewrite the verbiage for approval at a future Commission Meeting.

#### 5. Bicycle Riding in the Parks (Taken out of Order)

During the June Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting, there was a tour of the parks and continued discussion about feasibility of bicycle riding in the parks. As a result, direction from the Commission included continuing to pursue a bicycle program utilizing the School District Playgrounds; consideration of an area to bike ride at the Farmers' Market; use of the track at Coldwater Canyon; and widening of the track at La Cienega Park. Recreation Supervisor Tim Duerr reported on the upcoming Bike Safe Program to start on Saturday, August 27 at Hawthorne School. Bike riding at the Farmers' Market was not recommended due to safety concerns at the location. The Coldwater Canyon Track and La Cienega Park would need information from a consultant to determine the wear and tear and cost of riding at those locations. Interest to have a Beverly Hills CicLAvia-type event needs to be postponed until after Santa Monica Blvd. and other major construction projects on busy thoroughfares are complete.

Motion:            MOVED by Commissioner Rosoff, SECONDED by Vice Chair Gersh to move forward with the Bike Smart Program. All other suggestions will be tabled at this time (5/0).

AYES:             Commissioners Friedman, Rosoff, Anderson, Vice Chair Gersh, Chair Bilak

NOES:             None

ABSENT:          None

CARRIED

#### 6. Beverly Gardens Park Presentation

Landscape Architects Michele Sullivan and Holly Kuwayama from Mia Lehrer and Associates presented the plans for the Beverly Gardens Park western portion located between Whittier and Canon Drives.

#### 7. Personal Trainers in City Parks – Update (Taken out of order)

This item will be discussed with the City Council Liaisons prior to Council discussion..

#### 8. Los Angeles County Needs Assessment Results

Management Analyst Stephanie Harris gave an update about the upcoming ballot measure.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 9. Proposed Plaque to Recognize the Nathan Family to be Placed in the Canon to Beverly Block of Beverly Gardens Park (Taken out of order)

It is proposed that a plaque be installed at the rose garden located behind the Beverly Hills sign recognizing the donation of the Nathan Family. After discussion with Friends of

Beverly Gardens Park representative Gaby Alexander, the following motion was presented:

Motion: MOVED by Vice Chair Gersh, SECONDED by Commissioner Friedman noting the donor's name is on a plaque at the Electric Fountain and therefore there will not be separate plaque recognition at the Beverly Hills sign is not recommended (3/1).

AYES: Commissioners Friedman, Vice Chair Gersh,  
Chair Bilak

NOES: Rosoff

ABSENT: Anderson

CARRIED

A subsequent motion was presented:

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Rosoff, SECONDED by Vice Chair Gersh that the Nathan's be offered a plaque on the bench at the rose garden for the payment of \$5,000 and then be encouraged to make the additional balance of \$25,000 on their pledge (4/0).

AYES: Commissioners Friedman, Rosoff, Vice Chair Gersh,  
Chair Bilak

NOES: None

ABSENT: Anderson

CARRIED

**10. Placement of the Beverly Hills Shield at the Electric Fountain (Taken out of order)**

It has been suggested to add the Beverly Hills Shield to the back wall of the Electric Fountain. The Commission discussed the size, lighting and height of the proposed shield. The Commission recommended making a cardstock mockup of the City Shield in various sizes to view on site for discussion at a future Commission Meeting.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Friedman SECONDED by Vice Chair Gersh that the Commission approves of the idea of the City Shield on the wall of the Electric Fountain pending a review of the size and location on the wall (5/0).

AYES: Commissioners Friedman, Rosoff, Anderson, Vice Chair Gersh,  
Chair Bilak

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

CARRIED

**11. Chair Bilak Request to Review 5 Acre Property on Foothill Drive (Taken out of order)**

Chair Bilak desires discussion and support for a people park in the 5 Acre City owned property. Community Services Director Nancy Hunt-Coffey reviewed the entire 5 Acre Parcel and the buildings currently contained in the area. Assistant City Manager George Chavez joined the discussion. City Council has not directed the Recreation and Parks Commission to look at making this area a park. If the Recreation and Parks Commission interest is to move forward, the next step would be a meeting with the City Council Liaisons. City Manager Mahdi Aluzri commented on the proposed process to take place in determining the land use.

Commissioner Anderson left the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

**STATUS REPORTS**

**12. Capital Improvement Project Updates**

The following items were included in the report from staff: Greystone, Beverly Gardens Restoration, Coldwater Park and Playground Restoration, Beverly Hills Community Dog Park and La Cienega Community Center.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

**13. Ad Hoc Committee Assignments**

Ad Hoc Committee members updated fellow Commissioners on the status of their assignments:

- City Council Liaison – Notes were in the packet for Commissioners to review.
- Fine Arts – There will be conversation with the artist about making sure the Tom Friedman piece is not shiny; so it should not distract drivers.
- Greystone Park – No report.
- La Cienega Master Plan – No report.
- Street Tree Master Plan – The Ad Hoc meeting will be held next week.
- Beverly Gardens Restoration – No report.
- Off Leash Dog Park – No report.
- Joint Powers Agreement – No report.
- Public Works Services – No report.
- Coldwater Canyon Park– No report.
- Personal Training – No report.
- Bicycle Riding Liaison – No report.

Unfinished Business/Comments by Commissioners Including Topics for Future Agendas:

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

### **14. Director's Report**

Community Services Staff updated/discussed with the Commission the following items: Street Trees for Waldorf Astoria Project, Beverly Hills Tennis Charity Celebrity Tennis Tournament, Tom Friedman Fine Art Location Information, Dog Park Opening Information/Permits Issued, Beverly Canon Gardens – No Smoking Policy, Cat Event Similar to Woofstock, Eye on LA Video, Summer Camp Wrap Up, Event Calendar and Meeting Dates.

The Regular December Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting will be re-scheduled as a Special Meeting on December 13 at 2:00 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Date / Time:

August 23, 2016/ 6:03 p.m.

DRAFT