

REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 13, 1994
HUMAN SERVICES AND PARK COMMISSION

PRESIDING: CHAIRPERSON DAVID HAUPTMAN

ATTACHMENT 1

Call to Order The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance Former Human Services and Park Commissioner James "Jake" Jakubowski, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Commissioners Present COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Patricia A. Hadley, David Hauptman, Efrem Violin, Robert R. Gardner, Mark Sloane (absent).

Staff Present STAFF PRESENT: Syd Kronenthal, Human Services Director; Mark Zierten, Senior Administrative Analyst; Don Rogers, Community and Social Services Manager; Don Marquardt, Environmental Maintenance Manager; Tak Matsuura, Park Maintenance Foreman; Dorothy Meyer, Recreation Supervisor; Jody Hall-Esser, Chief Administrative Officer; Norm Herring, City Attorney; Mark Foss, Tree Maintenance Foreman; Elgin Leslie, Senior Recreation Leader; Keisha Hunter, Senior Recreation Leader.

Others Present OTHERS PRESENT: James Jakubowski, 4076 Minerva Avenue, L.A. 90066; Darrell Goode, 4900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica 90405; Kita Curry, 4232 Moore Street, L.A. 90066; Bill Horimoto, 4215 Moore Street, L.A. 90066; Ricardo Luna, 12428 Gilmore Avenue, Culver City; Angie Simons, 4229 Moore Street, L.A. 90066; Atol James, 4226 Moore Street, L.A. 90066; Ricardo Luna, 12428 Gilmore Avenue, Culver City; Robert Pola, 19518 Nashville, Northridge 91330; Ruth Galanter, 200 N. Spring Street, Room 239, L.A. 90012; Cruz Jimenez, 4157 Moore Street, L.A. 90066; Lorenzo Hernandez, 5617 Kinston Ave., Culver City; Seth Torres, 1236 Mitchell, L.A.; Jerry Gomez, 12128 Belcher Street, Norwalk; Jose Pena, 4305 Centinela Ave., L.A. 90066; Carlos Venezuela, 3843 Prospect Avenue, Culver City; Rafael Gamboa, 5361 Kinston Avenue, Culver City; Ruth Coulter, 4155 Moore Street, L.A. 90066; David Salvador, 3861 Lincoln Avenue, Culver City; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Martin, 5647 Lakewood Blvd., Lakewood 90712.

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Prohibition of Soccer Play at Culver West Park The Chairman opened the public hearing on the next item on the agenda regarding limiting soccer activities to children under the age 18 at Culver West Park.

The Chairman read the "Findings of Fact and Recommendations" prepared by the City Attorney which support the elimination of adult soccer play at Culver West Park. These findings are based upon

earlier evidence presented by testimony of residents surrounding Culver West Park and staff at the previous Commission meeting:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The open space play area at Culver West Park is too small for the location of a full-sized soccer field. Such a field would extend beyond the park boundaries, and the park was not designed with soccer play in mind.
2. The open space play area at Culver West Park is too small for the location of a scaled down soccer play area. This is due to the fact that in either case of a full-sized or scaled down soccer play field, those uses would totally occupy the open space available and eliminate all other uses.
3. The practice of unregulated adult soccer play at Culver West Park has a detrimental effect on all other recreational activities. When adults engage in soccer play at Culver West Park, the playing of softball, or general recreation is impossible due to the danger of collisions with adults running after soccer balls, or participating in soccer play. As discussed in 2 above, soccer play at Culver West Park is incompatible with other recreational uses for which the park is suitable.
4. The practice of unregulated adult soccer play has had a detrimental effect on surrounding properties caused by balls being kicked, thrown and otherwise landing on private properties, resulting in the unauthorized trespass of adult soccer players into the backyards of adjacent property owners.
5. The practice of unregulated adult soccer play has a detrimental effect on the program of turf and field maintenance at Culver West Park. The playing of soccer by adults in the small open space requires the players to occupy the infield diamond as well as outfield of the existing softball field which has consistently resulted in damage to the dirt infield and grass outfield areas.

Based upon all the above stated facts, the Commission finds that adult soccer playing at Culver West Park is inconsistent

with the best and appropriate uses of the park area and should be prohibited.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Human Services Director is requested to take all appropriate actions to prohibit adult soccer playing at Culver West Park.
2. That the Culver City Human Services Department post the prohibitions on adult soccer playing in Culver West Park, and the city enforce said restrictions.

The Commission then heard testimony from the following members in the audience:

- **Kita Curry, 4232 Moore Street, LA 90066** in support of prohibiting soccer activities at Culver West Park and posting appropriate signs.
- **Bill Horimoto, 4215 Moore Street, LA 90066** in support of eliminating soccer play and making the park into a passive park.
- **Angie Simons, 4229 Moore Street, LA 90066** in support of regulated sports activities and reinstating park patrols.
- **Atol James, 4226 Moore Street, L.A. 90066** stating the park is too small to accommodate soccer activities.
- **Ricardo Luna, 12428 Gilmore Avenue, Culver City** in support of making the park available for soccer players.
- **Robert Pola, 19518 Nashville, Northridge 91330** stating the closure of the park to soccer would deprive many people of a popular recreational outlet.
- **Councilwoman Ruth Galantar, City of Los Angeles** expressed appreciation for the Commission's and staff's sensitivity to the problems at Culver West Park and the offered her assistance in a joint effort to find a resolution.

Recess/Reconvene At this time, the Chairman called for a recess at 8:15 p.m. in order to confer with staff. The meeting was reconvened at 8:19 p.m. with four members present.

Discussion ensued during which Norm Herring, City Attorney, answered questions and provided clarification of the findings for the Commission.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER VIOLIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GARDNER AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

**Motion Carries to
Adopt Findings of
Fact & Recom-
mendations on
Soccer at Culver
West Park**

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER VIOLIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GARDNER, THAT THE CULVER CITY HUMAN SERVICES AND PARK COMMISSION APPROVE THE FINDINGS OF FACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON ADULT SOCCER PLAYING AT CULVER WEST PARK.

Discussion ensued.

The Chairman called for a vote on the MOTION which resulted in the following:

AYES: Commissioners Gardner, Hadley, Violin.

NOES: Commissioner Hauptman

ABSENT: Commissioner Sloane

The MOTION passed on a 3 to 1 vote.

At this time, Commissioner Hadley requested that the issue of a search for open space, specifically for soccer, handball, and other recreational sports be considered as a high priority item and agendaized for the next Commission meeting.

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