

**City of Culver City, California  
Agenda Item Report**

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| Meeting Date: <u>03/04/14</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | Item Number: <u>A-1</u>                                                                           |  |
| <b>PRCS COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM: Continued Consideration of a Recommendation to the City Council Regarding Designating a Dog Path on the Sidewalk/Walkway within Veterans' Memorial Park that Connects the Culver Boulevard Parking Lot to Barman Avenue.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Contact Person/Dept.: Dan Hernandez,<br>PRCS Director                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | Phone Number: (310) 253-6655                                                                      |  |
| Fiscal Impact: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | General Fund: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                 |  |
| Public Hearing: <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | Action Item: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Public Notification: (Postcard Mailing) Owners, Occupants and Businesses within a 500 foot radius of Veterans' Memorial Park (extended to the end of the block where appropriate; 1,091 postcards; 02/12/14); (Email) Subscribers of Culver City News and Events, Parks, Recreation & Community Service Department Updates, Meetings and Agendas – Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission, Senior Citizens (02/12/14 and 02/28/14); (Website Posting) Culver City Highlights & PRCS Department Homepage (02/17/14); (Cable Slide) Channel 35/37 (02/17/14 through 03/04/14); (Posted Notices) Veterans' Memorial Park (02/24/14 through 03/04/14).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Department Approval: Dan Hernandez<br>(02/25/14).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  | City Attorney Approval: N/A                                                                       |  |
| Chief Financial Officer Approval: N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | City Manager Approval: N/A                                                                        |  |
| <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u></b></p> <p>Staff recommends that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission continue the consideration of a recommendation to the City Council regarding designating a dog path on the sidewalk/walkway within Veterans' Memorial Park that connects the Culver Boulevard parking lot to Barman Avenue (as illustrated in Attachment A).</p> <p><b><u>BACKGROUND:</u></b></p> <p><u><i>Culver City Municipal Code Relating to Dogs and Designated Dog Paths</i></u></p> <p>For reference, the following is an excerpt of the Culver City Municipal Code relating to the prohibition of dogs within Culver City Parks:</p> <p><b>§ 9.10.055 PROHIBITIONS</b></p> <p>Within the limits of any public park it shall be unlawful for any person:</p> <p>A. Having charge, care, custody or control of any dog, except as permitted by § 9.10.400 or § 9.10.600, or other animal, fowl, or reptile to cause, permit or allow the same to be within the limits of any public park within</p> |  |                                                                                                   |  |

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the City, unless such person shall have obtained a special permit from the City Council to conduct an entertainment or exhibition in which an animal is a participant.

§ 9.10.400 relates to the Culver City Dog Park within Culver City Park; § 9.10.600 relates to the designated dog paths (a.k.a. "Pooch Paths") within Culver West Alexander Park and Culver City Park. § 9.10.600 is excerpted below:

**§ 9.10.600 DESIGNATED DOG PATHS.**

A. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Code, a person may have charge, care, custody or control of any dog upon the designated dog paths in Culver West Alexander Park and Culver City Park; provided such dog is at all times restrained by a substantial chain or leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length, in the control of a competent person.

B. For purposes of this Section, **DESIGNATED DOG PATHS** shall mean the pathways in Culver West Alexander Park and Culver City Park that are identified by conspicuously displayed signs indicating that they are **DESIGNATED DOG PATHS**, and where the pathways themselves are marked with pictures of paw prints.

C. Nothing in this Section shall permit or allow any person having charge, care, custody or control of any dog to permit or allow that dog to be in any portion of any public park, except as permitted by § [9.10.400](#), other than on the designated dog paths in Culver West Alexander Park and Culver City Park.

**The PRCS Commission's Role in the Development of Designated Dog Paths**

In its role as an advisory body on matters pertaining to parks, the PRCS Commission has previously made recommendations to the City Council on both the topic of allowing dogs in Culver City parks and on the creation of designated Pooch Paths within the parks. At the February 9, 2009 meeting, the following action was taken by the City Council:

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL CONTINUE THE EXISTING LAW AND PRACTICES THAT DO NOT ALLOW DOGS IN PARKS, EXCEPT IN THE CULVER CITY DOG PARK OR WHERE THERE IS A DESIGNATED DOG PATH, AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL FOR DESIGNATED DOG PATHS IN OTHER PARKS WHEN A NEED IS IDENTIFIED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION.

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*August 6, 2013 PRCS Commission Action Regarding Recommending Designating Certain Sidewalks/Walkways within Veterans' Memorial Park as Dog Paths*

On August 6, 2013, the PRCS Commission considered recommending that the City Council designate certain sidewalks/walkways within Veterans' Memorial Park as dog paths. Staff posited that many members of the public do not realize that sidewalks within the Park are on park property (and are not public right-of-way) and that walking dogs in these areas is prohibited just as it is in other areas of the park. As a result, dog walkers are often seen taking their dogs through the park on the sidewalks, unwittingly violating CCMC Section 9.10.055(A). Staff believes that designating certain sidewalks/walkways within Veterans' Memorial park as dog paths will both eliminate this type of misunderstanding and provide a convenience to the public. In addition, it will further enable PRCS Department staff and Park Patrol to adequately and appropriately enforce the "no dogs in parks" policy. At the August 6, 2013 meeting, the Commission took the following action:

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER KIM AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR YANDA THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE POOCH PATH ALONG CULVER BOULEVARD AS SHOWN AND DEFER ACTION ON A CUT-THROUGH PATH BEHIND THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT VETERANS PARK TO AFTER JANUARY 2014 WHEN THE CULVER WEST ALEXANDER PARK POOCH PATH HAS BEEN REVIEWED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| AYES:    | GREENE, KIM, STUART, YANDA |
| NOES:    | NONE                       |
| ABSTAIN: | HUDSON                     |

*January 7, 2014 PRCS Commission Review of the Extension of the Pooch Path at Culver West Alexander Park*

At the January 7, 2014 PRCS Commission meeting, the Commission conducted a nine month review of the extension of the Pooch Path at Culver West Alexander (CWA) Park to include the walking/jogging trail located within the Park and discussed the possibility of scheduling continued consideration of recommending a designated dog path on an interior walkway at Veterans' Memorial Park. Staff informed the Commission that Park Patrol reports of dogs in unauthorized areas of CWA Park had decreased since the designation of the walking/jogging trail as a Pooch Path and that there did not appear to be any notable negative consequences related to the extension of the Pooch Path. The Commission took action to agendaize the continued consideration of recommending a designated dog path on an interior walkway at this evening's meeting.

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**DISCUSSION:**

Attachment A provides an aerial view of Veterans' Memorial Park illustrating both (1) the sidewalk adjacent to the Culver Boulevard parking lot that was approved on August 6, 2013 to be recommended to the City Council as a proposed dog path and (2) the sidewalk/walkway that connects the Culver Boulevard parking lot to Barman Avenue which is under discussion at this evening's meeting. These areas were chosen because community members often take their dogs on leashes through the Park on these sidewalks/walkways. Staff believes that allowing leashed dogs under the control of competent persons in these areas will not disrupt the activities within the park or disturb park visitors.

Similar to the public notification process done on August 6, 2013, extensive public outreach was done to notice this evening's discussion; a map detailing the postcard mailing area is provided as Attachment B. All public comment received by 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2014 regarding this issue is provided as Attachment C. Any public comment received since that time will be placed on the dais for the Commissioners. The table below summarizes the public comment detailed in Attachment C:

| <b>Proposed Dog Path Pass-Through<br/>At Veterans' Memorial Park</b> |  | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Oppose                                                               |  | 4            |
| Support                                                              |  | 7            |

Should the PRCS Commission take action at this evening's meeting to recommend to the City Council that the sidewalk/walkway within Veterans' Memorial Park that connects the Culver Boulevard parking lot to Barman Avenue be designated as a dog path, staff will take both of the Commission's recommendations related to designating dog paths at Veterans' Memorial Park before the City Council at an upcoming meeting. During the preparation of that report, staff will confer with the City Attorney's office to explore the feasibility of also presenting suggestions to the City Council regarding streamlining the procedure for designating dog paths (i.e. amending the Culver City Municipal Code to allow for the establishment of designated dog paths by resolution of the City Council). Regardless of any change in procedure; however, it is staff's recommendation that the PRCS Commission's central role in the process of designating dog paths continue (including public outreach, consideration, discussion and recommendation to City Council).

**FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

The postcard notification of this PRCS Commission Agenda Item cost approximately \$382.00 (excluding staff time). If, based on the Commission's recommendation, the City Council takes action to designate dog paths in Veterans' Memorial Park, costs associated with marking the route as a "Pooch Path" are expected to be

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approximately \$1,500.00 for signage, paint and stencils. It should be noted that “paw prints” marking the dog paths will only be stenciled at the beginning, end, and at random intervals within the designated sidewalks (as opposed to along the entire route). Funds for this expenditure are available in PRCS Parks Division Account 10130300.514100 – Departmental Special Supplies. Staff time devoted to the project will be approximately twenty (20) hours and will be posted to PRCS Parks Division Account 10130300.411100 – Regular Salaries.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Aerial view of the proposed Pooch Paths at Veterans’ Memorial Park
- B. Map detailing Public Notification postcard mailing area
- C. Public comment regarding the proposed dog path pass-through at Veterans’ Memorial Park received by 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2014

**MOTIONS:**

That the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission:

1. Make a recommendation to the City Council to designate a dog path on the sidewalk/walkway within Veterans’ Memorial Park that connects the Culver Boulevard parking lot to Barman Avenue (as illustrated in Attachment A);

OR

2. Provide staff with alternate suggestions.