

***These meeting minutes are not official until approved by the
Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission.***

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY PARKS, RECREATION
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

November 21, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Leonard called the special meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Jane Leonard, Chair
Marci Baun, Commissioner
Palvi Mohammed, Commissioner
Maggie Peters, Commissioner

Absent: Crystal Alexander, Vice Chair

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Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Mohammed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Community Announcements from Commissioners/Information Items
from Staff**

Commissioner Peters reported attending Trunk or Treat for Halloween and she expressed appreciation to staff for the fun event.

Chair Leonard thanked Culver City for their partnership in the Tribute to Heroes event and discussed sponsorship of flags to honor veterans and other heroes.

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Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda

Chair Leonard invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Angus was called to speak but was not present in Council Chambers or online.

Diane Magid declined to speak.

Meg Sullivan discussed her previous request to investigate the inexpensive and quick solution of placing pickleball courts under the Expo Line overpass; precedent in Santa Monica; the goal to place pickleball courts on parking structures stated in the General Plan; and she reported getting her hat at the annual Senior Center Holiday Sale.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that two e-mails had been received and forwarded to Commissioners.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES; BAUN, LEONARD, MOHAMMED, PETERS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: ALEXANDER

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Consent Calendar

None.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Receipt and Filing of the Report Regarding the Culver City Plunge's Programming and Revenue

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, introduced the item.

Graciela Galvan, Aquatics Coordinator, provided background on herself and a presentation on pool rules, procedures, and protocols; discussed Lap Swim Rules and Regulations in 2019; benefits and drawbacks to the procedures; average lap swim time slots; benefits and drawbacks to Rules and Regulations as of June 2024; and lane allocation in 2019 vs. in June 2024.

Tristan Quiane, Senior Pool Manager, discussed Aquatics Program revenue in 2019 vs. in 2024; swim lessons in 2019 vs. in 2024; adult exercise classes; the current shortage of swim instructors and lifeguards; Aquafit; contract instruction; revenue; studies of other area cities; other cities with multiple pools; pools that operate by reservation only; Beverly Hills as the only other city with one pool; policies employed by Beverly Hills; and the Plunge surveys.

Chair Leonard invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Monica Richardson was called to speak but was not present in Council Chambers or online.

Diane Magid discussed inflexible timeslots; paying more to drive to other pools that do not interrupt workouts and that treat users like adults; concern that the current system is set up for people who do not work; support for the system used in 2019; the feeling that the current system serves casual swimmers, not serious swimmers; and she proposed adopting a system where one could pay more to stay in the pool.

Vahan Callan expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak noting that he did not have a comment for the item.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the work of staff to create the schedule and

the presentation; the large responsibility for the much-used facility; increased fees and revenue; passes; frequency of swimmers staying for five hours in 2019; competitive swimmers; elimination of preschool swim classes; staffing issues; ongoing recruitment for lifeguards and instructors; state and county issues; accessibility issues; drop in lanes in other cities; getting out of the pool in the middle of a set; people who want to use The Plunge and could walk there, but have to drive 20 minutes instead; different types of rentals; teams; overall revenue; the separate category for rentals; people who have applied but did not hear back from Human Resources; other cities with multiple pools; limitations to fitting everyone in with one pool; 55 minute time slots in West Hollywood; being unable to make the top of the hour; not wanting to pay for a second hour due to having to get out of the pool and warm up all over again; concern with being tied to a policy that is harming the community; number of people who will no longer use the pool due to the policy; concern with the need to control; drop in swim in Long Beach; concern that 45 minutes is not a sufficient amount of time to swim; teams involved in helping with the schedule; and renter feedback.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding usage of the lap swim lanes; capacity; the need for another pool; clarification that the pool is only completely booked in the summer; setting aside lanes for longer sessions; allowing lifeguards to have a five minute switchover; those booking double sessions who are allowed to stay in the pool; instances where lanes need to be moved or lane lines need to be tightened; the importance of safety; looking at adding flexibility when the pool is not as busy; staffing issues that do not allow the pool to be kept open past 3:00 P.M. on weekends; recreational swim offered until October; competitive wages; partial benefits offered by Los Angeles; other cities that pay higher than Culver City; cities that provide insurance and benefits; lifeguard shortages for surrounding cities; the need for a second pool; the Parks Plan; piloting programs to allow for flexibility; and single party renters that rent the pool after 3:00 P.M. on weekends.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding success in addressing previous concerns; meetings between user groups; lunch time lap swim; being creative when the pool is not 100% used; availability of data; maximizing usage; meeting other demands; long course vs. short course

offerings; community feedback; and finding ways to accommodate users.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to the Commission for their thoughts and ideas, and to staff for their efforts to accommodate everyone; acknowledgement of nationwide staffing issues; communication with state parks and recreation associations; competitiveness with other area cities; benefits, pension, and holiday pay offered by Los Angeles; free in-house training; the generational shift; conformance to protocols and measures; options provided by other cities; cities that have less rigorous requirements; part-time benefits; other cities that pay substantially more; senior staff stepping up to cover shifts; outreach done for the special meeting; survey response; public comment received indicating a need to provide more flexibility; registration; the importance of data about who is in the pool and how it is being used; pre-pandemic procedures; finding a middle ground; use of an app where people can swipe in and out; status of the contract classes; the Junior Guards program; specialty programming; the importance of Red Cross training; winter vs. summer staffing; total staffing numbers; year round staffing; seasonal staffing; peak periods; benefits to having a diverse and multi-generational workforce; cash required for Los Angeles pools; the single pool in Beverly Hills; similar procedures followed in West Hollywood as in Culver City; differing safety rules in West Hollywood; and allowable grace period.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding allowable lane capacity; consideration of full time lifeguard positions; yearly memberships; monthly passes; the process for fee changes; staff agreement to examine flexibility during non-peak periods; making use of seasonal non-agricultural laborers; joining with other cities to create a training program; use of a swipeable card with money on it; expediting entry; swim clubs that might have members interested in serving as lifeguards; availability; positive rapport with renters; understanding about having to close the pool due to staffing levels; pre-pandemic passes that are still accepted, but no longer sold; and appreciation to staff for their efforts.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER PETERS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE PRESENTATION ON PROGRAMMING
AND REVENUE FOR THE CULVER CITY PLUNGE.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES; BAUN, LEONARD, MOHAMMED, PETERS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: ALEXANDER

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Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Leonard invited public comment.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, reported that no
public comment had been received.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Commissioner Mohammed reported attending the Planning
Commission meeting on the Parks Plan and speaking as a private
citizen; discussed public comment received at the meeting;
feedback from the Planning Commission in support of the ideas
and the approach; review of the early draft; pickleball
possibilities in the Master Plan; he proposed agendaizing a
discussion of putting pickleball in underpasses; and he noted
creative ideas to meet demand being used in other cities.

Chair Leonard discussed consideration of the Parks Plan draft
at the next meeting.

Commissioner Baun requested additional information about
opening up lanes for swimming during the slow season and
received clarification that staff could provide a report, but
a discussion would require that the matter be placed on an
agenda.

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Manager,
discussed Thanksgiving Camp; the pilot sports program; the
opening of the El Marino playground; upcoming installation of
shade structures; and maintenance and rehabilitation of parks
during the low season.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, discussed upcoming meetings and agenda items.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the standing Parks Plan Update agenda item; the request for Commissioners to bring their ideas forward on the draft Parks Plan in December; the budget item to start the process of drafting a letter; and the fee study.

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, reported on the Senior Center Halloween Party; discussed the Medicare Fair with Health and Human Services Director Xavier Beccera and Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager Dove; the recent flu clinic; the upcoming Tree Lighting; the Thanksgiving Grab and Go Meal for Seniors; Breakfast with Santa; the Landscape Architect position; installation of sound mitigation panels for the Elenda pickleball courts; the Planning Commission recommendation that the City Council approve the draft Parks Plan; and the Martin Luther King, Jr. event planned for January 11.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the service event as part of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Commissioner Mohammed discussed the lighting on Veterans Tower noting that it is more interesting than what was there in the past and he looked forward to seeing it evolve.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:07 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

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Adam Ferguson
SECRETARY of the Parks, Recreation and
Community Services Commission

APPROVED _____

Jane Leonard
CHAIR of the PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMISSION
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date