

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

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

December 3, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Leonard called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 7:06 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

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

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Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, indicated technical difficulties necessitating that voice votes be taken.

Pledge of Allegiance

Heather Daims led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

None.

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Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda

Chair Leonard invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

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

Margaret Kravitz voiced concern over the suspension of the Aquafit classes at the Municipal Plunge; discussed her experience with the classes over the past seven years; expressed support for the instructor; she urged the City to resolve any paperwork issues and bring the classes back; and she indicated that her daughter had submitted public comment in support of the classes.

Heather Daims expressed support for continuation of the Aquafit classes; provided background on herself and her positive experience with the classes; expressed concern that insurance issues have shuttered an integral part of the PRCS program; she questioned whether a group paying higher fees would have had a faster resolution; discussed benefits of the classes; bureaucracy; the stock response received; priorities; and she noted that at this point there would likely be no resolution until next spring.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that one e-comment had been received.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ALEXANDER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 1, 2024

Vice Chair Alexander noted that on page 10 of the minutes, Vice Chair Leonard should be corrected to read Vice Chair Alexander.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 2024 AS AMENDED.

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Order of the Agenda

Items A-5 and A-6 were deferred for consideration at a future meeting.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Receipt and Filing of the Report Regarding Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Programming for Disability Awareness Month

Mike Odunze, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator, provided background on himself; discussed Disabilities Awareness Month; activities and programming; the 2024 Abilities Carnival and Resource Fair; outreach; attendance; appreciation to the Girl Scouts and the Exchange Club for their support and efforts; entertainment; City Council commendations presented; the display at the Julian Dixon Library; the annual wheelchair basketball game; the Halloween party; the importance of marketing in building momentum moving forward; and he reported increased attendance of dances after the Carnival.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding increased attendance; demographics; marketing; awareness; appreciation for innovation in outreach; capacity; and appreciation to staff for their efforts.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ALEXANDER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT REGARDING THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMMING FOR DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH.

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Recommendation or Proposal of Adjustments to the Public Draft of the Parks Plan for Consideration by Parks, Recreation and Community Services Staff in Preparation for the Final Plan, if any

Chair Leonard introduced the item.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, provided a summary of the material of record.

Chair Leonard invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Mike Cimmarrusti provided background on himself; expressed concern that the current proposal would not meet the needs of the community; discussed insufficient field space and parking; accommodating the growing needs of the community; the need to revisit the Johnson Favaro study; and insufficient fields proposed that overlap.

Brian Vabulas, Culver City Little League President, provided background on the organization; expressed appreciation for the work done on the proposal; discussed changes previously proposed by Culver City Little League to address safety and functionality concerns at Bill Botts Field; overlapping fields; discussed a suggestion for fields of varying sizes with additional fencing or back to back home plates; field availability; other parks maintained for younger divisions; the more comprehensive Johnson Favaro study; and he was looking forward to working together to ensure the best outcome.

Meg Sullivan discussed the amount of work done on the Master Plan; the need for three times more park space than Culver City currently has; the inability to buy most of the land needed; opportunities with the Expo Line Bike Path; precedent; the Westwood Greenway; Ishihara Community Gardens; park pressured areas; and she expressed appreciation for the Senior Center field trip by Mike Odunze.

David Winslow provided background on himself; noted that Lindberg Park is a neighborhood park; discussed concern with noise issues related to the proposal to put in a pickleball court; he suggested putting the pickleball courts in at

Veterans Park or Fox Hills; discussed the bridge; the bleachers; playground equipment; removal of the tennis court; resurfacing the basketball court; keeping the backboard; T-ball; and he asked that the soccer fields be kept and that the grass be maintained.

Matthew Patrick, Culver City Little League, echoed previous comments that the current plan was insufficient; discussed safety concerns; loss of practice fields at Lindberg and Vets; losing players to other areas with better fields; making Culver City a destination; and he asked that the City reconsider the earlier plan for a clover leaf configuration.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding recognition of the time and energy put into the Parks Plan; concerns cited by the speakers; exposure to toxic chemicals with using recycled tires and coal ash in the parks; clarification that priorities are not determined by the department and not included in the plan; costs; grant opportunities; distribution of development fees; clarification that per the state, as of January 1, 2025, Park Impact Fees cannot be collected until a certificate of occupancy has been issued; passive parks; potential performance space in Coombs Park; a suggestion for sewing classes; the small park governed by a Homeowners Association at Machado and Jefferson; concern with sound issues created by moving the paddle tennis courts from Elenda to the top of a parking structure; resident concerns that the parking structure would attract homeless individuals; number of current parking spaces vs. those proposed by the parking structure; loss of a parking lot in the current plan; parking structure design; ways to secure the parking structure; current heavy usage of the ball fields; concern with the absence of a softball field in the proposed plans; providing access to the entire community; concern with going from 13 fields to 7 fields; the parking pass required for the Senior Center; the proposed bridge; creating more greenspace; overflow parking for the Senior Center; the intent to better meet parking needs; the proposed walking path around Veterans Park; providing an accessible walking path for everyone; support for more pools; the feeling that the High School needs its own pool; making swimming accessible to all students; trees; water needs; native trees that are more drought tolerant; the Scout House; adding a performance space in Blair Hills; concern with sound abatement with the potential installation of pickleball courts in Fox Hills Park; parking issues; reinstatement of the baseball diamond at Fox Hills

Park; current usage of the space for soccer; clarification that there is no intent to put pickleball courts in Lindberg Park; the goal to move the tennis courts to one end to provide more of an open connection; the lost baseball diamond at Syd Kronenthal Park; use of Syd Kronenthal for MLS teams; providing a makeover to take away the unusable field and create one strong field; adding the backstop at Lindberg back into the plan; benefits and drawbacks to various species; consultation with the Theodore Payne Foundation; the intent of PRCS to replace plants with native species; soil remediation; use of Inglewood Oil Field land; additional parkland required; active vs. passive parks; the need for more emergency shelters; examination of areas to expand; potential incorporation of emergency shelter plans into planned upgrades to each of the recreation centers; and the potential for a community center at Fox Hills.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding changes made to plans by OLIN in response to feedback received in the meeting with Culver City Little League to accommodate more fields; references to the Feasibility Study; the less expensive plan from OLIN; renderings; dirt vs. grass fields; level of detail in the planning phase; putting a backstop back in at Lindberg; making the two fields at Blanco Park playable; carving into the hill at Culver City Park to create four fields; parking; the goal to make sure that fields are accessible throughout the entire City; numbers vs. actual playable spaces; lack of parking as limiting usage to people who live in the neighborhood; replacing a field with a pavilion for leisure activities; concern with changing field usage; keeping open space to maintain flexibility for casual use; yoga at the Stone View Nature Center; and the recommendation for an open field in the draft plan.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding support for the idea of having concessions in the park; having food truck nights; support for adding more than one dog park; adding more dog-friendly space in the park; community gardens; Blanco Park; renting or buying space at the empty big box stores; parking issues at Bill Botts; support for the Feasibility Plan concept to put a parking structure in and place everything on one level; the path around the fields; access to the Scout House; drainage at Lindberg Park; putting in a dog run at Culver West Alexander; community gardens planned for Syd Kronenthal and Veterans Parks; the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Scouts and Culver

City; making it clear to the public that the Parks Plan is a blueprint for the future; working out details when plans move forward; public comment received; changes already made in response to public comment; clarification that LIDBMP (Low Impact Development Best Management Practices) relates to storm water and land use management strategy; using parks to manage storm water; the Storm Water Quality Master Plan; and additions to the glossary.

Commissioner Baun reported that her husband had texted her to indicate that there was no sound for the meeting when watching on youtube.com and staff agreed to notify IT (the Information Technology Department).

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the potential for reduced parking at Culver City Park with the proposed plans; the task presented to OLIN to provide alternatives to keep costs down and provide four fields; the proposed racket sports facility; providing controlled access; demand for pickleball; monetization of demand; maintenance; the fee study; having the project pay for itself; support for locating the facility away from residents; proximity to dogs; recommended replacement grass; the 2018 turf report; Bermuda grass; the micro-climate; irrigation vs. fertigation; the high traffic fields; stabilizing Upper Bill Botts; recommendations from Johnson Favaro; providing solutions without the cost of a feasibility study; difficulty growing anything in the dog park; alternative options; shade structures; dog parks in areas that disinfect their artificial turf; the inability to use petroleum-based products; other potential materials; lack of ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance with the nature walk ramp; width vs. the incline; concern that there was no mention of upgrades to the snack bar or the restrooms; lighting; the Feasibility Study; and providing lighting for the fields via the parking structure.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding concern with moving the fields closer to homes; community feedback regarding the location of the paddle tennis courts; lack of restrooms at the current paddle tennis courts; safety; providing adequate facilities; concerns with having a massive cement parking structure; the design process; storm water capture; the windows in the Rotunda Room as being on the historic register; design that respects certain elements; demand for racket sports; parking functionality for a performance facility at Veterans Memorial; ADA and staff

parking; parking rates; restrooms; addressing parking issues at Fox Hills; acquiring more land; configurations for the multi-purpose field; use by permit groups; maintenance of the open space; turf; the proposed community recreation center; lack of demand for having a full sized basketball court; use of a pavilion vs. recreation center for birthday parties; concern with proposed removal of parking at Lindberg Park; providing accessible walkways and green space around the parks; neighborhood parking intrusion; removal of small softball fields; redistribution of passive space; irrigation and a potential storm water project at Lindberg Park; seating; connecting the playground to the game; accommodating families; use of tables; providing middle ground; design; and collaboration with the Lindberg community.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding Syd Kronenthal Park; removal of the proposed racket sports area on the parking structure from the plans; the community gardens; providing more activities for the park-poor area around Tellefson Park; community input in support of racket sports and the beach volleyball court; discouraging homeless encampments by providing amenities; the need for renovation of the restroom and picnic area; requests reported for a sidewalk on the side of Coombs Park that does not have one; the need for a stop sign; amount of foot traffic; concern about the connectors; support for the openness of the park; concern with adding a performance space; story time opportunities for tiny tots; the intent to add a gathering spot; consideration of the final plan; use of the space under the Expo Line; the expansion section vs. the partnership section; spaces that were historically not used; adding dog runs; renovation of the building at El Marino; efforts to retain buildings; and changes to the way development fees are being handled.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding funding; collaboration; proposed playground materials; support for adding racket ball courts; appreciation for the work of staff to find places in the City to place facilities; support for keeping the tennis courts as they are and provide additional space for other racket sports; the addition of tennis courts at Vets and at Culver City Park; the matrix of all facilities; integrating recommendations into the Park Systems Amenities Inventory; passive field space at Culver West; the tree layout; support for removing the bridge portion at Lindberg Park and not putting the playground in Carlson Park; the fact that 90% of residents live within a ten minute

walk from a park facility; ensuring that additional seating is available; keeping seating uncomfortable to prevent people from sleeping; benches added at Coombs Park; benches that had to be removed by the Expo Line; strategic positioning; donated and memorial benches; a 2019 AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) study about age-friendly services that indicated benches, restrooms, and shade were priorities; SB1000 priority neighborhoods vs. new opportunity park sites; under-utilized space at West LA College; collaboration; the Joint Use Agreement; the Implementation Matrix; and providing regular updates to the Commission.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding use of the swimming pool at West LA College; the City Council/West LA College Subcommittee; support for using space at Culver City Park; use of space for a revenue generating pickle ball center; Caltrans use of space; the arborist; tree-associated activity in the City; the landscape architect; changes to fees; the Storm Water Quality Master Plan; keeping the Parks Plan in alignment with other City plans; whether other departments will work to align with the Parks Master Plan; City Council approval; funding sources; priorities; the document as guidance for budget recommendations; matching funds for grants; coordination with the Public Works Department; and outside monies.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding Measure M; lack of alignment with SB1000 priority neighborhoods; sharing information with OLIN; appreciation for the detailed document; the need to add the Turf Report; engagement with the Historical Society; adding private and non-profit assets to page 27 under partnerships; referencing the high utilization of parks during the pandemic resulting in sustained usage in the years that followed; placement of photographs; goals for park acreage; accounting for changes for strategic planning by City Councils; ensuring resiliency across City Council terms; the Transportation Element; Compressed Natural Gas vs. Renewable Natural Gas; matching images to text; identification of virtual public outreach meetings with the date; changing future items to past tense due to when the report will be released; appreciation for the fact that children and youth were asked for ideas; corrections to various typographical errors; the need for consistent identification of the PRCS Commission rather than referring to it as the Parks Commission; adding arts into the narrative; vision and mission; adding a page identifying goals that are

then broken down on following pages; cross referencing goals with the General Plan; maximizing facilities and programs to include intergenerational activity and use; support for adding intergenerational activities in the programming section; reducing silo usage of various facilities; a suggestion to add language about succession planning under staffing; position of the Parkland Acreage Needs header; potential partnership opportunity with the Westfield Mall; the Inglewood Oil Field; the Baldwin Hills Conservancy; support for references to potential joint use with schools; removal of the Mummy building from the Parks Plan; clarification regarding the reference to LA City College; clarification on figure 107 on page 119; references to non-functional turf; the importance of passive grassy areas; water management strategies; and clarification that passive areas are considered functional turf.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the tree canopy deficit; the CalEnviroScreen; moving forward with determining where to add trees and planting them; document order; the site detail; adding a generalized statement prior to the evaluation of each park; ensuring parks are identified at the top of each map; a suggestion to provide a description of the park, the two maps, and the proposed changes with details; clarification that racket sports is no longer proposed for the parking structure; the Fox Hills Specific Plan; adding a reference to the General Plan; support for a community garden in Syd Kronenthal Park; sand volleyball; concern with noise issues related to pickleball in Tellefson Park and lack of a mention of a community garden there; support for a dog park at the Fox Hills Parkette; adding a definition of equity; the need for clarification on paid place-keeping and flood carrying; and appreciation to staff for their work and to Commissioners for their comments.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ALEXANDER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE PUBLIC DRAFT OF THE PARKS PLAN.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, noted that everything on the agenda could be moved to a future agenda except for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for PRCS Fees.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding upcoming agenda items and the need to handle the biannual report at the current meeting.

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Item A-3

Receipt and Filing of the Report Regarding the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Adopted Budget; (2) Consideration of Forming a Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission "Recreation Programming and Rentals Fee Study Ad Hoc Subcommittee;" and (3) If Desired, Appoint two PRCS Commission Members to the Newly Formed Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding unanimous consensus to move receipt and filing of the report regarding the PRCS budget to the next agenda.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, provided a summary of the material of record regarding the PRCS Chapter of the City's fee study; discussed addressing the competitive market; allowing flexibility to present fees to the City Council each year; detailed working sessions planned to figure out key changes to the fee policy; implementation of new fees for the new fiscal year; rethinking cost recovery targets and subsidy policies; evaluating cost of services; direct vs. indirect costs; the need for Commission approval of ad hoc subcommittee recommendations; and the timeline.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding in-person meetings of the ad hoc subcommittee; cost recovery focused on beginner levels; navigating cost recovery and subsidy; the specific task of the ad hoc subcommittee to create a system for fees; consideration of facilities costs; incorporation of indirect costs; and frequency of ad hoc subcommittee meetings.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ALEXANDER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: FORM A PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECREATION PROGRAMMING AND RENTALS FEE STUDY AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding willingness and availability to serve; the request from Finance to take the study to the City Council in June; opportunity costs; policy; previous experience in similar

activities; cost recovery; and bringing a different point of view to the ad hoc subcommittee.

MOVED BY CHAIR LEONARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: APPOINT VICE CHAIR ALEXANDER AND COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED TO THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION PROGRAMMING AND RENTALS FEE STUDY AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE.

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Item A-4

(1) Drafting of a Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Biannual Report to the City Council, including Accomplishments During the Period July through December 2024, and an Update on the Upcoming 2025 Plans; and (2) Authorization of Transmittal of the Report to the City Council

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding a suggestion to adjust wording to reflect that the ad hoc subcommittee had been established to evaluate program fees and make recommendations to the City Council; adding wording to clarify that the Commission provided recommendations regarding the Elenda paddle tennis courts; and changing wording regarding Plunge policies from "discuss and learn" to "learn and discuss".

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PETERS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION:

1. APPROVE, AS AMENDED, THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION BIANNUAL REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL, INCLUDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE PERIOD JUNE THROUGH DECEMBER 2024 AND AN UPDATE ON THE UPCOMING 2025 PLANS; AND,
2. AUTHORIZE TRANSMITTAL OF THE REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

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MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PETERS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: DEFER ITEMS A-5 AND A-6 TO THE JANUARY 2025 MEETING.

Item A-5

Receipt and Filing of Updates from the Members of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Ad Hoc Subcommittees and Representative Appointees to Outside Associations and City Committees

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

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Item A-6

Receipt and Filing of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission 2025 Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items List, With Adjustments, If Any

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

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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

Francisca Castillo, Recreation and Community Service Manager, announced that January 11, 2025 had been chosen as the date of the 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at Veterans Memorial Auditorium; she discussed planned activities; and outreach.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, reported that the January Commission meeting would be held in the Rotunda Room at Vets as Council Chambers would be being upgraded.

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, reported that the Plunge and Blanco Park would be both closed for several weeks for maintenance.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 11:39 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

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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