

TO: CULVER CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
RE: PRCS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 – COMMISSIONERS RECOMMENDATIONS
DATE: February 18, 2016

DRAFT

DEAR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS:

Thank you for inviting our Commission to send recommendations to the Council on funding for new programs and capital improvement projects for the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department (PRCS).

We believe that the PRCS is part of the core services that create the “quality of life in Culver City”. We desire that the PRCS be treated equally in funding and attention as the Public Works, Community Development, Police and Fire departments to reflect that belief.

PRCS facilities and programs are available to, and used by, every citizen (and the communities surrounding us), from infants to seniors, whether in a passive or active manner. The services and facilities provided give opportunity and, many times, a safe place to go, for many of our citizens. We have programs that mentor our children and give them insight into their futures. Kids that are in PRCS programs are not committing crimes, but rather, are planning their futures.

We believe that the issues of funding any new programs or capital improvement projects are dependent on adequate staffing. Without proper staffing and updated tools, any new programs/projects are merely wish list items. Many times worthy and needed projects do not get completed as quickly as desired due to lack of staffing.

We would like to recommend the following with regard to Staff hires and funding for same:

1. Retain a Grant Writer (perhaps to share with 1-2 other Departments) either by direct hire or contract. As you know, grant writing is very highly specialized and we need full time people working on, looking for, and writing grant applications. The value of a grant writer cannot be overly stated. As a small city, we are competing with much larger municipalities who spend the time it takes to obtain Grant funding. We need to be better and faster.
2. Associate Landscape Architect/Project Manager. We support the Park Manager’s request for additional funding for this position. This position plays an essential role in assisting with the design, administration and completion of Parks projects.
3. Reclassification of Current Part-Time Student Worker to Regular Part-Time Maintenance Worker. We support the Park Manager’s request for additional funding for this position.
4. We are also recommending that the Council hire several full and part time staffers for our recreation programs. The summer camps, teen center, and after school programs are all at capacity and cannot be expanded due to a lack of staff. The need for these programs far outdistances our staffing.

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We are requesting funding for the following projects:

1. Resurfacing the asphalt at the Basketball courts at Vets Park and Alexander/Culver West Park.
2. New field lighting for the Vets Park playing fields.
3. Replacing the playground surface at Alexander/Culver West Park with a more durable, environmentally friendly surface.
4. Assist Senior Center to create partnerships for a part-time Social Worker/ Counselor to work with members of the Center when needed.
5. Blair Hills Park Playground rehabilitation. Staff has ranked this playground area as one with the highest need for updated equipment.
6. Lindberg Park Playground rehabilitation. This is a heavily used playground area in urgent need of updated equipment.
7. Lindberg Park DG walking path. Lindberg Park does not have a sidewalk or designated “walking area” around the entire perimeter of the Park. For the safety of the users of this park, and to enhance the use of the Park, we recommend funding for a DG walking path to be constructed around the perimeter of the Park that is without sidewalks.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Zeidman
Chair of the
PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION