

***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

July 2, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Mohammed called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 7:03 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers and via Webex.

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

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Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Baun led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Mohammed invited public comment.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that no requests to speak had been received.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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**Community Announcements by Members/Information Items from
Members/Staff**

Commissioners welcomed Marci Baun to the Commission.

Commissioner Peters discussed attending the pool opening; programming and activities; and she noted that summer had gotten off to a good start.

Vice Chair Leonard requested that staff put together bullet points for water safety; discussed private pools in the community without lifeguard coverage; benefits to providing general safety rules for parents to be aware of; and free fares for students all summer on Culver CityBus.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding signage required by the Health Department that is part of the permitting process for private pools; liability; and a suggestion to put out a Public Safety Announcement with general water safety tips.

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Information Items

Item I-1

Update on Development of the Parks Plan

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, provided an update on the development of the Parks Plan; discussed outreach; and the timeline.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding pop-up events; learning from the experience of the Olympics Super Committee; encouraging people to fill out surveys and engage in the process; giveaways and prizes; the Joint Use Agreement with Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD); and examination of opportunities.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

**Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Parks, Recreation and
Community Services Commission Meeting of June 4, 2024**

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR LEONARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PETERS
AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING OF
JUNE 4, 2024.

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Order of the Agenda

Vice Chair Leonard received Commission consensus that Item A-
5 be considered before Item C-3.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the PRCS Commission

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN
AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPOINT VICE CHAIR LEONARD TO
SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.

Chair Leonard expressed appreciation for the vote of
confidence.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED
AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPOINT COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER
TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.

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Item A-2

(1) Drafting of a Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Biannual Report to the City Council, including Accomplishments During the Period January through June 2024, and an Update on the Upcoming 2024/2025 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 acknowledgement of the work done by staff; ensuring that the proper timeframe is reflected; allocation of camp slots; use of a lottery system; expanding access and program offerings; programs in other surrounding communities; creation of a Committee to examine ways to enhance programming; examining services offered by PRCS and exploring additional options to make available to the community; a suggestion to agendize additional support for The Plunge; issues with having enough lifeguards; operational items; generalized items; the opportunity to agendize items in Item A-5; creating priorities; access to data to reach the best data-driven solutions; participation in evaluation of activities and operational items; agendizing a discussion about data; and Commission agreement to change wording under goals to read: "Examine PRCS services and data, and explore different options to make services available to the community".

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding highlights from January through June; referencing staff coordination and collaboration; changing the word initial to "thorough and comprehensive" in the first bullet point regarding policy review; and internal review and implementation of the use policy.

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

1. APPROVE THE AMENDED PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION BIANNUAL REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL, INCLUDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2024, AND A STATUS UPDATE ON THE 2024/2025 WORK PLANS; AND,

2. AUTHORIZE TRANSMITTAL OF THE REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

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Item A-4
(Out of Sequence)

(1) Consideration of Various Ways the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission can Discuss Public Comment Concerning Racket Sports in Culver City; (2) Consideration of Various Ways the PRCS Commission can Recommend to City Staff and City Council Resolutions for Issues with Racket Sports; (3) Consideration of Forming a PRCS Commission "Racket Sports Ad Hoc Subcommittee" to Complete a Specific Task; and, (4) If Desired, Appoint two PRCS Commission Members to the Newly Formed Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Chair Leonard introduced the item and expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts.

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

Chair Leonard noted that as part of the agenda item, the Commission would be taking public comment and discussing structure.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Paula Wilson expressed appreciation to the Commission for their work; played audio from their security camera noting they live behind the courts and hear the noise from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily; thanked the City for fixing the lights; discussed people who play by street lights; articles on the harmful impact of the noise; proximity of her home to the courts; insufficient funding allocated for noise mitigation; and she asked Culver City to avoid making the mistake many other communities have made by spending money on something that does not solve the problem.

Tom Wilson reported living behind the courts; noted that balls are in their backyard nearly every day; discussed new signage with 30 rules, only one of which addresses concerns they have brought forward in the past; the rule to be respectful of noise volume; loud swearing; cheering; boomboxes and music; hours; enforcement; people who come early and stay late; a teacher using the courts for classes; lack of time limits; the ban of

drinks containing Red Dye No. 40; lack of action by Culver City; the request that the games be placed in a location where others will not be bothered; and he thanked Director Stevens for the recent event that their special needs grandchild had attended.

Howie Jacobowitz advocated for the most efficient use of court space; felt there were too many people in too few spaces; discussed converting courts; proximity to residents; the recent article on pickleball in *The New York Times*; the need to address the burgeoning constituency; dual purposing the tennis courts; draft signage submitted to the City; lack of consultation with players; the resulting out of touch signage; and concern that the conflicting signage just adds to arguments.

Barry Goldstein discussed living in close proximity to the courts; the growth of the sport outpacing the space; lawsuits that have been challenging paddle tennis/pickleball courts; national recommended distances; recommended sound barriers; enclosing the space; decibel levels for pickleball; backup warning signals for trucks; the annoying frequency of the noise; and he noted that the type of noise made by pickleball triggers a fight or flight frequency.

Andy Gauvreau indicated distributing location conditions for pickleball when he spoke with his neighbors a few month back; discussed restriping paddleball for pickleball; preexisting conditions; pickleball as creating issues for the entire neighborhood; new rules; lack of application of rules to the courts at Elenda; the setup at Culver City Park; considerations with making use of underutilized tennis courts at other parks; the need for sound mitigation; rise in noise levels; boomboxes; headaches associated with pickleball; and he advocated for reverting usage back to paddleball.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the Parks Master Plan; the survey from 2022; demand for pickleball at the Elenda courts; the search for additional park space; long-range planning; costs to expand; use of tennis courts; data on actual use; proximity of courts to residences at Veterans Park; the fact that there are more paddle tennis courts than tennis courts; consideration of the issue in a world café setting; efforts to satisfy a variety of different constituencies; the focus of the survey on racket sports users; the need to plan for pickleball in the Parks Master Plan;

issues that need to be addressed now; special meetings vs. community meetings; focus; allowing everyone to have a say; staff resources; keeping community meetings manageable; incidents at the courts that have put staff in uncomfortable positions; hours of facility operation in the municipal code; noise ordinances; construction hours; ensuring that data is gathered from subject-matter experts with regard to racket sports; enhancing the quality of recreation activity in Culver City to provide dedicated pickleball courts rather than re-stripped tennis courts; visual acuity for hand eye coordination; safety concerns; feasibility studies; identification of locations; the joint use agreement with CCUSD; and concern with straying from the agenda item.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding inviting subject-matter experts and CCUSD representatives to community meetings; Joint Use Agreements with West Los Angeles College (WLAC); precedent with the community group that spearheaded the creation of the Dog Park; costs and benefits; forming an ad hoc subcommittee to create a public discussion event for pickleball; creating a plan for soliciting public feedback regarding racket sports; creating an ad hoc subcommittee to handle the current agenda item; potential space available from the CCUSD; collaboration between the subcommittee and staff; stakeholders; staff workload in the summer; addressing continuing issues; the fact that ad hoc subcommittees cannot be a quorum; extending the process with the creation of an ad hoc subcommittee; the ability to quickly schedule a special meeting; potential resolution of issues; holding a special meeting to provide the appropriate venue to make comment on pickleball; making a recommendation on how to address issues; outreach; providing a large public comment period; discussing all racket sports rather than just pickleball; the importance of addressing issues at the Elenda courts; complaints received from other areas where pickleball is played; identified funds for soundproofing; having a special meeting with a broad focus vs. a narrow focus; a suggestion to hold a special meeting on the Elenda courts and then identify a subcommittee to work with staff on a larger community meeting to address broader issues; the importance of mitigating what neighbors are having to deal with; support for holding a special meeting to try to resolve issues; agendaizing creation of an ad hoc subcommittee and appointing members thereto at the special meeting; defining the agenda item for the special meeting; creating a subcommittee to elicit feedback from the community on

recommendations to mitigate issues neighbors are experiencing at the Elenda courts and make recommendations to the department; ensuring that the agenda is clear that they are not anti-pickleball, but issues need to be addressed so that the neighbors can live in harmony with the courts; staff communication with the Chair to clarify the agenda item; solicitation of potential solutions from the public; people who are willing to come forward and report ongoing issues; providing clarity as to what the Commission wants staff to provide at the meeting; formation of an agenda item; Commission consensus was received for Chair Leonard to work with staff on a special meeting to receive community feedback on how to mitigate issues with the Elenda courts.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding additional issues identified at the meeting; different perspectives that come forward; holding a listening session; identification of things to go back and look at rather than spending a lot of staff time researching issues that may prove to be less important than others; agendaizing consideration of issues at other locations; benefits to creating an ad hoc subcommittee to consider issues; consensus to work with staff to develop a special meeting to target issues at the Elenda courts with potential extrapolation of knowledge to other locations; meeting location; scheduling; agreement to hold the special meeting on July 22, 2024 in Council Chambers; and consensus to agendaize formation and population of an ad hoc subcommittee.

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Item A-3

Adoption of Motions to (1) Appoint/Reappoint Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission Members as Liaisons to Various Outside Associations and City Committees; (2) Appoint/Reappoint Members to Serve on PRCS Commission Ad Hoc Subcommittees; and, (3) Provide Updates, if any

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

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding other bodies; the wide range of things overseen by the PRCS Commission; ensuring that the public is aware of what is being said and that everyone gets the same information in the same

way without being translated; whether representatives need to be sent to attend meetings of other bodies; standing items; means to get information; the ability to request updates; liaison positions; the ability to access minutes; the work of the Arts Foundation to have an active role in the Parks Plan; the need for someone to attend Senior Center meetings; people who are unaware of available services; the liaison as a connection to the Commission; and whether standing updates are relevant for all of the bodies.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the feeling that the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM) is not very active; the ability to send a representative to a conference; and consensus that Commissioner Peters serve as delegate and Commissioner Mohammed as alternate.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding consensus to continue sending a liaison to report back on the Senior Citizens Association Board meetings; current work of the Board to redo the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Culver City; the importance of consistency and continuity; the ability of alternates to attend meetings; meeting schedule; the Culver City Arts Foundation; level of interface; the opportunity to ask questions about things that pertain to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission; allowable level of participation in the meetings; concern with adding to the workload of Culver City staff if a Foundation representative is required to attend Commission meetings; thorough notes from meetings; engagement without attending the meetings; initiation of projects in parks; attending applicable meetings; the ability to request a presentation to the Commission; fulfilling the original function of the liaison position; streamlining efforts to address things that are more specific to the PRCS Commission and the Arts Foundation; continued interest and support of the Foundation; and ensuring relevant, timely, and responsive contact.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding requesting presentations from the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) for relevant topics; Disability Awareness Month activities and the Carnival; receipt of regular reports from staff since Francisca Castillo attends DAC meetings; availability of the meeting minutes and the meeting on Webex to review; and staff agreement to include the DAC minutes when

distributing Culver City Living, and the Senior Newsletter to Commissioners.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding agreement to maintain Vice Chair Alexander and Commissioner Mohammed on the Summer Olympics Preparation Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ALEXANDER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPROVE THE DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO THE NEWLY MODIFIED ASSOCIATIONS AND SUBCOMMITTEES LIST:

1. APPOINT COMMISSIONER PETERS TO SERVE AS DELEGATE AND COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED AS ALTERNATE ON THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS AND BOARD MEMBERS CAPRCBM; AND,

2. APPOINT VICE CHAIR ALEXANDER TO SERVE AS DELEGATE AND COMMISSIONER BAUN AS ALTERNATE TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION BOARD; AND,

3. APPOINT VICE CHAIR ALEXANDER AND COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED TO THE SUMMER OLYMPICS PREPARATION AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE.

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Item A-5

Receipt and Filing of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission 2024 Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items List, With Adjustments, If Any

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding consensus from Chair Leonard and Commissioners Mohammed and Peters to add a report on summer camps as well as an examination of space availability for summer camps to the October agenda.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the feeling that less classes are being offered; a suggestion to request a staff report on classes offered; understanding why class offerings have changed over the years; the potential to offer newer classes; scheduling of agenda items; the open-ended agenda item for reports from staff on programs, classes and events; a request for a specific report on contract classes; increasing awareness of what classes are offered; new families moving into Culver City; having a once

per year mailing; a request for a presentation from the Public Information Officer; agreement to change the date of the November meeting to November 21; the December meeting; a reminder that the September 3, 2024 meeting would be held at the Culver West Alexander Park Recreation Building; Vice Chair Alexander indicated that she would be absent for the September meeting; a request for a report on operations at The Plunge; consensus from Chair Leonard, Vice Chair Alexander, and Commissioner Baun to agendaize a report on ActiveNet and how that relates to decision making on the operations at The Plunge; staffing issues; ensuring that staff enforces ActiveNet; and people who do not swipe their cards when entering.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, summarized upcoming agenda items including:

August - report on the budget; explanation of allocations, the letter, and clarifying questions.

September - report on contract classes, programming and marketing, and the presentation from Olin on the early draft of the Parks Plan.

October - Fiesta La Ballona report, presentation on summer camps and discussion on community access for enrollment to summer camp.

November - no items specified yet.

January - Olin provides a final look at the draft of the Parks Plan before it goes to the City Council

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding adding the discussion of The Plunge on the November agenda; the special meeting in November; dates to be determined; Senior Center Solar Panel Battery Storage; Public Works; upcoming City Council items; and encouragement for any available Commissioners to attend the proclamation for Parks Make Life Better! Month on July 8, 2024.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER PETERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPROVE THE PRCS COMMISSION 2024 MEETING CALENDAR AND THE UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS LIST, WITH ADJUSTMENTS.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Leonard invited public comment.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, reported no requests to speak.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, discussed the recognition at the July 8, 2024 City Council meeting, and City Council direction to provide childcare at City Council meetings.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the process to sign up to request childcare for City Council meetings; eligibility; the six-month trial period; and staff updates on the program.

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Manager, discussed Lindberg Park; Blair Hills; interviews for the Senior Pool Manager position; prioritization of Plunge staffing; the recently hired Plunge Coordinator; the summer camp program; the staffing process; and the Irrigation Technician position approved by the City Council.

Francisca Castillo, Recreation and Community Services Manager, discussed the Age-Friendly Initiative; community engagement; activities for Parks Make Life Better! Month; the Senior Center; innovative activities for older adults; cancellation of the Father's Day event due to the low number of signups; planned activities; support received from local businesses; donations; work to create a different event at a later date; collaboration and partnerships with organizations; and she announced that one of their employees had graduated from Leadership Culver City.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, reported distributing an email on Elections Guidance from the City Attorney to Commissioners.

Commissioner Peters reported that she would not be present for the August meeting.

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, noted that the new fiscal year started July 1, 2024 and Adam Ferguson would be making a presentation at the August meeting; he discussed new Sensory Saturday activities; and providing a fun environment for children of all abilities at Culver West Alexander Park on July 20 and August 3.

Chair Leonard reported attending the Age-Friendly activity and she was looking forward to attending more; she welcomed Commissioner Baun; and she thanked Commissioner Mohammed for his service as Chair.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:11 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 6, 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