

***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

November 1, 2022
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Rickards called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 7:02 P.M. in Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall and via Webex.

Present: William Rickards, Chair
Scott Zeidman, Vice Chair
Jane Leonard, Commissioner
Palvi Mohammed, Commissioner

Absent: Khary Cuffe, Commissioner

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Pledge of Allegiance

Scott Zeidman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Items from Members/Staff

Patricia Mooney, Senior Management Analyst, introduced staff and noted that the meeting was being held in a hybrid format with both in-person and online participation available.

Commissioner Leonard reported that there was nothing to report out from a City Council Closed Session on October 20, 2022 regarding use of the Vets Memorial Building for wireless communication enhancements; she discussed an event sponsored by Sydney Kamlager at the Senior Center; expressed appreciation

for the last Parks Tour; noted the amount of open space and facilities that the department is responsible for; discussed the Parks and Facilities Master Plan process; other parks tours; and she announced "Tribute to Heroes", the display of 500 American flags for Veterans Day at Veterans Park with more information available at culvertribute.org.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Rickards invited public comment.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, reported that no requests to speak had been received for Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda.

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Receipt of Correspondence

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

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Meeting of September 6, 2022

Chair Rickards invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

John Coray wanted to discuss paddle tennis courts in Culver City and agreed to make his comments when Item A-7 is considered.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR ZEIDMAN AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CUFFE
ABSTAIN: LEONARD

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Order of the Agenda

Items A-7, A-6 and A-5 were considered before Item A-4.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Receipt and Filing of the Report Regarding the Culver City Afterschool Recreation Program.

Jacob Bakke, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator, provided a slide show on the Culver City Afterschool Recreation Program (CCARP).

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding unmet demand; the waiting list for each location; appreciation for outreach to parents; growing the program responsibly; staff recruitment; anticipating community needs; and technology to help coordinate the waitlist.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ZEIDMAN THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT REGARDING THE CULVER CITY AFTERSCHOOL RECREATION PROGRAM.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: LEONARD, MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CUFFE

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Item A-2

**Receipt and Filing of the Report Regarding Culver City Summer
Camp 2022**

Jacob Bakke, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator, provided a video on Culver City Summer Camp 2022; he discussed the 9 week program; number of participants; themes for each camp; the partnership with the pool; the sports camp at Lindberg Park; and establishing a partnership with the participants and their families.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding seasonal staffing; wait lists; continuing innovative ideas started during the pandemic; communication with the community; other places to share the video; and appreciation to staff for their work.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR ZEIDMAN AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LEONARD THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT REGARDING CULVER CITY SUMMER CAMP 2022.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: LEONARD, MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CUFFE

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Item A-3

**Receipt and Filing of the Report Regarding Disability Awareness
Month 2022**

Jill Thomsen, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor, presented a slide show on Disability Awareness Month events and activities, and she discussed the proclamation awarded by the City Council for Disability Awareness Month 2022 and commendations honoring the Friendship Factor and Justin Sandy.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to staff for their work to engage and connect with people; the student team who was able to play wheelchair

basketball; and encouragement to follow Culver City PRCS on Facebook and Instagram for video and additional information.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LEONARD AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT REGARDING DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH 2022.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: LEONARD, MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CUFFE

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Item A-7
(Out of Sequence)

[Standing Item; Any or All of the Following Actions, if Desired] (1) 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; (2) Formation of New and/or Dissolution of Existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee(s); and, (3) Appointment of Two Commissioners to Newly-Formed Ad Hoc Subcommittee(s)

Commissioner Leonard discussed communication from community members and staff; creation of a survey distributed throughout the City and online; public outreach; signage; and next steps.

Vice Chair Zeidman thanked staff for their work and he was looking forward to receiving feedback from the community.

Chair Rickards invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

John Coray asserted that parks make life better by being inclusive; indicated that he is part of the paddle tennis community; discussed accommodating both paddle tennis and pickleball and alterations to make the courts work for both sports; use of the courts on a first come, first served basis; he stated that if he wanted to make a reservation, he would

join a club; and, responding to inquiry, he indicated that he had taken the survey.

Howie Jacobowitz indicated being a long-time paddle tennis player; advocated for the most efficient use of existing courts; discussed courts on the Middle School campus; purview of the Board of Education; signage; court sharing; the potential to serve more people by putting four pickleball courts on one tennis court; the upcoming election; and, responding to inquiry, he indicated that he had taken the survey.

Vice Chair Zeidman reported that neighboring cities were working with their school districts to make use of courts for pickleball.

Romy Hightower provided background on herself; indicated that she was an advocate for pickleball and paddle ball; she expressed support for making use of the tennis courts; she reported taking and sharing the survey; expressed appreciation for the actions of Manhattan Beach to open up the school courts for use to play pickleball; discussed the reservation system; antiquated signage that has caused issues; problems caused by misinformation; and she expressed appreciation to Commissioner Leonard for her support.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding efforts to include the tennis community and the surrounding neighborhoods in the conversation; ways for the community to access the survey; a planned community mailing; confusion caused by signage; a suggestion to block off the "paddle tennis only" portion of the signage; creating a transparent process; allowing for input; appreciation to the public for their comments; and ensuring that the community does not feel that staff is favoring one point of view over another.

Commissioner Mohammed reported that he had not heard anything from the City Attorney about the Parks and Facilities Sections of the Culver City Municipal Code Review Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the City Council request that the Commission consider forming a Community Gardens Subcommittee and a subcommittee to consider adding hours for dogs to be off leash in Culver City parks.

Commissioner Leonard discussed attending monthly meetings of the Culver City Senior Center Board of Directors.

Responding to inquiry, Armando Abrego, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, indicated that he would send an email to the City Attorney's Office in an attempt to get information to report back to the Parks and Facilities Sections of the Culver City Municipal Code Review Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LEONARD AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ZEIDMAN THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE UPDATES FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE ASSOCIATIONS AND CITY COMMITTEES.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: LEONARD, MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CUFFE

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Item A-6
(Out of Sequence)

(1) Consideration of Forming a PRCS Commission "Community Gardens Ad Hoc Subcommittee"; and (2) [If Desired] Appoint Two Members to the Newly-Formed Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Francisca Castillo, Recreation and Community Services Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Chair Rickards noted the need for the Commission to work with the community to create a sense of shared ownership and connection.

Chair Rickards invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Meg Sullivan expressed concern with the original site for the relocated garden; discussed loss of space for those who rely on Syd Kronenthal Park; she indicated having a community garden plot elsewhere; she was pleased that alternative sites would

be considered; she wondered how the subcommittee would work with the public; she felt that the list of sites should be provided to the public who should be allowed to make suggestions; noted that the City had created a problem by indicating that the sites would be within a City park; she suggested use of potential sites at West Los Angeles Community College; she offered to take anyone to the community garden that she volunteers in; and she thanked the City for their work.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding skepticism with the original offer by the Wende Museum; support for creation of a subcommittee; alternative locations; creative use of space for gardening; thinking outside of the parks; providing opportunities for community engagement; those willing to serve on the subcommittee; appreciation for the public comment; the opportunity to investigate different models of community gardens; exciting and opportunities for the City; people who want to grow their own vegetables but don't have their own space; engaging in an interactive process; getting out of the "mine" and "yours" model; looking at alternatives; availability to serve; different approaches to gardening in South Central Los Angeles; policies and concerns; security; consequences of assigning use factors; appreciation to the Commission for their work on the item; and opportunities for all community members to be engaged.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED AND SECONDED BY CHAIR RICKARDS THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION FORM A COMMUNITY GARDEN AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPOINT CHAIR RICKARDS AND MEMBER LEONARD THERETO.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: LEONARD, MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CUFFE

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Item A-5
(Out of Sequence)

Consideration of Forming a PRCS Commission "Off-Leash Dog Hours in Parks" Ad Hoc Subcommittee; and (2) [If Desired] Appoint Two Members to the Newly-Formed Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor, provided a summary of the material of record.

Vice Chair Zeidman quoted Carl Sagan regarding understanding the world, and he expressed emphatic opposition to the idea of dogs being off-leash in parks noting that he had no interest in serving on the subcommittee.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding City Council direction to investigate the matter; the existing Dog Park; ramifications of not choosing to form an ad hoc subcommittee to consider the matter; opportunities to clarify opinions on the matter; previous consideration of the matter; the inability of the Commission to make a recommendation against allowing dogs to be off-leash during the current meeting; clarification about not wanting to form an ad hoc subcommittee; Council direction given as a result of public comment; liability and safety; data; concern with shutting down residents who want to engage with local government; consideration of Section 9.10.55 in the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Revise the Municipal Code; a suggestion to add the proposed item to the existing subcommittee; research needed before making a recommendation to change the Municipal Code; outreach; the prohibition of dogs in parks whether on or off leash; providing for a transparent process; sections that impact other departments; and a request for a meeting with the City Attorney to discuss code changes and liability.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR ZEIDMAN AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LEONARD THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION INCORPORATE CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE OF OFF-LEASH DOG HOURS IN PARKS INTO THE EXISTING AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVISE THE MUNICIPAL CODE WITH A REQUEST FOR AN IMMEDIATE IN-PERSON MEETING WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY TO DISCUSS AREAS OF LIABILITY AND OTHER AREAS WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: LEONARD, MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN

NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CUFFE

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Item A-4

**Receipt and Filing of the Report Regarding Fiesta La Ballona
2022**

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor, provided a summary of the material of record and thanked those who worked to make the event a success.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to staff and the volunteers; duplicate vendors; providing variety and additional options; recent changes in liability coverage requirements; waivers to bring insurance rates down; the Polystyrene Ban; improvements seen in the carnival vendor; entertainment; ensuring that different parts of the community are represented; opening ceremonies; reimagining the approach to vendors and entertainment; appreciation to staff and the Fiesta La Ballona Committee; ensuring a transparent process; separating the teen section from the kids section; expansion of security coverage; use of the basketball and tennis courts; the footprint; and creation of boundaries for better control and management of who is coming in and going out.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ZEIDMAN THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT ON FIESTA LA BALLONA 2022.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: LEONARD, MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CUFFE

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Item A-8

**Scheduling a Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Commission Weeknight Tour of Syd Kronenthal Park, Fox Hills
Park, and Veterans Memorial Park**

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the date and time for the proposed tour, and clarification that the Parks Tour is a special meeting of the Commission that is agendaized and members of the public are invited to attend.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR ZEIDMAN AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: SCHEDULE A WEEKNIGHT TOUR OF FOX HILLS PARK, SYD KRONENTHAL PARK, AND VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK TO BEGIN AT 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: LEONARD, MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CUFFE

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Item A-9

**[Standing Item] Receipt and Filing of the Parks, Recreation
and Community Services Commission Fiscal Year 2022/2023
Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items List, With
Adjustments, If Any**

Patricia Mooney, Senior Management Analyst, discussed the date of the next regular meeting; regular standing items; staff reports; items to be considered; items for the January 2023 meeting; and the updated room schedule.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the landscaping RFP; Commission consensus to add preliminary budget discussions on the next agenda; Commission recommendations; the budget schedule; location for the December meeting; public outreach and engagement; potential impacts of decisions on specific sites; the community building conversation about adult soccer; the conversation about pickleball; and outstanding staff positions to be filled.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LEONARD AND SECONDED BY CHAIR RICKARDS THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE CALENDAR AND UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION WITH ADJUSTMENTS MADE AT THE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: LEONARD, MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: CUFFE

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Rickards invited public comment.

Patricia Mooney, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that no requests to speak had been received.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Commissioner Leonard thanked staff for their work addressing issues with the hybrid meeting format.

Armando Abrego, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, reported that Senior Management Analyst Patricia Mooney would be retiring at the end of the year; he announced that Adam Ferguson had been promoted from Associate Analyst to Senior Management Analyst; discussed vacant positions and work to fill them; resetting department standards; work to evolve; and ensuring transparent and inclusive community engagement while growing the department.

Chair Rickards indicated that he would not be present for the December Commission meeting; noted the possibility that he also might not be able to attend the April meeting; and he discussed making strategic reports to the City Council.

Vice Chair Zeidman invited everyone to join in a celebration for outgoing Senior Management Analyst, Patricia Mooney just before the start of the December Commission meeting.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:41 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

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

APPROVED _____

William Rickards
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