

***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

March 9, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Vice Chair Zeidman called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall and via Webex.

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

*Chair Rickards arrived at 7:02 P.M.

**Commissioner Cuffe arrived at 7:06 P.M.

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Pledge of Allegiance

Kevin Kunasaki recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Items from Members/Staff

Chair Rickards joined the meeting.

Commissioner Leonard announced a gardening workshop on March 11 at the Stoneview Nature Center put on by the county of Los Angeles; she commended Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) staff for their budget presentation to the City Council; discussed the focus on teen activities and mental health; PRCS employees as ambassadors; monthly outreach to renter's groups; thanked staff for Instagram postings; was pleased that lifeguards and pool managers are working with the Culver City Fire Department (CCFD) to create a CPR training program for bus operators and provide public classes in Spanish; noted the emphasis on volunteerism; and she expressed support for the intergenerational opportunities available through the department.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Rickards 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, reported that two e-comments had been received and distributed to Commissioners.

Commissioner Cuffe joined the meeting.

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

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

PRCSC - Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Meeting of February 7, 2023

Commissioner Leonard noted that wording on page 10, Item A-5 should be changed to clarify that the regular PRCS meeting was scheduled for March 9th rather than March 7th as was noted.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LEONARD, SECONDED BY CHAIR RICKARDS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2023 AS AMENDED.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

PRCSC - (1) Approval of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department's Recommendation to Convert all Existing City Owned Paddle Tennis Courts to Mixed-use Paddle Tennis and Pickleball Courts in a Multi-year Plan; (2) Approval of new Court Rules to Include a First Come and First Serve Self-Monitored System for all City Owned Courts; and (3) Recommendation to PRCS Staff to Update the Rules and Etiquette Signage at all City Operated Courts

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, read a comment received by Dora Correll in opposition to converting paddle tennis courts to be mixed use and expressing concern that first come first serve self-monitoring would lead to increased conflicts; she proposed building pickleball courts at one of the larger parks or on a non-park property such as converting an unused parking lot; and she felt that signage should remain originally as posted.

Chair Rickards invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Howard Jacobowitz provided background on himself; indicated that he advocated the most efficient use of courts at the lowest cost and lowest risks; discussed issues with congestion and signage; lack of progress on the issue; concern that the proposed recommendations did not address pressing issues; the need for an honest review of the flawed public survey; concern with wasted time, money, and poor choices; the actual number of paddle courts in the City; restriping all traditional tennis courts for dual usage, starting with the courts at Vets Park; underutilized traditional tennis courts at the High School; deemphasizing prioritizing resurfacing the courts; he wanted to see the court-specific survey thrown out; asserted that the tennis courts were less used than the pickleball or paddleball courts in the City and mostly used for teaching; and he stated that pickleball and paddleball communities were compromising, but the tennis players were not.

Vice Chair Zeidman received clarification that surveys were made available to everyone, not just at the tennis courts.

Steve Mitsunaga offered to email language to mitigate existing problems; discussed issues created by crowding; alternating usage at Culver Park; systems created to keep things organized; and he offered to pay for a paddle saddle.

Armando Abrego, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, indicated that email from Mr. Mitsunaga had been distributed to Subcommittee Members.

Savid Van Slyke reported addressing the Commission last summer; disputed comments from Dora Correll regarding differences in the courts and dimensions; he indicated that players bring their own nets; discussed changes to signage; public outreach and involvement in the process; differences in net height and between the thickness of paddleball and pickleball racquets; and he expressed support for use of the paddle saddle.

Commissioner Cuffe received clarification that the differences between the pickleball and paddleball courts are very minor.

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Manager, thanked the public for their comments and the Subcommittee for their work on the item; provided a summary of the material of record; discussed the survey; feasible options for mixed-use; local information; national and state data; and the staff recommendation.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding support for paddle tennis and pickleball; research into what other cities do; the survey; the will of the public; the feasibility of restriping tennis courts; interference with the quality of play; clarification that restriping tennis courts has not been done in other jurisdictions; the four year plan to learn from the first year; community feedback; additional surveys; the proposal to change a few courts; the reservations-only system in West Hollywood; the Parks Master Plan; local and national discussion; mixed-use between paddleball and pickleball; complete conversion of tennis courts to pickleball courts; the work of the Subcommittee over the past six months; the need for compromise; allowing staff to move forward with resurfacing; reducing the amount of time in the RFP (Request for Proposals) process; doing one RFP for all identified courts; signage; the importance of treating each other with respect; etiquette; Commission and department purview; data regarding tennis court usage; repurposing tennis courts; limited data available; understanding the demand; the drop-in program; the need for an audit of court usage; observations; perceptions vs. data; the need to broaden resources; thought put into the survey process; equity; social media; and outreach.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding survey response vs. presence at meetings and email comments; the need to address concerns of pickleball and paddleball players; the ability to make recommendations, not to direct; the plan to make gradual changes and monitor the situation; opportunities; the process; a suggestion to bring the item for consideration at the next meeting with a recommendation to convert one tennis court; concern with survey methods; staff time involved; conflict reduction; the need to examine all courts; equity; safety; consideration of converting one court that got a lower response rate; clarification that the item would not go before the City Council; providing a clear understanding in the staff report of the action being considered; ensuring that a balanced approach is taken; a suggestion to have the Subcommittee examine Lindberg Park; agendaizing an informational item to receive feedback from the public; concern that if the issue is too broad, people do not think their courts are involved; agreement to focus on a specific park; staff workload; and priorities.

Commission consensus was achieved from Vice Chair Zeidman and Commissioners Cuffe and Mohammed to agendaize consideration of

converting the Lindberg Park tennis courts for dual purpose usage.

Commissioner Mohammed moved to approve the staff recommendation to convert all existing City-owned paddle tennis courts to mixed-use paddle tennis and pickleball courts in a multi-year plan.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the timeline and process; the phased RFP; providing a chance for evaluation; and the advisory nature of the Commission.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ZEIDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: APPROVE THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION TO CONVERT ALL EXISTING CITY OWNED PADDLE TENNIS COURTS TO MIXED-USE PADDLE TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS IN A MULTI-YEAR PLAN.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding Subcommittee recommendations; not using electronic registration; use of a first come first serve self-monitoring system; feedback from the public; upgrading signage; and adjustments to signage.

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

1. APPROVE NEW COURT RULES TO INCLUDE A FIRST COME AND FIRST SERVE SELF-MONITORED SYSTEM FOR ALL CITY OWNED COURTS; AND,
2. RECOMMEND THAT PRCS STAFF UPDATE THE RULES AND ETIQUETTE SIGNAGE AT ALL CITY OPERATED COURTS.

Commissioner Leonard expressed appreciation to the public for their ideas and input to help the Commission in the decision making process.

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Recess/Reconvene

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission took a brief recess from 8:22 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

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Item A-2

PRCSC - (1) Receive and File Culver City Community Garden Relocation Sites; (2) If Desired, Recommend to City Council Staff's Suggested Sites of Veterans Memorial Park and Syd Kronenthal Park; and (3) If Desired, recommend to City Council to Consider Non-park Property for Additional Communal, Hybrid, and/or Rentable Community Gardens

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

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to staff for their efforts; fencing; relocation of the previous community garden while maintaining the same rentable model; concerns with the unhoused; the ability to feed the community; passive parks; landfill; wild space designation; adding Tellefson to future planning processes; exploration of different community garden models; walkability; intergenerational activity opportunities; and consideration of non-park property.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LEONARD, SECONDED BY CHAIR RICKARDS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION:

1. RECEIVE AND FILE CULVER CITY COMMUNITY GARDEN RELOCATION SITES; AND,
2. RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL STAFF'S SUGGESTED SITES OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK AND SYD KRONENTHAL PARK; AND,
3. RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER NON-PARK PROPERTY FOR ADDITIONAL COMMUNAL, HYBRID, AND/OR RENTABLE COMMUNITY GARDENS.

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Item A-3

PRCSC - (1) Review and Finalization of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission's Draft Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Recommendations to the City Council; and, (2) Authorization of Transmittal of the Correspondence to the City Manager

Chair Rickards invited public comment.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that one person had wanted to speak but was not present.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding updates to details; changes incorporated as discussed; and support and appreciation for the work of Commissioners Leonard and Mohammed.

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

1. REVIEW AND FINALIZE THE PRCS COMMISSION'S DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL (ATTACHMENT 1); AND,
2. AUTHORIZE TRANSMITTAL OF THE CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CITY MANAGER.

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Item A-4

PRCSC - 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

Commissioner Leonard indicated that pickleball and the community gardens had been well covered.

Commissioner Mohammed provided a report on the Parks and Facilities Sections of the Culver City Municipal Code Review Ad Hoc Subcommittee noting that they had met with the City Attorney earlier in the week; he discussed work on another draft; plans to present to the Commission at the May meeting;

providing the Commission an opportunity to comment on the changes before presenting to the City Council; addressing overbroad and unenforceable language; additional research to be done; and confidence in the update to the Parks Code.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CUFFE, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ZEIDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATES FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTEES TO OUTSIDE ASSOCIATIONS AND CITY COMMITTEES.

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Item A-5

PRCSC - Receipt and Filing of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission 2023 Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items List, With Adjustments, If Any

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding coordination of scheduling between the Chair and the Director; a reminder that the Commission agreed to change the July Commission meeting date to July 6; upcoming agenda items; staff agreement to provide information regarding installation of a cell tower at Veterans Park; and staff agreement to alert the Commission when the City Council will be considering the budget.

Commissioner Leonard reported that she would not be in town for the May 2, 2023 meeting.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ZEIDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: APPROVE UPDATES TO THE CALENDAR AND UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION WITH ADJUSTMENTS MADE AT THE MEETING.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Rickards invited public comment.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that one person had wanted to speak but was not present.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Francesca Castillo, Recreation and Community Services Manager, discussed the upcoming Spring Eggstravagnza at Veterans Memorial Park; staff development training: Pipeline to Progress; improvements to the Teen Program; launch of the Teen Times newsletter; engagement; and providing a valuable resource to the community.

Armando Abrego, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, discussed training; the pandemic shut down; changes in staffing; planning and working as a group to achieve goals; and ensuring that people are ready to level up.

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Manager, commended parks staff; discussed recent inclement weather; addressing damages; maintenance; and current and planned improvements to parks facilities.

Armando Abrego, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, discussed lessons learned; City Council approval of the landscaping contract; the presentation of work plans to the City Council; community engagement; continued responsible growth of the department; staffing; consideration of job specifications; addressing internal projects; creation of cross training at different levels; growing from experiences during COVID; budget season; and appreciation for the Master Plan.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding providing opportunities for youth leadership in the community and Leadership Culver City.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:26 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

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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