

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

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

May 15, 2018
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Rickards called the community meeting of the Parks,
Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 7:00
P.M. in the Rotunda Room of the Veterans Memorial Building.

Present: Chair William Rickards
 Vice Chair Scott Zeidman
 Commissioner Paula Amezola
 Commissioner Kay Heineman
 Commissioner Palvi Mohammed

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission
recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

None.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

PRCSC - (1) Discussion Regarding the Use of Field Space for Adult Sports in Culver City Parks; and, (2) Provide Recommendations to City Staff for Future Consideration

Corey Lakin, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, discussed the different location and format of the meeting; consideration of use of field space for adult sports in Culver City parks; additional outreach to user groups; hiring a turf consultant; analysis of current conditions; field use; equipment; maintenance schedules; formulation of a recommendation by the Commission to the City Council; the staff report; distribution of correspondence received to Commissioners; and he provided background on adult sports in Culver City parks.

Chair Rickards invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

V.K. Shaw reported living near Blanco Park and expressed concern that adult soccer would reduce field availability and impact field conditions.

William Herrera, AYSO Coach, discussed providing a place for kids to play soccer when they grow up; the volunteer nature of AYSO; he felt that policies, procedures and rules could solve behavioral issues; he questioned why soccer was the only adult sport prohibited in the City; noted that the ban had been in effect for over 20 years and suggested that the issue be considered again; he acknowledged that soccer wears out the grass; discussed field space rented to other sports; demand; adult leagues; turf management; designated times; and alternative solutions.

Dante Herrera reported growing up playing soccer in Culver City but being unable to play once he turned a certain age; discussed having to leave the City to play soccer; and he pointed out that other sports mess up the fields too.

Karen Laitis reported living next to Tellefson Park; damage to her property as a result of adult soccer playing; attempts to

communicate with the players; soccer balls on the property; altercations with players; proximity of the park to the property; support for small children being able to play; and she discussed the importance of recognizing issues.

Vicky Pearlson expressed concern with soccer balls hitting the walls of her home; discussed requests to have the soccer players move their goals further away; negative interactions with soccer players; broken windows; trespassing on private property by soccer players; the feeling that the soccer dominates the park and disallows other uses; rules and regulations; the lack of accountability; complaints; and ineffective enforcement.

Laura Love, AYSO, provided background on the organization; discussed the adult league program; accountability; enabling young adults the opportunity to have physical activity; Park Patrol; permits; resident priority; opening up field space; and allowing adult play on a trial basis.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding pick up softball; clarification that all parks are for drop in use unless there is an organized group; permit holder priority over pickup groups; the prohibition of pickup or organized adult soccer; turf damage; the wear factors of different activities; the evolution of sports over the years; the need for technical information provided by a consultant; and use of the high school fields.

Additional discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff and Commissioners regarding various agreements for different fields; the need for additional staff; year-round use of fields; limiting what footwear may be used; recovery time for the fields; bare spots; turf that never gets fully reestablished; an observation that the impacts of adult soccer surpass all other sports combined; removal of adult soccer from El Marino Park due to turf damage; using dirt instead of turf; use of non-cleat shoes; safety issues; a suggestion to find a dedicated facility for adult soccer; costs; purchasing offsets; the budget; natural turf vs. synthetic turf; cleats vs. turf shoes; different factors that damage the fields; wear spots; wear and tear and size of the players; field conditions; the ideal amount of downtime to allow the grass to take hold; synthetic turf; use of recycled tires as infill; origination of the ban in Culver West Park; clarification

that the municipal code does not specifically prohibit soccer; the need to correct the false statement posted in the park; the statement from Syd Kronenthal; concern with applying the same facts to every park; larger vs. smaller parks; the need for an audit; clarification that no policy or regulation for a ban on adult soccer in Culver City parks has been established except for at Culver West Park; the need to put rules in place and cite them if there is a ban; the need to clarify signage; organized soccer play run by the City in the past; the AYSO adult soccer league; accommodating demand; designating an area for adult play; concerns of Tellefson residents; finding the right solution for the City; allowing all residents to enjoy the parks; the need for clear policy; creating enforceable rules; balancing the needs of the community.

Commissioner Amezola expressed concern that a ban on one park became a ban across all parks; pointed out that her son had spoken in support of allowing adult soccer play in Culver City parks; discussed limited options and costs for adult soccer play; the need for economical options for adults to exercise and play; having parks make life better for everyone; concern with enacting a ban on a specific sport; Title 1; a suggestion to consider designating an area in Fox Hills Park for adult play; the original request to ban soccer from Culver West Park but to look at alternatives; the number of children playing soccer in the City; costs; collaborating with an entity to support soccer; support for removing signage from the park or changing it to include which sports are allowed and which are not; and concern that the findings of fact are not exclusive for soccer.

Discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff and Commissioners regarding differences in perspective; behavioral, social and structural dimensions to the issue; how the coaching aspect of sports creates leadership; responsible play; finding a way forward; meeting the needs of the community; fields conducive to specific age groups; challenges with shutting the fields down for rehabilitation; demand; peak hours; field management; challenges; Park Patrol; resources; clarification that there is no signage in Tellefson Park prohibiting soccer; concern with property damage; liability; trespassing on private property; public urination; protecting property; a request for immediate direction to help residents;

assistance from the Police Department; a request for residents to contact staff regarding ongoing issues; addressing bad behaviors; concern that there is not one dedicated space for adult soccer in the City; futsal; pickleball; working to find a solution; repurposing paddle tennis courts for other sports; adult dodgeball leagues; outreach; the importance of clarifying signage to relieve frustration for the Park Patrol, homeowners and soccer players; clarification that the turf consultant is part of the budget proposal; funding necessary to adjust signage; next steps in the process; and keeping the conversation alive.

Commissioner Mohammed moved to direct the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director to institute regulations specifically addressing the issue of adult sports in City parks to allow for effective enforcement by the Police Department and Park Patrol.

Additional discussion ensued between meeting attendees; staff and Commissioners regarding clarification that the Police Department cannot cite a policy, they may only cite the municipal code which is passed by the City Council; City Council adoption of an ordinance regulating the type of adult sports allowed; permits; gray areas; clarification that the code indicates that: "The playing of rough or comparatively dangerous games such as football and baseball is prohibited except on the fields and areas provided therefore"; the feeling that soccer is a comparatively rough or dangerous game; allowable sports; an observation that in some countries soccer is called football; gray area in interpretation; the need for citation in regulation and hearing notes; efforts to make things more clear; creation of a regulation until there is a longer term solution; staff agreement to consult the City Attorney to see what is needed from a policy perspective; ensuring that the City is not arbitrary or capricious; signage written in English and Spanish; concern with racism; the need to address variety and diversity in the City; clarification that there is no need for a motion when making a recommendation to staff; and the need to publicly notice consideration of signage removal before moving forward.

Commissioner Amezola moved to agendize a discussion of removing soccer signage from the parks until the policy in

the municipal code is clarified. Commissioner Mohammed seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding a suggestion to add a request that a City Attorney opinion be included with the staff report; legal ramifications of making changes; and costs of making changes.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER AMEZOLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION AGENDIZE A DISCUSSION OF REMOVING SOCCER SIGNAGE FROM THE PARKS UNTIL THE POLICY IN THE MUNICIPAL CODE IS CLARIFIED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: AMEZOLA, MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN
NOES: HEINEMAN

Corey Lakin, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, indicated that he would move forward with the issue as soon as possible.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Rickards invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

Patricia Mooney, Senior Management Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Items from Staff

Corey Lakin, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, congratulated Commissioner Heineman on being named Senior of the Year for 2018 at the City Council meeting

during Older Americans month; he reported on the Car Show;
and he discussed a medical incident at The Plunge.

Commissioners expressed appreciation to the City Council for
the recognition and to staff and paramedics for their
response at The Plunge.

Commissioner Mohammed received clarification that the bullet
hole at The Plunge would be repaired.

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Items from Commissioners

None.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:53 P.M., the Parks,
Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a
regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 7:00
P.M.

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Patricia A. Mooney
ATTENDING 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 Green
CITY CLERK

Date