

***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

September 1, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Amezola called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 7:01 P.M. via teleconference and discussed meeting procedures.

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

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Patricia Mooney, Senior Management Analyst, explained procedures for making public comment.

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Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Heineman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Amezola invited public comment.

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

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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 August 4, 2020

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER ZEIDMAN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR HEINEMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 4, 2020 AS SUBMITTED.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

PRCSC - Discussion of the Park Prohibitions Signage in Culver City Parks and the Removal and/or Replacement of Existing Signs.

Corey Lakin, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, provided a summary of the material of record.

Chair Amezola invited public comment.

Patricia Mooney, Senior Management Analyst, read public submitted by:

Disa Lindgren: expressed concern with signage in Spanish prohibiting adult soccer in the parks; she felt that a particular group of community members was being targeted to let them know that they are not welcome; discussed the many people who enjoy the parks; many languages spoken; signage in the City; concern that Spanish is being used to convey a rebuke rather than to communicate respect and appreciation; diversity; exclusivity; and she recommended that the existing signs be removed immediately.

Noah Zatz: asserted that the signage was blatantly racist and should be removed; stated that the only sign targeting the specific population is a sign of exclusion; discussed selective targeting of soccer; non-Latinx adults playing football at Lindberg Park without incident but similar turf impacts; concern with targeting a sport associated with the Latinx community; and universal translation of public signage.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Carlos Valverde discussed members of the community offended by signage in Culver City parks prohibiting adult soccer in one additional language other than English; the cultural significance of soccer; the importance of listening; providing more opportunity for communities of color to shape the laws of the City; actions put into place to keep certain people out; the history of the City; racial covenants; the controversial nature of the signs over many years; discrimination; exclusion; racism; the need to acknowledge that the issue is about more than turf; he asked Commissioners to look at the issue in a wider context; and he suggested banning cleats rather than people.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding length of time that the Spanish language has been covered up on the signage; replacement with consistent signage; listing other sports that are not allowed; adult vs. youth soccer; the way people act on sports fields and the neighbors; history of the item; actions taken; implementation of changes; damage in the park; trouble in the neighborhood; the City Council decision to ban play in the park; the extension of the ban to all parks; group sports covered in the municipal code; subcommittee review of the code; damage done to the fields by adult sports; upgrades necessary to accommodate adult sports; signage as a useful tool to manage what is going on in the park; difficulties with getting people to follow the rules even with signage; support for prohibition of adult team sports in non-designated areas; review of the municipal code by the City Attorney's Office; fair and consistent enforcement; universal signage replacement in English and Spanish as the primary languages spoken in the City; support for review of signage; recommendations of the Turf Consultant; appreciation to the public for sharing concerns; frequency of tape replacement on the signs; reasoning for separate signage; a suggestion that one of the signs be removed; making it clear that propelling

an object is not allowed; signage to address the most violated actions; parks that have the municipal code signage posted twice; concern with wasting staff time replacing tape on redundant signs; other sports being played in the parks; the number one cause of damage on the grass; solving the problem of allowing adults to play and providing a healthy community; the need for inclusivity; the need to face issues and stop deferring; putting money into turf; the pandemic; the inability to take down signage at Culver West Park due to the City Council mandate; a suggestion to create a plan for implementation with a subcommittee to move forward; including the Turf Consultant Report in the discussion; establishing a process for creating multi-level play in the parks; concern with the length of the process; the need to remove signs; determining which parks can be allocated to adult play; concern with taking signs down before a clear plan has been formulated; the report indicating that none of the fields are currently able to support adult play; rehabilitating the fields; making it clear as to what is prohibited and what is allowed; acknowledging that if adult soccer is allowed at a specific park, that park will be dirt; Reimagine Culver City; projects that the City will reallocate funding towards; the fact that the item was previously voted on; the responsibility to inform the City Council that a \$50,000 Turf Report was done; making green space available to people of all ages; consideration of synthetic turf; focusing on where and how the parks can be accessible to all people; and the responsibility to advise the City Council on how to strengthen the parks.

For the purposes of discussion, Commissioner Zeidman proposed a motion to recommend that the City Council remove all signage that prohibits soccer. Commissioner Rickards seconded the motion.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER ZEIDMAN AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER RICKARDS THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL REMOVE THE EXISTING SOCCER PROHIBITION SIGNAGE IN CULVER CITY PARKS.

THE MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE;

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

Item A-2

PRCSC - [Standing Item] Any or All of the Following Actions, if Desired] (1) Receive and File 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)

Chair Amezola invited public comment.

Patricia Mooney, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that no public comment had been received.

Commissioner Mohammed reported that the proposal for revising the municipal code had been submitted to the City Attorney's Office.

Vice Chair Heineman discussed the Senior Center Guide and efforts to reach out to seniors during the pandemic.

Chair Amezola received clarification that there was no interest in creating a subcommittee as had been suggested in Item A-1.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR HEINEMAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER RICKARDS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT.

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Item A-3

PRCSC - [Standing Item] (1) Review the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items List and Make Adjustments, if Necessary; (2) Discuss Topics for Inclusion in the Next PRCS Commission Report to the City Council; and, (3) Receive and File the Report

Chair Amezola invited public comment.

Patricia Mooney, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that no public comment had been received.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the municipal code; further discussion regarding recommendations for adult play; changes in Department leadership; changes to the code; consistent signage; the larger discussion regarding allowance of other activities; field maintenance; funding; potential impacts; the budget process; the need for a larger discussion; Turf Report recommendations; staff recommendations; implications; interim leadership; continuing work to advise the City Council; a request to have the Parks Manager provide a recommendation of two or three parks that could be potentially used for adult play and utilize the Turf Report; the importance of parks in building a healthy community; concern with requiring staff to make a determination of which parks can be used for adult play, when the Turf Report advises against that; determining what parks should be used for; providing a scenario where adults can play safely; concern with discussing policy recommendations during the PRCS Department leadership transition; the prohibition of organized activity during the pandemic; funding for improved maintenance to allow for additional activity; allowing park usage for everyone; the turnaround time for staff reports and posting the meeting agenda; formulating recommendations; allowing for more impactful activities; the process; agreement to request a staff report in November to discuss adult play; scheduling; agreement to change the date of the November meeting to November 10; Commission consensus to agendaize an update from the Parks Manager on the state of park maintenance in January; items the Commission might like to report back to the City Council including work done regarding changes to signage regarding adult play; the ad hoc subcommittee; the formal quarterly reporting process; written reports; agreement that Chair Amezola represent the Commission in verbal reports to the City Council with the Vice Chair representing the Commission if the Chair is unavailable; and the report from staff planned for the City Council meeting on September 14.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER RICKARDS, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR HEINEMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Amezola invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Wailele Sallas, Wild Child Gym, provided background on his business; asked about local businesses being required to pay rent for park usage; discussed businesses already using the parks; and he questioned why restaurants were given extra space without having to pay a fee.

Chair Amezola noted that since the topic was not on the agenda, the Commission would not be able to discuss it.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

Patricia Mooney, Senior Management Analyst, noted correspondence received for Item A-1.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR HEINEMAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ZEIDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Items from Staff

Corey Lakin, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, reported that he had attempted to reach all Commissioners to let them know that he had taken a position with the City of Irvine; he thanked Commissioners and staff for their support during his tenure with the City; discussed collaborative work done; expressed appreciation for the advocacy of the Commission and support for the Department; and noted progress made.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding pricing for park usage by outside groups; recouping costs; staff time; allowing multiple groups to rent at the same time to help offset staffing costs; applications for park usage; permits; the Rec Extension Program; providing supervised internet access to school age children for remote learning; space limitations; eligibility; operating hours; bandwidth at the Senior Center; funding approval for Wi-Fi at Vets; program

expansion; the timeframe; enrollment; staffing; maintenance;
and the Senior Nutrition Program.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioners expressed appreciation to Corey Lakin for his
leadership and innovation.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding
the authority given to staff to determine permit costs for
park usage and the Public Order issued.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:15 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2020.

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Patricia A. Mooney
SECRETARY of the Parks, Recreation and
Community Services Commission

APPROVED _____

Paula Amezola
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