

***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

October 6, 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 7:00 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

Vice Chair Heineman joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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Chair Amezola explained meeting procedures.

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Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Amezola 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.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding email received, and agreement to read items received under Receipt of 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 September 1, 2020

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER RICKARDS THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AS SUBMITTED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: AMEZOLA, MOHAMMED, RICKARDS, ZEIDMAN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: HEINEMAN

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

PRCSC - Discussion of (1) Suggested Revisions to Certain Sections of Culver City Municipal Code Chapter 9.10: Parks, Public Buildings and Property; and (2) the Use of Field Space for Adult Sports

Armando Abrego, Parks Recreation and Community Services Interim Director, provided a summary of the material of record; and, responding to inquiry, he introduced and provided background on himself.

Chair Amezola invited public comment:

Patricia Mooney, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that no public comment had been received for item A-1.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding repeated concerns expressed about signage and adult sports; current policies; implications connected to any decisions to address adult sports or potential changes to ordinances; costs involved in repairing and maintaining the fields with increased usage; addressing signage in Spanish prohibiting soccer; field availability; removal of Spanish language citations; consequences for the staff on each site; maintaining adult prohibitions in place; complexity of the situation; revisions to park regulations; review by the City Attorney; comparisons to municipal codes in other area cities; the goal of transparency; updated language; the importance of regularly revisiting and revising municipal codes; concern with failure to make changes to the section directly addressing engaging in organized sports and changes to signage; staff input and consideration in regard to proposed changes; the process for approving changes to the code; staff workload; lack of a penalty section for violating general park rules; sections of code that haven't been reviewed in full by the City Attorney's office; providing an explanation of specific reasons for deferring revisions; camping; the City task force related to homelessness; ensuring that updates to code are compliant with current case law; provisions which implicate vending laws; revision of state law limiting City authority in regard to vending; addressing vending in City parks; prematurity of updating the code due to ongoing cases; modification of permits and use agreements by the City Attorney's office; the current increase in allowed paid activities that are not sponsored by City parks; City Council issuance of permits; clarification on section M; Commissioner review and clarification regarding proposed changes; language regarding drones; clarification on water features; adding rugby, Frisbee and kickball to organized sports included in section M; language indicating "...included but not limited to..."; and adding as much specificity as possible.

Vice Chair Heineman joined the meeting.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding smoking in parks; adding extra language to include electronic smoking devices and vaping; the definition of smoking; Section M; divisiveness of only the signs prohibiting adult soccer play in parks being translated into Spanish; implications of racism; conversations regarding the issue; the clear prohibition of sports in undesignated areas; the policy issue; agreement that current language does not include an exclusive list; interpretation; the ability of the Commission to consider the possibility of taking down signage in Spanish prohibiting soccer; providing support for staff or police in the event that individuals are injured while a sport is being played; the potential burden on staff in continually monitoring or censoring redundant signage; changes in the municipal code; research indicating that an indicator of health is access to green space; lack of access for those over the age of 18 to play soccer; inclusivity; clarification that changes in the municipal code would not inhibit the Commission from making further suggestions to the City Council; accessibility of parks; suggestions for the General Plan; funds for rehabilitating parks; park space designated for organized adult sport use; establishing activities in parks prior to removing signage to save costs; policy changes; concerns about public confusion with removal of signs; the previous vote of the Commission on the item; items on the agenda; revisions to the municipal code; separate signage to prohibit soccer play; clarification that if signage is pulled down, the public would take that as a message that soccer is now allowed; the prohibition of dogs in parks; the feeling that redundant signage is not useless and all signage should be in English and Spanish for inclusiveness; making all rules clear; efforts to get people to comply; concern with targeting Spanish speakers who play soccer; concern that those over 18 years of age are not welcome in the parks; focusing on the agenda item; the need for additional green space or fields; pick-up games vs. organized games; and the need for continued discussion to identify how, where and when adult sports can be played in parks.

Commissioner Mohammed suggested adding rugby, kickball and ultimate Frisbee to Section 9.10.055, Prohibitions, Item M, and, adding language regarding penalties to Section 9.10.055 similar to the penalty provisions that were added in the blue underlined text in Section 9.10.405, Penalties.

There was Commission consensus to accept the suggested revisions presented by staff to certain sections of Culver City Municipal Code Chapter 9.10: Parks, Public Buildings and Property, and agreement with adjustments proposed by Commissioner Mohammed to add other sports to Section 9.10.055 Prohibitions, Item M, including rugby, kickball and ultimate Frisbee, and, to include penalties/language in Section 9.10.055 similar to the penalty provisions that were added (noted in blue underlined text) in Section 9.10.405 Penalties).

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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)

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding agreement that the Ad Hoc Municipal Code Subcommittee should continue; clarification regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) meetings; scheduling; and staff agreement to investigate CDBG grant meetings, and follow up.

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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

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding correspondence regarding the tennis program; upcoming PRCS-related items on the City Council agenda; October as Disability Awareness Month; proclamations for outgoing Disability Advisory Committee members; scheduling; continued discussion

of the municipal code based on suggestions from the City Attorney's office; correspondence between the subcommittee and City Attorney's office; updates to municipal code; quarterly reports to City Council; updated City Council policy with regard to Commissions, Boards, and Committees; and clarification that COVID-19 updates have been taking precedent over quarterly reports.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR HEINEMAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ZEIDMAN 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.

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

Michael Lanahan wrote regarding the tennis program at the Veterans Park; reported that on September 23 the new Recreation Director had fired him and is closing the tennis program for the year; felt his termination as a tennis coach was without proper cause; indicated being instructed to continue giving tennis lessons past the five week time allotted in order to receive a paycheck; discussed confusion about the format of scheduling and pricing of tennis lessons as a result of the new system; he provided background on his experience as a tennis coach; felt that shutting down the tennis program and denying students instruction was an injustice; discussed his decades-long service to Culver City; opposition to his termination by students and their parents; and he inquired about who to voice concerns to.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding Commission purview; policy issues; recreational programs vs. City contractors; and additional email in support of the instructor.

Zili Liu wrote to advocate for Michael Lanahan; asked that the tennis program be reinstated; discussed the experience of their son and daughter taking tennis lessons at the park for many years; attested to the professionalism and expertise of Coach Lanahan; reported that both children are now USTA Tournament

players and attributed this success to the tennis program; and expressed frustration regarding the new online reservation system.

Daniel Hamilton-Lowe expressed appreciation for programs provided by the Parks Department; reported that his son is currently involved in private tennis lessons; urged staff and Commissioners not to eliminate the program; spoke to issues on the website regarding online reservations and scheduling; and expressed concern with bad decisions being made by outside organizers.

Susan Tuam wrote to urge staff and Commissioners to reconsider the termination of Michael Lanahan and the tennis program; expressed concern that shutting down the tennis program would result in hard-working families being denied quality instruction which she noted was becoming a privilege that only the wealthy and elite could enjoy; explained that her son who has been in lessons with Coach Lanahan for the last 10 years is now a USTA Tournament player; attested to the difficulty of the sport and affirmed that coaches of Michael Lanahan's caliber were difficult to find; explained that in addition to quality training, Coach Lanahan serves an exemplary role model; claimed that termination of Coach Lanahan and the tennis program would be a profound disservice to current and prospective students; and urged Commissioners and staff to save the program.

Dileepan Siva wrote to request that the tennis program in the Veterans Park remain active for the rest of the year; attested to Michael Lanahan's coaching skills; and urged the Commissioners and staff not to terminate the program or fire Coach Lanahan.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding acknowledgment that people have been very happy with Mr. Lanahan; the ability of the Commission to discuss recreational programs and contractors; a suggestion that staff provide an informational memo to the Commission; the need to agendize a discussion of the matter for a future meeting in order to consider the issue; continuation of the tennis program with a new instructor; the program at Fox Hills; the possibility of other programs experiencing difficulties regarding online registration services; improvements and updates to online registration; creation of a memo to address concerns about the tennis program and online registration further; the new

reservation system; and the agendaizing a discussion of concerns from users regarding online reservation system.

Commission consensus was received to agendaize a report from staff on the registration system, how it is operating, and plans for future improvements.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

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

Armando Abrego, Parks Recreation and Community Services Interim Director, discussed ongoing projects within the department; various upcoming events; the impending installation of new outdoor gym equipment; gratitude for work by the IT (Information Technology) Department on the Wi-Fi project at Veterans Park; appreciation to staff regarding posting of signs and appropriately disinfecting park equipment; and clarification that the voting center at Veterans Park would open on October 30th and remain open until November 3rd.

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Items from Commissioners

Vice Chair Heineman expressed appreciation for staff at the Senior Center; discussed the recent barbeque; and the delay of the installation of playground equipment at Tellefson Park due to damage to a water pipe.

Commissioner Zeidman welcomed Armando Abrego as Interim Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director.

Chair Amezola received consensus to agendaize a progress update regarding teen programming and daycare at Veterans Park, including after-school programs.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:58 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 10, 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