



## VNNC Parks and Recreation/Open Spaces Committee Meeting

### Minutes

Thursday, October 25, 2018 6:10pm-7:21pm

Delano Recreation Center

15100 Erwin St Van Nuys 91411



#### 1. 6:04PM - Call to order

Roll Call (VNNC Members: Michael Browning, Maria Skelton, Penny Meyer, and Kathy Schreiner; Bill Jones, Chief Management Analyst, Partnerships and Grants Administration, Department of Recreation & Parks - 12 total)

2. Approval June Meeting Minutes (Moved by Kathy and second by Penny, unanimous)
3. Chair Remarks – Michael Browning (chair) introduction of new Senior Lead Officer for Northwest Van Nuys, Officer Perez.

#### Old Business

4. Bill Jones, Chief Management Analyst, Partnerships and Grants Administration, Department of Recreation & Parks:

1. City of Los Angeles will be able to use funds from Measure A (County tax) and Prop 68 (State of CA) to fund new parks and improvements to existing parks.
  - a) Will seek community input on priority projects. Recognize that tentative priorities identified through 2016 Park Needs Assessment may need to be updated.
  - b) City will take the lead in submitting proposals to the County for Measure A funds.
  - c) Anticipated timeframe: Understand that County staff will seek County Board of Supervisors approval of allocation of Measure A funds in January 2019. After Board votes, Category 1 and 2 funds would be available for proposals from the City. Competitive funds would most likely become available in Summer of 2019.
  - d) Provided handouts regarding 2016 Parks Assessment and amount of funds available from Measure A on an annual basis for each study area.
  - e) Rec and Parks “will be aggressive to get all possible funds available.”
2. Types of improvements for existing parks and rec centers that could be funded under Measure A include:
  - a) Security lighting.
  - b) Security cameras.
  - c) ADA walkways.
  - d) HVAC upgrades.
  - e) Restroom upgrades.
3. Identifying land for new parks
  - a) If we identify land that might be appropriate for a park, he suggests that we notify the appropriate City Council office. Rec and Parks can then make certain the land is “clear” of environmental issues and can determine appropriate funding sources.

- b) Rec and Parks will be partnering with organizations like the LA Community Land Trust to try to identify potential properties for parks.
- c) Council offices should be aware of government-owned land within their districts.
- d) If we have any possibility of getting a developer to supply land for a park, the Rec and Parks Commission prefers a donation of land (vs. money). Even if we get undeveloped land donated, there will still be a lot of costs to construct the type of underground infrastructure needed for a park
- e) Rec and Parks have found that it is a long process to negotiate use of any land currently owned by DWP. (Gave examples of Whitsett soccer fields recently completed and a project in Sylmar where they finally got permission to use 6 acres for a park out of a 70-acre parcel owned by DWP.)
- f) The amount of time required to develop a park, once land is obtained, could be roughly 18-24 months for a large park and 6-12 months for a small park.

4. Issues regarding seeking joint use agreement with LAUSD schools

- a) If school management is open to considering joint use, they would require that Rec and Parks provide dedicated staff to cover the hours when the property would be open for community use. Staff would ensure safety for users and prevent vandalism of school property. Rec and Parks does not currently have the budget for such staff.
- b) Bill Jones and others will be attending a County-sponsored conference on how to expand "joint use" for parks.

5. Operational concerns committee members raised and Jones said he would report back to management meeting

- a) Locking of restrooms while park is still open and there are people in the park.
- b) How to get the exterior of the park locked up at night.
- c) Request clear signs with Park Rules to be posted in English and Spanish. (Senior Lead Officer said such signage would be useful to reinforce need for compliance with the rules -- e.g., no gambling.)

New Business

- a. Mike asked all members to forward any suggestions and or concerns for any park to him each month so that he can send an official memo to park staff. This is to prevent miscommunication with staff. If any member lives in Van Nuys and wants to voice their personal issues that is certainly welcomed, as long as it is clear that the VNNC committee does not endorse your conversation.
- b. Meeting at VNRC Park next month - November 29<sup>th</sup>

Announcements

7:15 Adjourned