



## **PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 15, 2021, 2:30 p.m.

VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY

#### **1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Eberle, Potelle, Sardarbegian, Wolfson and President Kalfayan

Absent: None

- a. Report of Recording Clerk, re: Posting of the Agenda.** Ms. Aleksanian reported that the agenda for the March 15, 2021, regular meeting was posted on the bulletin board outside City Hall on or before March 9, 2021.

#### **2. UPCOMING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS**

Director of Community Services & Parks Onnig Bulanikian read a list of upcoming City Council agenda items related to the Community Services & Parks Department (CSP).

#### **3. COMMISSION/STAFF COMMENTS**

Commissioner Eberle commented that there are ongoing drainage problems at Griffith Manor Park and asked if anything can be done to remedy that. She also asked if staff is doing anything to capture all the knowledge gained from dealing with the pandemic so that it can be applied should another emergency should arise in the future.

Commissioner Potelle asked if a motion can be proposed a meeting prior to when the item occurs or must it be proposed on the day the staff report is given. Ms. Aleksanian clarified that a motion can be made after the staff report is presented at the meeting.

Commissioner Sardarbegian commented that he looks forward to seeing the report regarding the fields.

Commissioner Wolfson commented that she noticed that the artificial turf item is not on the March agenda and asked for confirmation that the item will be on the April agenda, Mr. Bulanikian confirmed.

Commissioner Potelle asked if it's possible to get the artificial turf vs. natural turf report a week prior to the meeting. Mr. Bulanikian said that the last two meetings, staff has been posting the agenda and reports the Tuesday prior to the meeting, and that staff will aim to post the April agenda and reports the Monday prior to the meeting.

#### **4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**5. CONSENT ITEMS** (Including Minutes)

The following are routine and may be acted upon by one motion. Any member of the Commission or audience requesting separate consideration may do so by making such request before motion is proposed.

**a. Approval of the Minutes of the Commission special meeting held on February 22, 2021**

Moved: Commissioner Wolfson

Seconded: Commissioner Eberle

A roll call was conducted and Commissioners voted as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Eberle, Potelle, Sardarbegian, Wolfson and President Kalfayan

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Pelanconi Park Playground Replacement**

1. Motion recommending that the Glendale City Council approve the Conceptual Plans for the Pelanconi Park playground drafted by GameTime C/O Great Western Recreation, a Playcore company, and approve a Resolution to dispense with the bidding process set forth in Glendale Municipal Code (GMC) Section 4.12.010A(1), and authorize the Purchasing Administrator, or his designee, to solicit competitive bids and execute an agreement pursuant to GMC Section 4.12.010(A)3 for the Pelanconi Park Playground Replacement Project.

Deputy Director of Community Services & Parks Koko Panossian gave a PowerPoint presentation covering the following regarding Pelanconi Park:

- Acreage – 3.09 acres
- Amenities
- Aerial Map
- Project Background
- Project Scope
- Existing Playground
- Proposed Playground
- Environmentally Friendly Equipment
- Estimated Project Cost
- Project Funding
- Tentative Project Schedule
- Anticipated Next Steps

Commissioner Eberle said that she's noticed that the passive area at the park is not used

much, and asked if staff has considered changing the orientation of thigs at the park. Mr. Panossian said that staff will keep an eye on how that area is being used, but that right now there are no additional plans, except for replacing the current picnic tables in the future to enhance the park. Commissioner Eberle said that the equipment seems to be more static than that installed in other parks. Mr. Panossian attributed it to the size of the playground and mature trees being right next to the area, which staff is trying to avoid impacting, but he said he will talk to the contractor about adding climbing elements that require upper body use and possibly adding other elements. Commissioner Eberle also commented that she sees a lot of older gentlemen using the tables to play and wants to make sure we are doing whatever we can to make them more comfortable, as they seem to be the primary users. Mr. Panossian said that exercise equipment was added to the south end of the park to try to encourage people to be more active and that the tables will be replaced in the future, but that staff will continue to look at ways to enhance the area.

Commissioner Potelle said that she doesn't live that far from the park, but that she had not spent time there until recently, but looks forward to the new playground. She said she also noticed the big open space, and that she is a huge proponent of large open spaces. She said that, considering that the park is bound by 2 main roads, staff might consider to add a fence or low wall with outlets to the green space so that parents feel more comfortable allowing their children to kick a ball or throw a Frisbee there without fear of the kids running after a ball. She also asked if the seating space is intended for parents to sit there to watch their children. Mr. Panossian said that in fact that is the thought behind it. He also said that fencing can be considered for a future project. Commissioner Potelle added that she likes the shade structures, but that perhaps staff can reconsider the angles of the shades and how they affect the slides. She commented that she appreciates the fact that GameTime is part of the USGBC. She mentioned that she agrees with Commissioner Eberle to add a climbing element. Lastly, she asked what staff means by "cozy space." Mr. Panossian clarified that it would be a "safe" and "quiet" space for children with autistic tendencies to feel more comfortable playing.

Commissioner Sardarbegian asked if there are any future plans to enhance the baseball field. Mr. Panossian said that in the long-term capital improvement planning, staff has identified the need to enhance the fencing, and that every 3-4 years, the field is either partially or completely cycled through to make the field playable. He added that the half basketball court will be re-surfaced in the next couple of years. Commissioner Sardarbegian also asked what the base of the playing field will be. Mr. Panossian said that it will be a soft rubberized material such as what was used at Glenoaks.

Commissioner Wolfson said that from the renderings, she noticed that the playground equipment is a little heavy on slides and that the playground looks a little small. She sought clarification if the competitive bidding process is being dispensed with because GameTime is custom designing the playground for us. Mr. Panossian confirmed that is the case, but further clarified that staff will work with the City's Purchasing section to bid out the project for installation. Commissioner Wolfson also pointed out that the amount of CDBG funding awarded for this project is greater than the specified budget, even with a 10% contingency built in. She asked what happens with the remaining CDBG funds not used towards the project, Both Mr. Panossian and Senior Community Services

Supervisor Maggie Kavarian stated that any unused CDBG funds would be returned, and the CDBG Advisory Committee would recommend reallocation of the funds to a different capital improvement project or projects by the City Council.

Moved: Commissioner Potelle  
Seconded: Commissioner Wolfson

A roll call was conducted and Commissioners voted as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Eberle, Potelle, Sardarbegian, Wolfson and President Kalfayan  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

## **7. REPORTS - INFORMATION ONLY**

### **a. Therapeutic Recreation Program Annual Report**

Community Services Supervisor Kenneth Khan provided a PowerPoint presentation covering the following as it related to the Therapeutic Recreation Program:

- Program description and population served
- Types of disabilities that participants may have
- Club Maple Program
  - Location and hours
  - Activities and special Events
- Get Fit Program
  - Description
  - Activities
  - Location and hours
- Impacts of COVID-19
- Special Events & Programming

Commissioner Eberle asked if staff ever includes the families in the activities/activities. Mr. Khan said that prior to the pandemic, families were often part of the program, and during the pandemic, a family member might join a participant on the virtual event.

Commissioner Potelle said it's great the CSP has a program like this and that it has been offered biweekly during the pandemic to ensure that participants stay connected and have a sense of community.

Commissioner Wolfson said she noticed that there has been a drop in attendance and even more so for Club Maple. She asked if staff knows why that is. Mr. Khan said that technical issues are the cause. She also mentioned that there were reduced expenses in the program.

### **b. Recreation & Community Services Section Monthly Activity Report for March 2021**

Sr. Community Services Supervisor Sevag Garabetian provided a PowerPoint presentation covering the following:

- COVID-19 What's Open and Closed
- MPODS
- Winter Session Ed Camp
- Spring Break Day Camp
- Virtual Programs
  - Trails & Open Space
  - Virtual Senior Programming
  - Therapeutic Recreation Programs
  - Youth & Family Services – STAR and Teen Night Out

Commissioner Sardarbegian noticed that the basketball hoops were reinstalled at some of the parks and inquired if indoor basketball courts are now open. Mr. Garabetian said that indoor basketball courts are still closed.

Commissioner Wolfson thanked staff for the MPODS and the virtual resource fair.

Commissioner Eberle asked what staff learned about the seniors who received their vaccinations at the MPODS. Mr. Garabetian listed a series of reasons the seniors gave for not getting the shot sooner and elsewhere and for not being interested in getting the vaccine when offered an appointment.

Commissioner Potelle thanked staff for providing Ed Camp and for answering all of her questions as schools open.

Mr. Bulanikian gave credit to Ms. Aleksanian, Mr. Garabetian, and Ms. Goglia. He also commented that a larger MPOD site will be opening at Glendale Community College in April.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.