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Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2013

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:22 PM by Chair Debra George. Other voting members present were: Cynthia Weichelt, Diana Crews, Stacie de Armas, Sue Wilschke. Glenn Bailey arrived at approximately 7:45 PM. A quorum was present.
2. Approval of the proposed minutes for the meeting of February 4, 2013 was moved to the next meeting.
3. Reports from LA City Officials and Departments: Council Districts 5 and 6, Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council, other city Departments - None Noted.
4. Reports from Federal or State Government or Agencies - None noted.
5. Reports from Environmental and Park Groups:
 - a) Karin Flores of the Friends of the LA River discussed the river clean-up on May 18th, 9AM - 12PM. They are looking for volunteers age 10 and up, including Scouts, Clubs, and families to assist. Volunteers should meet at the LA River on the west side of Balboa Blvd, at the canoe put-in.
 - b) Michael of the Los Encinos Docents Association announced the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 30, 2013 at the Los Encinos Historic Park. Admission is free. Donations of any amount are welcome. They will have traditional games, a working blacksmith, old-time music, tours of the historic adobe and performers in period costume.
 - i. The Egg Hunts will be grouped as follows:
 - a. 1:30 PM -2 years old and under in the Corral
 - b. 2:00 PM - 3 -4 years old
 - c. 2:30 PM - 5-10 years old in the Orange Grove
 - ii. Please bring your own baskets!
 - c) Joe Phillips of the Sierra Club will lead a walk through the basin on Sunday March 10, 2013.
 - d) San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will conduct the last Beginners and Family Bird Walk of the season on March 9, 2013.

6. Old Business:

- a) Update Report of ACOE vegetation management south of Burbank
 - i. Vegetation Management plans have been halted for the duration of nesting season.
- b) Parking Bollards and landscape along Oxnard Street
 - i. Rec and Parks have received the drawing of the desired results and are looking at it.
 - ii. There was discussion and questions from the audience regarding the plans, possible future plantings, options available for watering plants including acquiring funds for a water truck.
 - iii. Discussion of decorative painting of the bollards as a deterrent to graffiti.
- c) Installation of permanent fencing around Bull Creek
 - i. Fencing has been installed to protect the public from falling into the creek. Discussion between the engineers and architects as to cause and responsibility is ongoing, and so far, inconclusive.
- d) Proposed New Year Festival to be held at Beilenson Park/Lake Balboa on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2013. Proposal includes the closure of the northern part of Beilenson Park and closing off a portion of Lake Balboa and the walk path surrounding the lake.
 - i. There was a discussion of the festival hours (10am until 1 hour before dark), festival and public access, parking, transportation and shuttles.

7. New Business:

- a) Transition of Office of Public Safety into LAPD - Next month hope to have LAPD Capt. Egan to discuss.
- b) Refurbishment of soccer fields at Balboa Sports Center.
Attending from Recreation and Parks were: Charles Singer and Steve Cline.

- i. The area covering 40 acres on the North side of Balboa that encompasses 12 soccer fields on 38 acres plus surrounding grounds. In previous years, there was no interior water sprinklers. Much discussion and dissention from the public.
- ii. Recreation and Parks has received money from the permitted groups (AYSO), Commercial and Quimby funds totaling roughly \$400,000.
- iii. Interior fencing allows Rec and Parks to setup watering areas and rotate the use of fields to protect and re-grow grass. No firm plans at this time but fencing will be permanent.
- iv. Includes outside perimeter of fence around whole field as well as interior field fences (not specific as to individual fields or areas).
- v. Hanson Dam has this type of fences. Parks and Rec says that to keep the fields green, fences are required.
- vi. Parks and Rec could not produce a plan at this time. Wavered as to height of fences to be installed, areas to be fenced. Spoke of using temporary fence laid in an "X" pattern to keep people off of the resting fields.
- vii. Field area is operated by the Municipal Sports section of RAP
- viii. New seed is planned for planting on April 15, 2013
- ix. Recreation and Parks has said they will leave the existing temporary fencing in place during seed germination

x. A separate meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2013 with three attendees from the Parks Committee/community, two AYSO Board members, and Recreation and Parks to discuss needs, wants, and possible changes.

c) Park Advisory Boards. There was discussion around the idea that if the Park Advisory Board was re-activated, better communication may provide better initial input from interested parties and therefore a better outcome.

8. Public Forum: No additional comments made.

9. A special Parks Committee meeting will be held on Monday March 18th. Meeting will provide community update on the fencing issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Wilschke