

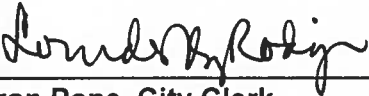


**Beverly Hills City Council Liaison/Recreation and Parks Commission
Committee will conduct a Special Meeting, at the following time and place,
and will address the agenda listed below:**

**City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
4th Floor Conference Room A
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Monday, September 18, 2017
3:00 PM**

AGENDA

- 1) Public Comment**
 - a. Members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any item listed on the agenda.
- 2) Beverly Hills Community Dog Park Update**
- 3) Coldwater Canyon Park Playground Renovation**
- 4) Peace Tree Planting in Beverly Hills**
- 5) Adjournment**

for 

Byron Pope, City Clerk

Posted: September 15, 2017

***A DETAILED LIAISON AGENDA PACKET IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN THE
LIBRARY AND CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.***



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Conference Room A is wheelchair accessible. If you need special assistance to attend this meeting, please call the City Manager's Office at (310) 285-1014 or TTY (310) 285-6881. Please notify the City Manager's Office at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting if you require captioning service so that reasonable arrangements can be made.



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 18, 2017
To: City Council Liaisons
From: Stephanie Harris, Management Analyst
Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Director of Community Services
Subject: Beverly Hills Community Dog Park Update
Attachments: 1. Survey Results

INTRODUCTION

The Beverly Hills Community Dog Park recently completed a full year of operation. Within the first year of operation, staff has reported regularly to the Recreation and Parks Commission as well as City Council on the progress of the park. It was the direction of the City Council to return with an update after a full 12 months of operation. At this time, staff is prepared to provide updates on items such as park usage, registration process, Park Rangers, and any issues or concerns patrons have submitted.

DISCUSSION

In August 2017, staff presented the idea of a second park survey to obtain further information for the Commission to assist with recommendations for presentation to City Council in October. Recreation and Parks Commissioners provided feedback, which helped develop the 15-question survey. The survey was emailed to all registered owners, individuals who have requested use of the park but were ineligible due to residency requirements as well as posted on the Beverly Hills Community Dog Park Facebook page. Postcards were developed to pass out at all City parks, in the Business Triangle, Community Centers, as well as at the Dog Park anniversary celebration.

Survey results in the attached document reflect the desires of the park users, and the information provided by Ranger Reports indicate the Dog Park statistics. Survey results and an overview will be presented to the Council Liaisons for discussion and recommendations. Staff will update the results and present them to the Recreation and Parks Commission at their September 26, 2017 meeting. At this time, additional public input will be solicited to help develop Commission recommendations to be presented to the full City Council in October.

Park Statistics Overview:

As of Tuesday, September 12, 2017:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Resident Tags | 1,153 |
| Worker Tags | 322 |
| Guest Passes | 15 |
| Hotel Guest Passes | 1 |
| Inquiries from Non Residents | 775 |

According to the Ranger's daily tally sheets, the Beverly Hills Community Dog Park continues to be very active in the early morning hours, especially between the 8:00a.m. to 10:00a.m. time frame. Park usage begins to slow during the weekday afternoon hours, but maintains busy throughout the day on the weekends. The park usage increases again in the early evening with the 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. hours remaining the busiest. This has been consistent since the park's opening. The number of registered dogs is 1,475 and there has been over 27,255 recorded dog visits.

Since the opening of the Beverly Hills Community Dog Park, park capacity (*20 dogs per side*) has not been met at any given time. Confrontations and incidents have been minimal, with only a small number requiring follow-up by administrative staff. There have been minimal reports of patrons violating rules or requirements with a majority of park users being patient and cooperative with the process. There have been very few issues, complaints or concerns made by local establishments regarding anything other than desired use of the park. Administrative staff immediately and appropriately address all issues, complaints or concerns received, and have been keeping City Management as well as the Recreation and Parks Commission apprised.

Survey Response Overview:

The Recreation and Parks Commission requested emphasis through the survey on the following items:

- **Hours of Operation**
 - Currently 8:00a.m. – 8:00p.m.
- **Restricting Park Access**
 - Currently Park is open to Beverly Hills residents, individuals who work in Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills hotel guests, and City residents' guests.
- **Permit Process**
 - Currently, registration is completed online. Residents and employees within the City all receive blue tags, while guest receive a temporary pass.
- **Ranger Presence**
 - Currently a Ranger is present during all operating hours, for 72 hours per week, year-round..

Benches:

Currently in the Dog Park, a total of eight City standard benches are placed throughout the park. Additional circular benches are located around the trees providing additional seating directly under the tree canopy. Both types of benches are metal with approx. 1 ½ inch slats and the City Standard bench has a plaque located on the seatback of the bench. At this time, Staff is working with the bench manufacturer to modify the existing benches to mitigate the potential hazard for dogs and the possibility of their paws getting caught between the slats.

Shade Options:

Staff has provided two additional umbrellas to provide shade while the trees within the park mature.

Surface Options and Maintenance:

Decomposed Granite (DG) currently makes up the surface of the Dog Park based on the input received during the design phase of the Park prior to construction. After looking into the various surface materials used at local dog parks, it was determined that DG was the best option. Other options that were considered are listed below along with the reason it wasn't chosen.

- Grass
 - o Grass was not chosen for several reasons, including that the State is in the midst of a drought. Grass has also proven to be difficult to maintain in other dog parks due to the wear and tear from the dogs running, digging, and urinating.
- Artificial Turf
 - o Costs associated with the artificial turf were much more expensive compared to the current DG. The maintenance of the material is much more difficult and costly due to the needs of washing it down to eliminate odors.
- Woodchips/Bark
 - o This option was presented and was used in other parks, however, there were plenty of concerns due to the issue of dogs eating the material. Additionally, small insects and bugs tend to live in this material as well and could possibly cause harm to the animals. Possible abrasions to the dogs' paws was also a concern.

Friends of The Dog Park consideration:

Similar to other community organizations such as Friends of the Library and Friends of Greystone, these organizations are volunteer-based and created and operated by patrons interested in the betterment or restoration of a community resource. To date, members of the community have not approached the City with interest to develop this type of organization, however information has been placed on the City's Dog Park webpage and will appear in the Fall Community Services Brochure. Absent an established non-profit fundraising group for the dog park, donations can still be accepted and used to directly support the park.

FISCAL IMPACT

A budget enhancement to cover the operational cost for the Park Ranger to monitor the Dog Park during all operational hours (8:00a.m. to 8:00p.m. Monday through Friday what about the weekend?), was submitted during the budget process for a total of \$134,495.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff and the Commission are seeking Liaison direction regarding the continued operation of the Beverly Hills Community Dog Park regarding the hours of operation, restricting park access, permit process, and Ranger presence or any other areas based on the information provided.

Based on the Liaisons' comments and recommendations, staff intends to present an update to the Recreation and Parks Commission at the September 26, 2017 meeting seeking their recommendations to provide to the full City Council at a Formal Session in October.



Nancy Hunt-Coffey

Approved By

Attachment 1

Are you aware that the dog park opened in September 2016?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 96.83% | 244 |
| No | 3.17% | 8 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 252 |

What is your overall satisfaction with the dog park?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| I like the dog park. | 83.00% | 205 |
| I like the dog park, but needs improvement. | 0.00% | 0 |
| I don't like the dog park | 15.38% | 38 |
| I am unable to use the dog park because I don't live or work in the area, but I'm interested in using the dog park. | 1.62% | 4 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 247 |

If you are aware of the dog park and you're not using it, why?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| It's not convenient to the proximity of my residence, place of business, or hotel. | 7.95% | 7 |
| Don't want to go through the registration process. | 3.41% | 3 |
| Lacks available parking in the area of the dog park. | 2.27% | 2 |
| Hours are not conducive to my needs. | 1.14% | 1 |
| Too hot or there is a lack of shade. | 43.18% | 38 |
| Do not fall into one of the categories of users. | 11.36% | 10 |
| Other, please explain. | 30.68% | 27 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 88 |

If you fall into a category of users, which do you qualify for?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Beverly Hills resident | 75.71% | 187 |
| Work in Beverly Hills | 22.67% | 56 |
| House guest of a Beverly Hills resident | 1.21% | 3 |
| Beverly Hills hotel guest | 0.40% | 1 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 247 |

Do you feel that the dog park should be open to non-residents?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 42.08% | 101 |
| No | 57.92% | 139 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 240 |

Do you feel the dog park is well maintained?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 86.06% | 216 |
| No | 1.59% | 4 |
| Please explain | 12.35% | 31 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 251 |

How often do you visit the dog park?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
|----------------|------------------|----------------|

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-----|
| 1 - 3 times per week | 25.51% | 63 |
| 3 - 7 times per week | 15.79% | 39 |
| 1 - 3 times per month | 34.01% | 84 |
| Very Infrequently | 25.51% | 63 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 247 |

What time of the day do you visit the dog park?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 8 a.m. - 12 noon | 30.61% | 75 |
| 12 noon - 4 p.m. | 37.96% | 93 |
| 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. | 61.22% | 150 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 245 |

How long do you stay at the dog park when you go?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Less than 30 minutes | 29.55% | 73 |
| 30 minutes to 1 hour | 61.54% | 152 |
| Longer than 1 hour | 8.91% | 22 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 247 |

Do you find the operating hours of the dog park sufficient? Open daily, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 86.75% | 216 |
| No | 13.25% | 33 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 249 |

What size dog do you own and which side of the park do you use?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Small dog/small park. | 30.28% | 76 |
| Small dog/large park | 23.90% | 60 |
| Large dog/small park. | 1.20% | 3 |
| Large dog/large park. | 35.86% | 90 |
| Multiple dogs, elaborate below. | 8.76% | 22 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 251 |

Do the amenities in the dog park fit your needs? (Waste bags, water bowls, water fountains, trees, benches.)?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 86.89% | 212 |
| No | 13.93% | 34 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 244 |

How do you feel about the presence of a Ranger onsite?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Needed only at peak times. | 30.36% | 75 |
| Needed at all hours. | 48.99% | 121 |
| Not needed. | 20.65% | 51 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 247 |

Would you be interested in becoming more involved in the dog park by helping to create or join a Friends of Beverly Hills Dog Park organization?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes. If yes, please provide your email address. | 29.41% | 70 |
| No, it gets too crowded when I'm there. | 0.00% | 0 |
| No, not at this time. | 71.01% | 169 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 238 |

Would you like to see special events or classes offered at the dog park?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 36.13% | 86 |
| No | 29.41% | 70 |
| What kinds of events or classes would you like to see? | 34.45% | 82 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 238 |



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 18, 2018
To: City Council Liaisons
From: Teri Angel, Recreation Services Manager
Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Director of Community Services
Subject: Coldwater Canyon Park Playground Renovation

INTRODUCTION

The Recreation and Parks Commission will be reviewing the final proposed design plans for the Coldwater Canyon Park playground renovation at their September 26, 2017 Meeting. Staff would like to apprise Council Liaisons of the process and renovation concepts before being presented to the full City Council in October.

DISCUSSION

The play equipment at Coldwater Canyon playground has reached the end of its life span and needs to be replaced. There are worn areas and we are no longer able to order replacement parts for the existing equipment. The current playground consist of one play structure for 2-5 year olds, one structure for 5-12 year olds, a swing set with two infant seats and four standard seats and sand as the primary surface. There are also four picnic tables at the site. The City hired Architect firm March Studio to collect site measurements and data. It was determined the renovation would include the current playground area and picnic area as defined by a fenced area with some openings. In March 2016, the process began to reimagine the play space and determine the needs of the community and park users. The public process of gathering the information included:

- 2 surveys
 - public use and park improvement suggestions
 - picnic reservation use – occasion and age of child
- 400 postcards mailed to residents within 2,000 ft. of the Park.
- Banners hung at the Park.
- Ads placed in 2016 in the 9/22 & 9/23 and 10/21 & 10/22 issues of the Beverly Hills Courier and the Beverly Hills Weekly.
- 2 Public outreach meetings at the September and October 2016 RPC Meetings.
- 1 Special RPC Meeting including shuttle playground tour with the public invited.

Through this public outreach process, the primary needs shared for the new park space included:

- 1) Add shade element over play equipment and picnic tables.
- 2) Consider play equipment that caters to toddler age up to approximately 8 years old.
- 3) Address the program needs of the on-site City Preschool.
- 4) Provide a new play surface with less sand to promote inclusive play.
- 5) Increase security around the playground
- 6) Select play equipment that will blend with the current aesthetics of the Park.

Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Coldwater Canyon Park Playground project was sent to four playground equipment companies, three companies responded, and representatives from these three companies made presentations to the Coldwater Canyon Park Playground Committee comprised of Commission Liaisons Rosoff and Gersh, City staff and consultants. Two companies, Kompan and Landscape Structures presented playground concepts at the April 25th Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting. The Commission selected Landscape Structures to further develop a playground schematic design.

In June, 2017 Commissioner Gersh completed her term on the Commission and Commissioner Julian Javor now serves as the Coldwater Canyon Park Liaison.

The playground design addresses all of the needs expressed through public outreach.

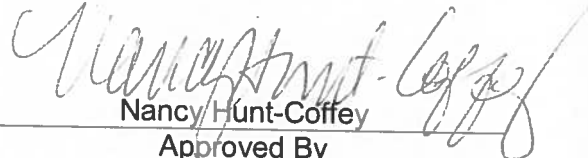
- The playground and picnic areas will have shade elements.
- Equipment has been introduced that will interest toddlers with a new parent/toddler swing proposed to be included.
- The pour-in place surface and designated sand area similar to the Roxbury Park layout was designed.
- A small trike path is planned around the perimeter of the play area
- Fencing will be added to the small portions of the park perimeter that are currently not fenced.
- A color palette was selected on the play equipment, ground surface, and shade element that complement the surrounding park.
- The walkway entrance to the playground area will also be redesigned.

FISCAL IMPACT

Capital Improvement Funds of \$600,000 are set aside estimated the project is within budget. Intentions are to begin renovation in early 2018 and reopen the playground in late Spring/Summer 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff and the Commission are seeking liaison direction on the outreach and conceptual ideas of the park as outlined. Staff and consultants intend to present to the Recreation and Parks Commission at the September 26, 2017 meeting the design plan seeking their approved recommendation followed by a presentation of the Coldwater Park Playground Renovation Project to the full City Council at a Formal Session in October.


Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Approved By



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 18, 2017
To: City Council Liaisons
From: Teri Angel, Recreation Services Manager
Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Director of Community Services
Subject: Peace Tree Planting in Beverly Hills

INTRODUCTION

Staff seeks Council Liaison direction on the proposed idea of planting a Peace Tree in Beverly Hills. This suggestion was brought to City Council under Oral Communication by Ms. Munni Irone. Council recommended Ms. Irone bring the proposal to the Recreation and Parks Commission. Under Oral Communication Ms. Munni Irone presented her idea at the January 24, 2017 Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting. The proposal was then placed on the July 25, 2017 Commission meeting agenda for discussion.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Irone expressed interest in the planting of a Peace Tree on City park property and is interested in tying it to Mayor Bosse's Healthy City initiative. Ms. Irone has done similar Peace Tree planting in other parts of the world. Ms. Irone's intent is to have this tree signify peace and harmony amongst the residents and those that visit the City of Beverly Hills. In support of her Peace Tree concept Ms. Irone invited Paul Sladkus, Leesa Greenstein, Sein Pasqual Bell, and Carmelita Pittman who spoke of their support of Ms. Irone and her Arts for Peace program. Ms. Irone has a website that provides further information on her philanthropic deeds around the world. <http://munniirone.com/landing-pages/philanthropy.html>

Ms. Irone preference is the planting of a Moringa Tree. Moringa trees are not indigenous to the United States. Moringa tree seeds and seedlings were suggested to be purchased from Moringa Farms in California (www.moringafarms.com). If seeds or seedlings is not the selected source of planting, Ms. Irone is willing to donate or seek the donations needed to procure a tree and the expenses associated with transporting and planting. Urban Forest

Manager Ken Pfalzgraf was in attendance at the January Commission Meeting. Mr. Pfalzgraf stated he is not familiar with this particular species of tree, nor could he find any local cities who have planted this species.

A small ceremony or celebration to honor the planting was suggested to be held either in conjunction with the City's annual Arbor Day event in April or a separate event evolving around World Peace Day celebrated every year on the third Friday in September. In 2018, World Peace Day will be celebrated on September 21st. Mr. Pfalzgraf expressed concern about planting this type of tree for a ceremony and not have it do well in local soil and weather conditions. Ms. Irone is not opposed to suggestions of another tree species.

Staff sought direction from the Commission on the concept of planting a Peace Tree in Beverly Hills and if desired, is the Moringa Tree the tree species recommended to be planted. If the Commission was in favor of the concept, staff would report back to the Commission with further details on this concept for final consideration.

The Commission agreed to go forward and consider the prospect of getting and planting a Peace Tree and establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to meet with City Council on a liaison basis to discuss both the planting of the tree and all of the circumstances surrounding it. The September 18, 2017 meeting will serve as the first Ad Hoc discussion on the proposal. If the Peace Tree proposal moves forward, Commissioners Rosoff and Roston agreed to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT

Financial impact unknown at this time. Costs could include the tree selection, transportation, and planting if not procured through donations, in addition to the costs associated with the proposed tree planting ceremony. It's anticipated all costs for the event could be covered under next fiscal year's general fund.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff and the Commission Liaisons seek Council Liaison direction on the concept of a Peace Tree Planting and the proposed selection of the Moringa Tree.


Approved By

Nancy Hunt-Coffey,
Director of Community Services