



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal Hill, California 90755-3799

THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
WELCOMES YOU TO A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

August 12, 2015
5:00 p.m.

The City of Signal Hill appreciates your attendance. Citizen interest provides the Council, Agency and Commissions with valuable information regarding issues of the community. Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

Meetings commence at 6:00 p.m. There is a public comment period at the beginning of the regular meeting as well as the opportunity to comment on each agenda item as it arises. Any meeting may be adjourned to a time and place stated in the order of adjournment.

The agenda is posted 72 hours prior to each meeting on the City's website and outside of City Hall and is available at each meeting. The agenda and related reports are also available for review at the Library on the Friday afternoon prior to the Commission meeting. Agenda and staff reports are also available on the City website at www.cityofsignalhill.org.

During the meeting the Community Services Director presents agenda items for Commission consideration. The public is allowed to address the Commission on all agenda items. The Chair will announce when the period for public comment is open on each agenda item. The public may speak to the Commission on items that are not listed on the agenda. This public comment period will be held at the beginning of the public portion of the meeting. You are encouraged (but not required) to complete a speaker card prior to the item being considered, and give the card to a City staff member. The purpose of the card is to ensure speakers are correctly identified in the minutes. However, completion of a speaker card is voluntary, and is not a requirement to address the Commission. The cards are provided at the rear of the Council Chamber. Please direct your comments or questions to the Chair

(1) CALL TO ORDER – 5:00 P.M.

(2) ROLL CALL

CHAIR BROOKS
VICE CHAIR DUDLEY
COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM
COMMISSIONER KISS-LEE
COMMISSIONER LAUER

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chair will lead the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

(4) PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Matters of general concern, which are not on the agenda, can be addressed during this portion of the meeting. However, State law (Brown Act) prohibits the City Council or Commissions from acting upon any item not posted 72 hours before a regular meeting and 24 hours before a special meeting.

(5) PRESENTATION(S)

a. Introduction of new Staff Member

Staff will introduce the new Community Services Manager, Gina Allen.

(6) COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORTS

a. Appointment of Alternate for Sustainable City Committee

Summary

The Commission needs to select an alternate representative for the Sustainable City Committee due to Commissioner Brooks resignation from the SCC.

Recommendation

Nominate and vote for an alternate to represent the Parks and Recreation Commission on the Sustainability Committee.

b. California Library Association Annual Conference

Summary:

Staff will seek commissioner input on attendance at the annual CLA conference to be held in Pasadena, during the dates of November 4-6, 2015.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

(7) CONSENT CALENDAR

The following Consent Calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. Items will be acted upon by the commission at one time without discussion. Any item may be removed by a Commissioner or member of the audience for discussion.

a. Updates on City Council Actions, Park Projects and Programs

Summary:

Each month staff will provide an update on various actions, which affect the Community Services Department such as City Council direction, project status for park development, or other Community Services programs which have changed over the previous month.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

b. Review of Commission Revolving Objectives

Summary: Each month staff and Commissioners will provide an update on various actions taken regarding items identified on the Commission Revolving objectives.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

c. In the News

Summary: Each month staff will share articles and information regarding Parks, Recreation and Library services that may be of interest to the Commission.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

d. Minutes

Regular Meeting of July 8, 2015.

Recommendation: Approve.

(8) COMMISSION NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSIONER BROOKS
COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM

COMMISSIONER DUDLEY
COMMISSIONER KISS-LEE
COMMISSIONER LAUER

(10) ADJOURNMENT

Tonight's meeting will be adjourned to the next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to be held on September 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, CA, 90755.


CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Routine matters are handled most quickly and efficiently if contact is made with the City department directly concerned. However, if you would like to request that a matter be presented for Council, Agency or Commission consideration, you may do so by writing the City Council, City Manager, City Clerk or Commission Secretary. The deadline for agenda items is 12 noon on the Tuesday preceding the meetings. Agendas will be mailed to those who provide self-addressed, stamped envelopes to the City Clerk's office or Commission Secretary. The agenda and related agenda items are available on our website at www.cityofsignalhill.org.

If you need special assistance beyond what is normally provided to participate in City meetings, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please call the City Clerk's office at (562) 989-7305 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Aly Mancini, Commission Secretary of the City of Signal Hill, do hereby affirm that a copy of the foregoing agenda was posted at City Hall, the Signal Hill Library, Discovery Well Park, and Reservoir Park, 72 hours in advance of this meeting.



Aly Mancini
Commission Secretary

8.7.15

Date



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal Hill, California 90755-3799

August 12, 2015

Discussion Item (6a)

AGENDA ITEM

**TO: HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**FROM: ALY MANCINI
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: SELECTION OF COMMISSION ALTERNATE TO THE SUSTAINABLE
CITY COMMITTEE**


Summary:

For the past several years, Commissioner Gary Dudley has served as Parks and Recreation Commission representative on the Sustainable City Committee (SCC). Until recently, Chair Brooks served as the alternate to the SCC. Chair Brooks has submitted her resignation for the SCC due to conflicts with her schedule. Accordingly, the Commission is asked to appoint an alternate to represent the Parks and Recreation Commission in accordance with the rules of the SCC. Alternate attendance at SCC meetings is welcomed but only required when Commissioner Dudley is unable to attend.

Recommendation:

Select an alternate to attend SCC meetings.

Approved:



Aly Mancini



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

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August 12, 2015

Discussion Item (6b)

AGENDA ITEM

**TO: HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**FROM: ALY MANCINI
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT 2015 CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE**

Summary:

The Commissioners will determine their attendance at the November 2015 California Library Association annual conference.

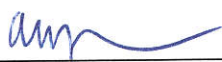
Recommendation:

Provide staff with direction for enrollment at the CLA conference.

Background & Analysis:

The California Library Association (CLA) is holding their annual conference in Pasadena, California from Thursday, November 5, 2015 to Sunday, November 8, 2015. The majority of the programs will be on Friday, November 6th and Saturday, November 7th. The conference schedule can be viewed at: <http://conference.cla-net.org/2015/program/sessions/>. The conference registration is \$165.00 until August 28; after which the fee is \$260 until October 9. If Commissioners are not able to make a commitment at the meeting, staff will be in contact in the next week to confirm.

Approved:



Aly Mancini

Attachment

August 7, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Aly Mancini, Community Services Director

**FROM: JUDY KAMEI
CITY LIBRARIAN**

SUBJECT: 2015 CLA Conference Programs

Here are programs that the Parks and Recreation Commissioners should consider attending at the CLA Conference.

Friday, Nov. 6

8:30-9:15

Not Your Mother's YA Lit

You Can't Do That! Really? Highly Skilled Volunteers in Unusual Places

10:15-11:15

Team Library: How Schools and Public Libraries Work Together

How to Book an Author

DMV Test Prep - - It's the Thing to Do

11:45-12:30

Small Libraries: Square Footage is Just a Number

Everything is Awesome! Reimagining the Library UX

The 10 Minute Library

12:30-1:30

"Core" Beatty Award Winning Books

Do They Like Us? Using Social Media to Promote the Library

Reinvent the Library Newsletter

1:30-2:15

Library Advocacy in Action: Meet the Dillons (CLA's lobbyists)

Pasadena Pursuit Integrating Library Databases and Museum Content

Scaling Up e-book Collection Development and Maintenance

2:30-3:15

Brains after Dark: How to Bring Pub Style Trivia to Your Library

Collecting Dust: Is Your Collection Development Policy Keeping You in the Last Century?

Technology and Intellectual Freedom: Understanding Digital Rights In Libraries

3:30-5:00

Be a Hero: Get NetZero

CENIC Broadband and All That Jazz

Consumer Intelligence Drives Strategy

Saturday, Nov. 7

9:00-11:00

Visit the Exhibits

9:00-9:45

In Conversation: Scott Bonner and Misty Jones

Reading Mentors: Reimagining Read Aloud Programs

10:45-11:30

How Cultural Intelligence Makes a Difference

The Great Reading Adventure: Piloting a Statewide Summer Reading Online Adventure

11:45-12:30

From Stats to Sparkle

Too Much Information: Managing Digital Overload

12:45-1:30

Community Engagement: Psst! It's Not About the Library

In Conversation with Jonathan Gold and Robert Karatsu

12:45-1:45

Tween Tech

1:30-2:15

Into the Digital Divine

Winter Bingo – Fun, Easy, Engaging

You've Got Mail: Communicating with your Users Through Email

3:30-4:15

3 E's of Early Literacy

All Minds on Deck: Unleash Your Staff's Creative Capacity to Reimagine Library Services

Writer's Panel: Everything California

4:30-5:30

Fearless Fifteen: 2015 YA Debuts by California Authors

Make Mobility Your Mission

Program P-Looza: 60 Programs in 60 Minutes

Start Your Political Advocacy Campaign Today



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August 12, 2015

Discussion Item (7a)

AGENDA ITEM

**TO: HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**FROM: GINA ALLEN
COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: UPDATES ON CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, PARK PROJECTS, OR
PROGRAMS**

Summary:

Each month staff will provide an update on various actions which affect the Community Services Department such as City Council direction, project status for park development, or other Community Services programs which have changed over the previous month.

Recommendation:

Receive and file report.

Updates:

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

Proclamations

Mayor Forester presented proclamations from the City and certificates of recognition from Senator Ricardo Lara to outgoing Parks and Recreation Commissioners Ken Davis and Alisha Lopez.

Mayor Forester presented a proclamation to the Community Services Department in recognition of July as Parks Make Life Better!© Month.

RECREATION DIVISION

Signal Hill A.R.C.

Alvarado and Signal Hill Elementary are currently off track. The last day of school before summer track break was July 24th. Attendance for the Afterschool Recreation Club in July was a total of 811 with an average of 48 kids attending the program each day. During the last week of school, the kids in ARC put on a Dr. Seuss themed play for their parents and families. Each group created a play, and made props, from a specific Dr. Seuss book. There were 100 guests in attendance.

Itty Bitty Day Camp

This half-day day camp is offered for five, weekly sessions in the summer, and is designed for young children ages three to five years old. The Itty Bitty Day Camp filled to capacity for every week it was offered this summer with each week hosting 20 children.

Tween Camp

The Tween camp has taken off this year, filling to capacity each week. The teens focus on volunteer projects every week and also attend two field trips. This month they have showered the Signal Hill Active Adults with care packages for their field trip to the OC fair, had a lemonade sale that benefitted the American Cancer Society, and made sandwiches for the homeless which they gave to the Casa Youth Shelter. Total attendance for the Tweens program was 307 with 14 tweens on average attending per day.

Signal Hill Summer Day Camp

Signal Hill Summer Day Camp is currently being offered at two locations, Discovery Well Park and Signal Hill Park. Both camps are full with a waitlist. Day campers enjoy two field trips per week and activities based on the theme of the week. At Discovery Well Park there have been a total of 831 kids and an average of 38 kids per day and at the Signal Hill Park location, there were 242 children who attended with an average of 48 campers per day. These programs will run through August 21st.

Youth Sports

This July, boys and girls aged five to eight years old have been able to sign up for coed T-Ball. Currently, there are two full teams this season. The season runs through August 12th. Registration for volleyball and flag football begin at the end of August.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Active Adult Excursions

The Community Services Division offered three trips for active adults during the month of July. The first trip was to Hollywood Bowl, with funding provided by L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe, and hosted 40 active adults. The second trip, to South Coast

Botanical Gardens and lunch at El Paso Cantina in Palos Verdes, hosted 9 residents and 19 non-residents. The final trip in July, to the Orange County Fair, hosted 16 residents and 16 non-residents. This trip was an intergenerational project with the tween summer program. Ten tweens attended the trip with the seniors. Prior to the trip the tweens put together snacks bags and inspirational notes for all of the senior attendees.

Senior Social Club

The Senior Social Club is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10am-12pm in the Signal Hill Public Library. In July, staff hosted 19 seniors to help celebrate the birthdays of some of the eldest participants. The group brought in snacks, drinks, and a custom cake. The group enjoyed time talking and eating.

Facility Rentals

In July, facility rentals generated \$1,339 in revenue with 84 facility rentals.

Category	Residents	Non-Residents	Non-Profit	City Use	School Use
1. Shelters	4	3	0	6	32
2. Community Centers	1	0	0	20	0
3. Fitness Permits	1	0	0	0	2
4. Library Meeting Room	1	0	2	4	0
5. Spud Field	0	2	0	0	8
6. Wedding Space	0	0	0	0	0

Community Garden

There are currently 19 plots being leased in the Community Garden. An advertisement was placed in the concert brochure to assist in securing additional participants. The Community Garden news is currently distributed monthly and July's copy is attached. Staff invited a gardener from Armstrong Garden Center to visit the Community Garden for a talk on drought tolerant plants and how to prevent diseased plants from growing in the garden. Seven gardeners attended the discussion.

Discounted Bus Passes

In July, nine reduced bus fare passes were purchased by low income residents and residents with disabilities.

Dial A Taxi

In July, four residents utilized the Dial a Taxi program. Currently, there are five participants in this program which provides reduced cost taxi vouchers to seniors and disabled residents.

Food Distribution

In July, food was distributed on two occasions. A total of 59 participants received food during the month of July with an average of 30 bags distributed on each day. There were 34 low income senior residents who completed the new registration application for the new Fiscal Year.

Volunteer Hours

In July, the Community Services Division utilized 16 volunteers at the Senior Folding Group. The group mailed out over 400 Active Adult Newsletters.

School Fitness Groups in Park

In July we had two high school Cross Country teams use Signal Hill Park as a meeting point and to warmup before running the hill. The teams are the girls and boys team from Polly High School and have a total of 124 kids who participate.

Concerts in the Park

Concert in the Park Series which is sponsored by the Signal Hill Community Foundation started on Wednesday July 8. The Concerts are a six week series and will conclude on August 12. Each Concert has about 500 people attending nightly who enjoy pizza, tamales, snow cones, and kettle corn. The event also features a raffle and the Community Organizations of Signal Hill Chamber of Commerce, Sustainable City Committee, and Crimson Pipeline LLP. A Sponsor Recognition was held at the July 22 Concert. All Sponsors were invited the event and were recognized on stage and then enjoyed the Concert in a reserved seating area with heavy appetizers.

SIGNAL HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Circulation

The circulation of library materials for the month of July totaled 3,391 items during the 25 days the library was open. This is an average of 136 items checked-out per day.

Circulation Statistics by Category

Category	Monthly Circs	Average Per Day
1. Adult Non-Fiction (000-999)	243	10
2. Adult Fiction	425	17
3. Young Adult (FIC & NF)	218	9
4. Juvenile (FIC & NF)	1816	73
5. Magazines	37	1
6. DVDs	289	12

Library Visits

Adults (18+)	Young Adults (12-17)	Children (0-11)	Total	People/Day
1,095	756	1,359	3,210	145

Library Registration

In July, 11 residents and 34 non-residents registered for library cards.

Computer Use

Public access computers were used for 340 sessions during July. This averages to 14 sessions (hours) of public computer use per day.

Wi-Fi

This month we had 213 connections made using this service. This averages nine connections per day that the library is open.

Volunteer Hours

The library offers volunteer opportunities for high school students and a teacher preparation program at CSULB called SERVE. We also accept Federal Work Study Students from LBCC and Casa Loma College. All four student groups (high school, SERVE, LBCC, & Casa Loma) are labeled as volunteers as they are not compensated by the City. They assist library staff and help library patrons with computer problems or homework. Below are the number of hours volunteers worked in July.

Volunteer Type	Hours
High School	66.5 hrs.
Federal Work Study	0 hrs.
SERVE	14 hrs.
Total Hours	80.5 hrs.

Story Time Programs

A total of 166 kids and 140 adults attended a total of 12 regularly scheduled story times. Average attendance for each story time was 26.

First Friday Book Club

Fifteen adults participated in the book discussion held on July 7, 2015. The book featured in July was *Delicious* by Ruth Reichl.

Great Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Fifteen adults and 21 children attended the Great Stuffed Animal Sleepover held on Friday, July 24 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Each child brought a stuffed animal to spend the night at the library. To make sure the stuffed animals had a good time at the sleepover the children (with the help of an adult) filled out a form with the stuffed animal's name and favorite activities. The children also decorated a picture frame, ate snacks, and heard a story read by Library Assistant, Charles Hughes. The children and parents left at 7:00 after which the stuffed animals were photographed exploring the library. They were then put to bed to sleep until their owners came and picked them up on Saturday morning. All the stuffed animals had a good time and went home safely on Saturday!

Teen Book Club

Four sessions of the Summer Teen Book Club were held during July with an average attendance of nine teens per event. All the teens read *The Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline Cooney which was discussed during the book club. Each week had an additional activity including making tacos, screening *The Giver*, game day, and a presentation on Graphic Novels by Barnes & Noble.

DJ 101

Eighteen teens attended the special DJ 101 program held on July 28, 2015. This program was presented by 3Monkees entertainment with 2 DJs who brought their professional equipment, demonstrated how to use it to mix songs. They instructed each teen attending in using the equipment with a hands-on session and provided career advice on being a professional in the music industry.


Summer Library Program

The Summer Library Program continued during July with the theme of "Read to the Rhythm." 21 children and 14 teens registered for the program during July bringing the totals to 100 children and 22 teens participating since the program began on June 13. To date, 35 adults have submitted book reviews and favorites lists as part of the Summer Library Program during July.

LBUSD Outreach

On July 7 the City Librarian visited the Alvarado Elementary Kindergarten parents orientation to present information on the Library. On July 1 and July 8, the library hosted 6th grade classes from Signal Hill Elementary with 35 students and 1 teacher on each visit. The students checked out books of their own choice for reading and were given a presentation on the Summer Library Program. A 5th grade class from Alvarado Elementary visited on July 10 to find materials on the subject of westward expansion.

Approved:


Aly Mancini



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

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August 12, 2015

Discussion Item (7b)

AGENDA ITEM

**TO: HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**FROM: ALY MANCINI
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF COMMISSION REVOLVING OBJECTIVES

Summary:

Each month staff and Commissioners will provide an update on various actions taken regarding items identified on the Commission Revolving objectives.

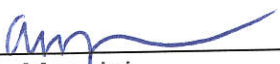
Recommendation:

Update, receive, and file report.

Background and Analysis

As requested by the Commission, attached is a list of items that were brought up during past meetings and subsequently given to staff or the Commissioners for follow-up. Attachment A is the most recent list with a status report following each item. This will provide an ongoing status update for Commissioners regarding requests they have made. Notes in blue indicate updates since the last meeting.

Approved:


Aly L. Mancini

Attachment

Commission Revolving Objectives (status through July 2015)

New Items from July Meeting – Future agenda for consideration

None

New Items from July Meeting – Maintenance/Operations follow-up

Pending

Capital Improvement Projects

- Community Garden – Update to be provided at Dec Commission meeting; review originally scheduled for May, postponed due to Finance software update
- View Park and Electronic Sign – [Construction documents in development, staff anticipates an update on the project at the September meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.](#)
- Kiosk at Panorama Promenade – Project on hold until Deputy PW Director vacancy is filled
- SHP play equipment rubberized surfacing (staff request) – [The City received notification that a Cal Recycle grant of \\$18,000 has been allocated for the resurfacing project. The project is scheduled to begin in November.](#)
- Adopt-a-Tree and Adopt-a-Bench programs; use Community Foundation to receive donations – To be brought back as an agenda item at a future meeting with Project Checklist completed
- Dog Park – [Contract awarded to Urban Arena at City Council meeting on July 21](#)

Maintenance

- Drinking fountains on Panorama Promenade have a lot of calcium build up and need to be cleaned –[A follow up work request was submitted to PW on 7/23/15](#)
- A couple of lights on Panorama Promenade are beginning to peel and need to be repainted – [Touch up painting has commenced while awaiting a contract approval for city wide painting project](#)
- DWP driveway – PW is researching options to slow cars down; speed bumps are unsafe on such a steep slope; project on hold until Deputy PW Director vacancy is filled

Other

- Fitness businesses in parks – No permits at this time
- Replacement of drinking fountains with dog bowls – Fountains at Signal Hill, Hilltop and Hillbrook parks will be replaced this year; Project on hold until Deputy PW Director vacancy is filled
- Development of park sign program – Work is ongoing; Commission review to be scheduled for future meeting
- Research permanent solutions to the parking congestion at DWP – Staff is researching parking meters and other possible solutions.
- Dawson tree replacement request – [Jon Chicetti recommended considering replacement of trees with crepe myrtles \(with cost shared by homeowners\) and also replacing the turf around the trees with drought tolerant landscaping. Staff will be meeting to discuss this option further.](#)



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

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August 12, 2015

AGENDA ITEM

**TO: HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**FROM: ALY MANCINI
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT: IN THE NEWS

Summary:

Articles compiled by staff that may be of interest to the Commission include:

- LGBTQ Teens in Recreation Programs
- About the California Parks and Recreation Society
- Every Kid. Every Park. Nothing Less.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

Member to Member

LGBTQ Teens in Recreation Programs

By Randy Wiger

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ) teens are coming out ever younger, and they and their families are requesting services and accommodations that meet their needs. Recreation and parks departments may believe the services they provide are available for everyone equally, and that LGBTQ youth are therefore already included in the programs they offer. But we know from a growing number of instances that minorities who are not deliberately and intentionally included are left out. Simply providing an opportunity and a program is not sufficient for authentic engagement.

Why LGBTQ Teens need Recreation Programs

Much literature and resources focus on homeless LGBTQ teens, and they are disproportionately represented. Often, as many as 40 percent of a city's homeless teens are LGBTQ, even though LGBTQ people are at most 10 percent of the overall population. As important as it is to assist homeless LGBTQ teens, it is equally important to address the needs of non-homeless LGBTQ teens. In Seattle — with an estimated population of 668,000 as of 2014 — there are approximately 400 homeless LGBTQ youth (age 24 and under) out

of a conservative estimate of 2,300 LGBTQ youth of middle- and high-school age. If one looks at the larger metro area — and we should, because teens are mobile and will use recreation facilities regardless of where they live — with a population of 2 million, then a conservative estimate is that almost 7,000 LGBTQ youth of middle- and high-school age may be using the city's facilities and programs.

Some of these youth have supportive parents, schools and friends. Many do not and are struggling because of attitudes about their sexual orientation and/or gender expression that are imposed on them by family, school staff and friends. Regardless of how many LGBTQ youth there are in your city or service area, and regardless of how many may be homeless or housing insecure, they all need our help. On average, LGBTQ teens experience depression, miss days at school and attempt suicide at rates two to five times higher than their heterosexual peers.

What Can Parks and Recreation Departments Do?

Many departments use a “youth de-

velopment model” or tools such as the “40 Developmental Assets” to guide them in serving teens. In this sense, LGBTQ teens are not that different from any other teens, although, because of the unique challenges they face as minorities, staff will need to be knowledgeable and comfortable discussing these challenges. So, how does a department effectively serve a population of teens and provide positive role models for them if none of its staff share essential characteristics with them? In other words, how many of your department's teen program staff are openly LGBTQ? And how many are openly LGBTQ and of color?

Even when departments have staff members who are comfortable being visibly and openly LGBTQ, it is almost certain that the majority of the staff who interact with teens will be heterosexual. Therefore, there is a need to develop cultural competency and allies in your workforce to ensure all staff are knowledgeable, effective and supportive of the LGBTQ teens they serve. If you think your department is not serving any LGBTQ teens, I would ask, “How do you know?” If LGBTQ teens currently participating in your programs are not comfortable or feel safe enough to let your staff know, then it may be an indication that your department has some work to do to be truly welcoming for all teens.



Getting Started

During the past five years of figuring out what works to engage LGBTQ teens in Seattle, I've identified three broad goals to guide the department's efforts:

1 Ensuring LGBTQ youth are adequately informed of ongoing teen and youth programming the department regularly develops and delivers. This means staff has to know where LGBTQ teens are, how to reach them, how to gain their trust and what methods and media they use to get information.


2 Ensuring all of the department's teen and youth programs and facilities are safe and welcoming for ALL teens, including all LGBTQ teens and youth. The goal here is to develop all staffs' ability to be culturally competent in relating to and working with LGBTQ teens.

3 Creating programming specific to LGBTQ youth as needed. This goal addresses the reality that universal teen programs may need work to be sufficiently safe and welcoming for LGBTQ teens. In the meantime, it may be necessary to offer versions of these programs specifically for LGBTQ teens (and their friends and allies). This goal also sometimes means that there may be program topics of interest to LGBTQ teens that your department currently does not offer and may need to develop.

Next Steps

A good way to find specific resources and potential local partners is to seek out LGBTQ community organizations in your area, and any organizations that focus on providing programs for LGBTQ teens, and then call them up and start a dialogue. Almost every state has at least one central LGBTQ community organization, and most major cities have one or more. So get on the Internet and start reaching out!

There are a number of great resources of information about LGBTQ teens including: The Gay Lesbian Straight Educator's Network (GLSEN), www.GLSEN.org; Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, www.community.pflag.org; the True Colors Fund, www.truecolorsfund.org; and the It Gets Better Project, which has archived more than 50,000 videotaped stories from people who may share life situations or characteristics of the youth you are serving. Visit www.itgetsbetter.org.

For additional resources, visit www.parksandrecreation.org/2015/July/LGBTQ-Teens-in-Recreation-Programs. 

Randy Wiger is the Parks Commons Program Coordinator for the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (randy.wiger@seattle.gov).



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About the California Park & Recreation Society

Founded in 1946, the California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) was established to provide park, recreation, leisure and community service professionals and interested citizens with the knowledge and resources to enhance their leadership role in creating community through people, parks and programs.

CPRS is a nonprofit, professional and public interest organization with more than 4,000 members who are dedicated to:

- providing recreational experiences to individuals, families and communities
- fostering human development
- promoting health and wellness
- increasing cultural unity
- facilitating community problem solving
- protecting natural resources
- strengthening safety and security
- strengthening community image and sense of place
- supporting economic development

CPRS membership is well-distributed, with 86 percent of the 525 park and recreation agencies in California boasting at least one CPRS individual member. In addition, over 182 park and recreation agencies are themselves CPRS members.

Leading the profession: Creating Community

CPRS is the only park and recreation organization that has created a strategic plan for the profession. "Creating Community in the 21st Century" is the action plan for parks and recreation in California. This report positions the profession as vital partners in creating strong communities through people, parks and programs. The Society's members are now implementing the plan locally and CPRS has made outreach to allied professionals and policy makers at the local, state and federal levels a priority. The VIP Plan may be obtained by visiting www.cprs.org.

Communicating the Value of Parks and Recreation: Media Efforts

Communicating with policy makers, the media, partners and the general public is a high priority. To assist park and recreation agencies in their communications efforts, CPRS developed an attractive 8 page brochure which highlights the mission of the profession through local stories and pictures. The brochure uses three messages to articulate how parks and recreation agencies create community: *space to learn and play; space to create and imagine; and space to be safe and secure*. These brochures are available for purchase from CPRS in quantities for 1 to 1,000. CPRS also has developed an extensive *Communications Tool Kit* to assist agencies in creating their own communications plan. CPRS annual awards program provides members an opportunity to gain state recognition for outstanding recreation programming, marketing & media relations, park planning and facility design, park operations and maintenance, volunteers and professionalism.

Disseminating Information: Publications

The Society publishes a quarterly magazine, *California Parks & Recreation*. The Fall issue of the magazine serves as the society's annual *Directory and Resource Guide*, listing all agencies statewide in addition to all CPRS members. A bi-monthly e-newsletter, *P&R Wired*, is distributed to members. *P&R Wired* keeps members informed of employment trends, grants, federal and state legislation, and CPRS services and opportunities.



advancing california's
park & recreation profession

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Identifying Best Practices: Three Reports

CPRS has published three benchmarking reports: "Playground Safety Inspection," "Low Impact Aerobic Instructions for Adults 55+," and "Training of Youth Development Staff." Each of these reports includes study methodology, best practice findings, detailed appendices and questionnaire results. These reports are available on the CPRS Web site.

Expanding Professional Competencies

Education

In its strategic planning process, CPRS identified twenty-two core competencies/skills park and recreation professionals should possess to deliver services in the 21st century. CPRS offers training programs and resources in those areas. CPRS also offers a variety of educational sessions and training programs of current interest to the park, recreation and community service professional. Recent programs addressed the issue of communicating to the media, playground safety and youth development. CPRS is the only organization in California providing the National Playground Safety Institute's Playground Inspector Certification Training Program.

CPRS, in cooperation with the National Recreation and Park Association, sponsors the **California & Pacific Southwest Recreation & Park Training Conference**. The annual four-day event includes educational programs, exhibits and networking among professionals, students, educators, and board and commissioners from throughout the western United States.

Leadership Development

CPRS has identified leadership development a top priority. To address this priority, CPRS is the first park and recreation organization to provide its members with on-line leadership resources. In cooperation with Peopleasets, an international consulting psychology firm dedicated to defining critical leadership success factors for specific professional groups, CPRS members have access to an on-line leadership inventory, a CPRS/Peopleasets Leadership Forum Program, Peopleasets Colleague Feedback Survey (providing 360 feedback), Peopleasets Workgroup Culture Survey, and Peopleasets Professional Development Planning System.

Public Policy: State & Federal Efforts

Through its strong member-based Legislative Committee, CPRS legislative efforts include monitoring bills, testifying and lobbying on state and federal issues important to the profession. The Society's grassroots political efforts include a CPRS Candidate PAC and the Legislative Century Club.

CPRS, working cooperatively with other state-wide organizations, created a public awareness program resulting in the passage of the two largest park bond acts in US history. Proposition 12 (2000), the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000, a \$2.1 billion state-wide park bond, and Proposition 40, California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002, a \$2.6 billion state-wide park bond.

CPRS produces a Legislator Scorecard, *Know the Score*, at the conclusion of each two-year legislative session which tracked the voting record of California state legislature (Assembly and Senate) on significant environmental, park and recreation related legislation. This non-partisan report is shared with members of California's Legislature, CPRS members and partners.

Partnerships

CPRS believes that greater advancements can occur when working collectively. To that end, CPRS partners with a number of professional organizations, advocacy groups, state and federal agencies, and corporations to enhance shared goals. Some of our partners include: the Strategic Alliance Promoting Healthy Food and Activity Environments, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, California's State Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Collaborative for Youth Development, the California League of Cities, National Alliance for Youth Sports and the National Recreation and Park Association.

Organization

The society is governed by the Board of Directors composed of nine elected officers and two section representatives. With eight full-time staff, the society works to meet the needs of the profession and consumers in areas of legislation, member services, education and information. CPRS maintains a headquarters in Sacramento, California.

CPRS is organized geographically into districts and by special interest sections. The fifteen districts and seven sections are governed by CPRS members who provide local and/or specialized training programs and networking opportunities at the community level.

Every Kid, Every Park. Nothing Less.

2015-03-01, Department, by Richard J. Dolesh

On February 19, 2015, at a ceremony in Chicago, President Barack Obama announced an ambitious plan to encourage every fourth-grade child in the nation and their families to visit a park during 2016. He said entrance fees for the students and their families to national parks and other federal public lands would be waived for a full year. Additionally, he spoke of \$20 million that would be provided to the National Park Foundation if Congress approves his budget proposal, used to fund transportation costs for up to 1 million underserved kids in classes or groups to visit a park during this period, as well as other resources that would be available in the coming year such as downloadable educational program resources and activities for kids and families.



NRPA strongly endorses the president's Every Kid in a Park initiative. NRPA CEO Barbara Tulipane said, "We applaud the president's action and welcome his support in getting kids and their families to parks. NRPA's members are already connecting millions of kids to nature and the outdoors every year. The president's initiative provides us an opportunity to show the nation that all parks in our country are ready to welcome children of every age and every background with opportunities to explore, get healthy and connect with nature."

U.S. presidents since Teddy Roosevelt have taken pride in our nation's parks and public lands, but President Obama's remarks about the designation of three new national monuments and the Every Kid in a Park campaign were an exceptionally powerful testament about the importance of parks to the development of children. He framed the action of visiting parks as being not just about the enjoyment of natural and scenic beauty, but as a life experience that is essential to the health and growth of children as individuals and as citizens. Some who heard his remarks said it was the most compelling speech about the value of parks that they have ever heard a sitting president make.

Some highlights from the president's remarks:

"I'm here because next year is the 100th birthday of the National Park Service. For a century, rangers, and interpreters, and volunteers and visitors have kept alive what the writer Wallace Stegner once called 'the best idea we ever had' — our belief that the country's most special places should belong not just to the rich, not just to the powerful, but belong to everybody — not just now, but for all time.

"Conservation is a truly American idea. The naturalists and industrialists and politicians who dreamt up our system of public lands and waters did so in the hope that, by keeping these places, these special places in trust — places of incomparable beauty, places where our history was written — then future generations would value those places the same way as we did. It would teach us about ourselves, and keep us grounded and keep us connected to what it means to be American. And it's one of our responsibilities, as Americans, to protect this inheritance and to strengthen it for the future.

"And that's why, starting this fall, we're going to help a new generation of Americans experience our God-given grandeur by giving every fourth-grader in America what we're calling an "Every Kid in a Park" pass

— a pass good for free admission to all public lands, for you and your family, for an entire year. We want every fourth-grader to have the experience of getting out and discovering America. We want them to see the outside of a classroom too; see all the places that make America great. Put down the smartphone for a second. Put away the video games. Breathe in some fresh air and see this incredible bounty that's been given to us."

NRPA thanks you, Mr. President. You eloquently and passionately expressed the belief we hold in our hearts about the value of parks, and you correctly placed the importance where it should be — on kids.

But why didn't you go all the way? Why should this initiative be just be for fourth-graders and their families? Let's make it possible for every kid in America to visit a park.

Every kid in America deserves a chance to visit a park, especially those in underserved communities who otherwise would not have the opportunity. You are proposing to fund transportation for 1 million kids from underserved communities and that is truly commendable, but what about the rest of the kids who will not have the chance to visit a national park next year?

Every kid in our nation and their families can celebrate the rich heritage of parks in America by visiting a nearby community park, regional park or state park. Our birthright and our heritage of parks is not limited to just our national parks, national monuments and national historic places. It extends to every park and every American can celebrate it.

National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis has frequently commented that the centennial of the National Park Service is a time for kids and parents to enjoy all parks. "The National Park Service centennial goal is to connect with the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates," he said. "The Every Kid in a Park initiative is a way to introduce young people to their national parks and other public lands and establish the love for these special places."

NRPA has embarked on a number of national initiatives that are already making this vision a reality. In partnership with the National Wildlife Federation, the 10 Million Kids Outdoors initiative has already counted 5 million kids participating in nature-based activities. Through our Commit to Health program, NRPA has partnered with almost 500 park and recreation agencies that have pledged to support the Healthy Eating, Physical Activity standards for kids in afterschool programs at parks and recreation centers. NRPA gives support to many national special events including National Kids to Parks Day with the National Park Foundation, National Public Lands Day, and many other events and activities designed to get kids and their families out to parks everywhere.

We firmly believe that every kid in America can enjoy a park, and every kid should be able to do so. Tulipane has called for every park and recreation agency in the country to embrace this notion, saying, "I challenge you to be the first to discuss the Every Kid in a Park initiative with your community and offer yourselves as the solution."

It's simple: Every kid, every park. Nothing less will suffice.

Richard J. Dolesh is NRPA's Vice President of Conservation and Parks.

A REGULAR MEETING
SIGNAL HILL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

July 8, 2015
5:00 p.m.

A Regular Meeting of the Signal Hill Parks and Recreation Commission was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on July 8, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brooks called the meeting to order for the Parks and Recreation Commission at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Brooks
Vice Chair Dudley
Commissioner Cunningham
Commissioner Kiss-Lee
Commissioner Lauer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Brooks led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None

PRESENTATION(S)

None

DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

(A) TOUR OF CITY PARKS

The Commission took a vehicular and walking tour of the City parks, reviewing capital improvements, rehabilitation projects and the maintenance in each.

It was moved by Commissioner Kiss-Lee and seconded by Commissioner Lauer to receive and file the report.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: Chair Brooks
Commissioner Cunningham
Commissioner Dudley
Commissioner Kiss-Lee
Commissioner Lauer

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

(A) UPDATES ON CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, PARK PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

(B) REVIEW OF COMMISSION REVOLVING OBJECTIVES

(C) MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Dudley and seconded by Commissioner Cunningham to approve the consent calendar.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: Chair Brooks
Vice Chair Dudley
Commissioner Cunningham
Commissioner Kiss-Lee
Commissioner Lauer

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

COMMISSION NEW BUSINESS

None

ITEMS AGENDIZED FOR NEXT MEETING

None

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Dudley and seconded by Commissioner Kiss-Lee to adjourn to Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 12, at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: Chair Brooks
Vice Chair Dudley
Commissioner Cunningham
Commissioner Kiss-Lee
Commissioner Lauer


NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Carmen Brooks
Chair



Aly Mancini
Commission Secretary