



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, December 2, 2019
4:00 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) Recommendations by the Recreation and Parks Commission on Upgrades to the Surface and Shade of the Dog Park
- 3) Next steps with La Cienega Park and Recreations Complex
- 4) Adjournment

Handwritten initials "for" in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Huma Ahmed in black ink.

Huma Ahmed, City Clerk

Posted: November 27, 2019

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



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STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: December 2, 2019
To: City Council Liaisons
From: Stephanie Harris, Senior Management Analyst
Subject: Recommendations by the Recreation and Parks Commission on Upgrades to the Surface and Shade of the Dog Park
Attachments: None

INTRODUCTION

Since its opening September 6, 2016, the Beverly Hills Community Dog Park has 2,128 registered dogs. Park patrons continue to provide feedback on park operations and amenities and contact staff with questions and concerns. There continues to be questions and concerns about shade, ground surface options, and maintenance at the park.

DISCUSSION

Staff provides the Recreation and Parks Commission regular updates on the use of the park and patron concerns. At its June 25, 2019 meeting, the Commission asked staff to look at alternate surface options and shade for the park. At the September 24, 2019 Commission meeting staff provided information on various surface options used in other parks. The Commission asked staff to begin looking into alternate surfaces that had a combination of mixed material that would be both aesthetically appealing and functional for the park. It is the Commission's desire to present options to park patrons at a future Town Hall meeting.

Park Shade:

Umbrellas placed over the benches in the park have provided some additional shade while the trees continue to mature. Staff has continued to work with Park Maintenance staff to ensure that the trees remain clean and trimmed to allow patrons to stand under them for shade while playing with their dogs.

The Commission has recommended looking into permanent shade structures for the park, however this will require substantial work as it will disturb the soil in the park. As you may recall, there was the need for soil remediation during the construction phase of the park and there is a plastic barrier about 12 inches below the decomposed granite.

Installing permanent shade structures will require additional remediation and closure of the park during installation of the shade structures. However, staff recommends moving from standard umbrellas to commercial grade umbrellas that will provide much more shade without the disturbing of ground covering.

Surface Options and Maintenance:

Decomposed Granite (DG) currently makes up the surface of the Dog Park based on the decisions made during the design phase of the park prior to construction. The surface material has continued to be one of the most controversial amenities of the dog park. With over 7,100 recorded visits since January 2019, it is important to users that the dog park is equipped with a durable and low maintenance surface.

As a reminder to the Council Liaisons, other options that were considered and researched during the design phase of the park are listed below along with the reason it was not chosen at that time.

- Grass
 - o Grass was not chosen for several reasons. The major reason being that the State was in a severe drought at the time of construction. Grass has proven to be hard to maintain in other dog parks due to the wear and tear from the dogs running, digging, and urinating on it. Parks with natural grass close for reseeding and maintenance several times a year. This would be an inconvenience to the patrons that use the park as part of their dog's regular exercise routine.

- Artificial Turf
 - o Cost associated with artificial turf was much more expensive compared to the current DG. The maintenance of the material is also much more difficult and costly due to the needs of washing it down to eliminate odors. There were also concerns at the time of how hot the artificial turf was during the summer months with so much of the park being exposed to the sun.

- Woodchips/Bark
 - o This option was presented and is being used in other parks, however there were many concerns regarding dogs eating the material. Small insects and bugs tend to live in this material and could possibly cause harm to the dogs visiting the park. Abrasions to the dogs' paws was also a concern and attributed to the justification of woodchips not being selected.

FISCAL IMPACT

Depending on the costs associated with final recommendations, a budget enhancement to cover the costs with both shade options (permanent or commercial grade) and alternate ground covering will be required. Staff anticipates bringing forward a request to the full City Council during the FY 2020-21 budget process.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff feels that it is past and best practice to present the Commission recommendations to the Liaisons prior to moving forward considering the park is still fairly new and there is no available funding at this time. Staff and the Recreation and Parks Commission are seeking Council Liaison direction regarding the following items:

- Support to move forward with looking into potential alternate surface options and presenting options to the community in a Town Hall setting.
- Recommendation on shade for the park utilizing either permanent or commercial grade options.

Based on the Liaisons' comments and recommendations, staff will begin to work with the Recreation and Parks Commission and bring forward final recommendations to the full City Council at a Formal Session in early 2020.

Raymond Taylor,
Community Services Director

Approved By



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: December 2, 2019
To: City Council Liaisons
From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant City Manager
Subject: Next steps with La Cienega Park and Recreation Complex
Attachment: None

Based on feedback from the City Council meeting on October 22, 2019, staff request that the liaisons discuss the following next steps with the La Cienega Park and Recreation Complex project:

- Possible means of funding the capital costs of the center. As was reported to the City Council, phase 1 of the project, which involves the construction of the new community and recreation center, will likely cost in the range of \$125 million, excluding soft costs. Staff from the Finance Department will be present to participate in the discussion regarding possible funding options related to bonding, phasing, ballot measures, etc.
- Architectural firm for pre-design. The next steps in the development process for this project is the pre-design phase where the actual design of the building will begin to be developed and the proposed amenities will be further detailed and designed. City Council expressed some desire to engage the services of a different architectural firm as we proceed into this phase. As a result, staff seek feedback from liaisons regarding this issue.
- Consider the possibility of hiring a consulting firm to verify potential operating costs for the new center. The City Council expressed a desire to have a good sense for the cost to operate the proposed center as currently proposed. Staff has developed some preliminary estimates of what the operating costs (and revenues) might be, but would like to work with a consultant to verify these costs before presenting them to the City Council.