

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 87-86

DATE February 28, 1986

C.D. 13

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: Runyon Canyon Park - Park Development
Phase I - Master Plan
Review and Approval of the Final
Master Plan (#1022B)

*JB
SNJ
SEK

GWR
JHW



General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Further Report _____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the final master plan for Runyon Canyon Park be approved.

SUMMARY:

On March 29, 1985 the Board selected the design firm of Community Development, Planning and Design, to prepare a master plan for Runyon Canyon Park. Runyon Canyon Park is a 133 acre site in the Hollywood Hills acquired for the Department, in June 1984 by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The design firm was selected specifically because their design process is based on community participation. The firm actually began the design work on May 8, 1985 with a design start meeting with the Community Advisory Committee, established by then Councilwoman Stevenson, various agencies and Department representatives.

To begin the master plan process the firm interviewed well over eighty (80) people to learn firsthand what individuals perceived to be the issues surrounding the development of the park. The firm listened to the ideas and concerns of the park's neighbors, involved State and Federal agencies, naturalists, local school representatives, Department staff, fire and police departments to provide the context in which the park plan was to be developed. In addition to articulating the issues that required resolution the individuals interviewed expressed the qualities of the park that are special and required protection and/or enhancement.

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The interviews also began the process of creating community enthusiasm for the development of this park that has been, and will continue to be invaluable in the design and ultimate success of this facility.

Extensive site analysis was done of the site for human features as well as existing site conditions. In June (15th and 22nd), public tours of the site were held to acquaint the public with the facility and some of its development constraints and potentials.

Based on all information gathered in the early months of the project over 1,000 citizens and agency members were sent a goals survey in order to get feedback on proposed policies and uses for the park.

Based on the survey a draft goals report, listing the goals, objectives, and policies was circulated to over 200 individuals and agencies on the active project mailing list for review and comment.

On September 12, 1985 the first community meeting was held to review all the work to date, present and discuss the goals and discuss unresolved issues regarding the concept for development of the park.

On September 14, 1985 the designers held a design workshop in which the community broke up into small groups and each group worked on a design for the park.

On October 3rd the preliminary master plan was presented to the community for their input. The community was very receptive to the preliminary plan. The major areas of concern expressed at this meeting were parking within the facility, traffic circulation into and out of the facility and the size of the children's play area at the Fuller Street entrance to the facility.

On October 5, 1985 the designers held another design workshop to discuss the qualities of the proposed elements of the preliminary plan.

Councilman Woo, whose district includes the park, requested a special presentation of the preliminary plan for certain precincts in Hollywood. This meeting was held on Saturday, October 26, 1985. The preliminary plan was again presented, in total, for community input. Again the plan for the facility was generally well received. However, since the only communities represented at this meeting were those on the southern boundary of the facility the major concern was the flow of traffic into and through the facility.

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Of the concerns addressed at the meeting the most prevalent was how the circulation would affect Vista Street.

On November 8, 1985 the Board reviewed and discussed the preliminary master plan at length with staff and the community, (Board Report 568-85). The Board directed staff and the designers to resolve the circulation issue and the size of the play areas with the communities involved.

Since November 8, 1985 the designers have met with the Department of Transportation, Fire Department, and the community to discuss and resolve the circulation problem and the size of the play area in the estate area of the park.

The final master plan has all park patron vehicular access, both ingress and egress, off the Fuller Street entrance to the park. There will be provisions for pedestrian access at Vista Street and Mulholland along with emergency and service vehicular access at those points.

The size and location of the play area in the estate area of the park has been changed and integrated in the redesign of the front of the park to accommodate the ingress and egress of traffic on Fuller Street.

The plan was presented to the community on January 28, 1986 and the overall reaction to the plan, and the changes was very favorable. The communities all expressed concern that the Department should now move forward quickly with the 1st phase of development and a group of citizens has formed a citizens advisory committee, "Friends of Runyon Canyon Park", to aide with any volunteer help they can provide.

The final master plan has been reviewed and approved by the Community Advisory Committee. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has been involved with and very pleased with the entire planning process. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the final master plan; and that this plan be published and become the guidelines for the development of this facility.