



Minutes for Park Advisory Board Meeting on April 24th, 2025

1. Call to Order

[Time: 6:10pm]

Attendees:

Teresa Bonsell, Paul Bonsell, John Vangelisti, David Estrada, Wayne Jong

Absentees:

Gemma Marquez, Rosa Brizuela, Mauro Garcia

Special Guests: None

Public Attendance: None

2. Approval of the Minutes

[Time: 6:11pm]

No Minutes to approve as this will be the first official meeting for the PAB

3. Special Guests

[Time: 6:11pm]

No Special Guests in attendance

4. Public Comment

[Time: 6:11pm]

No Public in attendance to deliver a Public Comment

5. Matters Under Consideration

[Time: 6:12pm]

5.A. Park Needs Assessment (PNA)

David introduces the matter as to whether the board should continue a strong promotion or temper efforts regarding the LA Parks Needs Assessment as Phase II of the Project is beginning within the Month [May] and continuing into July. [Project Schedule handout referenced] Clarification is given, as project workshops and meetings will continue independently, but the question raised is if the board should plan to promote the project during the upcoming Summer Night Lights programming (SNL), or have current efforts proven satisfactory. A suggestion is also made regarding displaying a promotional banner within the Highland Park Pool when it begins operation in the Summer to assist in promoting given its fluctuation of participants.



Teresa approves of continuing promotion during the SNL programming suggesting dedicated tabling for a minimum of one night per week of the program suggesting Fridays as the day is more consistent with a higher number of attendance than days like Saturday. Having tabling for the Kickoff event for SNL is also strongly suggested. There is also a suggestion to table or promote the project for two more dedicated days in May, making reference to the current large attendance of people using the park on Sundays and people gathered adjacently at local businesses.

Paul asks the question if those present may attend the project's meetings as members of the public [Answered yes by David] and suggest that he and Teresa begin attending to create notoriety for Highland Park.

John Agrees and suggests going to ask for project members to survey Highland Park or make a strong example for Highland park to be represented and known. There is also the question of what the community has asked that the committee needs as of now.

Paul points out that during tabling for the Opening Day/Spring Event they asked for what the community wishes for, listing:

Renovations for the Highland Park Pool

A Mural Wall as a combative effort against the tagging problem at Highland Park

Additional public light fixtures around the park to assist in public safety

John collects the list of efforts then as:

Continue to push the Parks Needs Assessment project to the community

Paul and **Teresa** attend the project meetings

Create a sign-up for asking community members what they would like to see at their local park

Inform those people with a list of “Do-ables” at different project scales as Small, Medium and Large [Small: Graffiti removal, Medium: Upgraded lights, Large: Pool renovations]

With an initial ask at the project meetings being a walk through of Highland Park with elected officials where discussion for acquiring needed funds can also occur.

Teresa informs that there are about three Saturdays until the next PAB meeting to collect signatures and create a draft sign up sheet for what the Board is looking to work towards with



community backing. This for the purpose of having a deliverable to the project meetings to show a large community effort from Highland Park in the Parks Needs Assessment project.

David reminds of the current surveys [From the Parks Needs Assessment] that are currently valuable to recording all the names from Highland Park that participate in the project as well, emphasising the provided QR code is where the project holds priority.

Paul brings in the question of how to create a more effective campaign supporting the use of the provided QR from the project

David returns to the idea of creating original banners promoting the QR with the addition of the specified asks that the board has just discussed [Small, Medium, Large Projects] as something the community may express a desire for.

John adds to inform the community that if there are other needs outside the provided projects, providing the response in the PNA survey is the way to acquire them.

Teresa agrees to have the three scaled projects as defined asks for this first push.

John makes a point to also inform the kids participating in park programming take part in the surveys as well.

David makes the Motion to continue supporting Highland Park's push and involvement for the Parks Needs Assessment project.

John Seconds the Motion

Vote Tally: 5 in favor | None opposed

Vote Results: Motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor

5.B. LA Parks Foundation (LAPF)

Time: 6:22pm

David introduces the topic of the LA Parks Foundation, being a supporter of the foundation giving an example during the Opening Day/Spring Event the funds from the foundation were used to provide a stipend to the DJ who was a local community member that helped elevate the event.

Paul makes a point of promoting the foundation alongside the previously mentioned efforts for the PNA and providing it as a solution for ways people can assist in supporting the park now.



John provides a suggestion of bringing the foundation up in the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce meetings and in Neighborhood council meetings.

David amends the last point wanting to be sure that any amount asked for the foundation is given a specific proposal for what the funds are needed for giving SNL as an example.

John brings up when the next Special Budget and Finance Committee meeting [scheduled for the following day of this current meeting]

Teresa emphasises being a part of HHP and C's fiscal budget meetings

John and Paul bring up Hermon Parks' neighborhood council's budget which was not fully depleted from the prior year.

David brings up a point on what the cost of replacing the currently degrading tennis nets at Hermon, costing around \$500 per net which would amount to about a \$5,000 ask for new nets for each of the courts at said park. Included with that would be some budget of the \$5,000 set aside for wind screening for the courts that currently do not have any.

Teresa also wants to include special events funding in the proposals such as the Halloween event.

David reinforces the point made by utilizing the LAPF for the replacement of tennis nets for the Hermon Park courts, emphasizing them as long term investments.

John suggested creating an Action plan for the next meeting to address the needs of Hermon Park and what proposals can be made to support that park's needs as well as creating the list of needs for SNL, including the provided back-to-school supplies the program provides.

David created a Motion to continue to promote the LAPF.

Teresa Seconds the Motion.

John amends the Motion as such:

Create an Action Plan to promote LAPF that can be executed by June in time for the fiscal year, designating two plans to present to the Neighborhood Council and another to present to local businesses.

Paul asks if specified amounts should be discussed with businesses

John promotes a technological approach for business to ask customers to donate to the LAPF via round-up donations at points-of-sale to effectively increase donation frequency. In addition, speaking to larger local businesses to gain ideas and insights for fundraising.



David and Teresa bring up meeting with Old L.A. Farmers' Market for possible tabling at their event and being able to be a part of their next meeting agenda to continue promoting both the PNA and LAPF.

Teresa also makes the point that if businesses are not able to financially support, suggest to them other physical donations that they may be able to provide, such as pencils or bottled water, as it proved an effective strategy in previous years.

John amends the Action Plan he promotes as,

Determine which is a more effective strategy, taking direct donation from businesses, or taking a technological approach with round-up donations

Teresa brings an idea of having visual representation via posters showing how much has been contributed to the LAPF to show progress towards a goal to the public community.

David calls for a vote on the modified motion.

Revised Motion:

- A. Develop MPGs to present to Hermon and another to present to HHPs and Cs [Teresa volunteered]
- B. Attend meetings with Old L.A. to get Highland Park as part of their meeting agendas
- C. Begin speaking with local businesses for support for LAPF either in direct donations or possible round-up donations [David and Paul volunteered]

Vote Tally: 5 in favor | None opposed

Vote Result: Motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor

6. Informational Reports and Presentations

[Time: 6:46pm]

6.A. Opening Day & 6.B. Spring Fest

Teresa's first hand experience of the event was extremely positive on how the event was run and received by the community telling some interactions where people were impressed at the scale of the event.



David couldn't comment too much on first hand experience being part of staff for the event but felt that most comments from the community were positive especially on the scale of the event being much larger than previous iterations.

Paul described a great overall enjoyment by the community but wanted to be more specific on how the event is presented beforehand in order to garner even more community involvement and wishes to build on what resources like PAB can help alleviate any event preparations.

John very much felt the overall setup of the event in the ways stations were set up for informationals with parents while also providing plenty of enjoyment for the kids in attendance. The overall flow was created so that people were very much engaged all over the park during the event.

David reported that a great relationship was built with CPAP the year prior which led to their engagement with the event that was unprompted yet matched the energy of the event really well.

6.C. Active Adults

Time: 6:51pm

Wayne informs that there will be dedicated meetings at the Senior Center for Active Adults to attend for the convenience of conveying the information discussed in the PAB meetings, the first meeting for them will be May 5th. Council District 14 will also be sponsoring a bus for Seniors to ride to attend the Pomona Fair on May 16th, capacity cap of 50 attendants, with fare pricing to be discussed later. The Active Adults also wish to form a committee to better represent the interests of the Senior Center to the PAB and be more efficiently involved in future PAB meetings. Currently there are plans to have a trip for Active Adults to the Aquarium of the Pacific during either August or September, current needs are acquiring a bus to shuttle to the event.

John also informs of a possible trip for Active Adults to one of the "Free Days" to the Huntington Gardens that has accessibility options for attendees.



7. Board Business

[Time: 7:04pm]

Items to be on future meeting agenda as requested by attendees:

- = For next meeting
- = For future meetings

- Discuss updates on SNL programming
- Update on PNA sign-ups form that will inform on specific projects for Highland Park
- Discuss upcoming Special Events (SNL)
 - Discussions began on having a PAB run Health Fair during SNL programming
further planning wished by multiple members
- Finding possible hosts for future PAB Mixer to meet with various members of
community

8. Next Meeting

[Time: 7:06pm]

Next Park Advisory Board Meeting adjusted from May 24th to May 29th, all in
attendance were in agreement

Next Meeting will be Thursday, May 29th 2025

9. Adjournment

[Time: 7:09pm]