

City of Los Angeles
 Department of Recreation and Parks
GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday January 27, 2025 AT 1:00 PM
 Golf Division Headquarters
 3900 Chevy Chase Drive
 Los Angeles, 90039

ATTENDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS	ABSENT MEMBERS
<p style="text-align: center;">Chair Betty Brix, At Large Vice Chair John Given, Rancho Park Golf Club Secretary Kevin Fitzgerald, SCGA Dan Sulzer, Roosevelt Golf Club Patrick MacFarlane, At Large Michael Berumen, Griffith Park Golf Club Bette Mower, Harbor Park Women’s Club (alternate) Pratima Sherpa, SCGA Junior Golf Foundation Vicky Lagos, CIF City Section Nate Taylor, Penmar Golf Club Riley, Michaelis, LA City Golf Professional Matt Rogers, SCPGA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GOLF STAFF MEMBERS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rick Reinschmidt, Golf Manager Jose Huerta, Principal Grounds Maintenance Supervisor II Geri Gonzalez, Golf Starter Supervisor II Chuck Ruiz, Golf Starter Supervisor II Gayane Manukyan, Financial Analyst II</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Anne Matthews, Sepulveda Women’s Club Robert Garcia, Woodley Lakes Golf Club Carmen Campeas, Latina Golfers Association Justin Shin, Olympic Booster Association Rosemary Menard, Harbor Park Women’s Club Elora Dorini, Hansen Dam Golf Club Debbie Meymarian, At Large</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Diane Naegele, Rancho Park Women’s Club (alternate) Morris Thomas, SCGA Phil Mao Omari Ferguson Alan Rakov</p>

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by Chairperson Betty Brix.

1) PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Three members of the public addressed the Committee. Alan Rakov, Phil Mao, and Omari Ferguson. Public comments included requests that the pace of play at Penmar be addressed, that the Rancho Park clubhouse project move forward for a more permanent food and beverage solution, for greater clarity regarding the rounds data, and a request that the Golf Division reconsider the registration process and women’s golf classes at Tregnan Academy.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) **Dan Sulzer moved, Vicky Lagos seconded, to approve the Minutes from the January 27, 2025 Meeting. The Minutes were unanimously approved. (Item considered later in the meeting)**

3) DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a) GOLF MANAGER REPORT– Rick Reinschmidt

- i) Griffith Park – large cement curbs are being cut down to reduce damage to golf carts. Staff is prioritizing gopher damage repairs at Griffith Park, particularly on the Wilson course. The new program is underway with increased staff support.
 - ii) Tregnan Academy – part of the road to the facility collapsed. A contractor is building a new road and a reinforced retaining wall. Golf Capital Improvement dollars will be used for the project which is expected to be up to \$1.5 million.
 - iii) Rancho Park par-3 golf course – the fencing project along Pico Blvd. has been completed and the course is now open.
 - iv) Rancho Park – the driving range base board replacement is now complete. The tee box on hole 6 will have a new drinking fountain installed. Members suggested that the range netting needs to be heightened. There is a safety issue that needs to be addressed. Concerns are growing that an increasing number of golf balls are leaving the driving range area and land on the golf course, especially on hole 18. Members raised concerns suggesting that at some point a golfer on the course will be hit by a golf ball and it is avoidable and/or harm will be significantly reduced with additional height of range netting. The GAC has filed a letter in support for raising the Rancho Park driving range netting due to safety concerns for golfers.
 - v) Members also asked about the safety of the driving range netting at other facilities and Sepulveda in particular. The one facility where staff has raised concern is at Rancho Park, but the other ranges hold the balls in the practice areas.
 - vi) Harbor Park – practice cages have been replaced and reinforced so that they are able to operate despite heavy utilization. The practice cages are now open.
 - vii) Pot holes in the parking lots and on service roads are being addressed at all golf facilities. The parking lots will continue to be resurfaced one facility at a time. Staff has also spent a significant amount of time clearing debris caused by the major wind event in January.
 - viii) Golf Division staffing updates – Geri Gonzalez has been promoted to Golf Starter Supervisor II. She will oversee the I-5 corridor, and Chuck Ruiz will continue to oversee the I-405 corridor. The Golf Division will circulate a full contact list for each facility. Seven new full-time gardeners have been hired, so the Golf Division staff is getting closer to having a full staff in place.
 - ix) Registration for the LA City Junior Golf Championship is now open – the event will be held March 22-24.
- b) CONCESSIONS REPORT – Rick Reinschmidt
- i) Rancho Park Clubhouse – the city's planning and construction group is reviewing the plans and then the Department will prepare a request for bids to complete the clubhouse construction. The Golf Capital Improvement funds will be used for the project. GAC members asked/discussed topics regarding the timeline for the renovation project and whether there could be new ideas for the temporary solution while the construction work continues, and whether there might be other opportunities for funding beyond the Golf Capital Improvement Fund. The scale of the Rancho Park clubhouse project will deplete a large percentage of the funds currently available. Members also suggested that signage at Rancho Park would help better explain the status of the ongoing project because the average golfer does not understand why the experience is subpar. Members suggested that

signage would help golfers to understand that the city is actively working to move the project forward.

1) SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – Chairperson Kevin Fitzgerald

- i) The subcommittee held a meeting and is continuing its work to go through the Tournament Policy Book to make recommendations for a possible revision. The subcommittee will now be on a hold of its review of the affiliate club section as the Golf Division Staff works to gain clarity from the city attorney's office and the Department's Equity Officer – a determination will need to be made as to whether women's exclusive clubs will be able to remain gender exclusive or whether the current arrangements will need to be restructured. The clubs from Rancho Park worked together to bring a proposal forward. John Given and Diane Naegele presented the framework, and the subcommittee will now wait for further direction from the Golf Division Staff once it has secured clarity from upcoming conversations with the city attorney's office. They described a new model that would act as a bridge between the current arrangement per the policy book and a model whereby each club would continue with some elements of the status quo while also moving to add co-sponsored events where the affiliate clubs work together to provide events with the Golf Clubs and Women's Clubs. The new Rancho Park proposal, where the clubs work together at each facility to expand access to organized play through the affiliate clubs, offers access without expanding the total number of event days and aims to ensure that no collateral damage would fall upon Women's Clubs that prefer not to lose access on Tuesday dates. The Subcommittee is looking for feedback from the GAC, as the Policy Book review process remains ongoing. Extended discussion ensued among GAC members regarding the proposal, regarding the Golf Division's work to secure clarity from the city attorney, and what the next steps for the subcommittee should be through the remainder of the GAC term.
- ii) The Subcommittee reviewed the Exempt Group Section including the Sepulveda Thanksgiving weekend event and the Army Corps section.

b) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – The Subcommittee is holding a meeting following this meeting of the full Committee.

c) FEES AND CHARGES – No report.

d) AD HOC WOMEN'S GOLF - No report.

2) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Marshalling program item – *(held until the next GAC meeting)*.

3) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Members reviewed the permitting policy for junior golf camps. Members expressed that groups allow instruction to be more affordable for new participants. Permits are available to non-profit organizations for the purpose of providing junior golf camps.
- b) Members reviewed the non-refundable deposit pilot program and discussion about the efficacy and mechanics ensued. Members also discussed the new revenues currently being generated

by the nonrefundable deposit program and whether the pilot program has now become RAP policy. Staff explained that it has continued to provide the RAP Board with updates on a regular basis including the pilot program details, its effectiveness, and the dollars that are currently being collected from cancelation fees. The data continues to provide evidence that the nonrefundable deposit pilot program is a success thus far.

4) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) No items requested.

5) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) No additional announcements.

6) NEXT MEETING

- a) March 17, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

7) ADJOURNMENT

- a) Chairperson Betty Brix adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by _____
Kevin Fitzgerald, Secretary