



Pacific Palisades Community Council

www.pacpalicc.org

info@pacpalicc.org

March 1, 2024

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
City of Los Angeles

Subject: Welcome to Pacific Palisades

Dear LA City Recreation & Park Commissioners,

PPCC, the most broad-based representative voice in Pacific Palisades since 1973, *welcomes you* to Pacific Palisades as you prepare to hold your March meeting at the Palisades Recreation Center.

On December 10, 2022, our community celebrated the long-awaited opening of the George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon (Potrero Canyon Park). George was a former, two-time, president of the PPCC and a mentor to many who still hold leadership roles on the Council. The community welcomed the Park and while there were concerns rooted in public safety as our small community began to learn how to host a vast passive park with no active monitoring, we've worked closely with the city through our Potrero Canyon Oversight Committee (PCOC) to resolve any rising concerns. The result has been a collaborative process that has effectively addressed most issues related to park safety and canyon maintenance.

Today, as we contemplate Rec Center improvements as well as coastal access for Potrero Canyon Park - which is adjacent to and overseen by the staff at Palisades Recreation Center - new concerns arise. We wish to share those with you as you visit our beautiful, expanding park.

Coastal Access: There are currently two projects underway to connect Potrero Canyon Park to the coast. These include the Bridge project (for which the City has received \$1 million from the State for a footbridge over PCH), as well as the Lateral trail which is a proposed path along PCH (for which a Congressional grant secured by our former Congressman allocated \$1.125M). The predesign phase of the bridge has already begun with public outreach recently underway. At the same time, we are informed that trail project planning is also underway.

Coastal access will make Potrero Canyon Park more accessible to Angelenos as it will allow direct access for people to visit the beach and Potrero Canyon Park. The introduction of this pedestrian and bicycle pathway promises to bring new exposure to our small community and people have raised concerns about the impact of that new traffic. LAPD has expressed a need for more resources when that time comes.

Regional Park: These projects will enhance the regional recreational appeal of the park to people from all over Los Angeles. The Park Advisory Board and PPCC have requested that LA City recognize Potrero Canyon Park as a Regional Park representing the continuum of parks along the bluff line from Chautauqua to Temescal Canyon Road, so we may access the resources afforded to Regional Parks. This may include greater Park Ranger support (something our Councilmembers, present and past, have requested), to an allocation of resources to buttress LAPD support along this park-rich ridge (from Pali Rec Center to Asilomar Bluffs Park and along RAP owned coastal chaparral land to Temescal Canyon Park). We ask that you support the designation of Potrero Canyon as a regional Park, and that you remain mindful of our community's needs as plans evolve and the park develops.

(please see https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2023/23-0600-S94_misc_06-16-2023.pdf)

Cameras & Public Safety: At the Palisades Recreation Center itself, we have a need for a camera system to address a growing problem with vandalism and fireworks at the Rec Center. Our excellent Park Director, Jasmine Dowlatshahi has communicated these challenges to her superiors at RAP, but problems persist, and residents are growing increasingly anxious. Our community has mobilized to develop a combination of cameras and foot patrols to help monitor the park after hours, but we are challenged by limitations and requirements on the part of RAP. We are working with their leadership to address these issues but we will likely need an allocation of funds (coupled with community fundraising) to effectuate a plan in collaboration with LAPD and RAP staff suggestions. We ask for your support as this plan develops.

Rec Center Improvements (bathrooms & Playground): Our Park is also undergoing some much-needed improvements. This includes a project to upgrade our bathrooms from their original form to ADA compliant restrooms, and a playground improvement project that would bring our decades-old sand box playground with outdated recreation equipment to the modern-day. Again, city regulatory compliance is a major motivating factor in this planned facility upgrade which recently saw the allocation of Quimby funds for design development and construction. We ask that you acknowledge our needs here at the Pali Rec Center and support the swift start and completion of this project.

Paved Parking lot: The driveway leading to our parking lot and the lot itself are in dismal shape, in contrast with the beautifully paved upper parking circle that was recently resurfaced as part of the Potrero Canyon project (pursuant to coastal commission requirement for additional parking spaces). We ask that you please support us in requesting the resurfacing of that parking driveway and lot.

Historic Rustic Canyon Recreation Center: Finally, the historic landmark Rustic Canyon Recreation Center which just celebrated its 100th anniversary as a community park, has a public pool built in the 1960s that is a treasure that operates only in the summer. The last few summers it has not been open, ostensibly due to lack of available lifeguards. We ask that you please staff and open it for use this summer.

We thank you again for visiting Pacific Palisades and hope you will enjoy your visit to our beautiful environs, on this western-most edge of LA City. If time allows, our PCOC and PAB members would be glad to show you our parks and walk you down the pathways at Potrero Canyon Park to the gorgeous vistas that offer unparalleled views of the Pacific Ocean.

Best,
Maryam Zar
PPCC President