

APPROVED
AUG 08 2012

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 12-232

DATE August 8, 2012

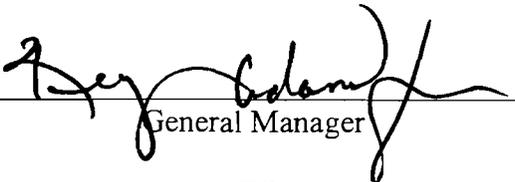
BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: BOYLE HEIGHTS SPORTS CENTER – AGREEMENT WITH LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS, INC., FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A COMMUNITY GARDEN, URBAN FARM, AND CONSERVATION CORPS SITE ON PARK PROPERTY

R. Adams	<u> </u>	K. Regan	<u> </u>
H. Fujita	<u> </u>	M. Shull	<u> </u>
*V. Israel	<u> </u>	N. Williams	<u> </u>



 General Manager

Approved Disapproved Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve a proposed three (3) year agreement (Agreement), substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, between the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Inc. (Organization), a California non-profit corporation, setting forth the terms and conditions for the continued operation and maintenance of the East Los Angeles Conservation Corps Site, located across the street from the Boyle Heights Sports Center, subject to the approval of the Mayor, and the City Attorney as to form;
2. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed Agreement to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and concurrently, to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form;
3. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Agreement upon receipt of the necessary approvals; and,
4. Direct the Chief Accounting Employee to deposit community garden and cost recovery fee reimbursements received from Organization in the account and subaccount established in Fund 302 Dept 89 for such purposes.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2

NO. 12-232

SUMMARY:

On May 4, 2011, the Board approved the Policy on Community Operated Open Spaces, and related Operating Guidelines for Self-Operated Community Gardens, with various recommendations for each of the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) community garden facilities, including those community gardens operated by an outside group or organization (Board Report No. 11-121).

One recommendation included in Report No. 11-121 was to direct staff to transition outside Community Garden organizations to formal agreements for the operation and maintenance of community garden facilities in accordance with the Board's Policy on Partnerships. Another recommendation was to direct staff to return to the Board for final approval and authorization to execute any such agreements.

Since February 2007, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Inc., (Organization) a California non-profit corporation, has operated and maintained a community garden, urban farm, and Conservation Corps site on dedicated park property located at 1020 South Fickett Street, Los Angeles, California 90032 (Property). Pursuant to RAP Real Estate records, the Property is technically part of the Boyle Heights Sports Center, but is physically located across the street (7th Street).

The Property is used by Organization primarily as a Conservation Corps Site, providing Los Angeles youth and young adults with recreational opportunities through programs and projects focused on life skill development, garden and vegetation cultivation, environmental conservation, and vegetation management. The Property serves the Conservation Corps and community not only as a garden and urban farm, but also as an outdoor work area to provide the youth with hands on experiences in a supportive and enriching environment. The programs and services offered by Organization share similar goals and objectives with RAP after-school CLASS Parks programs, developing self-esteem, establishing a foundation to pursue personal life and career goals, and providing a venue to develop skills necessary to become self-sufficient, responsible citizens who will contribute positively to their communities and society in the future.

The community garden and urban farm are located at the southeast corner of the Property. The community garden area is used by community members to grow fresh and affordable produce for their families. The urban farming portion of the Property is maintained by Conservation Corps members and provides community participants with hands-on, job skills training in agriculture, watershed management, landscaping and restoration, and also provides for a greater community awareness of composting and water-wise irrigation practices. An added benefit provided to RAP and the community, is that the projects undertaken from this Conservation Corps site, such as environmental conservation and park cleaning projects, help to upkeep and conserve our parks

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 3

NO. 12-232

and open spaces at no or reduced costs to the City, and attempt to make communities, beginning with our youth, more aware of the importance of environmental conservation.

The community garden area currently has nineteen (19) garden plots. However, Organization plans to re-configure the area, increasing the number of total plots up to a maximum of no more than fifty (50), with each plot measuring 10 feet x 10 feet. In accordance with RAP's Policy on Community Operated Open Space, Organization will be required to pay an annual Community Garden Use Fee of \$100.

In addition to the Community Garden Fee and in accordance with proposed Agreement, Organization shall also pay a cost recovery reimbursement fees in the total amount of \$142 per month, for staff expenses incurred by RAP from Organization's use of the Property. Utility and solid waste disposal costs will be the sole responsibility of Organization, and will be paid directly to the utility provider(s) and solid waste disposal company.

Staff has determined that the execution of the proposed Agreement is for the operation and maintenance of existing programming at an existing park facility involving negligible or no expansion of use and, therefore, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (14) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The proposed Agreement will have no adverse impact on RAP's General Fund as all costs related to the operation and maintenance of the Property will be paid by Organization, at no cost to the City.

This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Sr. Management Analyst and Deanne A. Dedmon, Recreation Supervisor, Partnership Division.