

# RECREATION & PARK GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: October 26, 2009  
ITEM: New Business  
SUBJECT: Resolution of Golf Cart Situation

MOTION SUBMITTED BY:

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Ted Winship, Chair

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Gene Vano, Vice Chair

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Craig Kessler,  
Executive Secretary

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Stu Olster,  
Chair, RFP Subcommittee

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## PREAMBLE

On September 4, 2009 the Los Angeles City Council voted 8 – 6 to reject the Board of Recreation & Park Commissioners' award of a 10-year contract to Ready Golf Centers for the operation and maintenance of the golf cart fleet at the seven (7) 18-hole regulation golf courses owned/operated by the Department of Recreation & Parks.

On that same date the Los Angeles City Council voted 10 – 4 to indicate to the Board of Recreation & Parks Commissioners that it would be that Body's preference to take the following acts: 1) Award a 5-year agreement to the J.H. Kishi Company; 2) resolve to take the steps necessary to put the Department in position to self-operate the golf cart concession at the end of that 5-year term, e.g., contract that service back in-house; and 3) undertake a comprehensive study of alternative ways to provide service to the golfing public, with specific reference to the manner in which the similarly situated Los Angeles County golf system provides it.

It is our understanding that the 8 – 6 vote to reject the 10-year award renders it a nullity. It is our further understanding that the 10 – 4 vote to express certain preferences is advisory to the Board of Recreation & Park Commissioners, albeit the "advice" of the City's legislature, the Body that writes the laws, finalizes the budgets of all non-proprietary departments, and represents a co-equal branch of city government.

The golf community's interest in resolving seven (7) years of transitory service (e.g., month-to-month lease status) has been unanimous in accomplishing the following four (4) basic results:

1. The provision of new, modern, safe, quality golf carts as quickly as possible;
2. The convenience of one-stop shopping – the capacity to pay for greens fees and carts at the same location, to the same party, at the same time;
3. The stability/continuity that necessarily flows from something more long term than 30-day revocable agreements; and
4. The need to take a comprehensive look at the structure of the system employed to deliver golf services to the residents of the City of Los Angeles.

Given the City Council's rejection of the award that would have accomplished all of these results and concerns, it is now the overriding passion of the golf community that the fastest route to the accomplishment of as much of all of the above as feasible and lawfully permitted be pursued.

The continuation of the current month-to-month status pending the issuance of a new RFP would necessarily involve a minimum of 12 – 18 months to execute, at the end of which the City Council could again reject the Board's verdict. It is our understanding that while the simple 5-year award envisaged in the City Council Motion would not entail as onerous a process, it would still require vetting/approval by the Mayor's Office, the CAO and the City Council before it could be effectuated, because we have always been informed that the Board has no authority to issue an agreement of that length without City Council approval. It is our further understanding that the Board of Recreation & Park Commissioners does have the authority to enter into 3-year agreements, particularly to the extent that they represent transitory solutions or bridges to a more final resolution – the precise prescription of the City Council's advisory motion.

## **MOTION**

Therefore, in light of the letter and spirit of the September 4, 2009 City Council Motions and these understandings, interests, and passions, we would move that it be the recommendation of the Golf Advisory Committee:

1. That the Board of Recreation & Park Commissioners consider the issuance of a 3-year interim agreement to an operator capable of executing it without delay;
2. That the 3-year agreement require the provision of a new cart fleet;
3. That the one-stop shopping feature envisaged in the vitiated RFP process be mandated;
4. That credit cards be accepted for cart rental payments at this one-stop shopping center;
5. That the Board take notice of the fact that to the extent that the city would be condensing many of the features envisaged in a 10-year agreement into a 3-year agreement, it needs to take that condensation into consideration when calculating appropriate terms and conditions of the proposed interim agreement; and
6. That the Board resolve to move immediately on the establishment of a broad-based, multi-faceted, multi-interested task force to undertake those various studies suggested by the City Council Motion, e.g., self-operation, the Los Angeles County model, and by implication all points between those two polar opposites.