

Laguna Public Recreation Facilities Conservancy Endorsements. News Release - Laguna Public Recreation Facilities Conservancy (LPRFC)

LPRFC is happy to announce our endorsements of George Weiss and Bob Whalen for City Council, and Ann Marie McKay for City clerk.

LPRFC was founded on the principle that active public recreation facilities are an integral aspect of Laguna Beach residents pursuing a happy, healthy and active lifestyle. We are also residents that are concerned about the overall environmental impact and fiscal sustainability of major policy decisions. Over 800 residents and tennis court users signed our change.org petition to preserve the Irvine Bowl Park tennis courts as we begin our membership drive.

Weiss was a co-founder of Laguna Residents First and has expressed a strong desire for increased participation of residents on decisions that impact our quality of life. Weiss will bring much needed balance to the City Council. Whalen has demonstrated competence in his efforts on fire safety and pandemic policies. We believe his work ethic and willingness to listen to all parties is an important trait required in City Council matters.

LPRFC candidate interviews were conducted via telephone calls, in person meetings and e-mail exchanges. We share some of the findings here. With regards to the Irvine Bowl Park, the candidate with the most historical involvement believes that the Myford Irvine gifts of the Park (three separate parcels consisting of Bowl, exhibition grounds and tennis courts) were really intended as “belonging” to the Festival of Arts (FOA). Guidelines and milestones were not specifically spelled out in the Grant Deed because the FOA was just starting up at the time and there was no assurance that FOA will succeed. Thus the Grant to the City instead of the FOA. Another candidate reviewed the Grant Deed and stated that there is a mandatory use provision for the Bowl for theatrical performances but there is nothing specific about tennis playing on the courts.

LPRFC position on the Canyon tennis courts parcel is that proper procedure was not followed in gifting City owned facility to a private entity with no compensation in return. The more important risk that the City took on is the reversion risk in that the Irvine Company to this day, has been unaware that the tennis court parcel was added to the FOA long term lease. If the active recreational element of the original gift was excluded for all the years prior to 2001, how is it possible to think that a City owned recreational facility “belongs” to a private entity without asking residents and the Grantor?

We want more neighborhood parks in Laguna Beach, not less. We want more transparency in public policy, not less. We urge you to vote Weiss, Whalen and McKay.

<https://www.change.org/p/laguna-city-council-save-the-laguna-canyon-tennis-courts>