

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

**Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
August 6, 2019 – 6:00 PM**

I. CONVENE MEETING OF THE PARKS BEACHES & RECREATION COMMISSION TO ORDER – 6:00 PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Walt Howald, Chair
David Granoff, Vice Chair
Hassan Archer, Commissioner
Laird Hayes, Commissioner
Heather Ignatin, Commissioner
Kate Malouf, Commissioner

Excused: Diane Daruty, Commissioner

Staff: Laura Detweiler, Recreation & Senior Services Director
Sean Levin, Recreation & Senior Deputy Director
Micah Martin, Deputy Public Works Director
Kevin Pekar, Parks and Landscape Superintendent
Mariah Stinson, Administrative Support Specialist

III. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IV. ELECTIONS

Director Detweiler gave an overview of how nominations and appointment of Chair and Vice Chair proceedings will be conducted.

Motion by Chair Howald, seconded by Commissioner Ignatin to close nominations and elect Vice Chair Granoff as the new PB&R Chair for FY 2019-20. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion by Chair Howald, seconded by Commissioner Hayes to close the nominations and elect Commissioner Ignatin as the new PB&R Vice Chair for FY 2019-20. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

[The Commission took a short break to adjust seating arrangements]

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR- None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of the June 4, 2019, PB&R Commission Meeting.

Recommendation: Waive reading of subject minutes, approve and order filed.

Jim Mosher advised that the start time be adjusted to read 6:04 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.

B. Parks, Trees & Beach Maintenance Divisions Activity Report.

Recommendation: Receive/file Activity Report.

C. RSS Activity Report

Recommendation: Receive/file Activity Report of past and upcoming projects and events.

D. Request by Newport Mesa Soccer Club (NMSC) for Temporary Lights at Bonita Canyon Sports Park (BCSP) Field #5

Staff recommends that the Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission approve the request from the Newport Mesa Soccer Club (NMSC) to use temporary lights at Bonita Canyon Sports Park field #5 from September 24 to November 16, 2019 and January 7 to March 15, 2020, from dusk to 7:55 p.m.

E. Follow-Up of the Appeal of Denial for Special Tree Removal-1710 Candlestick Lane

Staff recommends that the Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission approve the 60-inch box (red-flowered) Crape Myrtle tree replacement species of the approved Special City Lemon-scented Gum Tree removal in front of 1710 Candlestick Lane.

Motion by Commissioner Howald; second by Chair Granoff, to approve items VI-A through VI-E of the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VII. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Irvine Ranch Conservancy-Program Overview

Presented by Justin Schmillen

Manager Schmillen announced that Irvine Ranch Conservancy partnered with the City to develop the Resource and Recreation Management Plan for Buck Gully Reserve, build the trail system and serves as its land manager for the Reserve. He introduced Executive Director Michael O'Connell who went into more detail about the improvements made to the Buck Gully Reserve.

Mr. O'Connell stated that Irvine Ranch Conservancy's duties were to steward natural resources, manage the trails system, provide public access opportunities, manage volunteers and programs, update the reserve's website, manage the fire watch network, manage social media, and manage the e-newsletter among other things. The contract between the City and Irvine Ranch Conservancy was renewed in 2018 and was extended to 2028.

B. Lower Sunset View Park Conceptual Design

Review the Lower Sunset View Park conceptual design and forward recommendations to City Council for final approval. Presented by Andy Tran.

Mr. Tran, Senior Civil Engineer with the Public Works Department, stated the project involved the construction of a larger parking lot, construction of a new pedestrian and bike bridge, bike node, a small dog park, and several amenities including a drop off area. Next steps included forwarding PB&R's recommendations to City Council and presenting the conceptual design to City Council on October 22, 2019. If approved by City Council, staff will move forward with the final design phase and start construction in winter of 2021. The project was estimated to be completed by spring of 2022.

Mr. Bartin, T.Y. International, explained several bridge alternatives to the Commission. The leading alternatives were a steel truss, single-span pedestrian bridge with a 75-year service life and a three-span cast-in-place, pre-stressed concrete girder bridge.

Mr. Petros, LSA Principle, gave an in-depth review of the community outreach process for the new bridge alternatives. The largest concerns at the community meetings were about the disruption of views, traffic and speeds, and safety on the bridge. The general consensus from the public was the concrete girder bridge.

Regarding Commissioners questions, Mr. Bartin disclosed for both designs there would be a closure of one to two nights to install the bridges, yearly maintenance costs between the two alternatives, and the bridge columns and car accidents. Mr. Petros explained the time schedule for funding that was in place between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the City as well as compliance with ADA. Mr. Tran disclosed traffic counts, pedestrian routes, safety in terms of earthquakes, costs for the two alternatives and funding.

Commissioner Howald thought the bridge idea was fabulous.

Chair Granoff opened the public comment.

Mark Wilser articulated that Villa Balboa had prohibited dogs for its 40-year existence and was not in favor of the dog park. He announced that his community had little to no community outreach about the project. He was concerned about potential car accidents, noises and smells from the dog park, health hazards in regards to the dog park, unsupervised dogs, and maintenance of the dog park.

Annette Warner, resident of Villa Balboa, was concerned about pedestrian and traffic safety when it came to the dog park parking lot. She advised the Commission to review how many accidents had happened where the dog park parking lot was being proposed.

Michael Solomon was concerned the view would be ruined with the installation of a pedestrian bridge, the cost of the project, and the use of the dog park parking lot being used for beachgoers.

Jim Carlson, Newport Crest resident, believed the pedestrian bridge was going to be an eyesore and suggested building an underground pedestrian tunnel.

Michael Call, Villa Balboa resident, was in opposition to the dog park and said there was no notice about community meetings regarding the project. He was also concerned about potential odor from dog park and thought that 0.2 ac was too small for a dog park.

Jim Mosher stated the purpose of the bridge should be functional and not draw attention to itself. He was in favor of the concrete bridge design. He stated that the park design did not fit into the context of the surrounding neighborhoods and he supported the idea of an underground pedestrian tunnel.

Doug, Villa Balboa resident, concurred with a previous speaker that the proposed parking lot would be used by beachgoers instead of people visiting the park. He suggested creating more parking spots rather than build a dog park.

Cindy Schuester confirmed she was informed about the pedestrian bridge but not the dog park.

Chair Granoff closed the public comment.

The Commission continued the discussion and asked questions about the dog park. Director Detweiler gave the history of why Sunset View Park was chosen for a dog park, fencing of the dog park, and the size of the dog park.

Commissioner Ignatin was in support of building the concrete bridge.

Motion by Vice Chair Ignatin, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, to review the Lower Sunset View Park conceptual design and forward recommendations to City Council for final approval. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

C. City Council Policy B-17 – Changes as Directed by the City Council
Receive and comment.

Director Martin presented the Council's proposed changes to the B-17 Policy. The Commission was concerned that donators should have first right of refusal before the City removed any donation plaques and any donated items would no longer have a commemorative plaque. He continued to give an overview of the existing proposed changes to the policy that the Commission had reviewed at a prior meeting.

To address Commissioners questions, Director Martin answered that the biggest change to the policy was first right of refusal and the removal of the plaques for new donations. Also, he expressed the 10-year donation period would start once the policy was adopted by City Council, the 10-years did not affect existing plaques, and the Commission and Public Works Department would still approve donated items.

Chair Granoff opened the public comment.

Jim Mosher encouraged the staff to remove a redundant paragraph discussing the 10-year life span for just benches and to include language on how existing plaques are treated.

Chair Granoff closed the public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Hayes, seconded by Commissioner Malouf, to Receive and comment. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

D. Continuation of Appeal of Denial for Tree Removal – 720 Jasmine Avenue.

Staff recommends that the Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission consider the appeal from John Buckingham (resident at 927 Gardenia Way) of staff's denial of the removal of a City Sugar Gum tree in front of 720 Jasmine Avenue.

Chair Granoff recused himself from this item.

Superintendent Pekar updated the Commission on his evaluation of the tree that was requested to be removed and why he denied the application. The applicant then went through the reforestation process and was unsuccessful in meeting the requirements in terms of gathering signatures that supported reforestation. The applicant was now appealing the tree removal denial.

Vice Chair Ignatin questioned how long the tree would last if the roots were pruned and how long it had lived in that area. Superintendent Pekar stated he could manage the tree roots for 3-year to 10-years and the tree had been there for 75-years.

Vice Chair Ignatin opened the public comment.

Mike Ruane, representative of the appellant and resident of Jasmine Park, noted that there was a large parking lot within 300-feet of the tree and that limited the numbers of petition signatures the appellant could get for reforestation. Three concerns were raised by the Jasmine Park HOA which were view intrusion, safety, maintenance and trimming. He noted most residents who were in support of removing the tree were concerned about the roots and safety.

Jim Kiminsky, resident of Jasmine Park, reviewed incidents that had happened in prior years where healthy Sugar Gum trees had blown over in storms. With that in mind, he was very concerned the tree in question was going to fall over.

DJ Millett, Jasmine Park resident, explained that the trees located in the park were very tall, even though City workers had confirmed that the trees would be topped and trimmed. She was frustrated that her views from her neighborhood had been lost.

ED Barvin had not witnessed any major damage to the sidewalk from the tree.

Ron Newstein requested that the Commission consider that the views should be preserved for residents that live in Jasmine Park.

Jane Ruane, resident of Gardenia Way, voiced concern about the tree falling down and causing a safety issue.

Jim Mosher asked for clarification on if the tree was the same species of Sugar Gum that had fallen down on Irvine Avenue and questioned what the City Arborist meant by the tree being maintained for 3-years to 10-years.

Denise Ran was frustrated that a different neighborhood community was trying to change the neighborhood where the tree was located. She suggested that the residents that supported the tree to be removed replace the sidewalk as well.

Sandy Newstein stated that the tree in question was blocking her views from her home.

Vice Chair Ignatin closed the public comment.

Superintendent Pekar explained the notification for tree removal and the reforestation process by request of Commissioner Ignatin. He clarified that the tree had been pruned yearly.

Motion by Vice Chair Ignatin; seconded by Commissioner Howald, to Deny Appeal for Tree Removal – 720 Jasmine. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Vice Chair Ignatin, Commissioner Howald, Commissioner Archer and Commissioner Hayes

Nays: Commissioner Malouf

E. City Council Policy G-1 - Regarding Tree Removal Noticing Procedures

Presentation by Kevin Pekar

Superintendent Pekar reviewed the processes and noticing for tree removals for standard, special, and problem trees. The criteria a tree had to fall under to be removed was it had to be either dead, dying, diseased, presented a liability, or be causing infrastructure damage. The City Arborist had the authority to remove a tree if it was an emergency. He quickly reviewed the reforestation process.

Regarding questions asked by the Commission, Superintendent Pekar answered that there were roughly 200 Sugar Gum trees in the City and the G-1 Policy listed what trees were considered problem trees.

Chair Granoff opened the public comment.

Jim Mosher questioned if a resident could initiate a removal request with no intention of replacing the tree. He stated according to the policy it was easier to remove a tree than to reforest a tree. He questioned why the reforestation request for Candlestick Lane did not require a petition.

Superintendent Pekar answered Mr. Mosher's question that reforestations were only for standard trees.

Chair Granoff closed the public comment.

F. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Ad Hoc Committee/Liaison Appointments

Discuss, reaffirm or sunset the following FY 2019-20 Ad Hoc Committee Appointments:

- *Big Canyon – Sunset*
- *Community Service Award – Reaffirm and Appoint*
- *Grant Howald Park Rehabilitation – Sunset*
- *Sunset View Park – Reaffirm*
- *Youth Sports Commission Liaison – Reaffirm and Appoint*
- *Donations Program (City Council Policy B-17 – Sunset*

Director Detweiler announced that Staff had made some recommendations to the Commission regarding PB&R Ad Hoc Committees. She gave a brief description of each Ad Hoc Committee.

Chair Granoff opened the public comment.

Jim Mosher reviewed what advisory meant in terms of the Brown Act. He did not agree with several of the Ad Hoc Committees fitting the format.

Chair Granoff closed the public comment.

Commissioner Howald requested to have updates regarding Big Canyon and Grant Howald Park.

Motion by Chair Granoff; seconded by Commissioner Hayes, to discuss, reaffirm, appoint or sunset the following FY 2019-20 Ad Hoc Committee appointments:

- Big Canyon – Sunset
- Community Service Award – Reaffirm & Appoint Hassan Archer
- Grant Howald Park Rehabilitation – Sunset
- Sunset View Park – Reaffirm
- Youth Sports Commission Liaison – Reaffirm & Appoint Kate Malouf
- Donation Program (City Council Policy B-17) – Sunset.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

PB&R Commission / staff announcements/ Ad Hoc Committee updates or matters which Commissioner members would like placed on future agendas for further discussion (this is a non-discussion item).

Director Detweiler reminded the Commission that the 1/1 Marine's Foundation final car wash was on August 17th, 2019, Movies in the Park was to take place on August 23, 2019, at Grant Howald Park, and the OASIS talent show will be held on August 21, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. She concluded by welcoming Commissioner Malouf to the Commission.

Director Martin gave praise to his Staff for their phenomenal work during the Fourth of July festivities. Staff was going to be holding a study session with the City Council to review the maintenance of the Marine Avenue trees; as well as hold another study session with City Council regarding park and beach restroom facilities and increasing the Level of Service for those facilities.

Commissioner Hayes encouraged the Commission to attend more community events.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT- 9:13 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mariah Stinson, Admin Support Specialist

Approved by:

David Granoff, Chair