

# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
January 6, 2009- 7pm

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Convened 7:10pm

## ROLL CALL

Present: Cristine Trapp, Vice Chair  
Tim Brown  
Bill Garrett  
Kathy Hamilton  
Phillip Lugar  
Greg Ruzicka

Absent: Marie Marston, Chair

Staff: Laura Detweiler, Recreation & Senior Services Director  
Mark Harmon, General Services Director  
Sean Levin, Recreation Superintendent  
Dan Sereno, Parks & Trees Superintendent  
Teri Craig, Admin Asst

## DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Detweiler thanked Vice Chair Trapp for serving as Chair tonight but also for her last 2½ years of service to the City as this meeting will be her last as she is resigning her position. She stated that a summary schedule for Marina Park had been included with the Commission report and that the 45-day review period for the EIR would begin in February with the intent to bring an update at the March meeting. Director Detweiler went on to say that the Winter Wonderland on December 6 with 4000 people in attendance and thanked the General Services staff for their help and support of the event. She announced that the OASIS Center is moving into the construction phase in March with classes at new locations beginning in January; she announced that the OASIS Demolition Party was held on January 2 with about 350 people saying good-bye to the building; and went onto say that the CYC project should begin in February and complete by June.

Director Harmon distributed a letter from Charles Gordon regarding the bench donation from the October meeting. He noted that this letter was important for the Commission to see because this shows that not only how thankful they were to the Commission but also to staff for the approval of the bench. He thanked Superintendent Sereno and his staff for their work with the public regarding these types of donations. He also reported on beach maintenance from December 11 regarding tides that have been experienced over the last couple of years. He stated that they would be looking for some budget support from the Commission regarding funding for raising the sea wall in the future.

Commissioner Brown asked if additional feet were added to the sea wall would the entire sea wall have to be reconstructed. Director Harmon stated that in most cases it could just be added on.

City Council Actions - Director Detweiler stated that the Ordinance regarding 38<sup>th</sup> Street Park would be on the City Council agenda on January 13 for the first reading and again on January 27 for the second reading.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

## CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Minutes of the December 2, 2008 regular meeting. Waive reading of subject minutes, approve and order filed.

2. Item removed by member of the public
3. **Recreation & Senior Services Activity Report.** Receive/file monthly Activity Report for activities and upcoming projects.

Motion by Commissioner Brown to accept 1 and 3 of the consent calendar. Motion carried by acclamation.

2. **Parks & Operations Division Activity Report.** Jan Vandersloot stated that he needed clarification regarding #2 Under Tree Division Activities - specifically the third paragraph regarding when trees can be removed in conjunction with a City Council approved City program. He stated that he believed the word beautification should have been inserted between City and program.

Director Harmon stated that the word beautification has been left out and that the minutes would show the correction.

Mr. Vandersloot stated that he was concerned that there had been a general loosening up of the standards for removing trees and believes that staff should not be approving the removal of so many trees.

Motion by Commissioner Brown to accept item #2. Motion carried by acclamation.

#### ACTION

4. **Newport Beach Little League Request to Purchase & Install Four Scoreboards at Bonita Canyon Sports Park (BCSP) #1-4.** Superintendent Levin stated that he had received a request from the Newport Beach Little League (NBLL) to install four scoreboards at BCSP field's #1-4 contingent upon obtaining all necessary City of Newport Beach Building permits. All costs related to equipment, installation, and any damage associated with the installation of the scoreboards would be the sole responsibility of Newport Beach Little League. He went on to say that the NBLL has been successful in completing several other projects such as scoreboards, batting cages and field renovations. Also staff is requesting the Commission to either approve the number 1 or 2. The difference is that number 1 would display sponsorship to cover some of the costs of the scoreboards. He noted that within the staff report there are some options to display the sponsorship during the season and then it would either be removed or covered to stay within Council Policy B-14. He went on to say that staff does recommend approval it is asking the Commission to further discuss display of sponsorship on the scoreboard.

Discussion ensued regarding Council Policy B-14.

#### Vice Chair Trapp opened the public discussion.

Erik Paulsen, NBLL stated of course they would love to be able to display the sponsorship year round but is very willing to work within the confines of the City policy.

Director Detweiler commented that she believed that it is a good idea to continue to look at how the sponsorship will be covered up to stay within the City Policy - because it is not just NBLL that uses the park.

Commissioner Lugar stated that he felt until more information was given regarding the schematics of the sign that he would not be able to vote on this issue; his concern is the concept.

Discussion ensued regarding the costs, design of the scoreboards, and display of the sponsors.

Vice Chair Trapp closed the public discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the installation of the scoreboards at BCSP fields 1-4 and in addition to approve the temporary display of sponsorship only during the NBLL season.

Commissioner Ruzicka asked if this was not something that the City could do.

Superintendent Levin stated that this was an amenity that the City would not do because it is only for one group and is a big enhancement for the kids that play in NBLL. He noted that NBLL has talked to soccer and the scoreboards would not be in their way of play and only field #3 is shared with soccer.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Brown, Hamilton, Garrett, Trapp  
Abstain: Lugar, Ruzicka  
Absent: Marston

- Bench Donation. Director Harmon stated that staff had received a request for bench donations from the BIIA. He went on to say that the BIIA had solicited donations from businesses and residents for twelve benches to be installed on Marine Avenue. Director Harmon thanked Bill Steward for his hard work in accomplishing all the paperwork and securing the appropriate funds needed to complete the project if approved by the Commission.

Vice Chair Trapp opened the public discussion; hearing none the public discussion was closed.

Motion by Commissioner Lugar to approve the 12 bench donations to be installed on Marine Avenue. Motion carried by acclamation.

- Bench Donation. Superintendent Sereno stated that staff had received a bench donation request by Sandra Rayl to be located at Cliff Drive Park. He went on to say that staff recommends approval of this donation but would like direction on any future donation as the park is full. He noted that he received one phone call regarding that approval of another bench would take additional park space away.

Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the bench donation to be installed at Cliff Drive Park and to deny any future requests for bench donations at that park.

Vice Chair Trapp opened the public discussion

Jan Vandersloot stated that he believes that there are other sites on the west side of the park that would be better than the planned location for this donation and does not believe that staff should just decide no more bench donations for this park. He went on to say that he had donated a bench in his parents honor and that believes that the plaque has been taken.

Director Harmon recommended that the Commission approve the bench donation tonight and that staff will meet with Mr. Vandersloot regarding his bench.

Vice Chair Trapp closed the public discussion

Amended motion by Commission Brown to approve the bench donation and that staff will bring a report back to discuss future donations at Cliff Drive Park. Motion carried by acclamation.

7. Special Tree Removal Request. Superintendent Sereno stated that Tom Neal has requested that the special tree of a Tomlinson Ash adjacent to 2030 Leeward Lane be removed. He went on to say that this tree has confirmed evidence that it is infested with tree borers and has caused the tree to decay. Because the tree is special the policy requires that staff does everything to save the tree. He stated that staff that the tree has been pruned excessively for many years, topped and opened up and has become an imminent danger of falling. He went on to say that the tree is in decline. He went on to discuss that the tree has a co-dominant trunk and asked the Commission to review the pictures. He stated that staff recommends approval of this removal and that staff continues to evaluate all the trees on Leeward Lane because of the tree borers.

Commissioner Ruzicka commented on the size of a replacement tree and the length of time the tree would take to grow to the height that it is today.

Superintendent Sereno stated that it would be replaced with a 36" box Raywood Ash but would not grow as wide as the Tomlinson Ash but would grow 2-4 feet a year.

#### Vice Chair Trapp opened the public discussion

Jan Vandersloot stated that this is a unique tree and that the City is obligated to save it. He suggested that he believes that the City has done nothing to save them. He recommended that a second opinion be done. He commented that the tree does not look unhealthy except for the insects and then decide that all the trees should be reviewed. He stated that the homeowner is talking about termites, which is not a reason to remove. He stated that the staff has misconception and no appreciation for what a special City tree is in Newport Beach. Mr. Vandersloot stated that if the Commission approves the removal then it should be replaced with the same tree.

Superintendent Sereno stated that the Urban Forester shall determine whether additional treatment can be initiated to the tree provided that the costs are reasonable. He went on to say that the tree borer have been there for years and that the trees are succumbing and would have to check with the Urban Forester to see if the trees have been injected in the past but noted that generally for tree boring insects once they have infested the tree that there is decay which is the problem for this tree. He stated that the co-dominant stem of the tree is completely a bad situation and is not suggesting that all the trees should be removed but rather to look at them. He stated that the tree has been pruned; root pruned and topped every two years. Superintendent Sereno stated that they are recommending that it be replaced with the Raywood Ash because the Tomlinson Ash is too big for that location.

Commissioner Lugar asked how contagious tree borers were and how long it can live with them.

Superintendent Sereno stated that they will travel other trees but will generally attack trees that are less vigorous; he noted that most of the trees on the street already have tree borers. He stated that with an act of nature it could fall tomorrow or it could be 10 years.

Superintendent Sereno stated that two arborists believe that the tree poses potential liability.

Tom Neal stated that he respect the process but noted that two trees have been removed in the last 60 days. He went on to say that this tree is too large for this location and is a big risk for this space. He noted that it has been pruned so much and that the sun has now sunburned the trunk

and is peeling and splintered and attracts the termites and insects and is decaying. He stated that the termites are in his house and is from the open areas of the tree. He noted that 12 years ago staff did not remove them but started the pruning, topping and spraying of the trees. After all this time the tree is still a probed and urged the Commission to remove the tree.

**Vice Chair Trapp Marston closed the public discussion**

Discussion ensued regarding risk, past spraying of the tree.

Superintendent Sereno stated that he cannot confirm if the tree has ever been injected although he would assume that it has been.

Director Harmon stated that the two certified arborists agree that everything has been done to save the tree.

**Motion by Commissioner Brown** to postpone the Special Tree Removal Request at 2030 Leeward Lane to allow staff the time to answer questions of the Commission and to afford some certainty with the Commission along with some history of what has been done to the tree. Motion carried by acclamation.

8. **Reforestation Request**. Superintendent Sereno stated staff has received a reforestation request from Andy Andonian at 1630 Antiqua Way. The Homeowner Association has approved the reforestation and that minutes have been submitted. He went on to say that this tree is not the right species for this location and does not meet the criteria for removal based on City Council Policy G-1.

**Chair Marston opened the public discussion**

Jan Vandersloot stated that he is scared of the remarks made by Superintendent Sereno because what he is saying is that the Eucalyptus citiodora does not belong on our City streets because they are making the decision that it is not the right species for the location because that gives anybody the rationale to request removal of the tree. He urged the Commission to disapprove this request.

**Motion by Commissioner Brown** to approve the tree reforestation at 1630 Antiqua Way. Motion carried by the following vote.

Aye: Brown, Garrett, Hamilton, Lugar,  
Nay: Ruzicka  
Absent: Marston

9. **Flag Pole @ Castaways Park**. Director Harmon provided a PowerPoint presentation of what the flag pole would look at with the Marine Memorial at Castaways Park. He noted that staff would recommend that if approved that the flag pole be installed to the right of the statue with a 25-30 foot pole; with a 3x5 foot flag lit by solar power. The reason is that there is no power up there and no staff to remove the flag each day. He suggested that the Commission visit Old School Park for an example of what it would look like. He noted that the costs would be about \$5000.

Discussion ensued regarding costs and noticing of the public.

**Vice Chair Trapp opened the public discussion; hearing none the discussion as closed.**

Motion by Commission Ruzicka to have staff move forward and to bring the issue back at a future meeting for discussion by the Commission and residents. Motion carried by acclamation.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS -**

Parks - Nothing to report. Commissioner Brown asked if the Commission would be involved in any future discussions regarding Marina Park. Commissioner Garrett stated that the plans for the park have already been approved and that the EIR is now being submitted. Commissioner Brown asked about Sunset Ridge Park. Director Detweiler stated that the contract has been awarded and that the environmental group is now looking at the M&D and the EIR to determine which way the City will go.

RSS - Nothing to report

AD- Hoc

–Youth Sports Liaison - Nothing to report

–Community Services Award - Commissioner Ruzicka stated that he and Commissioner Garrett had reviewed the application of Lewis Jones and recommend that the Commission approve the award.

Motion by Commissioner Lugar to present Lewis Jones the Community Service Award at the next meeting. Motion carried by acclamation

Other

–Marina Park - Nothing to report.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

China Cove Volleyball  
Flag Pole at Castaways Park  
Special Tree Removal at 2030 Leeward Lane  
Vandalism /Damage Report  
Amending City Council Policy B-17

Commissioner Trapp thanked that staff and the Commission for their support and wished everyone well.

**ADJOURNED- 8:58pm**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teri Craig, Admin Assistant