

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting June 2, 2020 – 6:00 PM

I. CONVENE MEETING OF THE PARKS BEACHES & RECREATION COMMISSION TO ORDER – 6:02 PM

II. ROLL CALL

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

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

III. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR-None.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes for the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission meeting of March 3, 2020

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

B. MOD Activity Report

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

C. RSS Activity Report

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

D. Tree Reforestation Request – 2820 Pebble Drive

Staff recommends that Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission approve the reforestation request of two City Coral trees located below 2815 Ebbtide Road (on Pebble Drive). The applicant, Alan Oleson (of 2821 Ebbtide Road), has met the

procedural requirements for reforestation established in City Council Policy G-1. If approved by the Commission, there will be a one-for-one replacement tree, two (2) 36-inch box Magnolia grandiflora “Little Gem” installed at the applicant’s cost.

E. Tree Reforestation Request – 518 Rockford Place

Staff recommends that Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission approve the reforestation request of a City Ficus tree located at 518 Rockford Place. The applicant, John De Carrier, at 4501 Wayne Road has met the procedural requirements for reforestation established in City Council Policy G-1. If approved by the Commission, there will be a one-for-one replacement tree, 36-inch box Purple Orchid Tree (Bauhinia purpurea), installed at the applicant’s cost.

In terms of Item V-B, Jim Mosher remembered that prior Palm trees were getting the same infection and if steps were being taken to properly clean the cutting tool between trees. For Item V-E, Mosher wondered if the property owner had given consent to remove the tree.

Superintendent Pekar noted that in terms of the Palm Trees, the cutting blades were changed after each Palm Tree trimming. In terms of Item V-E, the City did receive a letter from the owner stating that they were comfortable with having the tree removed.

Motion by Vice Chair Ignatin; second by Commissioner Archer, to approve items V-A through V-E of the Consent Calendar. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

VI. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Appeal of Denial of Special Tree Removal – 1700 Candlestick Lane

Staff recommends that the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission consider the appeal of staff's denial of the removal of a Special City Lemon-Scented Gum tree located in front of 1700 Candlestick Lane.

Superintendent Pekar reported that the property in question is being remodeled and the tree is situated at the entrance of the house. The applicant is planning to plant five additional trees on their private property once renovations are completed.

In terms of Commissioner’s questions, Superintendent Pekar answered that there were no known safety concerns with the tree, there is hardscape damage, the tree is healthy, and there is no room to plant a replacement tree in the parkway.

Chair Granoff opened for public comment.

Jean Wanlass, the homeowner, presented a diagram to the Commission showing what the landscape architect is proposing for the front yard. She emphasized that only one of the eight Lemon Scented Gum trees is being proposed to be removed. The additional five trees proposed to be planted [on private property] are Forest Pansy and Japanese Maples.

Jim Mosher suggested that the walkway should be moved to accommodate the trees.

Superintendent Pekar answered Commissioner Hayes that the planters around the trees would most likely be removed, there is no record of neighbors voicing opposition to the removal, the value of the tree is \$6,080, and the tree is roughly 50-years old.

Gordon Wanlass, the homeowner, pointed out that surrounding neighbors had removed their Eucalyptus trees and there are plans to remove the existing tree rings.

Chair Granoff closed the public comment.

The Commission discussed distances between the existing trees, if it is common to approve a tree removal based on the request to have one parking space that is not located under a tree, how messy the tree species is, and possibly having the applicant plant a special tree somewhere else in the City.

Chair Granoff asked if the applicant would be applicable to paying for a special tree being planted somewhere else in the City. Mr. Wanlass emphasized that they were doing enough with their proposal to plant five new trees on the property.

Regarding Commissioner's questions, Superintendent Pekar expressed that many of the other Eucalyptus trees that were replaced on the street happened before his time with the City. Aside from the recently Commission-approved removal at 1710 Candlestick, there are no records if/when removals occurred on the neighboring properties, or if the removals occurred, the justification.

Motion by Commissioner Daruty; seconded by Commissioner Archer to deny the appeal of special tree removal at 1700 Candlestick Lane. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

B. Community Service Award - John Carpenter

Staff recommends that the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission approve the Community Service Award recognition of John Carpenter to be awarded at a future Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission (PB&R) meeting.

Deputy Director Levin explained that the Ad-Hoc Committee containing Commissioner Archer, Chair Granoff, and Vice Chair Ignatin recommended Mr. John Carpenter receive the award. Staff is seeking approval from the full Commission and if granted, at a future meeting Mr. Carpenter would be presented the award.

Chair Granoff opened for public comment.

Jim Mosher thought the award was to recognize citizens and not City employees.

Chair Granoff closed the public comment.

Deputy Director Levin noted that the award can go to both citizens and City employees.

Vice Chair Ignatin supported the nomination.

Motion by Commissioner Hayes; seconded by Commissioner Archer to approve the Community Service Award recognition of John Carpenter. 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 announced that the City's CIP Program is now online, Grant Howald Park is in the process of receiving bids for construction, playground renovations are budgeted to continue, funding is available for the Sunset View Park bridge as well as Phase Two for Big canyon.

Due to COVID-19, summer program registration had been suspended and staff is waiting for guidelines on how those programs can be run safely. All City events have been canceled as well.

Director Martin announced that the swim platform located off Ruby Avenue is being reinstalled and the 10th Street swim platform will be replaced with a new platform. The staff plan to bring back the City's G Policies to the Commission for review and recommendations at a future meeting.

Commissioner Malouf asked when the basketball hoops will be reattached. Director Detweiler answered that due to the state order amenities will be kept closed until further notice.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Public comments are invited on non-agenda items generally considered to be within the subject matter jurisdiction of the PB&R Commission. Speakers must limit comments to three (3) minutes. Before speaking, we invite, but do not require, you to state your name for the record. The Commission has the discretion to extend or shorten the speakers' time limit on non-agenda items, provided the time limit adjustment is applied equally to all speakers.

Nancy Scarbrough, resident of Newport Heights, expressed her concern about the Newport Mesa School District removing 15 trees at Ensign School for a parking lot and security fence.

Charles Klobe, a resident of Newport Heights and President of the Newport Heights Improvement Association, emphasized that there is a lack of cooperation between the Newport Mesa School District and the City in terms of the school's projects.

Nancy Barfield declared that the trees that are proposed to be removed from the school campus are very important to the neighborhood and to the students who attend the school.

Jim Mosher concurred that the format of the meeting is not ideal and that many of the Commissioner's comments were inaudible. He shared his excitement that the City Council had allocated money for the playgrounds. He reported that the Harbor Commission will be responsible for the harbor activities next year under the City's Charter and he believed that both Commissions, Harbor Commission and Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission, should be involved together.

Director Martin disclosed that the school district had jurisdiction over the trees on their property. City trees that are located on school property are under the care of the City Arborist.

Commissioner Hayes requested that the school district project be agendized for an update at a future meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – 7:26 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Mariah Stinson, Administrative Support Specialist

Approved by: _____
David Granoff, Chair