

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
March 3, 2009- 7pm

Convened 7:10pm

ROLL CALL

Present: Marie Marston, Chair
 Tim Brown
 Bill Garrett
 Kathy Hamilton
 Phillip Lugar
 Greg Ruzicka

Absent: Tom Anderson

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

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR FY 2008/09 (CONTINUATION OF SEAT FROM C. TRAPP)

Chair Marston opened the nomination for **Vice Chair** for FY 2008/09.

Motion by Commissioner Lugar to nominate Commissioner Brown as Vice Chair.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair Marston closed the nominations for Vice Chair.

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION & PRESENTATION OF CITY ATTORNEY - DAVID HUNT

Director Detweiler introduced the new City Attorney David Hunt to the Commission.

City Attorney Hunt gave a brief background of his experience and reviewed his duties and noted that his office would be providing an Ethics Training for all Council, Commissions & Board in the near future.

PRESENTATION UPDATE OF MARINA PARK

The following people were introduced: Dave Webb, Deputy Public Works Director
 Mark Reader
 Dan Hermann
 Tim Bundy
 Richard Finkel

Dan Hermann of Rabben Hermann Designs provided a PowerPoint presentation of Marina Park to the Commission.

Dave Webb stated that the 45 day EIR will conclude on April 13. He noted that not much has changed since it was brought to the Commission except for some design refinements and minor exterior changes.

Discussion ensued regarding paving, parking, and the tennis courts.

Dave Webb noted that they are working on the cost for the project with a professional estimator.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Detweiler reported that she had some exciting updates such as the Community Youth Center at Grant Howald Park is under construction and within the first week renovations had begun. She noted that staff is very impressed with the work being done and look forward to it opening at the end of May in time for the summer programs to begin. She also noted that on March 10 the OASIS project will be presented to the City Council to award construction and soon after that the demolition will begin. She stated that invitations to the Ground Breaking will be mailed out within the next week for March 24 at 2:30pm and invited the Commissioner to be a part of this milestone for the City.

Director Harmon updated the Commission on 38th Street Park on the quadrants where turf has been installed in the front and DG in the back. He noted that the project is almost complete and pictures were taken before and after and will go before the Council to get reimbursed for the work. He also reminded the Commission that several months ago that they had approved probably 14 bench donations on Marine Avenue on Balboa Island and stated that they have come in and are being installed. He read an email from Bill Steward regarding the installation of the benches.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Minutes of the February 3, 2009.** Receive/file February 3, 2009 minutes.
2. **Parks & Operations Division Activity Report.** Receive/file monthly Activity Report for activities and upcoming projects.
3. **Recreation & Senior Services Activity Report.** Receive/file monthly Activity Report for activities and upcoming projects.

Motion by Chair Marston to accept items 1-3 of the consent calendar. Motion carried by acclamation.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

4. **Special Tree Removal.** Director Harmon reminded the Commission that this request had been postponed at the January 6, 2009 meeting 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. He noted that a 3rd party arborist had been hired to look at the tree and to offer an additional recommendation to the Commission. He stated that it was Ms. Mejia of WCA's opinion that the "subject Tomlinson Ash tree poses a hazard and should be removed... (the) City would be justified in its removal so as to protect persons and property." He reminded the Commission that Arborist John Conway and Superintendent/Arborist Dan Sereno are of the same opinion.

Discussion ensued regarding pruning and topping of trees.

Commissioner Lugar asked if the tree posed eminent danger.

Director Harmon stated that it does not and could not say when the tree would fail completely.

Chair Marston opened the public discussion.

Tom Neal stated that more than 40% of the trees on Leeward have been removed. He stated that his neighbors agree that it should be removed. He stated that anything and everything has been done to that tree. He urged the Commission to support of the removal of the tree.

Jan Vandersloot stated that he believes that no effort has been done to save this special tree; specifically diagnostics. He noted that he believes that since WCA has a contract with the City that they could be bias and side with staff. He urged the Commission to deny this request and to have an independent arborist look at the special tree.

Chair Marston closed the public discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of WCA and suggested that should this come up again that another arborist be hired.

Director Harmon stated that three arborists have recommended that this tree be removed and that staff hate removing trees in the City.

Commissioner Lugar asked if it would set a precedent and that everyone would want to remove all the other Tomlinson Ash trees on Leeward.

Director Harmon stated that in staff would be taking a serious look at the rest of the trees and that the Commission should look for more information regarding Leeward in the months to come.

Motion by Commissioner Garrett to remove the Tomlinson Ash tree located at 2030 Leeward Lane. Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brown, Garrett, Hamilton, Lugar, Marston
Nay: Ruzicka
Absent: Anderson

5. **Bench Donation**. Director Harmon stated that staff had received a request from Alan Buchanan to replace a bench located at Ensign View Park.

Chair Marston opened the public discussion; hearing none the public discussion was closed.

Motion by Commissioner Ruzicka to approve the donation to replace a bench at Ensign View Park by Alan Buchanan. Motion carried by acclamation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Parks – Commissioner Brown stated that he and Commissioners Marston & Lugar had attended the City Hall in the Park meeting to look at the draft plans for the park site. Discussion ensued regarding the site and possible water issues.

RSS – Chair Marston appointed Commissioner Hamilton to the committee. Commissioner Brown stated that the China Cove volleyball issue would probably be ready to come back to the Commission in April. She reminded the Commission that the Groundbreaking for OASIS was scheduled for March 24 at 2pm.

AD- Hoc

–Youth Sports Liaison – Nothing to report

–Community Services Award – Nothing to Report.

–Budget– Director Detweiler stated that staff would make a presentation to the committee at 6pm on April 7 before the Commission meeting.

Other

–Marina Park – Nothing to report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Hamilton stated that she would like a information regarding CdM State Beach, specifically:

- Maintenance Activities – Costs
- Enforcement – PD
- Revenue – parking, Fuji Grill

She stated that she was concerned about the ongoing abuse of the beach regarding the fire rings, bbq's and the use of tents on the beach.

ADJOURNED - 8:56pm

Submitted by: _____
Teri Craig, Admin Assistant