

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
February 2, 2010 – 7pm

Convened 7:04pm

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Tom Anderson
 Marie Marston

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

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

- Director Harmon commented on the General Services staff response to the wind and rain storms. He noted that the drainage system for the most part worked well with no water issues. He went on to say that the City lost about 123 trees, two houses were damaged, and three cars that were destroyed due to the wind. The EOC was opened twice during the storm because of trees blocking roads. Director Harmon stated that a report would be brought to the Commission to discuss the value of the trees lost, their locations and if the trees should be replaced because of the costs to the City; discussion will be held with the Council as well as the Commission.

Chair Brown offered the Commission's help to Director Harmon during this budget crisis to support their efforts and to help effect change. Director Harmon stated that he appreciated their support and would certainly look to the Commission help during these budget crisis times.

Discussion ensued regarding the practice of root pruning trees.

Commissioner Garrett asked Director Harmon look into the work being done on Balboa Boulevard. Director Harmon stated that he would pass along his concerns to the Public Works Director.

- Superintendent Levin stated that a Coastal Commission agenda had been distributed to the Commission regarding China Cove and noted that it appears that they will be approving the volleyball court's new location in concept; the compromise that was approved with the subcommittee. He noted that staff would be at the meeting and if everything goes well the volleyball poles would be replaced in the new location with the rules posted. He stated that staff had met with the Commission representative onsite and that he did not have concerns about the placement of the court.

Superintendent Levin also noted that the Sunset Ridge EIR will remain open through February 22; and Marina Park through March 20 for comment.

Commissioner Lugar asked if staff had brought up the lack of restrooms and parking to the Coastal Commission representative at China Cove beach.

Superintendent Levin stated that they just came down to look at China Cove and that their main concern were the plants that had been there and the possibility of a dune condition at the beach; but it was deemed that it was not. He went on to say that the representative agreed that the suggested location was a better alternative for public use on the beach than the original location because it actually created more public sun bathing space.

Superintendent Levin stated that he had personally emailed all the homeowners regarding the Coastal Commission meeting.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that as a resident of the China Cove area she could say with assurance that if the City were to put a restroom at that beach that there would definitely be problems with the homeowners.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Minutes of December 2, 2009 regular meeting.** *Waive reading of subject minutes, approve and order filed.*
2. **Park & 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.*
4. **Tree Donation.** *Approve tree donation of Friends of Nancy Bergeson to be located at Castaways Park.*

Motion by Commissioner Ruzicka to accept items Consent Calendar items 1-4. Motion carried by acclamation.

NEW ITEMS

5. **Reforestation Request.** Director Harmon stated that staff recommends the Commission consider the reforestation request of Kevin Kubiak at 1701 Antiqua Way. He reported that the homeowner had applied for the reforestation and has met the requirements including signatures from neighboring property owners. He stated that the petition states that the homeowner will incur the cost for the removal and replacement of the tree and noted that staff does support the request asking the Commission to review the picture as the tree is placed close to utility lines. He stated that if approved the tree would be moved further down the parkway so it does not interfere with the lines.

Chair Brown read from the report stating that staff does not agree that the tree should be removed because of the lack of history of property damage.

Director Harmon stated that this is where the G-1 gets confusing and suggested that it may be time for a review of the G-1 Policy. He reminded the Commission that homeowners have the option to submit a request to the City to have a tree removed at the City's expense; criteria from G-1 is reviewed and if it meets that criteria then the City will remove that tree and replace it at the City's expense. If or when that request is denied (which is what happened with Mr. Kubiak) then the resident has the option to request reforestation and homeowner has to agree to cover all costs.

Discussion ensued regarding reforestation requests and homeowners signatures regarding damages.

Director Harmon stated that the lack of damage is one of the reasons why staff denied the request for removal of the tree; so the homeowner requested the reforestation per the G-1. He went on to say that there are no records of public damage on hand or else staff would have been included this information in the report.

Director Lugar asked if the Commission could deny the request; Director Harmon said yes.

Chair Brown reminded the Commission that the homeowner does meet the requirements for a reforestation.

Director Harmon stated that a homeowner three doors down had requested a tree removal; which was denied by staff and is very much in favor of this reforestation as that is what her next step will be. He stated that this type of tree does drop a lot of sap and that most people do not like that.

Chair Brown opened the public discussion; seeing none the public discussion was closed.

Motion by Commissioner Lugar to disapprove the reforestation request by Kevin Kubiak at 424 Dahlia Avenue because the tree is healthy.

Discussion ensued. Chair Brown asked if Commissioner Lugar would agree to an amended motion putting the motion in a more positive tone and then it could be voted on with a aye or nay. Commissioner Lugar agreed.

Director Harmon stated that he would like the Commission to give staff a more direction because under the G-1, reforestations are brought forward to the Commission and most times these trees are healthy as otherwise they would be removed by the City under the tree removal section. He went on to say that if it is the Commission's direction that if the tree is healthy then reforestation will not be approved then staff will need to know that so they are not brought forward to just be denied. He went on to say that this that these reforestation requires a lot of work on the homeowners part as well as staff.

Commissioner Lugar stated that he had a problem with the homeowner not even appearing for the hearing.

Commissioner Garrett stated that no one would want this tree at their home and noted that he would support the removal. Chair Brown agreed.

Amended Motion by Chair Brown to approve the reforestation request by Kevin Kubiak at 424 Dahlia Avenue. Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brown, Garrett, Hamilton

Noes: Lugar, Ruzicka

Absent: Anderson, Marston

5. **Reforestation Request.** Director Harmon stated that staff is recommending that the Commission consider the reforestation request of The Irvine Terrace Community Association at El Paseo and Bayside. Director Harmon stated that this request is a little different from the last request as this is from an HOA and noted that the picture really tells the story because this tree is at the entrance to their community. He stated that the minutes of the HOA Board are attached and that the board had voted to approve the reforestation. He stated that the HOA is paying for the removal and replacement but have requested that the replacement tree be planted at Irvine Terrace Park because of the utilities at the current location.

Chair Brown opened the public discussion; seeing none the public discussion was closed.

Motion by Commissioner Hamilton to approve the reforestation request by the Irvine Terrace Community Association at El Paseo and Bayside. Motion carried by acclamation.

7. **Community Service Award Revisions.** Superintendent Levin stated that the Sub- Committee has reviewed the submitted revisions for the Community Service Award policy and recommend approval.

Discussion ensued regarding opening up the criteria to include volunteerism.

Chair Brown tabled the item to a future meeting to allow Superintendent Levin work with Director Harmon to include language regarding open space or beaches as well as recreation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Parks – Nothing to report.

RSS – Nothing to report.

Budget– Nothing to report

AD- Hoc

—Community Service Award – Chair Brown asked if staff had heard from the Vandersloot family regarding a presentation date. Superintendent Levin stated that Director Detweiler had not heard back from the family.

—Youth Sports Liaison – Nothing to report.

—China Cove Volleyball Court – Reported during Director Comments.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Garrett asked that reforestation requests from legal HOA's be listed under the consent calendar on the agenda if all requirements have been met.

- Review of G-1 Policy – April/May
- Community Service Award – April
- Storm Report – April/Mar
- Fire Rings –

ADJOURNED @ 8:02pm

Submitted by: _____
Teri Craig, Admin Assistant