

Meeting Minutes
Council-Citizens Committee
Marina Park Design
Location: Council Chambers
9:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 25, 2008

1. **Welcome and Introduction** Chairman Selich convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. The following persons were in attendance:

Committee Members

- Mayor Ed Selich (Chair)
- Council Member Michael Henn
- Council Member Don Webb
- Tom Billings (Protect Our Parks)
- John Corrough (Harbor Commissioner)
- Dave Lambert (American Legion Post 291)
- Tom Olivas (Rep. for Girl Scout Council of Orange County)

Committee Members Absent

- Grace Dove (Neighborhood Rep.)
- Bill Garrett (Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commissioner)
- Billy Whitford (Rep. for sailing or rowing organization)

City Staff

- Dave Kiff, Assistant City Manager
- Dave Webb, Deputy Public Works Director
- Chris Miller, Harbor Resources Manager
- Mark Reader, Public Works
- Rosalinh Ung, Planning Department
- Wes Morgan, Recreation and Senior Services Director
- Sean Levin, Recreation Superintendent
- Matt Lohr, Recreation Manager
- Kim Rieff, Department Assistant

Consultants

- Dan Herman, Rabben/Herman Design

Members of the public

- Allan Beek
- Elizabeth Bonn
- Laura Curran
- Joyce Ibbetson
- Rick Meyer
- Craig Morissette
- Dolores Otting

- John Reynolds
- Ambrosia Sarabia
- Tom Rossie

2. **Approve Minutes of Past Meetings (All)**

The minutes from the meetings of March 26, 2008, and May 7, 2008, were approved.

3. **Public Comment – Non Agenda Items**

Mr. Meyer said he is impressed with the design at Marina Park.

4. **Update and Discussion Items:**

A. Landscaping Plans

Mr. Herman gave a Power Point presentation (posted to the Marina Park webpage). There are no plants or turf currently on the site that we really want to keep or use as a base for the design. We're looking at plants that can maintain the views to the bay, how to block undesirable views, guide pedestrian traffic, prevent organized games from occurring in the open play areas, shade parking and seating areas, and provide a place for people using the sailing facilities to fold or roll their sails. In the plant selection we are looking at a native palette that's durable, has low water use, can withstand salty air spray and ground water intrusion.

Mr. Herman said they talked about relocating the existing *Washingtonia* palms. During the process we will have to see if the California Coastal Commission will allow them to be relocated or removed. His PowerPoint gave examples of trees that could be used.

In response to Chairman Selich's question about whether all the plants, with the exception of the *Washingtonia*, are on the Coastal Commission approved list of plants, Mr. Herman said there will be a schematic design of all the types of trees with alternatives.

Mr. Herman said they are putting the trees in a simulation and working with the views to see if they need to pull some trees out.

Mr. Herman said the walk material around the Community Center and Sailing Center would be precast concrete planter. The material comes in pieces about three feet long and a variety of colors and looks like wood planking. Wood decking will be used around the play area. From the Girl Scout House to the lighthouse and Sailing Center concrete could be used. Chairman Selich suggested to Mr. Herman that he might want to research more on the long concrete pavers that are cast with a concrete texture.

In reference to the parking area, Mr. Herman responded to Mr. Corrough question about whether additional green surface could be gained by using a semi-permeable surface. He said the bioswale is being looked at to make the park as green as possible.

Mr. Herman said a concern to them is the paved parking lots and the roofs of the buildings. For the parking lot the center median can be used as a drain. Only a quarter of the actual parking spaces need to use permeable pavers to meet the requirements. A paver with deeper grooves can be used to slow down the water.

Mr. Vandersloot said there are too many trees and he doesn't like the telephone pole effect that is projected along the highway and in the interior. It's supposed to be a window to the bay for the public. The trees should be California Native trees to the maximum extent possible. The trees Mr. Herman mentioned were the California Bay Laurel and the Torrey Pine and those could be in scattered locations. Having the Coral Tree as a Heritage Tree is a good idea. He doesn't think the Mexican palms, Mexican Fan or the California Fan Palm should be used. He suggested sand stabilizing vegetation like primrose on the beach for the groundscape.

Ms. Bonn said she has a concern about the number of trees lining Balboa Blvd and in the park. Ms. Otting said she agrees with everyone that there is a few to many trees. She suggested using recycled tires for the sidewalks instead of concrete or wood.

Ms. Curran said that in a coastal sage scrub environment it's more natural to reduce the number of trees. She has a concern about the *Eucalyptus ficifolia* because it is highly invasive; it drops red sap, red bushes, and seed pods. Her recommendations are to assess the fit of local species for shrubs, trees, grasses and the lawn areas and to have an interpretation component for citizens as the pavers, native and non native species and the bioswale are put in

Mr. Beek suggested few trees and ones that don't make a mess like the Jacarandas and the Olives. The permeable blocks with grass or plants growing in the parking lot would be very desirable.

Mr. Morrissette asked Mr. Herman to produce tree renderings to show the quantity of trees. If the Mexican Fan Palms are removed can they be relocated to the center median on Balboa Blvd. He likes the variation in materials for the walks.

Council Member Henn asked Mr. Herman if the next iteration would show the street level view as well as other views. Mr. Herman replied that models will be recreated with the actual species that will be used. Both the scale and impact of plant material and how large they become when they mature need to balance.

5. Adjourn & Set Next Meeting

No meeting date was set at this time. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.