

# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
August 4, 2009 - 7pm

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Convened 7:10pm

## ROLL CALL

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

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

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION TO ERIC PAULSEN

Superintendent Levin gave a brief overview of Eric Paulsen's accomplishments. Chair Marston presented the Community Service Award to Eric Paulsen for his work with Newport Beach Little, AYSO, CdM Water Polo and for his work on the addition of 4 scoreboards at Bonita Canyon Sports Park.

## SYNTHETIC TURF PRESENTATION

Superintendent Levin introduced Jim Perryman from CMX who provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission.

Commissioner Garrett asked questions regarding the heat of the turf.

Mr. Perryman stated that the turf can be anywhere between 20-30 degrees hotter at the surface level but does not rise beyond two to three inches. He stated that there are ways to keep the turf cooler such as watering it down between games.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost analysis, life cycle and warranty.

Mr. Perryman stated that they had done a cost analysis of all parks and came up with a list that has been provided. He noted the analysis is over a period of 24 years with an average life span of the synthetic turf lasting 8 years. He stated that with natural grass fields must be closed an average of 6-8 weeks twice a year and that by having synthetic turf would enable the use on a year round basis.

Commissioner Brown stated that the Riverside Community College had installed synthetic turf and that heat did not seem to be an issue except during one or two months during the summer.

Director Detweiler stated that the staff's perspective is that the turf would provide more play time. She also noted that there is no budget appropriated for this project except for the study and that staff would be presenting their findings to Council in September.

Discussion ensued regarding safety, cost and environmental benefits.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chair Marston opened the nominations for **Chair** for FY 2009/10.

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

**Motion by Chair Marston** to nominate Commissioner Ruzicka as Chair.

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

Motion to nominate Commissioner Brown was carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Anderson, Brown, Hamilton, Lugar

Since this vote constituted a majority vote, Commissioner Brown was elected Chair.

Chair Marston opened the nominations for **Vice Chair** for FY 2009/10.

**Motion by Commissioner Lugar** to nominate Commissioner Garrett as Vice Chair.

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

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Commissioner Ruzicka left at 7:58pm**

### **DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

Director Detweiler highlighted the Camp Friendship program and partnerships with Newport-Mesa Unified School District which provided training for the recreation leaders in working with children with Autism while providing some recreational programming in exchange. She noted that swim lessons were up 11% from last year and that the program was extremely successful. Director Detweiler stated that the CYC renovation was completed one day before it opened for summer camp and commented that the facility is providing a great programming venue. She thanks Commissioners Hamilton and Brown for their support at the CdM 5k in June and Commissioners Anderson, Hamilton and Marston at the Independence Day parade. She also noted that these two events could not happen without Director Harmon and his crew and thanked him for their work. She stated that the Coastal Peak Park dedication would be September 1 at 5pm.

Director Harmon stated that June was quiet but that July came with a roar and left with a roar. He stated that they had a very successful 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and that it was not as bad as expected. He stated that the crew had accumulated over the weekend about 477 hours of overtime keeping the City clean just for those two days. He noted that 15 crew members were at CdM State Beach early on July 5 and picked up 12 tons of trash from the beach, parking lot and small parks in about three hours.

Commissioner Hamilton thanked him and his staff for their work.

He stated that his crew then worked at the beach during the largest tide surge that anyone has seen in over 25 years. He stated that he saw a wave go over a 12 foot high back hoe in the parking lot. He stated that the water went thru the parking lot and over to the bay. He stated that there was some minor pier damage and that his crew was incredible to watch.

### **CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

Director Detweiler stated that the City Council approved the budget which included additional hours for the Park Patrol program and that staff is in the process of reviewing applications and hope to have someone on board by September.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. **Minutes of the June 2, 2009 regular meeting.** Commissioner Marston asked that the minutes reflect that she was in attendance and that Commissioner Garrett was absent at the June 2, 2009 meeting.

2. **Park & Operations Division Activity Report.**

*Recommendation: Receive/file monthly Activity Report for activities and upcoming projects.*

3. **Recreation & Senior Services Activity Report.**

*Recommendation: Receive/file monthly Activity Report for activities and upcoming projects.*

**Motion by Commissioner Lugar** to amend item 1 as stated and approve items 2 and 3. Motion carried by acclamation.

4. **Bench Donation.** Director Harmon stated that at the January 6, 2009 meeting that the Commission had approved the donation of 12 additional wood benches along the Marine Avenue corridor on Balboa Island but leaving two sites vacant. Mr. Stewart was able to secure funding for the final two locations at 306 and 323 Marine Avenue. He recommended approval of these last two donations. He also asked that the minutes reflected the General Services Department's gratitude to Mr. Stewart for his work, tenacity and fundraising for the 14 benches on Balboa Island.

**Motion by Commissioner Lugar** to approve the donation of two benches at 306 and 323 Marine Avenue on Balboa Island. Motion carried by acclamation.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

5. **Newport-Mesa Soccer Club (NMSC) Request for Temporary Lights at BCSP field #5.** Superintendent Levin stated that NMSC is requesting placement of two portable lights run by a generator on BCSP for use during the fall/spring seasons from October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and January 11<sup>th</sup> - February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from dusk to 7:45pm, Monday - Friday. NMSC would be responsible all costs associated with securing the lights. The lights will be locked together during non-use hours and stored near the fences and away from the main play area in a location acceptable to the Recreation and Parks Divisions. The lights will only be turned on by authorized users with a key. The lights would be placed on the eastern and western ends of the field to avoid shining into residential areas. This proposal is consistent with the previous year's requests approved by the PB&R Commission.

Commissioner Anderson recused himself and left the dais.

**Chair Brown opened the public discussion; hearing none the public discussion was closed.**

Commissioner Garrett stated that the NMSC have been good stewards and that the Commission has not received any complaints.

Chair Brown asked if this item was noticed to the public.

Superintendent Levin stated that all homes were noticed within 500 feet of the entire park and no public comment was received.

**Motion by Commissioner Garrett** to approve the request by NMSC to place two portable lights run by a generator on BCSP field #5 for use during the fall/spring seasons from October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and January 11<sup>th</sup> - February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from dusk to 7:45pm, Monday - Friday. Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brown, Garrett, Hamilton, Lugar, Marston

Absent: Ruzicka

Recuse: Anderson

6 & 7. **Special Tree Removal.** Director Harmon stated that staff is requesting the removal of a City Eucalyptus tree that is adjacent to 546 El Modena Avenue and 547 Riverside Drive. He noted that the

trees are listed as Special City Trees. He noted that after inspection by the City's Urban Forester and another staff certified arborist confirmed that the tree at 546 El Modena was infested with tree conks that are present inside the whole seam area of both co-dominant stems and that the tree had developed decay in the lower trunk and that the tree at 547 Riverside is severely decayed. The arborist report is that these trees have been deemed as posing an immediate danger but are not creating a potential liability. On June 20 staff hired a 3<sup>rd</sup> party arborist who confirmed the findings of the City Urban Forester. He noted that because these trees are "Special Trees" that they would be replaced with a 36" box tree of the same species. Director Harmon also noted that the City Risk Manager and the City Manager also agree that they should be removed.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that it appears that other trees on that street are suffering as well.

Discussion ensued.

**Chair Brown opened the public discussion.**

Jan Vandersloot complemented staff on their consideration of the special tree. He noted that the report did not mention possible measures that could be done or had been done to save the tree and that they should also become part of the staff report. He did note that he basically agrees that the tree should be removed as long as it is the same species of tree.

**Chair Brown closed the public discussion.**

**Motion by Commissioner Hamilton** to approve the replacement of the Eucalyptus trees adjacent to 546 El Modena Avenue and 547 Riverside Drive. Motion carried by acclamation.

8. **Beach Fire Ring Policy.** Director Harmon recommended that the Commission review the following recommendation that will be forwarded to City Council for their review and approval. He noted that this policy will better address issues such as location of beach fires, acceptable materials for burning and the responsibility for extinguishing the fires. He stated that once these policies have been approved enforcement would be easier.

***Existing Newport Beach Policy***

*Section 307.42.1 Beach, Camp, Recreational fires. No person shall make, set, or maintain any beach or camp/recreational fire at any beach, park, or other public place within the City except in areas where proper containers are provided for such fires by the City and where City signs are plainly posted indicating such fires are permissible.*

***Proposed Newport Beach Policy***

***I. Overview***

- a. No person shall make, set, or maintain any beach or camp/recreational fire at any beach, park, or other public place within the City except in areas where proper containers are provided for such fires by the City and where City signs are plainly posted indicating such fires are permissible.

***II. Location***

- a. City-provided fire containers are concrete rings that have been pre-installed at certain beach locations where fires are allowed.
- b. Fires are prohibited at locations where there are no City-provided fire containers.
- c. The use of a stove, barbecue, hibachi or other similar device specifically designed for starting and maintaining fires is prohibited.

***III. Materials***

- a. Fires may be built using only fire materials limited to charcoal, clean wood, or paper products. Any other material containing landscape debris, paint, stain, sealer, wood preservative, cloth, rubber, metal (including nails, screws, and bolts), asphalt, foam rubber, plastic, or any similar material producing noxious fumes, odors, smoke, or leaving any type of solid residue other than ash may not be used. THE BURNING OF PALLETS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
- b. Fire materials shall not exceed a height of more than twelve (12) inches above the upper edge of the fire container and must be wholly contained within the inside edge of the fire container.
- c. No cutting, sawing or other means of shredding wood may take place on the beach, parks, sidewalks, streets or parking lots.

***IV. Extinguishing***

- a. Fires shall only be extinguished with water.
- b. To bury any fire, coals or embers with sand; or to dispose of any hot, burning or smoldering coals or embers except in a fire ring or other City-provided receptacle which are specially marked as being for that purpose is prohibited.
- c. No person who has built, maintained, used, or been within ten (10) feet of a fire on the beach shall abandon the fire until all ignited fire material has been exhausted or extinguished.

**Chair Brown opened the public discussion; hearing none the public discussion was closed.**

Discussion ensued regarding fines to the public.

Motion by Commissioner Anderson to approve the policy submitted by General Services and to forward to City Council for their review and approval. Motion carried by acclamation

9. Proposed Allocation of "Home Field" Allocation Procedure to the Youth Sports Commission's Field Allocation and Use Policy. Recreation Manager Cates reviewed the policy with the Commission noting that it had been revised in 2005. She stated that with the approval of this policy that the youth organizations would be guaranteed a home field and would more likely invest funds towards the improvement of home fields knowing they will have ongoing annual use. The Youth Sports Commission members had voted in favor of this policy change and that this a trial period had proved successful.

Chair Brown confirmed that this change to the policy was about the designation of home field and not any change to allocations.

Manager Cates stated yes.

Chair Brown opened the public discussion.

Commissioner Anderson recused himself and spoke as a member of the Newport-Mesa Soccer Club. He stated that with this change in policy that the Youth Sports Organizations would put money towards their home field.

Eric Paulsen also urged his support of the change to the policy and noted that this would strengthen the community as well in terms of improving the quality of the fields.

Chair Brown closed the public discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Lugar to approve the changes to the Youth Sports Commission's Field Allocation & Use Policy. Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Motion carried by acclamation.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS -**

Parks - Director Detweiler stated that the Park Development Committee would meet at 6pm before the October Commission meeting.

RSS - Chair Brown appointed Commissioner Anderson to take his place on the committee. Nothing to report.

AD- Hoc

—Youth Sports Liaison - Nothing to report

—Community Services Award - Nothing to Report.

—Budget - Nothing to report.

Other

—Marina Park - Director Detweiler stated the EIR will be re-circulated due to comments on the Draft EIR. Which pushes back the time to submit the project to Coastal Commission. Coastal is taking 6-9 months to review projects and set them for Commission hearings. Discussions of the timeline have been taking place with the residents.

—China Cove - Director Detweiler stated that the volleyball court application to the Coastal Commission has been filed.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**ADJOURNED - 9:01pm**

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