

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
October 6, 2009 - 7pm

Convened 7:04pm

ROLL CALL

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

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

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Director Harmon recognized Dr. Vandersloot for his donation of \$5,000 to enhance plantings at Castaways Park. He stated staff had begun this effort this past week and that it was due to his donation and generosity that this was being achieved. He noted that a lot of the blank bare areas would be filled in and noted that Dr. Vandersloot had been great to work with on this project.

Commissioner Ruzicka stated that he would like to nominate Mr. Vandersloot for the Community Service Award. Chair Brown noted that this item was later on the agenda.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Minutes of the September 1, 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. **Item removed by member of the public.**
5. **Bench Donation.** *Approve bench request of Susan Richards to be located at Balboa Fire Station.*

Motion by Commissioner Ruzicka to accept items Consent Calendar items 1-3 & 5. Motion carried by acclamation.

4. **Bench Donation.** Bette Ross expressed her thanks to the General Services staff for their help with the donation of the bench to be located at Buffalo Hills Park.

Chair Brown thanked Ms. Ross and noted that the service that she received from the General Services Department was indicative of Director Harmon and staff that emulate him in response to his leadership and again personally congratulated Director Harmon on all the things that he is responsible for on a daily basis to make the Commission's job so much easier.

Director Harmon thanked him and stated that he would pass these comments on to staff.

Motion by Commissioner Ruzicka to approve item 4 regarding the bench donation of Bette M. Ross to be located at Buffalo Hills Park. Motion carried by acclamation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Parks - Chair Brown stated that he had some notes that the Commission should be made aware of with respect to the Park Development Committee and specifically City Hall in the Park. He noted that the final meeting with the Design Team was held September 30 from 6:30 to 9:30pm in the Council Chambers. He stated the Design Team had met initially about 8 months ago with the building and park architects and a lot of work has taken place since that time. Chair Brown went on to say that he took down some notes and that some of the comments made are important for the Commission to know as we move forward and shared the following:

- The comments on the park seemed generally positive both from the Design Team, the Park Development Committee and the public. One interesting comment that he believed came from the Design Team was the park seemed to lend itself to philanthropic opportunities; he went on to say there were some areas in the park that could be designated for naming rights which might pose an interesting dilemma for the Commission as there are restrictions related to this.
- There was concern on the Design Team as well as the Park Development Committee on the fact that this is a rather large parcel of land when you go from the farthest southern point to the northern point and the lack of restrooms. He stated that a Design Team member brought the issue forward which was answered by the landscape architect who conducted a study in this regard. The conclusion that she drew from the results of the study were that restrooms were located within reasonable limits assuming that the restrooms at the Bus Transit Center at the far north side and the restrooms at the City plaza were available for use. The City Manager noted that this issue has been spoken about several times which was nice to know since he felt like that Park Development Committee had not always been heard. He stated that the biggest thing people were concerned about were where would the restrooms be located, would they be in a secluded area resulting in problems. He stated that he felt that it was a legitimate issue but it was satisfying that there was that type of transparency with respect to the issue. The connecting bridge between the north and south parcels is an integral part of the design with an estimated cost of the bridge alone is \$2.9 M. Chair Brown stated that there is concern about the expense but also without that bridge having to cross San Miguel it would be difficult to get from the south to the north parcel. He went on to say that now you begin to look at the expense of the entire project and puts a whole new significance on the importance of the bridge.
- The dog park issue was addressed again by the Chairs of the Arts Commission and the Board of Library Trustees. So he restated the concerns of the Park Development Committee as well as the Commission regarding the dog park. Primarily that the size of the dog park being as small as it is and how lend to both large and small dogs. He stated that the landscape architect discussed studies related to this had been done and in her opinion that the dog park was not too small. He went on to say that the size of the dogs were not addressed. He stated that he believed it would be a problem later but would see how it goes.
- He reported that keeping the park natural was brought up by the Design Team as well as the public and everyone was reminded that the initial charge for this park was to make it passive recreation which has been accomplished while keeping as many natural elements as possible. There were some issues with trees because apparently many of the olive trees at the library have a disease and are dying. A specific type of tree that would be planted around the perimeter of the park was discussed and it was fairly clear that the olive trees cannot thrive in that environment and there will be a need for a different tree. Director Harmon stated that the City Manager had requested that the discussion of olive trees be agendaized at a City Council Study Session in November before any more olive trees were removed.
- Chair Brown stated that there is some concern about water as the plan is to use reclaimed water. Water from the nearby wetlands is too salty and therefore a need for alternative ideas on where the reclaimed water comes from.
- The design palette is primarily for the drier type of plants. He stated that the EIR indicates that 80% of the natural plants will be removed which caused some concern from Mr. Vandersloot and others. He went on to say that he believed the Landscape Architect confirmed that this was the case. He stated that 10 natural species will be removed.
- There will be no lighting in the park but were assured that with the science of lighting now that the halo effect can be controlled.

RSS - Nothing to report.

Budget- Nothing to report

AD- Hoc

–Community Services Award - Commissioner Ruzicka stated that he would like to nominate Mr. Vandersloot even though we don't always agree with him sometimes he is certainly active and really cares and has donated that money and does not believe that there is anyone more deserving.

Commissioner Lugar seconded that comment. Could we nominate him.

Superintendent Levin stated that he would send out the paperwork to Commissioner Ruzicka to officially nominate him.

Chair Brown stated that he felt it was a good idea and for nothing else then the time he spends here.

Commissioner Garrett stated that there are some previous City Council Members that were very opposed to that because of the law suit that Mr. Vandersloot filed against the City a few years ago, He noted that everyone should take that for what it is worth and that most of those council members are gone off the Council but there are some people that have some bad feelings because of the law suit.

Commissioner Lugar stated that even with the law suit he was still in favor.

–Youth Sports Liaison - Nothing to report

–China Cove Volleyball Court - Director Detweiler stated the Coastal Commission had requested additional information last month from staff. Commissioner Hamilton asked what additional information had been provided. She went to clarify that they had requested a list of existing volleyball courts within the city.

Other

–Marina Park - Nothing to report. Director Detweiler stated that staff had provided and update to the Park Development Committee tonight and that the PowerPoint had been distributed to the Commission as a whole. She noted that the project is slated to be complete in 2013 with construction potentially beginning in 2011.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Garrett asked Director Harmon to look at the lone telephone pole that looks to be abandoned and asked if there was a way that it could be removed. Director Harmon stated that he would have staff look at it.

ADJOURNED - 7:26pm

Submitted by: _____
Teri Craig, Admin Assistant