

**Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 4, 2010 – 7pm**

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**Convened** 7:04pm

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Tim Brown, Chair  
Tom Anderson  
Kathy Hamilton  
Phillip Lugar  
Marie Marston

Absent: Greg Ruzicka

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

Chair Brown announced that he had gone to the CPRS District 10 Award Dinner and noted that the Commission should be extremely proud of the Recreation & Senior Services Department as they received several awards and that Director Detweiler had been surprised to receive the Coveted Leadership Award. He also noted the City Manager Dave Kiff and Mayor Curry and his wife had been there as well to see her receive the award.

Director Detweiler commented that she had been surprised to receive the award and noted that she was very lucky to work in the City of Newport Beach along with such wonderful staff. She noted that she was honored to lead this professional group of people.

**DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

- Director Detweiler stated that OASIS project was moving along; irrigation would be going in and that the facility should be at a point within the month that it can be locked down. She reported that staff should be moving sometime in August with a soft opening of the facility in September and that the tentative dedication day is scheduled for October 9 from 2-5pm. Director Detweiler stated that the furniture contract will go before Council on June 8. She announced that the Coastline College Senior Emeritus Program would no longer be free due to budget cuts but hoped to keep the program up and running at a low cost.

Director Detweiler stated that at the annual track meet the City hosted 400 children at the CdM High School and noted that many parents had commented on how well run it was. She thanked her youth sports staff for a job well done.

Director Detweiler stated that staff and in particular Recreation Coordinator Skahan has done a great job in bringing the City facilities up to a good level through project improvements. Recently, the theater and West Newport Community Center had been painted with Carol Beek next on the list for improvements.

Director Detweiler announced that the Commission will receive an invitation to the Civic Center & Park Groundbreaking on May 11 at 11am.

- Director Harmon stated that as a follow-up on the fire pits that he had contacted the Risk Manager regarding claims. He announced that the City has on record one claim in 1991 of a 3 year old burned feet incident in which a summary judgment was given on the basis that the parent should not have let the child play around the pit.  
Director Harmon noted that he consulted Public Works Director regarding lighting of Pirates Cove who stated anything done at that location ~~would~~ may require approval from the Coastal Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding fire pits and Pirates Cove.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. **Minutes of April 6, 2010 regular meeting.** Commissioner Anderson asked that the minutes reflect that that he had made the motion to approve item 9.
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 Recreation & Senior Services Department to be located at Grant Howald Park at CYC.*

**Motion by Commissioner Anderson** to accept Consent Calendar items 2-4 and item 1 as amended. Motion carried by acclamation.

5. **Corona del Mar State Beach Enforcement** – Director Detweiler stated that staff had met with Police, Park Patrol and Lifeguards regarding parking control and enforcement issues at the beach. She stated that Park Patrol hours have been increased and that it was a good meeting opening up the lines of communication and that progress is being made. She noted that Park Patrol would be at beach 4 days a week beginning Memorial Day; time and days will change as necessary. She went on to say that the cards have been effective in educating folks as they come onto the beach regarding barbecues and tent structures.

Director Detweiler introduced Police Lt. Morton to the Commission.

Lt. Morton stated that his job is the Patrol Watch Commander and has been in that job since June 2009. Lt Morton is working nights and noted that he is happy to announce that crime is down 20% in CdM due to proactive enforcement. He stated that Andy Querry deserves credit for her work with the Neighborhood Watch program. He reported that this past year his officers issued 844 citations – 444 for staying on the beach after closing; 200 for barbecues and approximately 200 for drinking on the beach. He stated that they have a great working relationship with Park Patrol and appreciate their help and support. He reported that he can actually see the beach from his desk which makes it easier to send patrols out when needed. Lt. Morton stated that he was able to secure funding for increased police foot patrol on Memorial Day and hopefully for Labor Day as well. He went on to say that parking fees will increase soon and that should also deter some problem users as well.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that she and her neighbors have noticed a change – tents and barbecues are better as they can actually breathe now. She stated that there is an absence of patrol though from about 7pm until the beach closes. She also suggested that the Police Officers actually use a bull horn to get visitors off the beach after it closes or begin ticketing.

Lt Morton stated that residents might have an issue with a bull horn and it could cause visitors on the beach to start running towards their cars and in the dark which could cause some accidents. He stated that his marching orders to his officers are to get them off the beach at 10pm but reminded the Commission that this also depends on call load. He stated that his officers are doing their best.

Discussion ensued regarding Segways and dogs on the beach.

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

Chair Brown thanked Lt Morton for his insight and support especially as we move towards the summer.

## **CURRENT / NEW ITEMS**

**6. Change of City Street Tree Designation.** Director Harmon stated over a period of time, several City trees have been removed on Heliotrope Avenue (200-300 blocks), due to storm related incidents, insect infestations and disease. Staff proposes that the PB&R Commission forward a request to the City Council to change the street tree designation for Heliotrope Avenue from a Japanese Black Pine to either all or one of the following tree species

- Kentia Palm tree
- Hong Kong Orchid tree
- New Zealand Christmas tree

He stated that these trees should help mitigate any future insect and disease problems and perform well in this location. He noted that the trees are suitable for a 3 feet growth space tree well. He said that as trees are removed or reforested that this will provide the homeowner a choice of one of these species once City Council has amended change of Council Policy G-6.

### **Chair Brown opened the public discussion**

Frank Vranancar stated that over the last 15 years the City has systematically removed trees but not always replacing them – he stated that the street is bare and that trees are needed and wanted on the block. He stated that he was concerned about using the New Zealand Christmas tree because and it could have view issues in the future.

Pat Vranancar stated that many trees on the block were planted in the 1920's and that there is a variety of tree species on the block.

Tracy Baltera reported that a 101 year old Majestic Monterey was removed because the City decided that a curb needed to be replaced. She stated that when she moved to her home 20 years ago that one of the reasons they selected their home was because of all the trees and that trees provide oxygen; now most of the trees are gone. She went on to say that the Kentia Palm tree is ugly and suggested that a pine tree be substituted for the palm tree.

Mark Lynam stated that there really is no uniformity on the street and that he has concerns that these species will have to be thinned because of view issues in the future – specifically the palm. He asked if the ficus trees would remain.

### **Chair Brown closed the public discussion**

Director Harmon stated that trees will not be removed just because of the species and that they have to be removed in accordance with G-1. He stated that only diseased trees will be removed and that they are trying to put more trees in the neighborhood. He went on to say that he has heard from members of Council and homeowners that it would be helpful to have a choice instead of just one designated tree per street. He stated that the Hong Kong Orchid and New Zealand tree would get as high as 20 feet and the Palm, 40 feet.

Discussion ensued regarding view and choice issues.

**Motion by Commissioner Lugar** to forward their recommendation to City Council that the designated street tree for the 200-300 block of Heliotrope be changed from the Japanese Black Pine to the Kentia Palm tree, Hong Kong Orchid tree and the New Zealand Christmas tree. Motion carried by acclamation.

**7. Reforestation Request.** Director Harmon stated staff received a request for reforestation of two Brazilian Pepper trees from Sandra Ayres at 2800 Cliff Drive. He went on to say that this request is from an individual property owner not residing within a legally established community association. The G-1 states that a property owner may submit a request with a petition signed by a minimum of 60% of property owners within the area defined for reforestation. He stated that the property owner's area included a total of **20** property owners and required **12** signatures in favor of the reforestation request of

which **13** were obtained. He went on to say that the property owner has complied with the requirements of G-1, and will assume the full cost of the removal and replacement of the City trees. He went on to say that these trees are showing signs of disease and like the ficus are simply ~~to~~ the wrong species for that environment.

Discussion ensued regarding species and types of trees.

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

**Motion by Commissioner Marston** to approve the request from Sandra Ayres at 2800 Cliff Drive of the reforestation of two Brazilian Pepper trees to the designated Strawberry tree. Motion carried by acclamation.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

Parks – Nothing to report.

RSS – Nothing to report.

Budget – Nothing to report.

Community Service Award – Nothing to report.

AD- Hoc

– Youth Sports Liaison – Nothing to report.

– Marina Park – Commissioner Garrett stated that he had gone a meeting last month and reported that there is an element within the City that want the trailers moved now and grass be planted until the full project is realized which he some opposition with. He stated that he will continue to attend meetings and will update the Commission as new information develops.

Director Detweiler reminded the Commission that the Marina Park EIR will be on the City Council agenda on May 11.

Commissioner Lugar asked if the access road to Sunset Ridge had been approved. Director Detweiler stated that City Council had approved that issue.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following is a compilation of future agenda items discussed tonight and in the past:

- Review of G-1 Policy
- Pirates Cove Lighting – Commissioner asked Director Harmon to come up with a list of steps that will need to be taken to move forward on this issue.

**ADJOURNED @ 8:39pm**

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