

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
June 1, 2010 – 7pm

Convened 7:04pm

ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Brown, Chair
 Tom Anderson
 Bill Garrett
 Phillip Lugar
 Greg Ruzicka

Absent: Kathy Hamilton
 Marie Marston

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

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

- Director Detweiler announced that the China Cove volleyball court was installed prior to the Memorial Day weekend with no complaints received regarding court usage. She thanked Chair Brown and Commissioner Lugar for their involvement as well as Superintendent Levin and to Director Harmon and his crew for installing the court. Director Detweiler noted that Superintendent Levin has put together a 6-month plan with Park Patrol staff regularly checking in at least three times a week. Park Patrol will take notes of any public concerns and issues should they come up. This will be compiled into a report for the Commission in early 2011. She stated that the volleyball players are well aware that they are expected to be good stewards and neighbors and follow the posted rules.

Commissioner Lugar asked about the policy on volleyball nets and the asked if grading had to be done for the installation.

Director Detweiler stated all players must bring their own net and that it must be taken down when they leave; she also stated that staff did have to shift some of the sand.

Director Detweiler reminded the Commission about the CdM 5k that will be held on Saturday, June 5. She announced that the Mariners Independence Day Parade would be held on Saturday, July 3 and noted that everyone should have received the summer *Navigator*. She commented on what a great job staff did on the Navigator and displayed the OASIS newsletter as well.

- Director Harmon also thanked Superintendent Levin for this assistance with the installation of the volleyball court and noted that some additional sand had been brought in and that all in all it went without a hitch. He announced that the Compressed Natural Gas Station at the yard had a grand opening several weeks ago and noted that the City fleet would be moving towards alternative fuel. He went on to say that the station is open to the public and that the City will receive royalty fees for every gallon sold out of that station.

Director Harmon stated that staff had forwarded the Commission recommendation for the street tree designation of the 200-300 block of Heliotrope to City Council for their review and approval at the June 8 meeting. He announced that Council did not approve the Commission's recommendation and decided to table the item until such time that Council Member Gardner could canvas the neighborhood to see what residents thought of the selected tree species. He stated that staff notified 60 addresses and that only one couple attended the Council meeting to speak against the recommendation.

Director Harmon stated that given the Council action; and that there is not an approved street tree designation for those neighborhoods that he suggests that item 5 — Proposed City Tree Removals on Heliotrope Avenue be pulled.

Chair Brown asked the Commission for any objection to pulling item 5. Hearing none; the item was pulled.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Max Liskin suggested that beach signage should reflect a more positive spin instead of the standard NO. He also noted tents should not be allowed to be set up over the fire pits.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Minutes of May 4, 2010 regular meeting.** Commissioner Garret asked that his name be added to the roll call.
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.*

Motion by Commissioner Lugar to accept Consent Calendar items 2-3 and item 1 as amended. Motion carried by acclamation.

4. **Ordinance Change Amending Section 7.04.030 of Title 7 of the Newport Beach Municipal Code pertaining to Dogs** – Manager Lohr reviewed the staff report and that at the request of the community, the Commission is asked to consider forwarding their recommendation to the City Council for their review/approval to amend Section 7.04.030 of Title 7 of the Newport Beach Municipal Code pertaining to Dogs with a leash be allowed on the beach before 10am and after 4:30pm. He stated that since 1996 dogs have been allowed on the beach with a leash before 9am and after 5pm.

He stated that staff met with residents, lifeguards and animal control to discuss a possible change to the ordinance. He noted that residents requested that dogs be allowed on the beach without restriction from mid September to Memorial Day. He stated that they noted that during the winter months that the hours before 9am and after 5pm provide very little daylight. He went on to report that staff agreed that it would be feasible to recommend the change to before 10am and after 4:30pm. He noted that the Police Department does not have the resources to expand the hours beyond what is being recommended here today. He introduced Karen Weigand, Traffic Control and Valerie Schomburg, Animal Control Officer to the Commission and that they were available for questions.

Commissioner Garret asked about statistics on citations regarding animal control that might show that these numbers have increased.

Manager Lohr stated that from 2005 to 2009 the statistics do show about a 2% increase.

Commissioner Lugar asked if there were statistical projections if these hours were increased.

Manager Lohr stated that after meeting with police and lifeguards, that it was felt that this time change of before 10am and after 4:30pm would have little effect on the number of citations issued and felt comfortable with this time change.

Officer Schomburg stated that there are only three animal control officers and that their first priority is public safety and radio calls. She went on to say that if and when there is extra time that they will concentrate on enforcement at the beaches, parks, schools and neighborhoods for leash violations.

Discussion ensued regarding enforcement issues and signage on the beach and the boardwalk.

Chair Brown opened the public discussion

Max Liskin stated that he believes that enforcement is fair; but noted that the rules on the boardwalk are inconsistent; reciting times that the beach is closed but the boardwalk isn't. He suggested that signage be listed in a more positive way and that more doggy dispensers are needed and would be happy to sponsor the dispensers and bags for a couple of hundred dollars a year and suggested that that people be fined if they are with a dog and that their bag is not in plain sight. He also noted that he would be amenable to pay for a permit that would allow his dog to be on the beach.

Shirley Reinkar stated that she had spearheaded the campaign and provided additional history to the Commission. She urged the Commission to allow dogs on the beach before 10am and after 4pm.

Kim Jameson stated that the reason for the time change is because of the winter and suggested a dog park in the West Newport area. She noted that if the time allotted for dogs on the beach were increased then less citations would be written.

Carol Seckel urged support of the increased hours of before 10am and after 4pm.

Jerry Ramsey stated that he believes that the time should change with the different seasons; ie longer hours in the fall and winter and less during the spring and summer.

Greg Reinkar recommended that there not be any restriction at all during the winter.

Chris Stineman agreed that there should be no restrictions during the winter and during the rest of the year that before 10am and after 4pm would work.

Barbara Barnard also agreed there should be no restrictions during the winter and during the rest of the year before 10am and after 4pm would work.

Nick Glazer stated that dogs should be given free reign during the winter months.

Charlie Cotton also agreed that dogs be allowed on the beach before 10am and after 4pm and free reign during the winter.

Chair Brown closed the public discussion

Chair Brown asked if staff is asking that the Commission to recommend that Council approve that dogs on leash be allowed before 10am and after 4:30pm.

Manager Lohr stated yes, that beach lifeguards felt that extending it to 4pm in the afternoon would cause conflicts between beach goers and other dogs. It would be important that these hours be consistent throughout the year to eliminate confusion for those bringing dogs to the beach and for animal control staff who enforce the rules.

Discussion ensued regarding citations, enforcement and dogs on leash.

Commissioner Garrett stated that the biggest problem is dogs off leash and suggested that the fines be increased.

Director Detweiler noted that staff would investigate how fine amounts are determined and will follow up with the Commission.

Commissioner Lugar suggested tabling this issue for further investigation.

Motion by Commissioner Anderson to forward their recommendation to the City Council for their review/approval to amend Section 7.04.030 of Title 7 of the Newport Beach Municipal Code pertaining to Dogs on the Beach be allowed on the beach on a leash before 10am and after 4:30pm. Motion carried by the following vote:

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

5. Proposed City Tree Removals on Heliotrope Avenue– Pulled as discussed above.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Parks – Chair Brown asked when there would be an update. Director Detweiler stated staff had provided an update in October and unless there was something specific to discuss staff would provide an update again in October.

RSS – Nothing to report.

Budget– Nothing to report

Community Service Award – Nothing to report.

AD- Hoc

–Youth Sports Liaison – Nothing to report.

–Marina Park – EIR Application has been submitted to Coastal Commission and should take about a year .

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Brown stated that typically the Commission does not meet in July and asked staff if there was any problem with going dark. Director Detweiler stated that neither Recreation & Senior Services or General Services had items for July and the Commission could go dark. After discussion it was decided that there would be no meeting in July.

Director Detweiler stated that the Commission would recognize Commissioner Ruzicka for his 8 years on the Commission at the August meeting. Commissioner Ruzicka confirmed that he would be there.

ADJOURNED @ 8:02pm

Submitted by: _____
Teri Craig, Admin Assistant