

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting October 6, 2020 – 6:00 PM

I. CONVENE MEETING OF THE PARKS BEACHES & RECREATION COMMISSION TO ORDER – 6:01 PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Heather Ignatin, Chair
Diane Daruty, Vice Chair
Hassan Archer, Commissioner
David Granoff, Commissioner
Laird Hayes, Commissioner
Kate Malouf, Commissioner

Excused: Walt Howald, Commissioner

Staff: Laura Detweiler, Recreation & Senior Services Director
Sean Levin, Recreation & Senior Services Deputy Director
Micah Martin, Deputy Public Works Director
Kevin Pekar, Parks and Trees Superintendent
John Nelson, City Arborist
Mariah Stinson, Administrative Support Specialist

III. PRESENTATION

A. Community Service Award – John Carpenter

Deputy Director Levin explained that the Community Service Award is presented to members of the community who have done outstanding community service for the City. Mr. Carpenter has been a lifeguard for the City for 50 years.

Commissioner Malouf read a letter from her daughter that expressed her gratitude toward Mr. Carpenter for training, teaching, and mentoring all the lifeguards in the program.

Mr. Carpenter provided a brief background of how he came into the program and his experiences throughout the years with the lifeguard program.

IV. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Jim Mosher requested that the Commission consider his suggested revisions to the August 4, 2020 meeting minutes. In regards to Item B, he reported that the activity at Big Canyon Nature Park is not mentioned in the activity report. In regards to Item D, he

did not understand why one proposal for temporary lights at Bonita Canyon Sports Park is on the consent calendar but the other is under current business. He suggested that the Commission draft policy around what the approval process is for temporary lights so that everyone is aware of the process.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of the Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission Meeting of August 4, 2020.

Recommendation: Waive reading of subject minutes, approve and order filed.

B. PW Activity Report

Recommendation: Receive/file Activity Report.

C. RSS Activity Report

Recommendation: Receive/file Activity Report of past and upcoming projects and events.

D. Request by Newport Mesa Soccer Club (NMSC) for Temporary Lights at Bonita Canyon Sports Park (BSCP) Field #5

Staff recommends the Parks, Beaches and Recreation (PB&R) Commission approve the request from the Newport Mesa Soccer Club (NMSC) to use temporary lights at Bonita Canyon Sports Park (BCSP) field #5 from October 7 to December 11, 2020 and January 11 to April 15, 2021 from dusk to 7:55 p.m.

E. Donation of Old School Park

Staff recommends that the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission approve a Santa Monica bench donation requested by Jill With at Old School Park.

Motion by Commissioner Hayes; second by Commissioner Archer, to Approve VI. CONSENT CALENDAR. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VII. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Newport Beach Junior Lifeguard Building

Staff recommends that the Parks, Beaches, and Recreation (PB&R) Commission review Newport Beach Junior Lifeguard (NBJG) Building concept design, proposed amenities and forward recommendations to the City Council.

Commissioner Hayes recused himself from the item.

Director Webb noted that the item has been seen by Council and they did provide general guidelines.

Mr. Peter Tauscher, Public Works, gave a brief overview of the project. The existing facility has no water or sewer facilities but there is power. The preferred location is adjacent to the existing location. The location is designed to not impact the ongoing uses of the athletic field. The project includes no net loss of parking and will be adding a few

spots. Project size is roughly 5,100-square feet programable space with an expected cost of \$4.9 million.

Mr. Jeff Katz, the architect, summarized his draft design concept for the new facility to the Commission. The parking would be reworked, the new facilities would be built behind the FEMA line, and the bike path through the park would be rerouted. The facility would include restrooms, showers, storage and multipurpose space. Any trees that would be removed would be replanted at a one to one ratio.

Commissioner Granoff asked what the timeframe is for the project and Mr. Tauscher stated the approximate completion date is summer of 2023.

Commissioner Daruty asked what the issues are for Site 3 – (Main Street Parking Lot). Mr. Tauscher noted that it would be much more difficult to recapture parking on Site 3 in addition to traffic circulation challenges. For Site 1 (B Street Parking Lot) it would be difficult to permit the building on the sand.

In response to Commissioner Granoff's question, Director Detweiler confirmed that the facility would be available to the community on a year-round basis for community meetings, programs and rentals.

In response to Commissioner Archer's questions, Mr. Tauscher answered that construction would take place in non-summer months and parking would be restricted during that time. In terms of lost park space, when the current Junior Lifeguard Building is removed, that will increase the open beach space for public use.

In response to Chair Ignatin's questions, Mr. Tauscher answered no programable fields or playgrounds will be lost with the construction of the project. Chief Lifeguard Mike Halphide, summarized the main concern with the existing facility is no running water, restroom facilities and hygiene. The reason for the preferred Site 2 location is because it has fewer constraints and larger beach area.

Chair Ignatin called for public comment.

Jim Mosher suggested moving the building to the east on the currently proposed site He questioned the sizing of the roof of the new design and believed it would violate the Coastal Act.

Nancy Scarbrough expressed excitement about the project and liked the proposed design for the new facility. She recommended that City Staff work with the Coastal Commission on the design of the project before submission to the Coastal Commission for approval.

Mark Arblaster acknowledged that there is a shortage of athletic fields in the City and did not support encroachment onto the playing fields. He advised that screening be built so that sports balls do not fly into the new community room on the proposed facility.

Susan Shapiro disclosed concerns about the new facility blocking her views from her home, diminishing her property value, and potential noise coming from community events.

Chair Ignatin closed the public comment.

Commissioner Daruty asked if the roof massing can be lowered. Mr. Katz clarified that it is a single-story building and a reduction in the massing of the building can be explored further.

Commissioner Archer inquired why the locker rooms were different sizes and Chief Halphide answered that there are more male than female lifeguards.

In reply to Chair Ignatin's questions, Mr. Tauscher answered that screening to protect from sports balls can be explored further and the project has been discussed with the Coastal Commission.

Chair Ignatin announced her support for the project.

Motion by Chair Ignatin, seconded by Commissioner Granoff, to Approve the Newport Beach Junior Lifeguard (NBJG) Building concept design, proposed amenities and forward recommendations to the City Council. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

B. Request by Pateadores Soccer Club for Temporary Lights at Bonita Canyon Sports Park (BCSP) Field #3

Staff recommends the Parks Beaches and Recreation Commission approve the request from the Pateadores Soccer Club to use temporary lights at Bonita Canyon Sports Park (BCSP) field #3 from October 7 to December 11, 2020 from dusk to 7:55 p.m.

Recreation Manager Schmillen gave a brief background of the Pateadores Soccer Club. The soccer club owns the lights that are to be used and the lights will be casting light away from adjacent homes.

Ignacio Sid, President of the Pateadores Soccer Club, summarized that due to being displaced because of construction at Grant Howald Park, the lights would only be used for the fall season.

Chair Ignatin asked if staff had received any opposition from neighbors and Recreation Manager Schmillen answered no.

Chair Ignatin called for public comment, seeing none the public comment was closed.

Motion by Chair Ignatin, seconded by Commissioner Archer, to approve the request from the Pateadores Soccer Club to use temporary lights at Bonita Canyon Sports Park

(BCSP) field #3 from October 7 to December 11, 2020 from dusk to 7:55 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

C. Reforestation Request – 2412 Francisco Drive

*Staff recommends that the PB&R Commission consider the reforestation request of two Liquidambar trees and one Magnolia tree located at 2412 Francisco Drive on the Bonaire Way side. The applicants, Laurie and Juan Penaherrera, at 2412 Francisco Drive have met the procedural requirements for reforestation established in City Council Policy G-1. If approved by the Commission, there will be a one-for-one replacement tree, Peppermint Willow (*Agonis flexuosa*) installed at the applicant's cost.*

City Arborist Nelson reported that the trees are healthy and recommended the applicants apply for reforestation. The reason for the removal is to replace the deciduous trees with evergreen trees to provide more privacy to the back yard.

In response to Commissioner Ignatin's questions, City Arborist Nelson confirmed it would be a one to one replacement for all three trees, Liquidambar trees are listed on the City's Problem Tree List, due to their invasive root systems. The applicant is willing to plant 36-inch box replacement trees.

Chair Ignatin called for public comment.

Jim Mosher noted that the purpose of street trees in providing privacy for a home is not listed in the G-Policies for the City. The applicant could ask the Planning Commission if they would allow for the existing hedge to grow taller if they wanted privacy. He concluded that he wanted more clarification regarding the spacing of the trees.

Chair Ignatin closed the public comment.

Vice Chair Daruty inquired what other benefits did the City receive by reforesting the trees. City Arborist Nelson noted that two problem trees are being removed, which could cause concrete infrastructure issues in the future. Also, Magnolias are prone to Tulip Scale infestation.

Commissioner Archer asked if the City has seen any other applications similar to this one and City Arborist Nelson answered he had not seen any.

Commissioner Hayes believed that the Magnolia Tree could be saved and City Arborist Nelson confirmed it could be salvaged but was not economically feasible.

Chair Ignatin inquired if other Liquidambar on the street have been removed. Superintendent Pekar clarified that the existing Magnolia had replaced a previously removed Liquidambar. Also, he clarified that the reforestation criteria for the existing trees could be categorized as incorrect trees for the site, per the G-1 Policy.

Motion by Commissioner Granoff, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, to approve the reforestation request of two Liquidambar trees and one Magnolia tree located at

2412 Francisco Drive on the Bonaire Way side. There will be a one-for-one replacement tree, Peppermint Willow (*Agonis flexuosa*) installed at the applicant's cost. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

D. Reforestation Request – 2905 Broad Street

*Staff recommends that the PB&R Commission consider the reforestation request of two Lemon-Scented Gum trees located at 2905 Broad Street. The applicant Jeannette Wistner at 2905 Broad Street has met the procedural requirements for reforestation established in City Council Policy G-1. If approved by the Commission, there will be a one-for-one replacement, Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*) installed at the applicant's cost.*

Superintendent Pekar reported that in 2016 the applicant had requested the trees to be removed. The trees were deemed healthy and it was suggested that the applicant apply for reforestation but the applicant decided to not pursue it. Due to safety concerns, the applicant has decided to move forward with the reforestation process. Two neighbors were opposed to removing the two trees.

Chair Ignatin asked what caused the trees to drop their limbs and Superintendent Pekar answered that it is a very common problem for Eucalyptus trees, called Sudden Limb Drop. The other tree is well-balanced and the City trims the trees on a regular schedule to try and prevent heavy limbs from dropping.

Commissioner Hayes asked if the litter from the Strawberry trees was going to be a problem and Superintendent Pekar did not believe so.

Chair Ignatin called for public comment.

Jeannette Wistner, the applicant, clarified that more than two limbs have fallen from the trees. The reason to have the trees removed is because of safety.

Dorthy Vogel explained she is the adjacent neighbor and is concerned about the trees dropping more branches and damaging her property.

John Hogan reported that there have been many more incidences with the trees dropping limbs and he supported the removal of the trees.

Chair Ignatin closed the public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Granoff, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, to approve the reforestation request of two Lemon-Scented Gum trees located at 2905 Broad Street. The applicant Jeannette Wistner at 2905 Broad Street has met the procedural requirements for reforestation established in City Council Policy G-1. There will be a one-for-one replacement, Strawberry Trees (*Arbutus unedo*) installed at the applicant's cost. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

E. City Council Policy G-Series Revisions

Staff recommends that the Parks, Beaches, and Recreation (PB&R) Commission consider the revisions to the City Council Policy G-series and forward to City Council for adoption.

This item is to be continued at a future meeting.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

PB&R Commission / staff announcements/ Ad Hoc Committee updates or matters which Commissioner members would like placed on future agendas for further discussion (this is a non-discussion item).

Director Detweiler reported that the Grant Howald Park project is moving forward and on schedule. The City's Annual Spooktacular Halloween event has been canceled but the City is putting on a virtual Halloween event. All City community centers have reopened, Oasis's Fitness Center is opening, and City Hall has reopened. The City's Winter Program catalog will be going out to the community. The Boating Program at Marina Park has kicked off with City staff operating kayak and paddleboard rentals.

Deputy Director Martin announced that Bright View was awarded the Medians and Roadsides Maintenance Contract.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Public comments are invited on non-agenda items generally considered to be within the subject matter jurisdiction of the PB&R Commission. Speakers must limit comments to three (3) minutes. Before speaking, we invite, but do not require, you to state your name for the record. The Commission has the discretion to extend or shorten the speakers' time limit on non-agenda items, provided the time limit adjustment is applied equally to all speakers.

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Mariah Stinson, Administrative Support Specialist

Approved by: _____
Heather Ignatin, Chair