

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting December 7, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.

I. CONVENE MEETING OF THE PARKS BEACHES & RECREATION COMMISSION TO ORDER – 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Diane Daruty, Chair

Staff: Micah Martin, Deputy Public Works Director
Jim Houlihan, Deputy Public Works Director
Kevin Pekar, Parks and Trees Superintendent
Justin Schmillen, Recreation Manager
John Nelson, City Arborist
Mariah Stinson, Administrative Support Specialist

III. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR - None.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission meeting of November 2, 2021

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.

Motion by Vice Chair Archer; seconded by Commissioner Granoff, to approve V. CONSENT CALENDAR. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VI. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Design Plans for Eight (8) Pickleball Courts at Newport Ridge Park

Staff recommends that the Parks, Beaches & Recreation (PB&R) Commission review and comment on design plans (Attachment A) for eight (8) pickleball courts at Newport Ridge Park and forward to City Council for final approval.

Recreation Manager Justin Schmillen gave a presentation on the history of pickleball within Newport Beach, the no-fee lease agreement between the City and Newport Ridge, parking, courts specifications, funding and next steps.

Commissioner Granoff asked what the height of the fence will be that will run north to south behind the courts. Recreation Manager Schmillen answered 10-feet.

Commissioner Ignatin requested further details regarding the proposed buffer zone. Recreation Manager Schmillen explained that the whole project will be moved out 20-feet away from the parking lot. Commissioner Kirby supported that idea.

Vice Chair Archer inquired if there have been any oppositional comments received from the public about the project. Recreation Manager Schmillen shared that any concerns have been accommodated and mitigated in the design.

Commissioner Kirby asked if there is an estimated cost for the project. Recreation Manager Schmillen answered that the rough estimate is \$1 million.

Vice Chair Archer opened public comment.

Signe Keller, who represented the Board for Newport Ridge, announced that Newport Ridge is delighted to be working with the City. She agreed that pickleball is very popular and this project is a great opportunity to have more pickleball courts in the community. She said the key components to the project are the aesthetics and minimizing the impacts on the Newport Ridge private park and facilities.

Jim Mosher reminded the Commission that there is a shortage of sports fields in the City. In a prior year, the City rejected the offer from the Irvine Company to have the park be a public park and instead made it a private park for Newport Ridge residents.

Vice Chair Archer closed public comment.

Commissioner Kirby inquired about the usage of the baseball field. Recreation Manager Schmillen understood that the youth sports groups can reserve the field, but the field has not been used in quite some time.

Commissioner Ignatin fully supported the project.

Motion by Vice Chair Archer; seconded by Commissioner Hayes, to approve design plans (Attachment A) for eight (8) pickleball courts at Newport Ridge Park and forward to City Council for final approval. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

B. Ocean Boulevard Vision Plan - Approve Staff Recommendation to Establish a 3-Member Ad Hoc Committee

Create a 3-member Ad Hoc Committee (Commissioners Archer, Hayes and Kirby) and direct Committee to further explore what improvement recommendations should be made to the City Council regarding any potential plan or guidelines for landscape and park improvements for the public areas along Ocean Boulevard in Corona del Mar between Poppy Ave. and Carnation Ave.

Deputy Public Works Director Houlihan disclosed that the Commission had requested at their November 2, 2021 meeting to bring the item back to create an Ad Hoc Committee.

Commissioner Hayes recommended that the first Ad Hoc Committee meeting be held in January 2022.

Vice Chair Archer inquired what the concerns are regarding the scope of the project. Deputy Public Works Director Houlihan answered that the scope was not detailed in the last staff report.

Vice Chair Archer invited public comment.

Ron Yeo, who represented Corona del Mar Residence Association, requested that the Corona del Mar resident's association be included in any Ad Hoc Committee discussions.

Vice Chair Archer closed public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Malouf, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, to approve the creation of a 3-member Ad Hoc Committee (Commissioners Archer, Hayes and Kirby) and direct Committee to further explore what improvements recommendations should be made to the City Council regarding any potential plan or guidelines for landscape and park improvements for the public areas along Ocean Boulevard in Corona del Mar between Poppy Ave. and Carnation Ave. The first Ad Hoc Committee meeting is projected to be held during the second week of January 2022 with the final improvements recommendation for City Council to be voted on by the PB&R Commission no later than April 5. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

C. Tree Donation at Coastal Peak Park

Staff recommends the Parks Beaches & Recreation (PB&R) Commission approve a Coast Live Oak tree donation at Coastal Peak Park requested by Andrea Davis of the Lincoln Club of Orange County. The proposed tree replaces a severely leaning Sycamore tree that poses a potential liability and complies with Council Policy B-17 -Parks, Facilities and Recreation Program Donations (Council Policy B-17).

Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar announced that the City has received a request from the Lincoln Club to donate a Coast Live Oak in honor of Jared Romine. The value of the tree is \$3,000 which included a 50 percent maintenance Fee. He provided a summary of Jared's life.

Commissioner Hayes agreed that the existing tree that is proposed to be removed is severely leaning. Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar explained that it is a natural position for Sycamore tree's but the tree in question is leaning beyond what is considered safe.

Vice Chair Archer opened public comment; seeing none he closed public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Granoff; seconded by Commissioner Ignatin, to approve the Coast Live Oak tree donation at Coastal Peak Park requested by Andrea Davis for the Lincoln Club of Orange County. The tree will be replacing a severely leaning Sycamore tree that poses a potential liability and complies with Council Policy B-17 - Parks, Facilities and Recreation Program Donations (Council Policy B-17). The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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).

Deputy Public Works Director Martin announced the City's upcoming expansion of the residential recycling program which included a new organic disposal cart.

Commissioner Hayes asked which carts will be distributed to residents. Deputy Public Works Director Martin answered that everyone will be receiving the new green top cart. The kitchen pail is optional.

Commissioner Granoff asked if organic material has to be placed in a plastic bag. Deputy Public Works Director Martin answered that organic material should be placed in compostable bags and those bags can be deposited into the organic cart. Commissioner Granoff recommended that the City educate folks on where to purchase compostable bags.

Vice Chair Archer wanted to know if there are different cart size options. Deputy Public Works Director Martin answered yes, there are three different cart sizes.

Commissioner Malouf inquired if the new cart has a locking mechanism to deter animals. Deputy Public Works Director Martin noted that unless there is a current problem, separating the trash should not increase animal activity.

Commissioner Kirby asked if the mailer has been sent out to residents already. Deputy Public Works Director Martin clarified that the mailer has not been sent out.

Vice Chair Archer opened public comment.

Jim Mosher agreed with the concerns regarding compliance. He mentioned that a neighboring City has low compliance with their green top carts when it comes to food

scraps. He added that currently, the City allows residents to have an unlimited number of trash carts. Under the new policy, the City is requiring that folks be limited to three carts and then pay a fee for additional carts.

Vice Chair Archer closed public comment.

Commissioner Granoff asked if Mr. Mosher is correct about additional carts. Deputy Public Works Director Martin explained that residents receive free trash service up to 96 gallons. He mentioned that if folks source-separate correctly, 96 gallons of trash that is not recyclable is plenty. Commissioner Granoff inquired how the City will manage rental property trash. Deputy Public Works Director Martin restated that folks are allowed to have more than 96 gallons of trash, but it will not be free beyond 96 gallons. The City does plan on having a very robust outreach and educational program about the expansion.

Commissioner Malouf asked if the City will be collecting the additional trash carts that folks may have. Deputy Public Works Director Martin clarified that the City will request residents to evaluate their cart needs before fees will be issued for the additional carts.

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.

Jim Mosher mentioned that the Harbor Commission will be discussing the Harbor and Beaches Master Plan for Future Capital Improvements at their next meeting. He shared that there are many improvements proposed for the Newport Beach Harbor but not many for the ocean-facing beaches.

Commissioner Granoff asked if the Commission should address the beaches at the Harbor Commission meeting. Deputy Public Works Director Martin clarified that projects for ocean-facing beaches are handled through the City's Capital Improvement Project Program which require City Council approval. Staff does bring forward to the Commission projects that staff feels the Commission can provide input on. Commissioner Granoff mentioned that sand replenishment projects affect the surf breaks and he believed that the Commission should review those projects.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – 5:53 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mariah Stinson, Administrative Support Specialist

Approved by:

Hassan Archer, Vice Chair