

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting April 5, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.

I. CONVENE MEETING OF THE PARKS BEACHES & RECREATION COMMISSION TO ORDER – 5:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Diane Daruty, Chair
Hassan Archer, Vice Chair
Heather Ignatin, Commissioner
Keira Kirby, Commissioner
Kate Malouf, Commissioner

Excused: David Granoff, Commissioner
Laird Hayes, 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
Brian George, Acting City Arborist
Mariah Stinson, Administrative Support Specialist

III. PRESENTATION

A. Recognition of Laura Detweiler For Over 21 years of Service

Commissioner Ignatin stated an African Tulip Tree was dedicated to Laura Detweiler on behalf of the Commission, Public Works Department and Recreation and Senior Services Department.

Recreation & Senior Services Director Detweiler appreciated the recognition and support from the Commission and staff.

Chair Daruty opened public comment.

Ron Yeo mentioned the Recreation and Senior Services Department has more fun than the other City departments.

Chair Daruty closed public comment.

IV. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR-None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission meeting of March 1, 2022

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

B. PW Activity Report

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

C. RSS Activity Report

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

Motion by Chair Diane Daruty, seconded by Vice Chair Hassan Archer, to approve VI. CONSENT CALENDAR. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VII. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Ocean Boulevard Vision Plan - Approve Staff Recommendations for City Council Consideration

- A. Request City Council create a 3-member Ad Hoc Committee from the Parks Beaches and Recreation Commission (PB&R) to guide the concept development and final Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) for landscape and park improvements for the public areas along Ocean Boulevard in Corona del Mar between Poppy Ave. and Carnation Ave (Vision Plan).*
- B. Present improvement recommendations to City Council, see Attachment A*
- C. Request that City Council allocate \$60,000 for the preparation of Ocean Boulevard Vision Plan PS&E.*
- D. Recommend the Ad-Hoc Committee, with City Staff assistance, secure a designer to conduct public workshops, develop concepts, prioritize improvements and prepare PS&E for construction. Design and Construction may be in phases.*

Jim Houlihan, Public Works Deputy Director, remarked the Ad-Hoc Committee of Vice Chair Hassan Archer, Commissioner Keira Kirby and Commissioner Laird Hayes held two community meetings with a third to review the recommendations. The charge of the Ad-Hoc Committee was to draft a list of recommendations for the Commission and Council to consider. He briefly reviewed the recommendations and reported if approved, the recommendations would be considered by the City Council at their May 2022 meeting.

In response to Chair Daruty's questions, Mr. Houlihan clarified that some of the sidewalks could not be widened due to traffic, there have been no objections received thus far and staff is working with multiple property owners regarding their hedges.

Commissioner Ignatin requested staff provide insight about encroachment permits. Mr. Houlihan remarked encroachment permits included an encroachment agreement regarding maintenance. The Planning Commission oversees the encroachments, but it is a possibility for the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission to review the new permits and provide recommendations to the Planning Commission.

Vice Chair Archer stated the recommendations are a great start.

Chair Daruty opened public comment.

Debbie Stevens, President of the Corona del Mar Residents Association, appreciated the Commission taking up the matter. She believed many of the recommendations will not be controversial.

Jim Mosher recommended clarifying the language that City Council will create a 3-member Ad-Hoc Committee in recommendation A. Regarding the second recommendation, he suggested the name of the park be Ocean Boulevard Bluff Park. Regarding recommendation 7(f), former Chair Howald had promoted more extensive improvements at Dahlia Scenic Point. Regarding the recommendation to allocate \$60,000, he did not believe that amount was sufficient to implement all of the recommendations. His last recommendation was to make clear that any recommendations made by the Ad-Hoc Committee will be reviewed by the whole Commission and the public.

Chair Daruty closed public comment.

Recreation & Senior Services Director Detweiler suggested the recommendation regarding renaming the park be clarified. That it was an overall naming concept but the individual names would remain. Mr. Houlihan confirmed those ideas will be evaluated.

Commissioner Malouf wanted to see safety improvements made to the area near Fernleaf Avenue and Dahlia Scenic Point. Mr. Houlihan mentioned staff has already made safety improvements. Ron Yeo confirmed safety was one of the top priorities for the plan.

Regarding \$60,000, Mr. Houlihan shared staff will be seeking approval to use the Landscape Enhancement Fund but will seek more funding if needed.

Vice Chair Archer understood Council directed the Commission to pursue an Ad-Hoc Committee and then the Commission appoints Commission members to it. Mr. Houlihan confirmed that is correct.

Motion by Chair Daruty, seconded by Vice Chair Archer, to approve A. Request City Council to approve the creation of a 3-member Ad Hoc Committee from the Parks Beaches and Recreation Commission (PB&R) to guide the concept development and final Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) for landscape and park improvements for the public areas along Ocean Boulevard in Corona del Mar between Poppy Ave. and Carnation Ave (Vision Plan). B. Present improvement recommendations to City Council,

see Attachment A. C. Request that City Council allocate \$60,000 for the preparation of Ocean Boulevard Vision Plan PS&E. D. Recommend the Ad-Hoc Committee, with City Staff assistance, secure a designer to conduct public workshops, develop concepts, prioritize improvements and prepare PS&E for construction. Design and Construction may be in phases. The motion carried out by unanimous vote.

B. Special City Tree Removal and Replacement Request -440 Santa Ana Avenue

A Special City Swamp Mahogany (Eucalyptus robusta) Neighborhood Tree located at 440 Santa Ana Avenue has been evaluated by staff and the City's Consulting Arborist, Dudek Inc. and found to have a poor canopy structure. Staff recommends the PB&R Commission (PB&R) approve the Special City Neighborhood Tree removal request due to hazard mitigation concerns. If approved by PB&R, the City will not replace the Swamp Mahogany tree due to powerline interference and its close proximity to the home.

Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar shared there were 38 special city Swamp Mahogany trees on Santa Ana Avenue. The condition of the tree varies from tree to tree. There was a history of clearance pruning which had affected some of the trees. In November of 2021, staff was contacted by the property owner of 440 Santa Ana Avenue who expressed safety concerns. A Level Two Risk Assessment was done and all six trees near 440 Santa Ana Avenue received a moderate risk rating due to limbs dropping on cars. Dudek provided three recommendations which included removing one tree that was close to powerlines and the home.

Commissioner Kirby asked if limb breakage was a frequent occurrence. Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar confirmed every Santa Ana wind event there is limb failure but he had no documentation of large limbs causing damage.

Chair Daruty inquired if the proximity to the powerline made the tree more dangerous. Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar answered yes and that was why the trees were trimmed aggressively. A tree advocate in the area supported Dudek's recommendations.

Vice Chair Archer asked when undergrounding was proposed to take place in the neighborhood. Commissioner Kirby mentioned there was a lot of tension among neighbors about undergrounding. Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar mentioned once utilities are undergrounded the trees will be allowed to have a robust canopy but existing pruning will not degrade the tree's health.

Chair Daruty opened public comment.

Jim Mosher stated that based on historical data the prospects of undergrounding the utilities in the area was uncertain. He wanted to understand why the tree subject to be removed was planted at that location and why was the house allowed to be built so close to the tree.

Chair Daruty closed public comment.

Vice Chair Archer asked why the recommendation was not to replace the tree. Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar understood any tree in the location would be a problem for the house as well as the nearby tree.

Chair Daruty found Mr. Mosher's comment interesting about why the tree was planted there in the first place.

Motion by Chair Daruty, seconded by Commissioner Ignatin, to approve the Special City Neighborhood Tree removal request due to hazard mitigation concerns. The City will not replace the Swamp Mahogany tree due to powerline interference and its proximity to the home. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

C. Special City Tree Removal and Replacement Request -301 Marguerite Avenue

A Special City Canary Island Date Palm (Phoenix canariensis) Neighborhood Tree located at 301 Marguerite Avenue has been evaluated by staff and the City's Consulting Arborist, Dudek Inc., which determined the tree was rapidly declining. Staff recommends the PB&R Commission (PB&R) approve the Special City Neighborhood Tree removal request due to hazard mitigation concerns. If approved by PB&R, the City will replace the Canary Island Date Palm tree with a King Palm tree, which is the Designated Street Tree for Marguerite Avenue, per Council Policy G-6 (Maintenance and Planting of Parkway Trees).

Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar reported on March 21, 2021, a field inspection was done and determined the tree was in poor health. The tree had an advanced stage of Fusarium Wilt disease which is incurable. King Palm was not known to contract Fusarium Wilt.

Commissioner Malouf asked if the tree to the right was a King Palm and had staff received comments of opposition. Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar answered it was a Canary Island Date Palm. Currently, the surrounding trees did not have irrigation but there had been discussions with the property owner to water the new tree. Staff had not received any comments in opposition of the removal.

Chair Daruty opened public comment; seeing none public comment was closed.

Motion by Vice Chair Archer, seconded by Commissioner Malouf, to approve the Special City Neighborhood Tree removal request due to hazard mitigation concerns. The City will replace the Canary Island Date Palm tree with a King Palm tree, which is the Designated Street Tree for Marguerite Avenue, per Council Policy G-6 (Maintenance and Planting of Parkway Trees). 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 on April 9, 2022 will be the compost give away, shred and e-waste drop off event.

Recreation & Senior Services Director Detweiler shared the Mayor's Egg Roll will be happening soon. Also, the department installed an ADA lift at the Short Stay Marina at Marina Park. Regarding Sunset View Park, Public Works was waiting for the Coastal Commission to approve the permit to begin the project. Regarding the pickleball courts, the City and the Homeowners Association have finalized the lease agreement. The next steps included receiving Council approval and then construction could begin. Regarding summer camps, 3,086 kids had been enrolled in summer camps so far.

Chair Daruty opened public comment; seeing none public comment was closed.

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 remarked private landscaping, public landscaping and homes were the main factors that blocked the view of the ocean. He mentioned a new home was being built near Inspiration Point and the Planning Commission's approval was being appealed to the City Council.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – 6:13 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Mariah Stinson, Administrative Support Specialist

Approved by: _____
Diane Daruty, Chair