



**CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**TUESDAY, May 13, 2008, 7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of San Clemente was called to order on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ole Hanson Fireside Room of the Community Center.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Commissioner Bob Maltinsky.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Leslie Loy, Bob Maltinsky, Jeff McConnell, Susan Phillips, William Thomas, Tom Wicks

Absent: Peggy Vance

Staff present: Al King, Beaches, Parks & Recreation Director  
Carla DiCandia, Recreation Manager  
Akram Hindiyeh, Principal Civil Engineer  
Dennis Roger Reed, Beaches & Parks Maintenance Manager  
Rita DeForrest, Administrative Assistant

Please note that agenda items are presented in the originally agendized format but were not necessarily heard in that order.

3. **RECOGNITION OF CYBERNET CAFÉ VOLUNTEERS**

Recreation Manager DiCandia pointed out that, every now and again, the City tries to recognize individuals for their volunteer efforts in providing a valuable service to the public; commented that Cybernet Café volunteers were more than eligible for recognition. She turned the meeting over to Chair Pro Tem Thomas, who provided a brief background on the Cybernet Café and the service provided to the public. Chair McConnell presented the Certificates of Recognition to the teaching staff of the Cybernet Café, while Chair Pro Tem Thomas provided a brief background on each member presented a Certificate.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. April 8, 2008**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PHILLIPS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER WICKS, for discussion purposes only.

Commissioner Wicks requested that wording be added on page 6, 8.B, regarding the topic, Cutbacks in State Lifeguards, line 6, of the minutes, to indicate that he spoke to Council in the role of a private citizen not as a Commissioner.

MOTION CARRIED, as amended (5-0-1). Chair McConnell abstained since he did not attend the meeting.

**5. CURRENT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

Manager DiCandia extended an invitation to the Commission and audience to attend the Memorial Day Observances at the Community Center from 11:00 a.m. to noon, followed by an All Military Patriotic Music Fest at Park Semper Fi from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., on Monday, May 26.

Chair McConnell commended Manager DiCandia and staff on a job well done on the Cinco de Mayo Celebration.

**6. PUBLIC INPUT**

No public input.

**7. PROJECT UPDATE**

The report by Senior Park Planner Tim Shaw regarding BP&R projects was continued to the June 10<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting since there was little new information on projects.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Cristobal Residential Concerns re: T-Street Parking Area & Bluff Top**

(At its 4/8/08 meeting, the Commission requested this topic be continued for discussion at its May meeting.)

Commissioner Wicks recused himself from the discussion on Cristobal residential concerns since he and his wife reside within 500 feet of the area being discussed which could be construed as a conflict of interest.

Director Al King reviewed the contents of his report on the request by the Paseo Cristobal neighborhood regarding concerns at the T-Street parking area and bluff

top, stating that the topic was introduced to the Commission at its April meeting; advised that the area in question is technically T-Street parking area not a parking lot; noted that he received information from the residents who live on an adjoining street that the problem has intensified recently and impacts the quality of life.

Director King advised that the City Manager team met; described the response to the residents' concerns; reviewed the progress on each item assigned to the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Department as identified in his report, and the manner in which BP&R staff addressed each violation; emphasized that the neighborhood has consistently indicated that there is no problem with people intent on going to the beach; identified the real issue as a group of individuals who convene at any time of the day or evening at the bluff top area to engage in behavior and actions that contribute to problems in the neighborhood; stated that the focus is to modify parking area hours; advised that the established parking zone restricted hours are 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. and that signage in that area provides this information; identified the established parking zone area in question on a map.

Director King pointed out that there are beach hours, beach trail hours, and parking area hours; advised that staff is strategizing to bring quick changes that will have a positive impact on this parking area.

Chair McConnell voiced concern that changing the parking area hours may shift the problem up the street. Director King explained that modification to the street parking is not a part of the current strategies, and that modification to street parking hours will require a major assessment, and that many street spaces are used by the residents.

Director King explained that a change in the restricted hours can be made quickly and expeditiously; pointed out that staff has made progress on other issues on the list of concerns; indicated that staff is working on the unsafe and illegal access; advised that 64 citations were issued in a four-week period by intensified efforts of police services' patrols; stated that staff will work through this in terms of strategies; mentioned that it was enjoyable working with the residents.

Civil Engineer Hindiyah advised Commissioner Loy that the parking area contained 55 metered parking spaces, about 20 non-metered parking spaces, and the parking area includes signed, handicapped parking spaces.

Chair McConnell opened the meeting to public input.

John McKinney, resident, indicated that he submitted a letter that was read into the record at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on April 8, 2008; advised that area residents were not in favor of restricting any beach goers; requested the Commission consider aligning the parking area hours with the beach hours; opined that this was the most expeditious manner in which to deal with the problem.

Director King pointed out that both the beach and beach trail open at 4:00 a.m.

Mr. McKinney responded to Chair McConnell, stating that increased Sheriff patrols have broken up groups of 20 to 200 people of mixed ages and many individuals were those reoccurring individuals; opined that this is typical of what is happening at North Beach and the pier; reported that some residents received retribution by having their tires slashed.

Linda Wicks, resident, informed the Commission that these issues affect the entire neighborhood, not just a couple of houses or the bluff; pointed out that it was not okay for people to feel threatened for their personal safety; mentioned an increase in drug and alcohol use in the area (number 7 on the list of concerns); reported picking up hundreds of cigarette butts; thanked and commended City staff, the City Manager's task force, and Sheriff's Department personnel on doing a wonderful job in responding to the concerns; urged everyone to keep it up; indicated her support of the three recommendations; expressed appreciation for all the help; commented that the area belonged to everyone.

This concluded public input.

As a result of the discussion, the Commission made the following motion:

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER THOMAS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MALTINSKY, CARRIED (5-0-0), to recommend that City Council:**

1. Support staff's proposal for establishing new hours, midnight to 4:00 a.m., for restricted parking in the designated T-Street parking area and encourage the Planning Commission and City Council to approve this recommendation;
2. Support the efforts of the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Department to address illegal trespassing on the T-Street bluffs; and
3. Request regularly scheduled updates from staff regarding the ongoing efforts of the City Manager's Team in addressing Paseo Cristobal neighborhood concerns.

Chair McConnell wished the residents luck and encouraged their vigilance.

Commissioner Wicks returned to the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

**B. Designate No Smoking on the Beach, Beach Trail, Inland Trail System and Parks**

Adopt-A-Beach had originally suggested considering banning smoking on the beach trail; however, the Commission, at the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, expanded on this suggestion to include the inland trail system and the parks.

Director Al King reviewed the contents of his report on expansion of the smoking ban at the City's beach, the beach trail, the inland trail system, and parks; stated that the expansion of the smoking ban made sense from a fire prevention standpoint due to accessibility issues to the canyons and hill sides; noted that smoking waste litter eventually entered the water shed; noted that the inland trail has the same issues as the Coastal Trail; advised that the State Park has a smoking restriction on its trails.

Chair McConnell agreed that smoking is a health issue and causes litter and pollution to the environment; pointed out the lack of existing resources to effectively implement regulations and enforcement; noted that it was a positive step to take environmentally and health-wise for residents; opined that he doubted the smoking ban would be effective because of the identified costs associated to implement a smoking ban; indicated he appreciated the efforts of Manager Reed for providing the information.

Manager Reed explained that the costs are estimated; described signage vandalism on the Coastal Trail.

Commissioner Wicks commented that he favored recommendation number 3 that included the smoking ban on all public trails and all public parks; advised that some areas on the east coast ban all smoking in all parks, and, most of the time, only a warning is given.

Commissioner Maltinsky reported that a recent news article reported there was a significant decrease in youth smoking when it was banned; opined it was a positive thing.

Commissioner Thomas reported that the City of Roseville bans smoking in its parks and trails.

Director King reviewed the three recommendations and the area and costs associated with each; responded to Chair McConnell's question on the penalty for illegal smoking, stating that the court system would need to support the fine; opined that a smoking ban was a benefit to all; advised that staff will work with

the City Attorney on a proposed ordinance that would be forwarded to the City Council.

Chair McConnell opened the meeting to public comment.

Kathryn Stovall Dennis, resident, recommended supporting recommendation number 3 since it included a smoking ban in all public trails and all public parks; indicated that her experience with the Coastal Trail was that many trail users are not using the beach; favored avoiding a sign blight; suggested opportunities to combine signs or lone signs; advised that, at a work shop on the Coastal Trail seven years ago, several people, at that time, supported a smoking ban on the trails; noted that the Coastal Trail is adjacent to the beach, which bans smoking; reiterated her support of the recommendation banning smoking on all public trails and all public parks.

Commissioner Wicks advised that, as part of Adopt-A-Beach, an inordinate number of cigarette butts are found on the beach; questioned the placement of receptacles.

Ms. Stovall Dennis suggested one trash receptacle at each beach access; opined that placement of the receptacles on the inland side of the trail would prevent visual blight.

In response to Commissioner Wicks; comment that the beach and trail are one, Ms. Stovall Dennis responded that it is problematic to know where the trail ends and the beach begins.

Commissioner Wicks questioned placing cigarette receptacles since it indicates it was okay to smoke; commented that it is a dilemma.

Ms. Stovall Dennis suggested placing cigarette receptacles at every entrance and exit.

John Dorey, resident, agreed with Ms. Stovall Dennis and complemented her on fully addressing the issue; stated that the trail was an extension of the beach, there was a smoking ban on the beach; agreed to placement of receptacles at the ingress and egress of the trail; noted that the beach is the biggest park and the smoking ban would conform with State Parks ban on smoking; commented it was wonderful continuity; stated that it is a matter of education; favored policing by those who use the trails and parks since it is a health and pollution issue.

Since there were no others addressing the issue, public input was closed.

