

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
COASTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, February 9, 2006

@ 7:00 p.m.

**Community Center, Ole Hanson Fireside Room
100 N. Seville
San Clemente, CA 92672**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm, by Committee Member Nielsen, who served as Chair Pro Tem, due to the absence of Chair Hart. Committee Member Waters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Lori Donchak, Scott Smith, Ken Nielson, Charles Hauswirth, Garrett Waters (from Parks and Recreation Commission)

Staff present: John Beck, Senior Park Planner
Dennis Reed, Beaches and Parks Manager
Mary Colletti, Recording Secretary

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER DONCHAK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER HAUSWIRTH, AND CARRIED (4-0-1), WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER WATERS ABSTAINING, to approve the minutes of January 12, 2006.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Beach Management Policy by Beaches and Parks Manager, Dennis Reed

Mr. Dennis Reed, Beaches and Parks Manager, was welcomed, and spoke about the hiring of Moffatt and Nichol by staff to assist staff in formulating a Beach Management Policy. He cited their excellent credentials, as well as their past work with City staff, and he stated that Moffatt and Nichol have already researched Beach Management policies from like communities, such as San Diego, Imperial Beach, and Oceanside. Mr. Reed said he and staff are looking forward to working with Chris Webb of Moffatt and Nichol to formulate a draft of a Beach Management Policy.

Committee Member Waters, referring to the memo dated February 2, 2006, regarding "Beach

Management Policy”, from Beaches and Parks Manager Mr. Reed (distributed in the Committee Members’ packets), asked for a definition of “leaving the rack” on the beach. Mr. Reed replied that it is the area of kelp and seaweed debris on the beach, and he believes leaving it intact is beneficial to marine life. Mr. Reed said the rack has a definite line of demarcation so it is helpful in defining the tide line. He cited other cities that clean up their rack so as to make the beach more aesthetically pleasing, versus those that leave it, or only partially clean it up, in order to sustain the environmental benefits of the rack. Mr. Reed said this is one of the things the proposed Beach Management Policy will address. Committee Member Nielsen thinks that the kelp rack acts as “rebar” to hold the sand in place, and supports insects that the birds eat. Beaches and Parks Manager Mr. Reed said that the Beach Management Policy will also address Sand Pushing, and commented that his department has a history since the 1960’s of performing sand pushing. He said there is currently a lot of sand on our beaches, and his staff plans to do some minimal stockpiling (pushing) of sand over the next few weeks, hopefully before the storms hit. He said his department has a timetable for sand pushing, which will start in the next few weeks by stockpiling sand, and, if their budget begins to be depleted, there is a chance there will be additional funds available for this activity. Mr. Reed said this is an excellent time to stockpile sand, so they will take advantage of it. In response to Committee Member Donchak's question of whether staff does benchmarking, Beaches and Parks Manager Mr. Reed said that while a Beach Management Policy is new to our City, we can compare with other cities such as San Diego, who have one in place, and glean information on the types of equipment they use, etc. He said our proposed Beach Management Policy will establish where the beaches would be cleaned, and include maintenance techniques, etc., and that it would formalize the work the maintenance staff has already been doing.

Committee Member Nielsen said, for the record, that in the past the cost of pushing sand was less than \$10,000 for 5000 cubic yards. He said the City spent \$180,000 on placing 5000 cubic yards of sand at North Beach, and the storms have taken a little of it back, and dumped it in the tidal zone. Committee Member Nielsen thinks we ought to “steal it back” by pushing it onto the beach. He thinks the cost of taking it back from up and down the beach should be presented to the City Council, so that they are aware of the funds needed, and he thinks we should do it now, and not wait for another year. He said we must take the sand back well before the grunion season. Beaches and Parks Manager Mr. Reed said the first grunion runs are in March, which are observable, not harvestable, and that the harvestable grunion runs begin in May. Committee Member Nielsen stressed the importance of not waiting a whole year to take the sand back, and stated it is urgent that we start taking it as soon as possible, so as not to lose the sand that was placed on the beach. He said that when we have a minus tide, there is so much dry sand on the beach, that we could “steal” it back then. He said the North Beach rock problem could be alleviated by taking back some sand and pushing it onto/around the rocks to make that area of the beach look cleaner and neater.

Committee Member Nielsen also stated that Stephanie Dorey had introduced him to the Railroad’s head maintenance manager for riprap, and Committee Member Nielsen had had the opportunity to show him how the riprap rocks are too far down onto the beach, and are messy-looking, as they’ve been used for fire pits. He said the manager agreed with him, and that he said he would bring it up at the next Railroad maintenance meeting. Committee Member

Nielsen was excited at the prospect that the Railroad might finally address this issue, and he stated that they may be asking staff for permission to use a rubber tract vehicle on the beach.

Beaches and Parks Manager Mr. Reed believed we should have a draft of the new Beach Management Policy in April, but assured this Committee that staff would continue with their current beach management practices in the interim.

The Committee Members thanked Mr. Reed for his presentation.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes from December 13, 2005

Received and filed.

Committee Member Donchak asked Committee Member Waters about a citizen who had approached the Parks and Recreation Commission about creating a wildlife sanctuary, which she thought was a great idea. Committee Member Waters said this citizen approaches them about various subjects on a regular basis. Mr. Waters said that the Parks and Recreation Commission is currently focusing all of their resources on the La Pata/Vista Hermosa park project. He said the citizen in question had several sites in mind for a wildlife sanctuary on one of the City's trails. Senior Park Planner Mr. Beck was also familiar with this citizen, and said this man has walked all of the City's trails for years and was very familiar with them. Mr. Beck cited the difficulty the City would have accessing the trails for such a project as a sanctuary, citing as an example the Ridgeline trail which belongs to the Rancho San Clemente Homeowner's Association. He said most of the trails in questions are privately held, making it difficult for making these areas a sanctuary. Committee Member Waters said the citizen in question is a great resource for history on the San Clemente trail system, and he believes that he is most interested in having better trail markers, and maintenance of the trails.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. Bacteriological Monitoring Report – Date of Posted Report 2/3/2006

Received and filed.

Committee Member Nielsen stated that he is on the Interpretative Center Board at Doheny, and that the Board just received funding to do source tracking for bacteria at Doheny. He is excited about the source tracking, as Mr. Nielsen believes that the Poche Beach bacterial problem is mainly caused by birds, and that the source tracking study should show this. He said there are multitudes of birds at Doheny, and that it is posted all of the time.

B. Potential Future Agenda Items by Senior Park Planner John Beck

Senior Park Planner Mr. Beck summarized his memo, which was included in the Committee Member's packets. He said he plans to ask Moffat and Nichol to speak at one of this Committee's meetings to discuss the Biological Baseline Study and North Beach Sand Replenishment concurrently, perhaps in April.

Committee Member Nielsen and the other members discussed the condition of the sand that was placed on North Beach, and generally agreed that it looked pretty good, even with its rocky quality, and was clean, but they would like to hear the results of the study.

Senior Park Planner Mr. Beck discussed the Beach Ecology Seminar at Pepperdine, which he attended. He said that Dr. Duncan presented a PowerPoint presentation on her studies of the beach rack which was excellent, and he will share her articles with this Committee. He said he will verify the grunion run training times for this Committee, and said that staff will be coordinating the volunteer program for the grunion run.

C. Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in the Environment, submitted by City Engineer, Bill Cameron

Committee Member Nielsen discussed the white paper written on this subject, and many of the Committee Members had read it. Committee Member Nielsen would like to ask Jeff Armstrong from Orange County Sanitation who helped author that report, to attend a Coastal Advisory Committee meeting, so that public awareness of this subject can be raised. The Committee discussed the problems inherent in flushing pharmaceuticals into the sewer system. He thinks it's important for this Committee to study this item. He is glad that sanitation districts are now studying this problem.

Committee Member Smith said that pharmaceuticals remain in the water even after filtering and recycling. Committee Member Nielsen has worked with Jeff Armstrong, of Orange County Sanitation, and will invite him to a meeting, which will be publicized so that the public has an opportunity to hear an expert speak on this topic, which affects all of us.

D. Clarification from Jim Pechous on January 2006 LCP Report

Senior Park Planner Mr. Beck stated that this Committee's Vital Few Requests, including their request for an LCP, had been sent to City Council.

9. **ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Committee Members presented recording secretary Mary Colletti with flowers and a card, and expressed their gratitude to her for her service in the absence of regular recording secretary Eileen White, who will be returning as of the next regular meeting.

Committee Member Hauswirth said that the State of California had issued their 2005 Water Report

today, and he had received an email from them.

Committee Member Nielsen said that City Manager George Scarbrough had just met with County representatives about funding, including funding for the maintenance of water safety devices at North Beach. Committee Member Nielsen discussed utilizing the 11,000 foot-long sewer pipe which runs from the sewage plant to divert effluence, but he believes that the Regional Water Board does not favor this solution.

Committee Member Donchak said she is the delegate for the “Women in Public Leadership Excellence Series” sponsored by Marian Ferguson, and said her duties as a delegate include going to Sacramento to lobby a pertinent issue, which will subsequently perhaps be lobbied in Washington, D.C. She asked the Committee Members for suggestions for names of persons spearheading significant issues, such as water quality, etc., that could be lobbied in this forum, and asked them to submit ideas to her by email by March 27, 2006. Committee Member Smith suggested the issue of affordable housing, and said he would research the name of a contact and would advise Committee Member Donchak.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER WATERS, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SMITH, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. to the regular Coastal Advisory Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ole Hanson Fireside Room, at the Community Center, 100 N. Seville, San Clemente, CA.

Respectfully submitted,


Ken Nielsen, Chair Pro Tem (ACTING)

Attest:


John Beck, Senior Park Planner