



Minutes approved by the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission on September 11, 2012.

**CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE  
MINUTES OF THE  
BEACHES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2012, 6:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of San Clemente was called to order on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Ole Hanson Fireside Room of the Community Center.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Commissioner Dagmar Foy.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Dagmar Foy, Michael Smith, Steven Streger,  
Eric Swartz, William Thomas, Tom Wicks

Absent: Chris McCormack

Staff present: Sharon Heider, Beaches, Parks & Recreation Director  
Dennis Roger Reed, Beaches & Parks Maintenance Manager  
Blake Anderson, Marine Safety Officer  
Bill Humphreys, Marine Safety Chief  
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. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. **July 10, 2012**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER THOMAS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER FOY, CARRIED 6-0-0, TO APPROVE THE BEACHES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2012.

4. **CURRENT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

A. **Recreation Division – Verbal Report by Recreation Manager Pam Passow**

In the absence of Recreation Manager Passow, Director Heider reported on the following Recreation activities: the Aquatics Center has experienced a busy summer; city staff partnered with OC Sheriff staff in sponsoring National Night Out providing free swim passes for the event that experienced record attendance; invited Commissioners

and members of the Foundation to attend the final beach concert scheduled on Thursday, 8/23/12, to welcome the crowd.

In response to Chair Streger's comment on the astonishing drop in revenue from the Beach Club rentals, Director Heider explained that the closing of the Beach Club for renovation was tied to the opening of the Vista Hermosa Sports Park and Aquatics Center; advised that destructive testing was done on the building to determine the extent of damage to the structure. Completion of the testing revealed that the building needs work but is structurally sound. Therefore, the building has been reopened for rentals through January 2013; two rentals have been booked, but it is uncertain whether the public is aware that rentals are being accepted. Staff is trying to bring in some revenue during this short time frame.

**B. Marine Safety Division – Verbal Report by Marine Safety Officer Blake Anderson**

Officer Anderson reported and commented on activities at the beach: crowds are enjoying the 72 degree water; warm temperatures brought many to the beach that made for a very busy weekend; the new tower, located at Lasuen, is a great tool for the lifeguards; the lifeguards stationed on tower 6, located at Linda Lane, are enjoying it; the Ocean Festival was a great success; the beach patrol officers helped greatly; the recent Fiesta caused overflow crowds at the beach during and after the Fiesta and created some unique situations; the Junior Lifeguard Program is in its last week, and Friday, 8/17, is the Jr. Lifeguard Program Award Night (2<sup>nd</sup> session); announced that this week his associates will cast their vote to recognize an individual for doing an outstanding job and have the honor of being named Lifeguard of the Year.

Director Heider extended an invitation to the Commission to attend the Junior Lifeguard Program Award Night on Friday, 8/17, to recognition their accomplishment.

**C. Park Planning – Verbal Report by Landscape Architect Tim Shaw.**

In the absence of Mr. Shaw, Director Heider reported that Max Berg Plaza Park improvements are 99% complete; the new walk is popular and is being used extensively; the play equipment will be replaced, and a public meeting is planned to gather information on the most appropriate replacement play equipment.

**D. BP&R Activities Report – receive and file.**

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Beach Trail Survey**

Marine Safety Chief Humphreys provided a verbal update on the responses received in reference to the Beach Trail Survey; reported that the Beach Trail sub-committee met prior to summer, and an on-line survey was created; advised that not many hand surveys were returned since recruiting volunteers and asking walkers and joggers to stop to take a survey is difficult; therefore, the majority of the responses were on-line;

reviewed the survey numbers; advised that the electronic survey can be accessed on the home page of the city's website; responded to Commission inquiries. Chief Humphreys will provide the Commission the grand total on completion of the survey timeframe.

**B. Adoption of a Beach Ecology and Maintenance Policy**

Since the Commission was given an extensive overview of the proposed Beach Ecology and Maintenance Policy report at its June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, Director Heider advised that the report was reviewed by the Coastal Advisory Commission (CAC) at its 7/12/12 meeting; stated that CAC indicated that they were fairly comfortable with the direction of the policy; reviewed CAC comments that referenced fire rings and added a section on drift wood; appraised each category in the matrix of the report and asked for Commission recommendation for Council; responded to Commission inquiries.

Chair Streger opened the meeting to public comment.

Don Kunze, resident, questioned the policy and how it will be adopted; informed that he attended an SDG&E meeting at Dana Point Harbor on reef replenishment and learned that they are extending the study for 10 years, the large kelp did well but the smaller kelp did not, that the cost of the project is \$7 million, and, that, once the project is complete, San Clemente would be responsible for maintenance; commented that he found it hard to build a sand castle at the beach for lack of sand.

David Clegg, resident, opined that the beaches are in the worst condition he's ever seen in his 12 years as a resident; advised that he took his guests to other beaches this summer because he is embarrassed by the appearance and state of the city's beach; commented that San Clemente is known as a beach town; noted that there should be a budget for replacing the sand; opined that, if rocks have to stay on the beach, they should be covered with sand; questioned what is trying to be accomplished, and how far do we want to take it to let the beach be natural.

Chair Streger closed the meeting to public comment.

Commissioners made the following comments, suggestions, and inquiries about the policy:

- The report is complete, concise, comprehensive, thorough and doable. This is the first activity that involved an intern and shows the value of college level people. Lucian Toma was thanked for his contribution to the report and policy.
- Director Heider responded to the inquiry (on page 9 of the report, the Kelp category) on the meaning of "extreme Kelp buildup," explaining that it is subjective to provide the City Manager the ability to make the determination to have kelp removed when necessary.

- Director Heider responded to the inquiry on the stockpiling of sand as listed on page 10, stating that, at present, a minimal amount of sand is stockpiled, but there is sand that could be harvested and could make a visible difference in having more or larger sand berms stockpiled.
- Suggested, in the Education category, on page 11 of the report, posting signs at drainage outlets such as overwatering of lawns, etc., to bring attention to bad practices used by residents that cause beach pollution.
- Since the policy is subjective and provides latitude for changes, the policy will work.
- Suggested inviting someone from Scripts to study sand replenishment.
- Director Heider explained the Federally funded Opportunistic Sand Nourishment Program by the Army Corps of Engineers, stating that this program has been on the books for a number of years; advised that the city has a number of policies, and there is a policy specific to sand nourishment, and that is the reason it is not addressed here; clarified that this policy is about when there is sand on the beach; advised that maintenance of the beach is performed daily.
- Beaches and Parks Maintenance Manager Reed informed the Commission that sand berms were used in the past for protection of facilities, and stock piling sand will be driven by what sand nature provides.
- Chair Streger stated he is opposed to keeping cobble or kelp on the beach; described North Beach as a sea of rocks; pointed out that there is no safety clause for cobble and sand pushing, and there should be a catch all; opined that there are safety and liability issues; suggested keeping an open mind to conduct cobble removal from one section of the beach as a test area.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER THOMAS, SECOND BY COMMISSION SWARTZ, that the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that Council adopt the Beach Ecology and Maintenance Policy No. 702-6.

Further discussion ensued. In response to Commissioner Thomas' inquiry regarding palapas on the beach, Director Heider advised that palapas are non-permanent structures and could be added to 6.7 of Policy No. 702-6.

COMMISSIONER THOMAS ACCEPTED THE AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION to add palapas as non-permanent structures to 6.7 of Policy No. 702-6; MOTION CARRIED 5-1-0. Chair Streger voted no.

**6. NEW BUSINESS - None****7. PUBLIC INPUT**

Michael Metcalf, resident, representing a number of residents who advocate placement of a park bench at Mariposa Point Beach Access, commented that it was one of many bureaucratic hoops to jump through; indicated he was very satisfied with progress made so far.

**8. COMMUNICATIONS - None****9. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION****A. Sub-Committee Reports**

1. Beach Trail and Park Use Policy - Commissioners Thomas and Wicks (extended sunset date to March 2013) – as reported this evening.
2. VHSP Multi-Purpose Field – Commissioners McCormack and Thomas. Commissioner Thomas reported Commissioner McCormack and he met with several sports teams; contacted Manager Reed who is obtaining quotes on the cost for removing the meadow mix and installing grass on two fields; stated that the field could also be utilized as a multi-activity field by installing a concrete slab for a number of different types of events; advised that youth groups are willing to donate funds to achieve this concept as well as the Foundation.

**B. Items from Commissioners**

1. General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) – Commissioner Wicks reported meetings were scheduled on July 11 and August 1 and described the topics discussed under the Health and Wellness Section and the Coastal Element; stated that the topic for the August 15 meeting will be the draft Urban Design Element and draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Policy; the last meeting is scheduled on September 26.
2. Coastal Advisory Committee (CAC) – Commissioner Smith reported that he attend the CAC meetings of July 12 and August 9 and reviewed the topics discussed at the meeting.
3. BP&R Foundation – Commissioner Wicks thanked the Commissioners for their participation in the golf tournament held on July 13; reported that it was extremely successful this year; the amount of funds raised doubled this year and will be used for recreation scholarships and Courtney's SandCastle. He reported that the Surf Contest is scheduled on 9/15, and registration is just about filled; the SC Skateboard Contest is scheduled on 9/16; Carnival Colossal is schedule from 10/11 through 10/14; the Foundation has a letter of agreement with the city to administer the city's Hall of Fame.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER THOMAS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SWARTZ, CARRIED 6-0-0, to adjourn to the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting on September 11, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in the Ole Hanson Fireside Room of the Community Center, 100 North Calle Seville, San Clemente, CA.

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Chairperson and Commissioner of the  
Beaches, Parks & Recreation Commission

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Beaches, Parks & Recreation Director

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