



Minutes approved by the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission on \_\_\_\_\_.

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**DRAFT**

**CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE**

**MINUTES OF THE  
BEACHES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 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, May 8, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Ole Hanson Fireside Room of the Community Center.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Commissioner Bill Thomas.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Dagmar Foy, Chris McCormack, Bill Osier, Steven Streger,  
Eric Swartz (arrived at 6:08 p.m.), William Thomas, Tom Wicks

Absent: None

Staff present: Sharon Heider, Beaches, Parks & Recreation Director  
Rod Mellott, Marine Safety Lt.  
Peggy Lacayo, Recreation Supervisor  
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. **April 10, 2012**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WICKS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER THOMAS, CARRIED 6-0-0, to approve the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of April 10, 2012.

Chair pro tem Swartz arrived at 6:08 p.m.

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4. **CURRENT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

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

In the absence of Ms. Passow, Director Heider referred the Commission to the Department Activity Update Report included in the Commission packet and offered to respond to Commission inquiries on items included in the report.

B. **Marine Safety Division – Verbal Report by Marine Safety Lt. Rod Mellott.**

Lt. Mellott reported that the main tower on the beach is being staffed, and the beach will be fully staffed for Memorial Day weekend; lifeguard staff are visiting local schools to promote beach safety awareness; staff are working on a beach safety video; attending the Orange County Faire as an outreach on beach safety; National Beach Safety is being observed from May 21 to May 28, 2012; invited all to attend an open house at Marine Safety Headquarters scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to noon on May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>; this past Saturday, 250 applicants tried out for the Junior Lifeguard Program; 200 of the tryout applicants passed the test; advised that the beach is really getting busy.

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

In the absence of Mr. Shaw, Director Heider reported on the various projects as follows: Max Berg Plaza Park Improvement Program - One-third of the concrete is poured, and pavers and bollards are being installed; commented that construction did not impact the Cinco de Mayo celebration. The Vista Bahia Lighting Project should have a quick turnaround and not impact play. Beach Trail Lighting Project - Council will decide whether to hold off until the fall or do a portion in the summer and the balance in the fall.

D. **BP&R Activities Report – received and filed.**

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Scooters at Ralphs Skate Court**

Recreation Supervisor Peggy Lacayo reviewed the report prepared by her and Recreation Coordinator Chris Watkins on research conducted on allowing the use of scooters at Ralphs Skate Court; offered to respond to Commission inquiries.

The meeting was opened to public input.

Tracy Irish, resident, thanked staff and Commission for researching the request; asked if scooter use advocates implore the State to pass a law that provides skate park immunity for skateboarders would the Commission be willing to work with the scooter use advocates to provide a place for scooter riders.

Director Heider responded that from a staff perspective, the material used for skateboards and scooters was hard to differentiate regarding damaging surfaces; advised that all cities are taking the same position on mixed use because of involved risk; commented that there is no guarantee for allowing scooter use at the skate court.

Lisa Klipfel, skateboard advocate and resident, opined that, at some point, scooter use will be allowed at the skate court; commented that she sees two issues: scooters were not represented in the poll of comments because scooter participants are younger, and the skateboard community wanted a park because they were a nuisance; questioned where the scooters are going to go; noted that scooter participants are growing and may be added to the X Games.

The meeting was closed to public input.

Further Commission discussion ensued that included the following comments: Reviewed the history of the current skate court; insurance coverage on hazardous activities; scooters are designed like a skateboard but for younger participants in the sport; there should be a space for scooter riders; the law may treat scooter riders the same as skateboarders, but insurance coverage may be different; mixed use is being allowed at present at the skate court; the scooters and skateboarders can co-exist by considering limited hours for each sport; the scooter riders are younger and do not have space book accounts.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WICKS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER McCORMACK, CARRIED 6-1-0, to not approve allowing scooters at Ralphs Skate Court and not change the San Clemente Municipal Code 10.64.050. Commissioner Foy voted no.

Chair Streger indicated that the Commission is open to revisiting legalizing scooters at the skate court after researching the insurance requirements.

**B. Fee Recommendations for Recreation Sports Partnerships**

In the absence of Recreation Manager Passow, Director Heider reviewed the contents of the report that described the need to add fee structure for the new amenities located at Vista Hermosa Sports Park and San Clemente Aquatics Center and partnership agreements; responded to Commission inquiries as follows:

Staff continues refinement of the fees set by Council. Fees do not always come to the Commission for recommendation. The recommended fees in the report increase in a number of areas for non-residents. A fee for the Meadow field is suggested as well as a three-month swim pass available to residents at the request by many residents. The Partnership agreement was referred back to the Commission by Council to make it fair and equitable for all groups. The fee for partnerships is based on the amount of time the fields are used and should result in less overbooking.

The meeting was opened to public input.

Sandy Kos, San Clemente Aquatics Team (SCAT), clarified the Junior and Senior Partnerships revenue for pool usage; expressed concern that SCAT pool usage costs would not be recouped at the rate proposed; thanked staff for the discount but requested further conversation about the newly proposed fees; conceded that there is equity in some areas; provided information on the rates that would be equitable for SCAT.

The meeting was closed to public input.

Director Heider provided the following information to Commission inquiry: When the fees were developed, the pool at Vista Hermosa Sports Park was not built; noted that the recreational experience at the Vista Hermosa pool is entirely different from the recreational experience at the Ole Hanson Beach Club; stated that staff was surprised to hear from many who use the pool that the fees should be raised; indicated that staff hopes that the fees are in line with other communities; pointed out that there are huge numbers of youngsters using the pool and it is extremely successful; indicated that seniors, 62 plus category, is included with the 0 to 17 years category because the fees are the same; the intention is not that the two fees would always be the same, but were shown for simplicity in the report. She noted that the partners were notified but have not responded to the report on current fee increases.

The Commission made the following comments and concerns: the Senior Partnership discount should be higher; a cap on the amount was discussed; a cap provides a reason not to give the field back for availability; there are no fields available, but the fields are empty. Capistrano Unified School District recently did away with the fee cap because there is no reason for groups to give the field back if there is a cap. It is understandable that staff is trying to open up the fields, but the fees for partnership are too high. One suggestion was to stagger fees. There needs to be more equitable pricing.

MOTION BY CHAIR STREGER. SECOND BY COMMISSIONER THOMAS, to provide a 95% discount to senior partnerships. MOTION FAILED 3-4-0. Commissioners McCormack, Swartz, Wicks, and Osier voted no.

MOTION BY CHAIR STREGER to recommend City Council approve the fee modifications as listed in the report. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Further discussion ensued and resulted in the following motion:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER THOMAS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER OSIER, CARRIED 6-1-0, to recommend City Council approve the fee modifications as listed in the report, and approve, for the Senior Partnerships, a 98% discount with a \$5,000 cap the first

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year, and removal of the cap the second year and in future years thereafter. Commissioner Foy voted no.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Friends of San Clemente Beaches, Parks and Recreation Surf and Skate Contest**  
Director Heider reviewed the contents of the report on a request by The Friends of San Clemente Beaches, Parks and Recreation Foundation to raise funds by holding the annual San Clemente Open Skate and Surf Contest scheduled on Saturday, September 15, 2012, at Ralphs Skate Court and Sunday, September 16, 2012, at T-Street Beach for the surf contest; responded to Commission inquiries.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER OSIER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MCCORMACK, CARRIED 7-0-0, to recommend Council approve the SC Open surf contest be held at T-Street Beach on Saturday, September 15, 2012, as it provides increased public benefit to the community.

**7. PUBLIC INPUT**

Michael Metcalf, resident, requested the Commission place on a future Commission agenda his proposal to install a park bench along the Mariposa beach access ramp; related that he has met with Director Heider who he opined was less than thrilled to have another project; advised that his proposal has support from his neighbors; opined that it is a modest request.

At the suggestion by Commissioner Thomas to Mr. Metcalf to fund raise for the cost of the bench, which was estimated at \$5,000, Mr. Metcalf agreed to fund raising to install the bench.

Ms. Heider advised she met with Mr. Metcalf at Mariposa about the bench; stated that she wished it was that simple; noted that there is a backlog of requests for memorial benches; indicated that the department has been tasked with placement of memorial benches, especially along the beach, many places the city does not even own; advised that a bigger policy is needed that will come to the Commission for recommendation to Council; commented that it is challenging.

Commission consensus was to place a discussion of memorial benches on a future Commission agenda.

George Gregory, resident, claimed the city is not doing an adequate job for its 70,000 residents; reiterated his remarks from the Commission's April meeting, i.e., that the trail is too narrow, not complete to Trestles, wet and muddy at times; mentioned the trail light project behind Marine Safety Headquarters; opined that the trail was poorly built and designed; opined that Marine Safety personnel should park parallel in the

Marine Safety parking lot; stated that the city cannot wait for state funds because it just is not going to happen; commented that he cannot participate in structured recreation and, therefore, walks the trail; stated that these things cannot wait, and compared it to the use of scooter riders at Ralphs Skate Court; offered to help with the trail; opined that the city can actually fund it.

**8. COMMUNICATIONS**

City Council meeting for June 5, 2012 rescheduled to June 12, 2012 which conflicts with the scheduled June 12, 2012 BP&R Commission meeting was noted and discussed. Consensus was to adjourn the Commission meeting to Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**9. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION**

**A. Sub-Committee Reports**

1. Beach Trail and Park Use Policy - Commissioners Thomas, Wicks, and Osier (extended sunset date to March 2013) – no report.

**B. Items from Commissioners**

1. General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) – Commissioner Osier reported that GPAC met on April 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a long meeting. The Parks and Recreation Element was reviewed, and the name was changed to Beaches, Parks and Recreation; added Safety, Open Space, Park Planning Acquisition and Development; adopted a section on beaches; a lively discussion ensued on park size which is now defined as five acres per thousand residents. The draft of the General Plan will be reviewed at the GPAC scheduled June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
2. Coastal Advisory Committee (CAC) – Commissioner Foy reported that at the April 12, 2012 meeting, the CAC discussed educating the public on pollution that is caused by runoff from overwatering. Six youngsters provided a presentation on re-signing the street storm drains, and fundraising for the cost of the re-signing to involve the community
3. BP&R Foundation – Commissioner Wicks thanked the press for Foundation coverage; reported that the Foundation is growing; a Commission foursome was formed for the upcoming golf tournament scheduled on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner McCormack thanked the Foundation for providing space at the Cyber Café to provide tax service to low income people; commented that thousands of dollars were saved by the city by this service.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY CHAIR STREGER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SWARTZ, CARRIED 7-0-0, to adjourn the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting on June 12, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., to an adjourned regular Beaches, Parks, and Recreation Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 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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