



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

**DRAFT
CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE**

07/03/12
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**MINUTES OF THE
BEACHES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 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, June 19, 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 Osier.
2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris McCormack, Bill Osier, Steven Streger,
Eric Swartz, William Thomas, Tom Wicks

Absent: Dagmar Foy

Staff present: Sharon Heider, Beaches, Parks & Recreation Director
Rod Mellott, Marine Safety Lieutenant
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. **PRESENTATIONS**

Commissioner Osier was presented a commendation by Chair Streger for his service to the community during his term of office; Director Heider read the commendation; Commissioner Osier expressed his appreciation for serving with the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission and thanked everyone.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **May 8, 2012**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER OSIER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER WICKS , CARRIED 6-0-0, to approve the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of May 8, 2012.

5. **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 several requests were received for cell site locations at Vista Hermosa Sports Park; referenced

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the Recreation Division activities portion as listed in the Department Activity Report included in the Commission packet (5.D).

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

Lt. Mellott reported: The beach is fully staffed ready for summer; Classes are full; 40 lifeguards are scheduled for duty on the beach for the July 4th holiday; Funds are being used on a beach safety message on Cox TV; 18 lifeguards were hired; The beach patrol started on June 15th; One beach patrol is scheduled full time during the day.

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

In the absence of Landscape Architect Tim Shaw, Director Heider reported that the sports field lights are being replaced with energy efficient lights at Vista Bahia Park (Waterman Field). A hard copy of a Powerpoint presentation entitled, "Vista Bahia – Waterman Field Lighting Replacement Project" was distributed. Director Heider added that Mr. Shaw was busy closing out items on the construction of Vista Hermosa Sports Park.

Chair Streger commended Mr. Shaw and the Department for regulating the lighting at Vistas Hermosa Sports Park; commented that the lighting is almost as perfect as it can be.

D. BP&R Activities Report – Received and filed.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Multi-Purpose Sports Field at Vista Hermosa Sports Park

At the request of Commissioner Thomas, the Commission discussed the meadow mix turf planted on the multi-purpose sports field located at Vista Hermosa Sports Park. Commissioner Thomas expressed his disappointment with the current condition of the field because of the meadow mix; noted that there was continued demand for sports field space.

Director Heider explained the sports field was not developed during this phase of construction and planted with meadow mix to reduce maintenance costs since it requires little maintenance; advised that there is no funding available at present to develop it.

The Commission discussed the use of the field for the carnival, the fiesta, concerts and other forms of events; consensus was to form a sub-committee to research its use.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER McCORMACK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SWARTZ, CARRIED 6-0-0, to establish a sub-committee to look at multi-purpose field possible uses.

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Commissioners Thomas and McCormack volunteered and were appointed by Chair Streger to serve on the sub-committee to research other uses for the multi-purpose sports field located at Vista Hermosa Sports Park.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of a Policy for Beach Ecology and Maintenance

Director Heider reviewed the contents of the report that describes a proposed policy for Beach Ecology and Maintenance; noted preparation of the report was a team effort that involved Beaches and Parks Maintenance Manager Dennis Roger Reed, Intern Lucian Toma, Chief Bill Humphreys, and her; provided a brief overview of existing practices; noted that this was an introductory topic and is slated for Coastal Advisory Committee review and will be returned to the Commission for its recommendation to Council.

Director Heider introduced Intern Lucian Toma; expressed her gratitude for the substantial research he conducted in developing a policy for beach ecology and maintenance.

Mr. Toma narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "San Clemente Beach – Environmental Resources" and responded to Commission inquiries.

Commission comments and suggestions were as follows:

Only kelp is removed from dry sand. Kelp flies do not bite. A campaign to enlighten the public is necessary. Some type of mulching process would be beneficial. More emphasis and expanded information is needed on the tiny species that live in and around the kelp. Education is important. Get creative to get the message out. Higher education is needed in this community to study and provide invaluable necessary information for a policy. Assign a section of beach as an experiment. Cobble and kelp wrack are a visual blight and unappealing to people. On a practical note, there is the liability issue because people like to run on the beach water line and could trip on kelp. Another issue is if lifeguards can drive or run in kelp areas. Kelp thrives in cold water. It breaks off when the water is warm, making it more prevalent during the summer months. In terms of monetary value, this is a good balance.

Comments by staff regarding kelp and cobble:

The sand grooming machine breaks up the kelp. Lifeguard vehicles are driven on emergency access roads and the beach. Marine Safety personnel are supportive of a kelp policy. Marine Safety personnel receive many complaints on kelp on the beach and the kelp flies. The issue of driving over the kelp on the beach has not been addressed. There are varied opinions on kelp and cobble removal, but there is more information that advocates leaving it alone.

Commission consensus was that the report is fair.

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MOTION BY CHAIR STREGER, SECOND BY COMMISSION THOMAS, CARRIED 6-0-0 to request that the Coastal Advisory Commission review and comment on the adoption of a policy for beach ecology and maintenance, and return to the Beaches, Parks & Recreation Commission for recommendation to the City Council.

B. The Month of July 2012 is Parks Make Life Better!

In the absence of Recreation Manager Passow, Director Heider reviewed the contents of the report on California's Legislature approved Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR 106), that declares July 2012 as "Parks Make Life Better! Month" which recognizes the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health and development of all Californians.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SWARTZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER OSIER, CARRIED 6-0-0, to recommend that Council proclaim the month of July as "Parks Make Life Better! Month."

C. Annual Review of Beach Trail

In the absence of Chief Humphreys, Director Heider reviewed the contents of the report on the user survey to initiate the annual review of the beach trail and responded to Commission inquiries.

Commissioner Wicks advised that his neighbor walks the trail every day and loves it; reported that his neighbor reviewed the Beach Trail report and provided written comments on the survey as follows: page 3, 12., number 2., suggested to line item each of those; add a number seven to the list that gives some direction of access point to the Beach trail as it relates to cleanup and upkeep; number 13, suggestion to change the topic question to: "If you could improve one thing about the beach trail, it would be?" or an alternative, "One thing you would change about the trail would be?" Commissioner Wicks stated that his neighbor indicated he wants to be part of the volunteer team.

MOTION BY COMMISSION WICKS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SWARTZ, CARRIED 6-0-0, that the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission supports and promotes the Beach Trail User Survey, with the above-named changes, to assist in maximizing feedback which will be used to assist in maintaining and improving this wonderful amenity.

8. PUBLIC INPUT

Michael Smith, residents, thanked staff and the Commission for educating him on the beach ecology; commented that the ocean in Southern California is fragile compared to Northern California; suggested there may be other elements to be studied; described the reasons he dislikes cobble and the kelp wracks; stated that it may be an opportunity to experiment and get someone in higher education interested; questioned what the California Coastal Commission policy is on cobble and kelp removal; commented that it was a great start involving the beach.

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9. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. 2012-13 BP&R Commission Membership Renewal to Ca. Association of Park & Recreation Commissioners & Board Members (CAPRCBM) - information item.**

10. 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) – as reviewed in this report.

B. Items from Commissioners

1. General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) – Commissioner Osier deferred to Commissioner Wicks since he did not attend the June 13th meeting. Commissioner Wicks reported that there were three more G-PAC meetings, the last being the Health and Wellness Element.
2. Coastal Advisory Committee (CAC) – Commissioner Foy – no report.
3. BP&R Foundation – Commissioner Wicks reported on the Foundation’s upcoming events: The Benefit Golf Tournament scheduled on July 13, proceeds to fund Phase 2 of Courtney’s Sandcastle and Recreation Program scholarships; The San Clemente Open Surf Contest scheduled on Saturday, September 15 at T-Street Beach; mentioned that the Gaudaukas brothers (pro-surfers) attended a Council meeting about the event and announced that fellow surfers have pledged \$10,000 to the Foundation. Commissioner Wicks mentioned how well the all volunteer Cyber Café Computer Education Program is doing.

Commissioner Thomas added the Carnival Colossus scheduled in October to the list of Foundation activities and development of a Wall of Recognition.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY CHAIR STREGER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER THOMAS, CARRIED 6-0-0 to adjourn to the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting on July 10, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in the Ole Hanson Fireside Room of the Community Center, 100 North Calle Seville, San Clemente, CA.

Chairperson and Commissioner of the
Beaches, Parks & Recreation Commission

Beaches, Parks & Recreation Director

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