



**CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE  
MINUTES OF THE  
BEACHES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018, 6:00 P.M.**

Chair Streger called the Adjourned Regular Meeting of the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of San Clemente to order on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at 6:06 p.m. in the City of San Clemente City Council Chambers located at 100 Avenida Presidio, San Clemente, California. Commissioner Ayer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT** Commissioners Richard Ayer, John Dorey, Nick Gates, Charlie Smith, Bernie Wohlfarth, Chair Pro Tem John Bandaruk, Chair Steven Streger

**ABSENT** None

**STAFF PRESENT** Samantha Thomas, Recreation Manager  
Maile Stivers, Administrative Assistant

**1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. April 10, 2018**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GATES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DOREY, AND CARRIED 6-0-1, WITH COMMISSIONER AYER ABSTAINING, to approve the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting minutes of April 10, 2018.

**B. May 10, 2018 Joint City Council/Commissions/Committees Meeting**

Received and filed.

**3. CURRENT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

**A. Recreation Division Update**

Samantha Thomas, Recreation Manager, presented photos and reviewed recent events including the Memorial Day Observance at the Community Center and the weekly Market at North Beach; and presented information regarding the San Clemente Trolley.

**B. Recreation Division Activities Update Reports dated 5/8/18 and 6/7/18**

Received and filed.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Streger reordered the items to be considered.

### C. San Luis Rey Park Master Plan Amendment to Add Pickleball Use

Samantha Thomas, Recreation Manager, summarized the contents of the administrative report regarding a proposed amendment to the San Luis Rey Park master plan to add pickleball use and responded to Commission inquiries.

Philip George Dunmeyer, San Clemente resident, noted statistics about growth in pickleball player numbers; opined pickleball is easy to learn, age neutral, gender neutral, and a good workout; stated schools have added pickleball programs; stated 32 pickleball players could play on a tennis court per hour versus four tennis players; opined pickleball is a better use of space; stated there are pickleball programming opportunities; stated creating four permanent pickleball courts would cost \$10,900; and opined revenue could be generated from holding pickleball tournaments.

Kathy Oshima, San Clemente resident, thanked the Commission for its work on the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan; stated she does not play at a court with permanent nets, and brings portable nets prior to playing; stated pickleball is in the Middle School physical education curriculum; stated her son enjoyed playing, and pickleball can be cross generational; and expressed support for recommended dual striped courts.

Kevin Chaidez, San Clemente resident, stated he volunteered for Park City, Utah where mixed use courts were used for tennis and pickleball play; stated the lines were placed in different colors; stated use hours were established with designated days for tennis play and pickleball play; opined there are times that tennis courts are empty; opined communication between tennis and pickleball players is needed to share the amenity; opined it would be wonderful to have dedicated pickleball courts; and opined it is cost effective to share the courts.

Betsy Jorgensen, San Clemente resident, thanked Commissioners for their work; stated she utilized all of the parks and programs with her children, and would like to use the parks herself; and shared a photo of pickleball players at Sendero Park.

Robi Craig, San Clemente resident, stated she plays tennis in the mornings, and the courts are heavily used; expressed support for constructing new courts at the lawn bowling facility; opined multiple lines on the court would be confusing; and opined there are not enough tennis courts in San Clemente with the Rancho San Clemente tennis facility closed and courts being used for lessons.

Paul Wehrle, San Clemente resident, stated he plays tennis at San Luis Rey and Bonito Canyon; opined the underutilized lawn bowling facility needs to be evaluated; opined

tennis courts are crowded, and finding an open court can take hours; and opined if the recommendation is approved, an enforceable schedule is needed to separate players.

Richard Deane, Mission Viejo resident, thanked Commissioners and staff; opined the lawn bowling facility is in poor condition; and stated lawn bowlers have expressed support to reduce the lawn bowling green to develop pickleball courts.

Manny Romero, San Clemente resident, opined one court should be striped for pickleball use only; opined multiple lines would be confusing; opined only one court should be striped for pickleball; stated portable nets are simple to set up; stated recent pickleball demonstrations for the Boys & Girls Club and the Senior Center went well; stated he is working with groups for Parkinson's and wheelchair pickleball play; and stated he is a former tennis player, and does not plan to return to playing tennis.

Carol Harris, San Clemente resident, stated she is a tennis player; opined scheduled times would be difficult to enforce; opined pickleball should be played indoors in the Community Center like Dana Point; opined Bonito Canyon courts could be converted to pickleball as they are rarely used; opined there are so few tennis courts since the closure of the Rancho San Clemente tennis facility; and opined pickleball courts could be developed at Vista Hermosa Sports Park.

Raudel Barba, San Clemente resident, submitted a sample of a proposed line color for pickleball lines; and thanked the Commission.

Jim Duke, Dana Point resident, expressed support for the development of pickleball courts at Vista Hermosa Sports Park; stated he was a former sporting goods representative for tennis; opined pickleball growth is similar to previous tennis growth; opined sport shoe stores would be good to ask numbers of players of each sport; and opined pickleball would be in greater numbers.

Commissioners either individually or in agreement provided the following comments:

- Multiple sets of lines can be confusing.
- A permanent lined pickleball at court #4 at San Luis Rey is preferred.
- It would be difficult to manage scheduled times for multiple sports.
- Costs for permanent pickleball amenities are needed.
- The lawn bowling facility would be the long term solution to add pickleball, but will be expensive.
- We do not have the budget to develop new pickleball courts at this time.
- Costs and alternate locations for pickleball courts should be explored to be discussed at a coming meeting.
- A dedicated pickleball court is preferred.
- There is a lot of pressure on tennis courts with the closure of a tennis facility.

MOTION BY CHAIR STREGER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SMITH, AND CARRIED 7-0, to table discussions regarding pickleball use to the next meeting to allow staff to bring back cost estimates on a dedicated pickleball court at San Luis Rey and any other feasible facility.

Commissioners Dorey and Gates recused themselves and left the dais at 7:23pm due to their association with the PierPride Foundation.

**A. PierPride Partnership Agreement**

Samantha Thomas, Recreation Manager, summarized the contents of the administrative report regarding a proposed partnership agreement with PierPride and responded to Commission inquiries.

Peggy Vance, PierPride Foundation President, provided information regarding the PierPride Foundation organization goals, activities, and finances, and responded to Commission inquiries.

Commissioners either individually or in agreement provided the following comments:

- Exhibit A does not show total of waivers by the City.
- Article 2 does not detail the funds that will be provided to the City by the PierPride Foundation.
- A percentage or minimum contribution to the City should be included in the agreement.
- A maximum waiver amount should be included in the agreement.

MOTION BY CHAIR STREGER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER AYER, AND CARRIED 5-0, to table discussions regarding a proposed PierPride Partnership Agreement until the next meeting for the organization and City staff to develop a plan to cap City subsidies and/or guarantee a minimum percentage or dollar amount of City contributions.

Commissioners Dorey and Gates returned to the dais at 7:38pm.

**B. Use of Bicycles on the Beach Trail**

Samantha Thomas, Recreation Manager, summarized the contents of the administrative report regarding the use of bicycles on the Beach Trail and responded to Commission inquiries.

Michael Dollar, San Clemente resident, stated he has ridden a bicycle in the Beach Trail area before the Beach Trail was constructed; stated other cities and countries are embracing bicycles; opined trail users of all types can be dangerous; stated he did not see the survey, and bike shops were not notified of this meeting; opined the solution is for all users to get along; stated he slows down when others are present; and opined ebikes should be prohibited because of their speed.

Cheryl Kelly, San Clemente resident, stated she used the Beach Trail area before the Beach Trail was constructed; stated the Beach Trail has become very popular noting more pedestrians than cyclists; opined most cyclists are courteous; opined ebikes are a menace noting near misses; stated enforcement is little to none; and opined ebikes should be banned not bicycles.

Martin Eichmann, San Clemente resident, stated he rides an ebike; opined ebike users are courteous and has not seen a problem; opined some individuals break the rules; stated he has a bell and tries not to get in trail users' way; opined banning ebikes is just as bad as banning all bikes; and noted a low percentage of ebike users according to the survey.

Susan Ambrose, San Clemente resident, thanked the Commission for its work on the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan; stated she is a frequent Beach Trail user; opined bicyclists are courteous; opined concern about ebikes noting instances of ebikes riding dangerously around pedestrians; opined there is not room on the Beach Trail for ebikes as they are dangerous and powerful with riders not using appropriate caution.

Pete Van Nuys, San Clemente resident, stated he was the reason the state law allows the regulation of ebikes separately from bicycles; stated he was present during early Beach Trail discussions; opined any user can be inconsiderate; stated there is no enforcement on the Beach Trail; opined the speed limit should be single digit to attract more attention from cyclists; stated most ebikes are equipped with a speedometer; opined there should be active radar enforcement and expensive tickets to discourage misbehavior; stated he would prefer just a ban on ebikes over all bicycles; stated a person walking a bicycle is twice as wide as a rider; opined a rider speeding is less likely to happen on bridges than in an open area; and opined speed enforcement should be done at the bottom of the Mariposa bridge.

Brenda Miller, San Clemente resident, stated she was the architect of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan; opined the Beach Trail is not the width needed for the volume of use; opined the City should spearhead the effort to design a wider Beach Trail; opined conflict is created by many users in a small space; stated the bike path improvements on El Camino Real have created a connection for nine miles of bicycle use without interaction with cars; opined banning bikes from the Beach Trail would be catastrophic for multimodal transportation in San Clemente encouraging more vehicle traffic which will utilize beach parking; encouraged anticipation of consequences of policy changes; and opined ebikes are being embraced by baby boomers enabling continued physical activity.

Commissioners either individually or in agreement provided the following comments:

- There are less than courteous bicyclists on the Beach Trail.

- Human powered bicycles and an ebikes are largely the same.
- Enforcement on the Beach Trail is an issue.
- Without enforcement, adding rules will not do much.
- The Beach Trail is an essential part of the transportation in the City.
- Ebikes are being used by younger riders who are not as respectful.
- Single digit speed limit is preferred.
- In narrow areas, bicycles should be walked.
- The success of the Beach Trail was underestimated.
- The Mariposa Bridge was not designed for riding bicycles.
- The Trail was not built to be ridden the entire way, and narrow areas should require walking.
- A speed limit that is enforced would increase safety.
- Other Beach Trail users do not have the momentum to cause injury like a bicycle.
- During the summer months, bicycles should be prohibited.
- Enforcement during the peak season would be beneficial.
- Communication of the rules is important.
- Physical barriers could be used to encourage bicycle walking.
- Enforcement in narrow areas would be beneficial.
- Marine Safety should be contacted about allowing bicycles on the emergency access area near the headquarters building.

MOTION BY CHAIR STREGER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SMITH, AND CARRIED 7-0, to table discussions regarding bicycle use on the Beach Trail until a future meeting to allow the exploration of enforcement options.

## 6. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

Samantha Thomas, Recreation Manager, communicated an amended lease agreement moving the Friends of San Clemente Foundation's temporary office space to the former City Hall site will be considered at an upcoming City Council meeting; and noted the upcoming Concert Series with new bands.

## 8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

### A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Community Events – Chair Streger communicated he would like to see the Community Events subcommittee involved with selecting the bands for the Concert Series.
2. Integrated Pest Management Subcommittee - None.

### B. Items from Commissioners

1. Coastal Advisory Committee (CAC) – None.
2. Friends of San Clemente Foundation – Commissioner Dorey reported the Friends Foundation made popcorn at the Cinco de Mayo event; reported the Foundation added Brad Parks and Brian de la Puente to the Sports Wall of Fame at a recent event; encouraged participation in the upcoming golf tournament; and reported the sponsored pet waste stations are being implemented.
3. Courtney’s Sandcastle Charitable Foundation (CSC) – None.
4. Public Safety Task Force – None.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business before the Commission, Chair Streger adjourned at 8:47 p.m. to a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the at City of San Clemente Council Chambers located at 100 Avenida Presidio, San Clemente, CA.



Chairperson and Commissioner of the  
Beaches, Parks & Recreation Commission



Beaches, Parks & Recreation Director