



**CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE  
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
BEACHES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020 6:00 P.M.**

Chair Streger called the Regular Meeting of the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of San Clemente to order on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 6:01 p.m via teleconference. Commissioner Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**ABSENT** None

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

**1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. October 13, 2020 Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting**

MOTION BY CHAIR PRO TEM BANDARUK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SMITH, AND CARRIED 6-0, to approve the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes of October 13, 2020.

**3. CURRENT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

**A. Recreation Division Update**

Samantha Wylie, Recreation Manager, reported a recent drive-in movie with one more scheduled; and reported the Holly Jolly Trolley Trot operated for its first weekend and will continue next weekend.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Use of Electric Bicycles on Beach Trail, Inland Trails, and Parks

Samantha Wylie, Recreation Manager, summarized the contents of the administrative report and responded to Commission inquiries adding regulations related to electric bicycles in neighboring cities.

Judith Frant, San Clemente resident, stated she has submitted comments against allowing ebikes on the Beach Trail in previous years; opined ebike usage requirements have not managed concerns and proliferation of ebikes needs to be addressed; expressed concern regarding ebike usage in multiple amenities as it relates to speed, failure to follow rules of road, reckless driving, no enforcement, no helmets, and use by underage children; opined regulations and enforcement are overdue; and opined unlicensed golf carts and drivers should also be considered.

Jeff Neubauer, San Clemente resident, opined ebikes should be required to be operated safely; expressed concern for youth operators of ebikes who do not obey traffic or operate recklessly; opined the use of ebikes should not be banned on the Beach Trail but should be restricted to operators over 16 or 18 years for children's safety and to avoid accidents; opined ebikes are meant for adult operation; and opined the Beach Trail provides an essential route for beach access without traffic.

Hector Hernandez, San Clemente resident, opined electric bicycles have become a hazard to pedestrians passing pedestrians with no warning at high speeds; opined electric bicycles belong on the street with motorized vehicles; referenced a traffic accident on Pacific Coast Highway with lawsuits; and opined electric bicycles should be outlawed on sidewalks and walk pathways.

Jody Giles, San Clemente resident, opined ebikes should not be allowed on the popular areas of the Beach Trail; opined a walk only designation from the T-Street pedestrian overpass to the pedestrian rail crossing north of the Pier area should be established; stated much of this area is already walk only during summer months, but is not well signed or enforced; opined ebikes are fast, quiet and wide on the narrow Beach Trail; noted close calls and incidents with ebikes; and opined areas to the north and south with added signage are adequate for careful riding.

Heather Goulet, San Clemente resident, noted near miss incidents with ebikes; opined ebikes should be banned from the Beach Trail; opined a second recommendation to require bicycles be walked on the Mariposa bridge; and discouraged oversigning the Beach Trail with instructions and speed limits.

Jim Grace, San Clemente resident, stated before 10am on the Beach Trail, he witnesses walk bike areas not being observed and speeding ebikes without concern for pedestrians; opined the Commissions, Committees, and Council should be trying

to find an answer for enforcement of current rules, not more rules; opined the most serious problem for public safety and City liability is ebikes on the Trail; stated the speed limit and ebike classification restrictions are not enforced; stated pedal assist ebikes do not have speedometers; opined ebikes are a serious threat to pedestrians; and opined ebikes should be prohibited from the Beach Trail until enforcement becomes achievable.

Raymi Borunda, Chino resident, stated she is not strong enough to ride her favorite trails on traditional mountain bikes due to medical restrictions and can enjoy the sport with an ebike; opined people abusing the trails should be ticketed; and opined other riders and enthusiasts should not be penalized.

Larry J. Thomas, San Clemente resident, opined standards need to be set for electric bicycles which could include prohibition from beaches and trails, prohibition from any public walkway, and treating electric bicycles as motorized vehicles; opined electric bicycles should use bike lanes where provided and merge with motorized vehicles where not provided; opined variances or modifications could be made based on speed; opined electric bicycles and pedestrians should not coexist where pedestrians are present; and opined the City should provide an education campaign regarding safe electric bicycle operation.

Commissioners either individually or in agreement provided the following comment:

- The Beach Trail is different from inland trails and parks and should be discussed separately.
- Prohibitions of electric bicycles should also be applied to all bicycles as it is difficult to distinguish between the two.
- The Beach Trail is a pedestrian trail, and is not constructed to accommodate high bicycle use.
- The Beach Trail was intended to be multimodal.
- There are inconsiderate users of amenities of all transportation methods.
- Without dedicated enforcement on the Beach Trail and Sea Summit Trail, bicycles should be prohibited.
- The Beach Trail in many places was not designed for bicycle riding.
- The Public Safety Committee is concerned about electric bicycle use in general.
- Electric bicycles should be treated as motorized vehicles.
- Nothing prohibits bicycles from being walked on the Beach Trail.
- The Beach Trail is popular all year, and time constrained restrictions are not workable.
- Beach Trail use decreases significantly in non-summer months.
- The Public Safety Committee has ideas regarding recommendations to City Council.
- Inland trails do not seem crowded enough to warrant restrictions on electric bicycles.

- Reckless behavior is currently prohibited.
- Enforcement of rules is a problem.
- Motorized bicycles should not be allowed on city trails.
- Other agencies have enforcement capabilities related to electric bicycles.
- There should be a distinction between electric bicycles and non-electric bicycles.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WOHLFARTH, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SMITH, AND CARRIED 6-0, to table discussions regarding use of electric bicycles to an adjourned regular meeting in joint session with the Public Safety Committee.

**6. PUBLIC INPUT**

Scott Stuart, opined the locker room at the San Clemente Aquatics Center should be open citing ADA concerns regarding use of outdoor showers with a wheelchair or prosthesis.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Recreation Manager Report**

None.

**B. Ad Hoc Water Quality Committee**

None.

**8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION**

**A. Subcommittee Reports**

None.

**B. Items from Commissioners**

1. Friends of San Clemente Foundation – Commissioner Dorey reported Bill Hart has been elected as President of the Foundation; and reported he will continue to be involved with the Foundation board.
2. Courtney's Sandcastle Charitable Foundation (CSC) – None.
3. PierPride – Chair Pro Tem Bandaruk reported a successful Pier lighting; and reported efforts to raise funds for remodeling the snack shack at the Pier.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business before the Commission, Chair Streger adjourned at 7:28 p.m. to an adjourned regular meeting to meet in joint session with the Public Safety Committee on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference.

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Chairperson and Commissioner of the  
Beaches, Parks & Recreation Commission

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Beaches, Parks & Recreation Director