

May 10, 2023 Redondo Beach Recreation & Parks Commission meeting, Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

The Redondo Beach Sailing Club (RBSC) formed a **501c7 recreational club** in 1973 as “a **non-profit organization dedicated to educating Redondo Beach residents in the art of sailing and sailboat handling, and to help educate the membership in general water safety rules.**” A successful informal arrangement with the city allowed club members to sail city boats for informal sailing instruction and practice over the succeeding decades.

In 2006, the Portofino’s development permit was approved by the Coastal Commission with the following specific clause: “Upon completion of the construction of the marina...Lessee shall **reserve two slips within the marina for exclusive use by a non-profit equal opportunity sailing club**, deemed acceptable by the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission in consultation with the City of Redondo Beach, that promotes public recreational sailing.”

In August 2020, the city informed RBSC that it would no longer be permitted to use city sailboats. Since the city’s sailing school had ceased using the slips and two 14’ unmotorized sailing dinghies in the Portofino marina several years previously, the boats have had no use or care in over three years. The boats are now filthy and unsecured, with one of the two dock lines meant to secure one boat having been in the water long enough to grow an impressive algae beard.

In October 2020, the Coastal Commission determined that **the city, for 14 years, violated the Portofino lease terms by assuming control of the two slips reserved for exclusive use by a non-profit equal opportunity sailing club**. RBSC brought this to the attention of City Staff, City Council, and the Rec & Parks Commission.

In November 2022 the city sent a brief email inviting various organizations to submit undefined “RFPs” to the city’s Rec department for sailing services. RBSC submitted a proposal for the city to assign the two Portofino slips, and two 14’ sailing dinghies previously used by club members, to RBSC. After a period of time, we received a response that our proposal was denied, with no explanation. As previously mentioned, these slips and boats remain essentially abandoned by the city, preventing public recreational sailing on them for three years.

In May 2023, RB Comm Dev Dir Brandy Forbes wrote to an AES development applicant, about a proposed real estate development subject to jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission rejecting the application “because **nothing in the Housing Accountability Act relieves the City from its obligation to comply with the California Coastal Act...**”

Nothing relieves the City of its obligation to comply with the California Coastal Act and the terms of the Portofino development agreement, period. The public expects the city to be as scrupulous and consistent in upholding its obligation to comply with the California Coastal Act as it requires of others. I ask this Commission to recommend to City Council to direct city staff to immediately and fully comply with the Portofino lease by assigning the slips to RBSC, and more importantly, to call for a public hearing on the entire city sailing program, since it appears that staff is non-transparently formulating priorities and policies without proper public input.

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