

**MINUTES OF THE  
REDONDO BEACH RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 2022**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Recreation and Parks Commission, conducted as a Zoom meeting, was called to order by Chairman McCauley 7:00 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: McCauley, Korman-Soooper, Light, Lang, Varvarigos, Rowe  
Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Escontrias joined the meeting late, at 8:40 p.m.  
Officials Present: Kelly Orta, Senior Management Analyst  
Michelle Pinedo, Recreation Supervisor

**C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

At the request of Chair McCauley, Commissioner Lang led the Salute to the Flag.

**D. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Korman-Soooper, seconded by Commissioner Varvarigos, to approve the Order of Agenda. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Escontrias absent.

**E. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS**

Motion by Commissioner Korman-Soooper, seconded by Commissioner Light, to receive and file the blue folder items. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Escontrias absent.

**F. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

1. Approval of Affidavit of Posting for the Recreation and Parks Commission Regular Meeting of January 12, 2022.
2. Approval of the minutes of the Recreation and Parks Commission Regular Meeting of December 8, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Korman-Soooper, seconded by Commissioner Varvarigos, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Escontrias absent.

**G. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

None.

**H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**I. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS**

None.

**J. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION**

**J.1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE PICKLEBALL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Senior Management Analyst Kelly Orta gave a presentation on the Pickleball Feasibility Study. Key points of her presentation were as follows:

- Pamela Brown, who worked on the study is present at the meeting tonight.
- The FY 2021-22 budget includes an allocation of \$65,000 for pickleball.
- The \$65,000 allocation included \$15,000 for a pickleball feasibility study.
- Hirsch and Associates was chosen to do the pickleball feasibility study.
- The remaining \$50,000 budget can be used towards construction of courts.
- The study identified seven sites as potential locations for pickleball courts.
- The seven sites identified were Alta Vista Park, Anderson Park, Perry Park, Franklin Park, Perry Allison Playfield, Dominguez Park, and Aviation Park Open Field.
- The positive and negative aspects of each potential location were reviewed.
- Estimates of the construction costs for each potential location were provided.
- The Commission can discuss and ask questions of Ms. Brown, who is present.

Commissioner Lang asked whether an existing tennis court would be converted only to pickleball or if the court would be shared between tennis players and pickleball. Orta said that either solution could be considered, and mentioned that members of the community had been expressing concerns about losing an existing tennis court.

Commissioner Korman-Soooper asked how many tennis courts there are currently in Alta Vista Park and asked about how much parking is available at Alta Vista Park.

Orta replied that there are eight tennis courts at Alta Vista Park currently. Pamela Brown said that they had not included a review of the parking situation in their current study.

Commissioner Light commented that the cost breakdown is a little misleading because of the differences in the number of courts in each proposed location. Could a cost per court be provided?

Orta said that once they have identified the preferred locations, they could be more specific about the estimated costs. Pamela Brown commented that lighting is very expensive, so those locations that do not already have court lighting would be much more expensive. It is hard to be able to provide the cost per court when each location is so different from the others.

Commissioner Varvarigos wondered what the goals are for the project. Do we want to have courts in both north and south Redondo, and what are the budget constraints?

Orta said the goal now is just to see what is possible in the City. After selecting the ideal location, the budget will be established.

Commissioner Varvarigos asked if we can be open to having several locations?

Orta said that she has heard from the pickleball community that they would like to have six courts and they would prefer to have them in one location. From the City's perspective, it would be advantageous to have one location in the north and one location in the south since the City is large and spread out.

Commissioner Rowe favored Alta Vista as a location. He said in his experience playing tennis and basketball, you find that some courts are good and some courts are bad. He said Perry Park has three courts, and asked if they are considered good or bad courts.

Orta said that if those courts were to be converted to pickleball, they would definitely need to be resurfaced.

Commissioner Rowe asked if the courts at Perry Park and Franklin Park are being used currently. Orta replied that they are in use now, but we would need to make some improvements to the surfaces at both locations.

Commissioner Rowe asked whether pickleball would be secondary to tennis at Alta Vista Park.

Orta said that if it becomes a shared space, you would have to dedicate time for either pickleball or tennis because the set-up is different, and pickleball has four nets. Therefore, it would be necessary to determine a schedule for each sport.

Commissioner Lang inquired whether Hirsch and Associates had taken notes on how many people were using the basketball courts at Perry Park or any of the other locations. Lang said that if there is an opportunity to restripe some of those existing courts so that they could be used alternately for pickleball or basketball, it would be a low-cost option to offer this amenity to the community. If we built new courts somewhere, would fees be collected to cover the costs?

Orta said that the question of charging fees for a dedicated use would be something to be considered down the road. Pamela Brown said that she visited the park in the daytime hours during the week when school would have been in session and there was no one playing basketball during that time. She did not check on the use of the courts at alternate times. The tennis courts were being used at two of the parks. At Alta Vista, three of the courts were available at the time she happened to be there which was at approximately noon. On weekends and at times when the kids are out of school, the use of the courts would be different.

Commissioner Lang said she would hate to take away the opportunity for kids to play basketball after school.

Chair McCauley said that a big part of what they need to do is to find a balance in the time available for all the members of the community who use the courts.

Commissioner Korman-Soooper said that the one location that she feels we should not use for this purpose is Perry Allison Playfield. She said that several of the City Council members ran their campaigns based on wanting more green space in Redondo Beach and this is one of very few open grassy spaces that we have, and it is used. She said it would be a good goal to try to come up with two preferred locations, one north and one south, because the City is so spread out. She wondered why the cost estimate for the Aviation Park location was so high.

Chair McCauley expressed agreement with Commissioner Korman-Soooper about not considering Perry Allison Playfield for pickleball.

Commissioner Korman-Soooper pointed out that there is a teen center at Perry Park and that there are a lot of teenagers playing basketball there after school. She also commented that pickleball and basketball have already been using the same space and have worked out some kind of an arrangement to share the court space there. Renovating the courts to accommodate pickleball might help bring people to the businesses on Artesia Boulevard for coffee or lunch before or after games.

Commissioner Varvarigos said that he had heard it would be a pop-up court at Perry Park and he asked how that differs from the courts proposed for the other parks. How has it been functioning so far at Perry Park?

Orta said that the way it is working now, the players bring their net and set it up to play pickleball. And how it would work in the future is part of the discussion.

Commissioner Varvarigos said that Perry Park is a multi-use park already, and he is concerned that some of the other sports for which the park is currently used would suffer if a permanent pickleball court took over that space. But he would support the idea of pop-up equipment to be provided by the City. He likes the plan for Alta Vista Park and Aviation Park. He is not in favor of reducing the size of the field at Anderson Park for pickleball courts, but he would not be opposed to converting a tennis court at Anderson Park. He agreed with Commissioner Korman-Sooter that Perry Allison is not a good location for pickleball.

Commissioner Rowe asked if there was room to add a sixth court at Alta Vista Park, and Pamela replied that there was not enough room next to the one court on the drawing.

Commissioner Light said he has never seen the tennis courts at Anderson empty. So, he would be very concerned about losing one of the tennis courts at Anderson Park. Since Aviation Park is the only option that really provides six courts in one location, he is in favor of the Aviation Park location as the first choice.

Pamela Brown detailed the cost estimate for the individual stand-alone court that would include the concrete pad, court striping, fences and gates, poles and netting, one bench, and lighting. The cost would be approximately \$53,300 for one stand-alone court. If you add sports lighting, it would be \$40,000 more and the colorful sports court surfacing would add about \$5,000.

Several e-comments from the public were read to the Commission by Michelle Pinedo, Recreation Supervisor. Four residents from the Franklin Park neighborhood expressed opposition to installing pickleball courts at Franklin Park citing concerns about parking, nighttime noise, light pollution and the safety of children. One resident who lives directly opposite Franklin Park would like to have the basketball court available for the kids in the neighborhood and the open grassy space available for them to play soccer as opposed to converting the spaces to be used for pickleball. Several of the comments mentioned their concern about increased traffic on the street bordering Franklin Park and safety concerns.

Chairman McCauley congratulated the Franklin Park neighborhood community for making their voices heard at tonight's meeting.

Michelle Pinedo said there were three residents attending via Zoom, and said that if they wished, each would be allowed to speak to the Commission for three minutes.

Desiree Galassi introduced herself, saying that she is a resident of Redondo Beach who is the moderator of a Facebook group of pickleball players. She thanked the Commissioners for considering this issue and expressed her wish for a swift implementation of pickleball courts in Redondo Beach. She said that they need more than one location for pickleball based on the geography of Redondo Beach. Her recommendation was to restripe one of the tennis courts at Alta Vista for shared use with removable nets to be supplied by the City. She advocated for a drop-in schedule and would like to have a similar arrangement with two pickleball courts at the

Perry Park location. She would like the City to plan for stand-alone pickleball courts at Aviation Park. She suggested having the City form a partnership with RBUSD to rent some of their tennis courts for pickleball.

None of the other attendees requested to speak at this time.

Chair McCauley opened the discussion for the Commissioners to come up with a recommendation for the City Council. He expressed his support for installing four pickleball courts on one tennis court at Alta Vista Park, and the resurfacing at Perry Park to make two courts available there for shared use. He recommended eliminating some of the locations, such as Dominguez Park, Perry Allison Playfield, Franklin Park, and possibly Anderson Park.

Commissioner Varvarigos asked what they could propose to make the best use of the \$50,000 that has already been allocated for this purpose. He said if they focus on restriping, they could do more with the funds that are available. He thinks that Alta Vista is the number one location and the Commission should begin there.

Commissioner Korman-Soper said that everything Desiree Galassi articulated makes a lot of sense, especially focusing on a south Redondo option that is actually feasible right now, as well as the Perry Park option for north Redondo. She agreed with Chair McCauley on eliminating the parks that do not seem appropriate for pickleball.

Motion by Commissioner Korman-Soper, seconded by Commissioner Lang, to eliminate from consideration for pickleball the following locations: Franklin Park, Perry Allison Playfield, and Dominguez Park. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Escontrias absent.

Commissioner Escontrias joined the meeting at this time.

Motion by Commissioner Lang, seconded by Commissioner Rowe, to restripe one tennis court at Alta Vista Park ~~for shared use~~, and to resurface two courts in Perry Park, with removable fencing provided by the City. Motion carried, with Commissioner Varvarigos abstaining.

Commissioner Varvarigos suggested proposing a long-term goal of having a full six courts at Aviation Park eventually.

Commissioner Korman-Soper raised a question about the pickleball community's request to have locations in both north and south Redondo, and said that Aviation Park is about as far north as you can go in Redondo.

Commissioner Varvarigos suggested a friendly amendment to the motion to add the idea of installing the six courts at Aviation Park to the motion.

Commissioner Light commented that he thinks their points of view are coalescing and it seems that they are dismissing the idea of Anderson Park. He is not in favor of converting another tennis court at Anderson Park, because there are few tennis courts in North Redondo. He is in favor of a separate motion for the long-term goal of installing the six courts at Aviation Park. He recommends that the City Council figure out how they could do that as soon as possible.

Chair McCauley reminded the Commission that there is a potential issue with parking at the Aviation Park location, because we do not own the parking lot.

Commissioner Escontrias brought up the issue of activity saturation in some of these locations, and recommended looking at what goes on there currently to determine if we are putting too many things in any one park. He suggested starting off slowly to see what is the level of interest and then expanding from there.

Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Korman-Soooper, that the City Council consider the Aviation Park option for the long-term. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **J.4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Orta gave an update on the following items to the Commission:

- The City Council will be considering the Sailing Club issue, which was discussed at the last Commission meeting, at their first meeting in February.
- Following up on a request by Commissioner Escontrias, staff looked into why the Recreation and Parks Commission was not consulted about the two new dog park locations, but they were unable to find a specific reason why that occurred. In the future, staff is committed to having the Commission's voice heard on such issues.
- The request for information by Commissioner Varvarigos on the North Redondo bike path will be brought back to the next meeting.

#### **K. COMMISSIONER REFERRALS TO STAFF**

Commissioner Korman-Soooper had raised a question about a baby/toddler swing being missing for several months at Gregg Parkette, and wondered when it will be replaced.

Chair McCauley inquired about the over-watering at Alta Vista Park, and Orta said she thought they had put in a work order on that and said she will follow up on that as well as on Commissioner Korman-Soooper's concern about the baby swing.

Commissioner Light asked about the Boy Scout house being fenced off at Anderson Park. Orta said there is a capital improvement project for a new roof and minor improvements to the scout house, and she will get the details on that for the next meeting.

Chair McCauley asked about the status of the speed modifications for Alta Vista Park that had been discussed by a police officer at a previous meeting. Orta said she will do a little research into that.

#### **L. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Varvarigos, seconded by Commissioner Korman-Soooper, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair McCauley adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Cameron Harding  
Community Services Director