

**MINUTES OF THE
REDONDO BEACH HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

A. CALL TO ORDER

A Virtual regular meeting of the Harbor Commission was held pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020 and was called to order by Chair Kilroy at 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Bauer, Callahan, Carlson, Dalton, Light, Kilroy, Walters

Officials Present: Stephen Proud, W.E.D. Director
Laurie Koike, W.E.D.
Elizabeth Hause, W.E.D.
Vickie Kroneberger, Chief Deputy City Clerk

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Kilroy led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

D. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice Chair Light, seconded by Commissioner Dalton to approve the order of the agenda. Motion approved, unanimously, by roll call vote.

E. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS - None

E.1. For Blue Folder Documents Approved at the Harbor Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Callahan, seconded by Commissioner Bauer to receive and file the Blue Folder Items. Motion approved, unanimously, by roll call vote.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

F.1. Approval of Affidavit of Posting for the Harbor Commission Meeting of September 14, 2020

F.2. Approval of the Following Minutes: July 13, 2020

Chief Deputy City Clerk Vickie Kroneberger announced there were no public eComments or emails received from the public regarding the Consent Calendar.

Motion by Commissioner Callahan, seconded by Commissioner Dalton, to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented. Motion approved, unanimously, by roll call vote.

G. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - None

H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

H.1 For eComments and Emails Received from the Public

Chief Deputy City Clerk Vickie Kroneberger announced there were no public eComments or emails received from the public.

I. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS - None

J. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

J.1. Discussion and possible action on recommendations from the Harbor Commission to City Council regarding the possible advancement of project development for a skating facility at Parcel 10 on the pier

W.E.D. Director Stephen Proud introduced the item; provided background; discussed a feasibility analysis to evaluate various sites conducted by Spohn Ranch; spoke about the possible use of Parcel 10 on the pier as a location for the skate park and deferred to staff for further reporting.

City Engineer Andy Winje addressed the evolution of the project; discussed the various types of skating facilities and locations considered and deferred to the City consultant for a presentation.

Vince Onel, Spohn Ranch, displayed a PowerPoint presentation; presented an overview of the project; addressed site analysis criteria and types of skate parks; showed examples of the different types of skate parks at specific City sites and discussed an evaluation of those sites including costs. He provided a detailed evaluation of Parcel 10 noting it is an underutilized area that could be turned into a positive space and addressed costs, a project timeline, and a rating of the different sites. In terms of Parcel 10, he reported the space can be used for other purposes including yoga classes and movies.

David Bernier, Resident, provided a brief history of the process; discussed his background and efforts towards the possibility of a skate park in the City; spoke about an evaluation of Dominguez Park and addressed Council direction to consider the possibility of Parcel 10 as the site for a skate park and funding. Regarding the latter, he reported the L.A. Kings have donated \$25,000, through the Police Foundation and is earmarked for skate park development.

Vice Chair Light spoke in support of skate boarding; expressed concerns regarding protecting pedestrians and skate boarders around the walkways and asked about hours of operation and controlling usage.

Mr. Onel reported that 80% of skate parks are not fenced and are usually open dawn-to-dusk and noted the square footage of the Parcel 10 site.

Vice Chair Light suggested installing a pump track around the perimeter and using the existing wall as a feature.

Mr. Bernier noted being open to other opportunities and integrating existing features into the skate park while being respectful of the space.

Vice Chair Light felt the project would invigorate the area and attract people to nearby restaurants and retailers.

Mr. Bernier spoke about creating new energy for the space; talked about the possibility of including public art on the site; discussed concerns expressed by vendors regarding public safety and losing public table space and reported the skateboard community polices itself.

Mr. Onel noted the possibility of hosting skate clinics, skate lessons and camps to instruct younger riders about skate park etiquette and how to safely access and use the facility to minimize potential public safety issues.

In reply to Vice Chair Light's question regarding donating to the cause, Mr. Bernier reported once the first wave of funding comes through, people will be able to donate towards the skate park through the Police Foundation.

Commissioner Callahan commented positively on the report and asked about potential impacts to the Tidelands Fund and Mr. Onel discussed on-going maintenance costs and talked about providing for scooters and access to all non-motorized wheels.

Commissioner Callahan asked about possible impacts to the Center Cal claim and Director Proud spoke about Council consideration of the project and their willingness to go forward depending on the Center Cal situation.

In reply to Commissioner Callahan's questions, Mr. Bernier commented on the Galleria site for a skate park noting it is still in the plans and questioned installing a gas juncture at Dominguez Park (a former dump site).

City Engineer Andy Winje reported the gas project is founded on solid ground, below the landfill site; noted benefits to the City and explained how it was determined unsuitable for a skate park.

In response to Commissioner Bauer's questions, Mr. Bernier reported on the installation of skateboard deterrents at Czuleger Park noting it was done after receiving complaints from nearby residents regarding noise.

Mr. Onel commented on increased liability to the City and reported if the City posts proper signage, according to the California Health and Safety Code, the City would be immune from liability.

Commissioner Dalton opined the skate park will be used all night, if there is visibility and Mr. Onel agreed but felt it would dissipate over time, after enforcement and educating users regarding hours of operation. Mr. Bernier added it seems to be a lighting issue; stated he is willing to do what is best for the City and commented on a skate park that was shut down for two weeks hours of operation were abused. Commissioner Dalton expressed concerns with the fact that it is on the waterfront and dew may cause slips and injuries. Mr. Onel stated he has not seen that as an issue on the concrete slab and most signage warns against using the park when it is wet or during inclement weather.

Mr. Bernier noted it has not been an issue at the skate park on Venice Beach.

Commissioner Dalton noted the need to know the maintenance costs of the park and stated he would like to consider options for hours of operation. Additionally, he expressed concerns regarding using the site for other events and opined the site is not flexible for other uses.

Director Proud discussed regular users of the site and possible events that could utilize the space. Commissioner Dalton asked whether the plans have been reviewed by the Pier Association and Director Proud reported it has not but stated it would be helpful to get their input.

Commissioner Dalton reiterated the importance of maintaining flexibility for other users of the space and Mr. Onel noted that movability conflicts with durability and reported that movable features would require added maintenance.

Director Proud noted this is a situation where the City is trying to create a public amenity and the City would be stewards of the facility, going forward.

Commissioner Dalton also expressed concerns regarding conflicts between skate boarders and pedestrians along the pier and boardwalk when skate boarders are trying to access the park.

Chair Kilroy suggested the Commission craft a recommendation and develop a list of concerns that should be considered prior to moving ahead with the project.

Commissioner Carlson spoke in favor of the project; declared support for taking better advantage of existing City parks; suggested adding a curb to avoid skate boards from going in the water; expressed concerns regarding potential parking issues; felt that comments from nearby vendors should be taken into account and discussed the need to study access to and from the skate park. Additionally, he expressed concern regarding loss of seating; spoke about having other events on the site; suggested including a feature that could double as a band stand and felt the cost of the project is reasonable. Commissioner Carlson recommended looking at locating viewing seating, taking advantage of the existing wall to mitigate noise, and installing a water bottle fill station instead of a drinking fountain.

Mr. Bernier noted there is always room for growth and improvement and discussed the proprietary design.

Chair Kilroy wondered why Seaside Lagoon was not considered as a location.

Commissioner Walters spoke about the multi-use of the space; agreed with integrating electrical drops; felt vendor concerns need to be addressed and spoke in support of the project.

Vice Chair Light spoke to concerns about skaters versus cyclists; suggested adding drop-in pipes for rails to accommodate other uses; commented positively on expanding park space and asked about using aluminum instead of steel. Mr. Olen stated aluminum is too soft to use as rails.

Director Proud discussed actions by the Harbor Commission, going forward and suggested review of the project by the Commission, after the final design has been completed.

Motion by Vice Chair Light, seconded by Commissioner Callahan, that the Harbor Commission express support of Parcel 10 for a skate park to the City Council; request that staff return to the Commission with a final design, once it is determined.

Commissioner Dalton suggested incorporating Commission concerns into the motion.

Chair Kilroy recommended listing the concerns of the Commission for Council to consider and mitigate. He asked whether there are members of the public wishing to comment on this item.

Warren Chun stated he lives near Franklin Park; reported recently visiting Harbor City Park where skateboarders continued to skate after dark, with flashlights; noted Franklin Park is one of the quietest parks in Redondo Beach; opined a skate park there would be very challenging; noted it is next to Friendship Foundation, which is a special needs facility and urged the Commission to keep it as is. He referenced a petition with 53 signatures of residents opposed to a skate park in Franklin Park.

Chair Kilroy explained the Commission is only considering Parcel 10 at this time and suggested presenting his concerns to City Council.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Kroneberger read an eComment from Rochelle Marines, Business Owner, in opposition to building a skate park on Parcel 10 listing concerns with loss of seating for nearby restaurants, use by other groups and public safety of skate boarders and pedestrians. Chief Deputy City Clerk Kroneberger announced there were no other comments submitted.

Commissioner Bauer indicated he would like to hear from the Pier Association regarding this item.

Chair Kilroy agreed and suggested it be included in the Commission's recommendations to City Council.

Amended motion by Vice Chair Light, seconded by Commissioner Callahan, that the Harbor Commission voice its support of Parcel 10 for a skate park to the City Council and listing the following concerns: Hours of operation, replacement seating used in the area and a safety plan that addresses ingress, egress and containing boards from the water; obtain input from surrounding businesses and request that staff return to the Commission with a final design, once it is determined.

Commissioner Carlson offered a friendly amendment to the motion to recommend that City Council study traffic flow and suggested the applicants develop a plan for how skateboarders get in and out.

Chair Kilroy offered a friendly amendment to the motion to recommend that Parcel 10 is maintained as a multi-use facility.

Vice Chair Light and Commissioner Callahan accepted the friendly amendments.

Commissioner Dalton suggested adding a statement to maintain flexibility for existing users by designing removable equipment or coordinating with users, upfront.

Vice Chair Light stated he is not in agreement as he does not believe equipment can be removable and Councilmember Callahan noted she would need to rescind her second if the statement is added.

Chair Kilroy stated he would be willing to consider the matter when staff returns to the Commission with a final design.

Amended motion by Vice Chair Light, seconded by Commissioner Callahan, that the Harbor Commission voice its support of Parcel 10 for a skate park to the City Council and listing the following concerns: Hours of operation, replacement seating used in the area, a safety plan that addresses ingress, egress and containing boards from the water, study traffic flow, maintain Parcel 10 as a multi-use facility and obtain input from surrounding businesses and request that staff return to the Commission with a final design, once it is determined. Motion approved, 6-1, with Commissioner Bauer opposed, by roll call vote.

Mr. Bernier offered to work with nearby businesses to address their concerns.

J.2. Director's Report

Previous Council Items

- City Council discussed the Capital Improvement Project to improve the pier sails at the waterfront and potential incorporation of public art into the project and Council decided to move forward with the repair/restoration project and not incorporate public art into it but look at the potential of including night lighting
- City Council discussed the feasibility study for the skate park
- City Council accepted the repairs and railing rehabilitation for the garage work underway
- City Council discussed and considered the process for selecting Harbor Commissioners from a list of names submitted by the harbor and pier lessees and Council requested the City Attorney to draft an amendment to the ordinance that would require that the King Harbor Association draft a list of names, in coordination with the Pier Association and submit those names by a date certain otherwise, the Mayor would be able to appoint a Harbor Commissioner, at large
- City Council discussed and considered appointments to the various commissions
- City Council selected October 29, 2020 as the City's next strategic planning session

Upcoming Council Items

- City Council will consider the second reading of the ordinance on the process for selecting a Harbor Commissioner
- City Council will make appointments to the various commissions

Miscellaneous Follow-up Items

- W.E.D. continues to address impacts of COVID-19 to lessees and is working on a rent-payment program
- Staff received notice that Ruby's was closing as well as Polly's
- Leasing activities are starting to move through the system
- There will be no events on the pier for the remainder of the year
- The Harbor Commission's recommendation to continue the falconry program was approved by City Council
- The rinse-off station behind Seaside Lagoon was completed
- Council will consider plans to upgrade pier restrooms and make circulation improvements to the Plaza parking structure
- Staff will be pulling the small hand launch for cleaning and repairs

At Chair Kilroy's request, Director Proud talked about the pier rent deferral program and associated risks in terms of businesses that close.

In reply to Commissioner Carlson's question, Director Proud spoke about the length of time that outdoor seating will last, noting it will be weather driven and COVID driven. Commissioner Carlson suggested considering it long-term or permanently and recommended advising people that parking can be paid for, electronically, online.

Vice Chair Light asked whether a recent band on a boat in the Harbor was an approved event and Director Proud stated it was not; stated a second event was intercepted and cancelled and reported

staff is reviewing the matter. Additionally, Director Proud discussed the need to develop a licensing structure if outdoor seating were to become permanent and addressed completion of the shower.

Commissioner Dalton suggested including signage with information regarding the hand launch facility.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Vickie Kroneberger announced there were no public eComments or emails received from the public.

K. MEMBER ITEMS AND REFERRALS TO STAFF

Vice Chair Light requested contact information for Mr. Olen and Mr. Bernier.

Commissioner Dalton announced this will be his last meeting as a Harbor Commissioner and thanked City Council, fellow Commissioners, and staff for the opportunity to serve.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice Chair Light, seconded by Commissioner Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously approved by roll call vote.

At 8:52 p.m., Chair Kilroy adjourned the meeting to the next regular meeting on October 12, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,


Stephen Proud, Director
Waterfront & Economic Development