

**MINUTES OF THE
REDONDO BEACH RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 11, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Recreation and Parks Commission was called to order by Vice-Chair Varvarigos at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Arrata, Berling, Korman-Soooper, Varvarigos
Commissioners Absent: None
Officials Present: John LaRock, Community Services Director
Teresa Hartman, Recording Secretary

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Vice-Chair Varvarigos led the Salute to the Flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chair Varvarigos announced that Chair Taylor has resigned from the Commission.

APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Arrata, seconded by Commissioner Berling, to approve the Order of Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

- a. Approval of Affidavit of Posting for the Recreation and Parks Commission Regular Meeting of March 11, 2020.
- b. Approval of the minutes of the Recreation and Parks Commission Regular Meeting of November 13, 2019, January 8, 2020, and February 12, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Berling, seconded by Commissioner Arrata, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

5.a. Commission Input Related to Development of Goals and Objectives for the City's Strategic Plan

Community Services Director LaRock reported that in October, 2019 the City Council held their bi-annual Strategic Planning Session. At that time the Council reviewed the City's ten-year goals. Three options for the ten-year goals emerged from this meeting, and the Council

has requested input from the various Commissions on these three options. Option 1 consists of the City's existing goals, Option 2 includes some revisions to the existing ten-year goals, and Option 3 includes a more detailed list of ten-year goals proposed by Councilman Horvath. The three options are detailed in the staff report. The Council has directed City staff to obtain from the Commissions their input on the three alternatives. Whatever the Commission recommends in regard to their preferred option will be communicated to the City Council. The next Strategic Planning Session will be in April. Director LaRock asked for the comments of the Commission.

Commissioner Korman-Soofer made a motion to put forth Option 3 as the Commission's recommendation to City Council. She commented that it was impressive and extremely detailed. The only thing she would change is under the category of Economic Development, she would reorder number 2 and number 3, making The Waterfront number 2.

Community Services Director LaRock said he does not believe the items are listed in priority order, and suggested that the items could be listed as bullet points rather than being numbered.

Commissioner Arrata inquired why there wasn't a more comprehensive list of goals and objectives in prior years.

Community Services Director LaRock replied that ten-year goals often survive the term of a council member, and these long-term goals are considered to be evergreen. Regardless of who our elected officials, commissioners, and staff will be, the ten-year goals are universally applicable. That is why you have broad aspirational long-term goals, and from those you derive what your work program will be in the near term.

Commissioner Berling seconded the motion of Commissioner Korman-Soofer to recommend Option 3. He asked how the recommendations from the City's General Plan can be integrated into the ten-year goals as detailed in Option 3.

Community Services Director LaRock said that these ten-year goals, once adopted, will remain unchanged, so if the Commissioners want to add anything pertaining to Parks and Recreation, now would be the time to do that.

Commissioner Berling noted a trend in the City to an older population, and talked about locating recreational opportunities within walking distance of residents. He asked whether Option 3 would include an assessment of what we are doing.

Community Services Director LaRock replied that we have regular assessment of our recreation programming, on a quarterly basis. You could add a goal that says to apply the analysis and goals of the park element of the General Plan, in order to connect the two documents.

Commissioner Arrata referred to an item in Option 3 where the abbreviation FD was used, and said the acronyms should be spelled out rather than abbreviated.

Commissioner Varvarigos said that he likes Option 3. He suggested including a mention of native habitat connectivity for wildlife, and he would like to add his recommendation, as well as Commissioner Berling's recommendation to include a reference to the park elements of the General Plan, as friendly amendments to the original motion of Commissioner Korman-Soofer, which was seconded by Commissioner Berling. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Services Director LaRock said that staff will prepare a brief memorandum stating the motion to support Option 3 with the amendments added to the Option 3 detail, and he will provide this recommendation to the City Council.

5.b. Pat Dreizler Parks Facility Dedication

Community Services Director LaRock introduced the topic and said that Pat Dreizler is one of the most renowned and active members of the Redondo Beach community. Years ago, she ran the Recreation Department for the City. She has received accolades for her work with the Redondo Beach Women's Club, the Redondo Beach Education Foundation, the School District, and the Beach Cities Health District. She was the founder of the Redondo Beach Historical Museum, and was a longtime Chair of the Historical Commission. She and a co-author created the postcard book that is sold by the Historical Museum. She also worked on the Path of History signage throughout the City. Last year the South Bay Adult School was named after Pat Dreizler. What the City is now proposing is to rename the Heritage Court area at Dominguez Park for Pat Dreizler. This area includes the Historical Museum, also known as the Queen Anne House, and the Morrell House, and the courtyard with a rose garden and a fountain.

Motion by Commissioner Arrata, seconded by Commissioner Berling, to receive and file the report and to approve the renaming of Heritage Court in honor of Pat Dreizler. Motion carried unanimously.

5.c. Draft Open Space and Conservation Element of the General Plan Update

Community Services Director LaRock presented a draft of the open space and conservation element of the new General Plan. The City convened the General Plan Advisory Committee back in April, 2017. They have been working diligently and meeting on a monthly basis since then, with the goal of providing the City with a road map for the next twenty-five to fifty years. An element of the General Plan is focused on open space and conservation. It describes in great detail what the current inventories and capacities of the City's park systems are, and it describes strategies to build upon, expand and improve these systems, and forecasts the funding needed to do so. The conservation section is managed by Community Development and Public Works, so we are not looking specifically at that tonight, but that deals with our natural resources of water and land and air. This draft of the General Plan was first completed in December, 2019. The General Plan Advisory Committee will consider the final draft of the plan at their meeting in April. Following that, it will go to the Planning Commission for review. Then it will be sent to the City Council. If they approve it, then it goes to a vote of the people of Redondo Beach, as required in the City's Charter. Director LaRock said that Commissioners may provide their comments tonight and may also comment later by sending him an email.

Commissioner Berling said they did a nice job on the plan, and he asked how you get from the bullet points in the plan to what we can expect for the next eighteen to thirty-six months.

Community Services Director LaRock said the General Plan is deliberately non-specific as to who and what and when. For example, it states a goal to acquire land for park facilities. But it does not specify a date, because that is not predictable. We're not including specific target dates, because these are aspirational goals meant to be for twenty-five to fifty years. We use the plan to aim toward what is possible within the constraints we have to work with at the time. These are guideposts by which we will respond to opportunities in the future.

Commissioner Korman-Soooper asked about AES and the right-of-way, how much and what areas of that land they are looking to acquire for open space.

Community Services Director LaRock said that in order for a development project at the AES site to go forward, there is a required restoration of wetlands, which could be up to 1.5 or 1.8 acres. In addition, there is a proposed plan for the City to acquire any number of acres at the site in a deal with the incoming owner. According to what has been in the media, the City is still very hopeful that they're going to be able to acquire some form of acreage at the AES site, above and beyond the wetlands. The City still awaits the decision at the state level for what the operating schedule for the AES plant will be, beyond December of 2020. There is discussion at the state level to extend the AES operation as a power plant to December 2021 or 2022. The mayor and Council and staff are advocating for no extension beyond 2020. That decision will affect the timing of when we can even consider land acquisition. Then there will be the process of land acquisition by the developer, as well as land remediation. If the power plant is operating beyond 2020, the power lines that bring that energy inland have to stay too. We are in a holding pattern until we know the date when the AES power plant stops operations.

Commissioner Korman-Soooper asked if there is controversy about how this land should be used.

Community Services Director LaRock said there are no plans for the AES property currently, either from a developer or the City. It is private property and it is zoned for industrial and open space. If the developer wants to use it for any other purpose, he has to go to the voters to approve a zoning change.

Commissioner Korman-Soooper said that what she would add to the General Plan, in regards to the Galleria and the Waterfront, would be a requirement that any future development would include some sort of open green space.

Community Services Director LaRock said that requirement is already part of the Land Use Ordinance. He agreed it would be good to include a reference to the Land Use Ordinance and usable open space in this section, to reinforce this as a priority.

Commissioner Korman-Soooper commented on the section on page 25 referring to school sites. She said you have to be careful with allowing residents to access school sites during off hours, for safety purposes. That idea may come with its share of issues.

Community Services Director LaRock suggested we could clarify the language to refer to structured access under the supervision of the City or its affiliates, and to mention specific targeted locations for specific recreation uses.

Commissioner Korman-Soooper said she was surprised last week to see her son's school used as a location for voting. It was pretty much an open campus to the public for two days, and that was very disconcerting, as a parent, and somewhat disconcerting for some of the teachers.

Community Services Director LaRock suggested providing feedback about the voting process to the City Clerk.

Commissioner Korman-Soooper also said the General Plan has not been updated to include the new language regarding dogs in parks.

Community Services Director LaRock said that once that is approved by the City Council, it will be added to the General Plan.

Commissioner Varvarigos said it has been a pleasure to go to some of the GPAC meetings and to hear the discussions. He said there has been a lot of outreach and feedback from community members. He is pretty satisfied going through the open space and conservation section. His concern is to advocate for native habitat restoration and there are sections in the plan that incorporate that.

Motion by Commissioner Berling, seconded by Commissioner Arrata, to receive and file the report and to recommend the edits and comments from the Commissioners to the General Plan Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMISSIONER REFERRALS TO STAFF

Commissioner Berling said he wanted to follow up on the status of installing pickleball courts.

Community Services Director LaRock replied that solutions to this issue will be presented to the City Council as part of the fiscal year 2020-21 Capital Improvement Project budget, because it is going to take a larger investment by the City than originally estimated. It will be a budgetary consideration for the Council.

Commissioner Berling inquired about a data system coming online for usage of the parks.

Community Services Director LaRock said there is a Strategic Plan Objective for how we monitor and evaluate the parks system and all of its amenities. The Public Works Department is currently using a field tablet-based system to monitor all roads and sidewalks in the City so that they can respond to needed repairs. There is technology for a similar system for parks and recreation facilities. Public Works is preparing a report for the City Council about what that might cost, how it is implemented, how it is used. That is in process as a strategic objective, and there is reporting to the Council on April 17th.

Commissioner Berling asked if you would have a usage report for the parks along with that.

Community Services Director LaRock replied that for recreation classes or events organized by the City, they have an exact count of participants, but for general use of the parks by the public, there is no way to capture that data.

Commissioner Berling suggested having an online system to process dog license applications.

Community Services Director LaRock replied that the infrastructure and technology that the City currently uses may not provide the convenience Commissioner Berling recommended. There is a strategic plan objective for making certain permits accessible online, but we are not there yet.

Commissioner Varvarigos announced that this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the South Bay Parkland Conservancy will be doing native habitat restoration in Wilderness Park, and a couple of student groups are coming out, and they have an Eagle Scout who is starting his project, and it is open to any other community members and is family friendly.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Berling, seconded by Commissioner Korman-Soper, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Vice-Chair Varvarigos adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John LaRock
Community Services Director