

**MINUTES OF THE
REDONDO BEACH RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
December 9, 2020**

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Recreation and Parks Commission, conducted as a Zoom meeting, was called to order by Chairwoman Korman-Soooper at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Arrata, Berling, Korman-Soooper, Varvarigos, Escontrias,
Almeida, McCauley

Commissioners Absent: None

Officials Present: Laurie Koike, Interim Community Services Director
Khatirah Nazif, City Clerk's Office

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

At the request of Chairwoman Korman-Soooper, Commissioner Berling led the Salute to the Flag.

D. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA

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

E. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS

None.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

1. Approval of Affidavit of Posting for the Recreation and Parks Commission Regular Meeting of December 9, 2020.
2. Approval of the minutes of the Recreation and Parks Commission Regular Meeting of October 14, 2020.

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

G. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Interim Community Services Director Koike read an email signed by fifty-three City residents regarding proposed locations for a skatepark. They requested that the City remove Franklin Park from consideration as a possible location and listed a number of reasons, including the wish to keep Franklin Park as the serenity park it was intended to be. They expressed their objections to the ambient noise that would result from having a skatepark in that location. They stated that the volleyball court is currently used for several purposes and should remain as it is.

Several Commissioners began a discussion or had questions about what prompted the email, but as this item was not on the agenda for discussion, Interim Director Koike replied that it was sent September 10th and an update went to City Council regarding this, and recommended that the Commission receive and file the email.

Motion by Commissioner Berling, seconded by Commissioner Varvarigos, to receive and file.
Motion carried unanimously.

I. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS

None.

J. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

J.1. CITY EMERGENCY ORDERS IN RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID19) AND IMPACT ON RECREATION FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

Interim Community Services Director Laurie Koike said that when she prepared her report for the Commission, playgrounds were still closed, but today they received new guidelines from the Los Angeles County Public Health Department allowing playgrounds to reopen. Therefore, the City will reopen all the playgrounds tomorrow. She read from the County's directive the updated list of places that must remain closed, as well as those that can now be opened.

Commissioner Berling commented on the fact that Manhattan Beach has designated their sidewalk areas where outdoor dining is taking place as "parkettes," and asked whether this is under consideration. Interim Director Koike replied that LA County is looking into this and it could be questionable.

Commissioner Almeida asked about access to the stairs that lead to the beach at Avenue "C" and wondered when this would be open to the public. Interim Director Koike said that beach access was on the County's list of closed spaces, but she is not sure what their reasoning is.

In answer to a question from Commissioner McCauley, Interim Director Koike said that the County has the authority over the stairs to the beach at Avenue "C."

Commissioner Escontrias asked whether Wilderness Park would fall under the guidelines for botanical gardens on the County's list. Commissioner Varvarigos replied that it is not classified as a botanical garden, and Interim Director Koike concurred.

Commissioner McCauley asked whether the yellow tape at City parks would be removed effective immediately, and Interim Director Koike replied that it would be removed.

Chair Korman-Soper commented on the confusion surrounding the COVID-19 rules in the City. Residents may be confused about whether facilities are open or closed and not sure what to do. She said that other beach cities have very specific signage, but Redondo Beach installed more generic signage.

Commissioner Escontrias said that the County's directives can be very confusing, and Redondo has adopted an adult approach in hopes that people will take responsibility for themselves and follow the rules, and it is incumbent upon citizens to stay informed.

Commissioner Arrata said that the situation with COVID-19 is very fast-moving and fluid, and asked if people can stay informed by finding updated information on the City's website. Interim Director Koike said yes, we do have current information available on the City's website.

Commissioner Almeida commented that in addition to City parks, there are school district fields where some teams play and practice, and they will make them leave if they see them using

those fields. In response to a question from Interim Director Koike, he said it is people from the school district who are making them leave.

Commissioner Varvarigos said he does not believe that increasing signage is the solution, but rather letting people know where to go to stay informed, such as the City's website.

Chair Korman-Soper said that we slapped on a bunch of State signage without individualizing it for our City, and the other beach cities have tailored the language on their signs to their more specific rules, and that she would like to make a motion to have City Council revisit the signage in all of our parks for clarity.

Commissioner Varvarigos asked whether the Chairperson is allowed to make a motion. In reply to a question from Interim Director Koike, Khatirah Nazif from the City Clerk's office responded and said that Chairpersons are not allowed to make a motion, but they can make a referral to staff later in the meeting.

Commissioner McCauley said he thinks a referral to staff would be better in this case. He would like to see what the signage actually is. Is it the "Play it Safe" sign that appears in some parks?

Motion by Commissioner Varvarigos, seconded by Commissioner Berling, to receive and file the report. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim Director Koike said she also attends the Harbor Commission meetings in her role for the Waterfront and Economic Development Department, and at those meetings there is a report by the Director at the end of the meeting. She would like to begin adding this to the Recreation and Parks Commission meetings, and she provided the following updates:

- They have selected Avalon Roofing to install a new roof at the Morrell House, with a contract not to exceed \$102,000, with a timeframe of 12/01/20 – 11/30/21.
- City Council members asked to have a presentation on the proposed community garden that was discussed at the last Recreation and Parks Commission meeting.
- At the next meeting in February, we will have an update on the Strategic Plan.
- At the February meeting, we will also have a Park Condition Report.
- The hand launch will be closed, but boats can be launched from the RB Marina.
- Two concerns have been raised about using Pad 10 for the proposed skatepark:
 - 1) Pad 10 is used for special events such as movie nights
 - 2) Concerns about skateboarders accessing Pad10 mingling with pedestrians.
- Dog park signs are currently being installed in 19 parks and parkettes.
- There will be free holiday parking at Riviera Village and the Pier Parking structure.
- Commissioners' Handbooks will be sent out to all the Commissioners soon.

Commissioner McCauley asked whether the possible locations for a community garden had been narrowed down. Commissioner Varvarigos replied that the next step will be for their presentation to be heard in front of City Council. Interim Director Koike said that she will have an update about this at the February meeting.

K. COMMISSIONER REFERRALS TO STAFF

Commissioner Berling asked whether they could have an update on the status of projects the Commission considered in 2020 and a list of goals for 2021.

Commissioner Arrata recommended considering an engineered wood fiber product for the pathways to be built as part of the Dominguez Park renovation.

Commissioner Varvarigos said residents have asked about fixing the timing of the lights in the Wilderness Park parking lot, which have not been updated to Daylight Savings Time.

Commissioner Escontrias asked about emails requesting repairs to the fencing around the Dog Park. Interim Director Koike asked him to have the emails sent to her.

Commissioner Escontrias suggested a list of contact names and numbers for entities who use the City parks, such as Little League, Wilderness Park, and the Dog Park.

Commissioner Almeida asked for staff to look into why the beach stairs at Avenue "C" are closed to City residents. He also responded to Commissioner Escontrias, saying that every year there is a new set of faces for the leagues.

Commissioner Almeida said that the backstop on the Julia side of the field at Alta Vista park needs a significant update.

Commissioner Korman-Soooper requested that staff revisit the signage posted in City parks for COVID 19.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Varvarigos, seconded by Commissioner McCauley, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Chair Korman-Soooper adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Koike
Interim Community Services Director