

CALL TO ORDER

A Virtual Meeting of the Redondo Beach Disaster Council was called to order by Chair Brand at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Brand, Vice Chair Hoefgen, Witzansky, Kauffman, Semaan, Keller, Knoll, Elder, Sharifi, Alderson, Sanford (left at 5:25 p.m.), Silverstrom, Ketchum, Metzger, Gausche-Hill, McKenzie, Bakaly (arrived at 4:44 p.m.), Ahn (arrived at 4:37 p.m./left at 5:55 p.m.)

Members Absent: Stratton

Officials Present: Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk
Michael Webb, City Attorney
Brandy Forbes, Community Development Director
Vickie Kroneberger, Chief Deputy City Clerk

SALUTE TO FLAG

A. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Member McKenzie, seconded by Member Elder, to approve the Order of the Agenda, as presented. Motion carried, by consensus, without objection.

B. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS – ADDITIONAL BACKUP MATERIAL - NONE

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

C.1. APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE REDONDO BEACH DISASTER COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 27, 2020.

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

C.2. APPROVE MOTION TO READ BY TITLE ONLY AND WAIVE FURTHER READING OF ALL RESOLUTIONS LISTED ON THE AGENDA.

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

C.3. APPROVE THE FOLLOWG DISASTER COUNCIL MINUTES:

- A. April 9, 2020, Regular Meeting
- B. April 23, 2020 Special Meeting

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

Chief Deputy City Clerk Kroneberger announced there were no communications from the public on this item.

Motion by Member Sharifi, seconded by Member Witzansky, to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented. Motion carried, by consensus, without objection.

D. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - NONE

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - NONE

Chief Deputy City Clerk Kroneberger announced there were no communications from the public on this item.

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

F.1. SUMMARY OF CITY EMERGENCY ORDERS AND UPDATED CIRCUMSTANCES SINCE THE DISASTER COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2020

F.2. STATUS OF HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS/CAPACITY AND COVID-19 TESTING EFFORTS

F.3. STATUS OF COUNTY/CITY RECOVERY PLANNING EFFORTS

Vice Chair Hoefgen presented a summary listing of all actions taken by the City related to program closures, postponements and restrictions relative to COVID-19 from the initial proclamation of a local emergency, to date. He addressed the opening of parking lots, tennis courts and the City's Farmers Market; shared additional recommended lifts in restrictions and closures including the pedestrian path on the beach, Veterans Park, George Freeth Way, parking associated with the pier, the International Boardwalk and noted the City would like to see the pier open for business, in its totality. He asked for input from the Disaster Council; noted things change daily and reported staff is working on the budget in preparation for upcoming budget hearings.

Chair Brand discussed the chain of regulation being the County and the State; reported the County is applying for a variance for restaurants and other businesses and asked Member Dr. Gausche-Hill for her input regarding the proposed opening of businesses.

Member Dr. Gausche-Hill noted there is great capacity in hospitals, currently; reported LA County EMS will continue to track it; stated the COVID-19 burden is about 28% in hospitals and 30% in ICUs and displayed current County data relative to hospital capacity. She discussed an Emergency Use Authorization Program for Remdesivir, an anti-viral used to treat Ebola patients, being donated to the County; addressed successes of the drug including reducing the number of days a patient is in the hospital and a possible impact early on in the disease and described her agency and its roles.

Member Sharifi asked what the City can do to help small businesses and reported he has six small businesses go under in the last two weeks.

Chair Brand reiterated the County has made a request to open restaurants and other businesses through a variance.

Member Sanford referenced Temporary Use Permits and allowing businesses and restaurants to use adjacent space for social distancing and asked whether there was consensus to do so by City Council.

Chair Brand reported Council did not reach consensus but discussed it, but noted the issue is under the jurisdiction of the State and County, which the City must follow.

Member Elder spoke in support of reopening City facilities as recommended by staff while maintaining face-covering and social distancing protocols.

Chair Brand confirmed the City can request reopening the pier.

Vice Chair Hoefgen discussed the possibility of separating the pier.

City Attorney Webb reported the City has a referral to change the definition of “pier” for the duration of the emergency; stated the County has closed all piers but the City Council could change the definition of “pier” through an emergency order.

Chair Brand suggested the City issue a letter to the County requesting the opening of the pier for retail.

City Attorney Webb indicated the City Council could take action that would allow retail businesses to open.

Member Witzansky reported the County does not operate a pier structure; agreed it should be more of a local decision and hoped the County will be receptive to allowing the City to reopen portions of the pier.

Member Semaan shared a working map showing three different scenarios for reopening portions of the pier.

Member Ketchum commended County Supervisor Hahn for her efforts during this crisis; discussed how other counties are helping businesses; suggested that as businesses prepare to reopen, the City help them identify a safe reopening plan and provide clarity as to what particular services and business facilities are open and addressed the possibility of allowing temporary outdoor dining. He encouraged the City to be more lenient in accommodating outdoor dining.

Chair Brand reported City Council has been discussing closing Catalina Avenue to allow for outdoor dining.

Member Sanford noted there is a wrong way and right way to reopen restaurants; stated it is hard to get accurate information and reported any lead time that could be offered would be helpful as it would take two to three weeks to get ready to open. He suggested putting restrictions on the Temporary Use Permits with proper protocols for reopening.

Member Ketchum asked if the City is working on reopening plans; Vice Chair Hoefgen reported Council has had discussions to work with different health districts and outreach to various Chambers.

Member Bakaly discussed a reopening guide, COVID-19 Recovery: Tri-Cities Business Guidance; reviewed details of the document; noted it has been distributed to all businesses in the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce; reported they meet weekly with the Chamber; stated the Health District can help businesses acquire PPE and felt that restaurants and hair salons will likely be opening, soon.

Member Knoll confirmed the document was sent to Chamber members as well as their entire email list; suggested the City consider opening the facilities it can and addressed results of a

survey noting that most Chamber members are businesses with a single person or two-five employees.

Member McKenzie commented on the hardships on business owners; reported one of the biggest problems is lack of understanding on how COVID-19 can be acquired and prevented; noted one of the requests has been for the Health District or the City providing uniform signage and/or collateral materials that businesses can display about ways to prevent the virus and what people can and cannot do. Additionally, she suggested the possibility of allowing restaurants, especially along the Artesia corridor, to open their parking lots for outdoor dining and urged the City to do what it can do to help small businesses.

Chair Brand noted there are a lot of inconsistencies in terms of the information available.

Member Dr. Gausche-Hill explained risk behaviors for transmitting COVID-19; felt it makes sense for restaurants to be allowed to offer outdoor dining; reported the virus is transmitted via droplets; stressed that face-coverings and hand washing are critical and suggested the City post guidelines from Public Health regarding appropriate safety protocols.

Member McKenzie explained most people feel confident the City has taken appropriate steps to fight against COVID-19 and recommended the City sustain that high-level of confidence by providing uniform information about ways to safely reopen.

Member Bakaly reiterated Beach Cities Health District already has that guidance, available and urged people to visit their website for it. He offered posters to distribute to businesses.

Chair Brand agreed the information should be clear and simple.

Member Ketchum reported his company created its own reopening plan; referenced a comprehensive plan published by the County of San Diego and noted challenges with keeping the information uniform, as each area has its idiosyncrasies that must be taken into consideration.

Vice Chair Hoefgen reported there seems to be consensus for the City to proceed with lifting restrictions as recommended in the report.

Member Alderson provided an update on the Galleria; agreed it will take time to reopen, safely; noted they are trying to understand the proper operating procedures, going forward; addressed challenges in tracking and spoke about the importance of being prepared. He reported they have a goal to reopen the Galleria on June 1, 2020; stated he cannot guarantee all stores will open; noted they have PPEs ready as well as proper sanitary and security measures and discussed working with the Beach Cities Health District to ensure the Galleria Testing Center remains in operation, safely, during reopening. Member Alderson addressed the importance of messaging so that the public perceives the operation is safe; reported some restaurants stayed open with marginal success; stated they are considering safety protocols for the Food Court, seating and indoor seating and they are working hard to open as soon as possible.

At Chair Brand's request, Member Alderson provided a brief update on the Galleria redevelopment plans; noted they are considering phasing it, but it has been designed as one project.

Member Ketchum discussed growth in recreational boating nationwide; reported most lakes in California are open; spoke about continued enjoyment of ocean boating and spoke in support of opening King Harbor.

Member Elder pointed out the summer has arrived; stated data showed there was a spike in hospitality traffic during the Memorial Day weekend and asked about Council's ability to move into Phase 3 in the event the variance is not approved. She noted a sense of urgency in timing, as summer is the busiest season for the hospitality industry.

City Attorney Webb reported the City cannot make legal something that the County has deemed illegal, as the County's orders supersede the City's orders. He believed the City's role, going forward, should be to persuade County officials of the importance of changing their orders with options for opening safely.

Community Development Director Forbes addressed the Temporary Use Permit process for allowing expansions of dining areas into parking lots to meet restaurant capacity while maintaining social distancing; reported the County does not have a reopening plan for restaurants yet, and stated as soon as the information is available, the City can begin accepting applications for Temporary Use Permits.

F.4. FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE REDONDO BEACH DISASTER COUNCIL

Chair Brand suggested scheduling another Disaster Council meeting in two weeks and encouraged Members to contact him with questions or information.

Member Dr. Gausche-Hill spoke about the importance to continue caution and safety protocols and continuing to monitor the virus, closely.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Kroneberger announced an e-comment submitted by Sarah Martin asking about plans to reopen BCHD Center for Health and Fitness, addressing the benefits of the center and speaking in support of its staff.

Member Bakaly stated BCHD's top priority continues to be the health and wellbeing of residents and continues to monitor data, daily, to determine when and how to reopen the facility safely. He estimated opening after gyms can open in the State and County and addressed rerouting employees and functions. Additionally, he said it is up to everyone to be their own health ambassador; spoke about our ability to change outcome with behavior; hoped people will continue to do so and promised to continue providing updated information as it becomes available.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Kroneberger announced an e-comment submitted by Tom Bauer asking whether the eviction moratorium will be lifted in June.

Vice Chair Hoefgen reported the moratorium on evictions is a State order and explained circumstances under which landlords can and cannot evict a tenant.

Member Silverstrom stated the County has an order that ends June 30, 2020.

Member Ketchum reported the plan does not provide free rent, but rather a deferment and discussed "takers" without the possibility of a recourse for landlords.

Vice Chair Hoefgen reported rent deferments in the Harbor are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

ADJOURNMENT

The Disaster Council meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m., by consensus, without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

Eleanor Manzano

72F2AC716C214CF...

Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk