

**MINUTES OF THE
REDONDO BEACH RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2021**

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, Korman-Soooper, Varvarigos, Escontrias,
Almeida, McCauley
Commissioners Absent: Berling
Officials Present: Laurie Koike, Interim Community Services Director
Ted Semaan, Public Works Director
Michael Klein, Deputy Public Works Director
Alberto Alejandre, Urban Forestry Manager
Rob Osborne, Senior Management Analyst

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

At the request of Chair Korman-Soooper, Commissioner McCauley led the Salute to the Flag.

D. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA

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

E. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS

Interim Director Koike noted that the Blue Folder Items consisted of various photos of playground and park amenities submitted by commissioner Arrata. They are related to Item J-1 on the agenda and can be discussed at that time.

Motion by Commissioner Varvarigos, seconded by Commissioner Almeida, to approve the Blue Folder Items. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Berling absent.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

1. Approval of Affidavit of Posting for the Recreation and Parks Commission Regular Meeting of February 10, 2021.
2. Approval of the minutes of the Recreation and Parks Commission Regular Meeting of December 9, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Arrata, seconded by Commissioner McCauley, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Berling 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. RECEIVE AND FILE AN UPDATED REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF AMENITIES IN CITY PARKS AND PARKETTES

Interim Community Services Director Laurie Koike introduced this item, saying that we are pleased to have members of the Public Works Department present at the meeting to report on the condition of parks and parkettes and to present a summary of projects the Commissioners have recently inquired about. She introduced Ted Semaan, the Director of Public Works.

Public Works Director Ted Semaan introduced the other members of the Public Works Department who were present at the meeting: Michael Klein, Deputy Director of Public Works, Alberto Alejandre, Urban Forestry Manager, and Rob Osborne, Senior Management Analyst.

Rob Osborne of Public Works then presented a report to the Commission. He displayed on the screen a report on the condition of various amenities in City parks and parkettes as of December, 2020. He said that Albert, the Parks Manager, spent some time in December looking at the condition of all the facilities and the grass and turf in every park. He explained that this report breaks it down into three categories—good, fair, and poor—and each amenity in every park is shown on the report in one of these categories. The majority of amenities are in the good or fair categories. He mentioned several amenities that were rated as being in poor condition, including the fitness zones and playgrounds in Dominguez Park, the grassy area on Mole B in Moonstone Park, three of the restrooms at the Redondo Beach Pier, the little play area just above the boardwalk called Turtle Park, and the Community Center building at Wilderness Park. He then turned to Alberto Alejandre to give an overview of our program for maintaining all of the City parks and parkettes.

Alberto Alejandre introduced himself to the Commission as the Public Works Manager for Parks and said he was here to answer any questions the Commissioners have about how we conduct maintenance of the parks. He said that for parks that have restrooms, they are visited by staff daily, seven days a week. They also do a daily inspection of all playgrounds in the parks and parkettes. Trash containers in all the parks and parkettes are emptied twice a week.

Rob Osborne then gave a summary of the Capital Improvement Projects which are in various stages from beginning to end. They currently have eight active CIP projects related to parks, including Dominguez Park playground equipment and dog park improvements, Anderson Park play surface replacement, Wilderness Park improvements, and International Boardwalk restrooms. He said all four members of the Public Works Department present at the meeting were available to answer any questions the Commissioners might have.

Public Works Director Ted Semaan said he wanted to highlight the fact that the Public Works Department will be working with the Community Services Department in the near future to bring forward a solicitation for RFP for the Dominguez Park playground improvement project that is on the CIP list.

Chair Korman-Soooper thanked them all for the presentation and called on Commissioners who had questions or comments.

Commissioner Varvarigos said he did not see a category for community gardens or native gardens on the chart describing the condition of park amenities. He also asked what determines the qualification of "poor" vs. "fair" and asked when maintenance is done for the amenities categorized as being in "fair" condition.

Public Works Director Semaan replied that every year we go through multiple budget cycles. Within their own department, they will ask for an assessment of which needs in all the parks need to be included in the upcoming CIP budget, and which can be handled with routine maintenance by City staff. They will go through a vetting process with the City Manager and other departments, and their proposals will be reviewed by the City Council. The City Council will deliberate and give us their own ideas of what they believe are priorities. They may agree with what was proposed or they may choose to emphasize other priorities. The ultimate call is up to the City Council.

Parks Manager Alberto Alejandre gave some examples of criteria his staff uses in determining if something is in poor condition. Those items categorized as in fair condition might need paint or something cosmetic, not major repairs. If the structures have significant deficiencies and cannot be used safely, they fall into the "poor" category.

Speaking again about the prioritization issue, Public Works Director Ted Semaan said that last fiscal year, they had proposed the replacement of the rubberized surface in several City parks, but the City Council placed other priorities ahead of those proposals.

Mike Klein, Deputy Public Works Director for the City, said that there have been issues with graffiti and vandalism that have accelerated the wear and tear on City park facilities. This can take a park that is in very good condition down to the poor level. The level of the park condition can change dramatically overnight, and this is one of the problems they have to deal with. They try to keep all the parks in the best condition they can, with the staff they have and the means at hand, but some of the parks are experiencing a lot of vandalism.

Following up on this point, Public Works Director Ted Semaan gave an example. The City had just installed new ADA compliant bathrooms at Anderson Park, and very soon after they were opened to the public, they were vandalized, which took an amenity that was in excellent condition down to poor condition overnight. Fortunately, they were able to repair the damage in a timely fashion.

Commissioner McCauley thanked the Public Works staff for keeping the parks in good condition. He said he had read that Edison was going to do some repairs to the Northeast corner of the dog park at Dominguez Park. He asked what exactly does that entail.

Public Works Director Ted Semaan said that the City has an agreement with the Gas Company, but he does not recall all the details listed in that agreement and if they pertain to the dog park.

Commissioner McCauley asked whether the improvements at Dominguez Park would include repairs to the fencing and backstop for the baseball field.

Deputy Public Works Director Mike Klein said the baseball leagues have in the past taken care of the fencing and backstop for the baseball field, and he doesn't think that is part of the planned improvement project for Dominguez Park.

Commissioner Escontrias said that one of the things that concerns him is what the criteria is in making the determination between poor, fair, and good. Any one person doing an assessment could have a different opinion as to what is good, what is fair, and what is poor. Is there something that is written down somewhere so that anyone could have the same approach in determining this?

Parks Manager Alberto Alejandre said there is no written procedure that they are following, but they apply common sense and experience working in the field in evaluating the condition of the park structures, grass, and surfaces.

Public Works Director Ted Semaan said this is a high-level assessment. It is both a budgetary and a planning tool that they will use to be able to identify some of their priorities. It is not at the detail level that would be used later when a project is in the reconstruction phase.

Commissioner Escontrias said that his concern is with maintaining consistency in applying the criteria in different locations. If the same person is doing that in all locations, you could assume the same criteria is being applied. He also asked if the prioritization is based on liability, or on feasibility, or on budget.

Public Works Director Ted Semaan said they prioritize based on the assessments that Albert and his team provide. If it is a legal liability issue, that gets set for repair or replacement in a different fashion.

Commissioner Escontrias said he is seeing kind of a disconnect with the stakeholders. He would suggest going to the friends of the dog park or Wilderness Park or the baseball field to see what their needs are and what they believe are priorities before going to the City Council.

Deputy Director Mike Klein said that they have had dialog with different users of the parks as to some of the projects that are going on, for example in Wilderness Park. They have to be part of the team so they can plan the infrastructure for that. They were over at Julia Field last week with one of the little league parents and one of the operators of Sunset Little league talking with them about some of the things that they would like to see done. There is some catch-up that they have to do, because John LaRock used to be in touch with a lot of the people and he is no longer with the City.

Public Works Director Ted Semaan said the City Manager will come to each of the Commissions on an annual basis to give a presentation about the budget and to solicit their input on priorities. This is an opportunity for each of the Commissions to share their ideas with the City Manager.

Commissioner Arrata thanked the representatives from Public Works for being there. She asked whether it was fair to assume that they would be working on the facilities rated in poor condition first. And she asked how quickly they are able to remedy the situation in the case of graffiti or a safety-related issue.

Parks Manager Alberto Alejandre said that if it is something minor, his staff will take care of it on the spot, but if it requires completely repainting a restroom, for example, they have a contractor they call who usually shows up within six hours to take care of it.

Deputy Director Mike Klein said that the Police Department has them fill out a report on vandalism and graffiti that takes place at City parks, and when they are able to arrest the perpetrators, they go after restitution for the cost of man-hours for the repairs that were necessitated by the vandalism.

Chair Korman-Soooper thanked them all for being present at the meeting. She asked, about the three playgrounds that were rated as being in poor condition, how they would go about bringing them back into good condition.

Parks Manager Alberto Alejandre replied that most of the time it is the rubberized surface in need of repair. If it's just the top layer, his staff can do a small repair. If it is in need of major repair, it has to go through the CIP process.

Public Works Director Ted Semaan said that two of the three playgrounds listed as poor are already on the CIP list and approved for a major renovation project. The third will be proposed as a new CIP project.

Chair Korman-Soooper asked what is being done, now that parks are open again, as far as sanitization and preventing the spread of the virus.

Park Manager Alberto Alejandre said his crew has sanitizers, and they do it once a day, in the morning. That's all they are able to do, considering the number of parks they have to maintain. A daily inspection is done on all the playgrounds, and they wipe them down.

Commissioner Varvarigos asked about adding a category to the list for community gardens or native habitats.

Public Works Director Semaan replied that the proposal for a community garden will come to the City Council in March, and once there is an approved community garden, that will be an amenity that will be included on the list.

Interim Community Services Director Laurie Koike thanked Public Works for the presentation and for all their hard work taking care of all the parks and parkettes.

Deputy Director Mike Klein thanked Alberto Alejandre for all that he and his staff have done to keep the parks in good condition throughout the last year, working under the difficult conditions of the past year and keeping ahead of all the work, even when short-staffed.

Motion by Commissioner McCauley, seconded by Commissioner Varvarigos, to receive and file the report on Condition of Amenities in City Parks and Parkettes. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Berling absent.

J.2. CITY EMERGENCY ORDERS IN RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND IMPACT ON RECREATION FACILITIES, AMENITIES AND PROGRAMMING

Interim Community Services Director Laurie Koike provided an update, reporting on what has changed since the last meeting in December. The parks are open, and you can play doubles tennis now. Aviation track and field are open, but the other facilities remain closed. A list of facilities that remain closed includes the following:

- Perry Park Teen Center and Senior Center
- Anderson Park Senior Center
- Veterans Park Historic Library and Senior Center
- Aviation Gymnasium & Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center
- Alta Vista Park Community Center and Racquetball Center
- Dominguez Park Historical Museum and Morrell House
- Seaside Lagoon

There is a program called REC Club Study and Play that is available for children ages 6 to 12 at Anderson Park, Veterans Park, and Perry Park. It is an all-day program providing time for study and other activities during the day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are many safety precautions in place at the REC club to keep the children safe.

Motion by Commissioner Arrata, seconded by Commissioner Varvarigos, to receive and file the report on City Emergency Orders in Response to the Novel Coronavirus and Impact on Recreation Facilities, Amenities, and Programming. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Berling absent.

J.3. DIRECTORS REPORT

Interim Community Services Director Laurie Koike provided her Director's Report, noting the following items:

- Southern California Gas is continuing their work. They will pay us \$90,000 for the Open Space Acquisition Fund, under the terms of their second amendment, which runs through the end of April, 2021.
- The Historical Commission will be considering renaming the Flagler/Ripley Parkette to honor a Japanese family who lived in Redondo Beach for many years. It will come to the Recreation and Parks Commission for approval.
- Another possible joint project with the Historical Commission is their proposal to bring the Historical Museum outdoors, with murals in public parks.
- Engineering is working with the City Attorney's office to prepare a design/build solicitation for a skatepark.
- Community Services met with a representative of the Redondo Sunset League to consider replacement of the backstop and bleachers in Julia Field in Alta Vista Park. They are also looking into fencing in the area where soccer is played.
- The roof of the Morrell House will be replaced. They are waiting for the weather to clear before beginning work on this project.
- The City is currently recruiting for a Community Services Director and the job posting is on the City's website.

Commissioner McCauley asked if a referral is needed for the items mentioned in regard to the Historical Commission. Director Koike replied that she will bring forward the item about the possible renaming, but they could make a referral about the historical murals.

Motion by Commissioner McCauley, seconded by Commissioner Varvarigos, to request the Historical Commission bring a presentation to the Recreation and Parks Commission regarding historical murals in City parks. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Berling absent.

In response to a question from Commissioner Arrata, Director Koike said that the Historical Commission had also communicated with the Public Art Commission to request their opinion about the mural idea.

Motion by Commissioner Arrata, seconded by Commissioner Almeida, to receive and file the Director's Report. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Berling absent

K. COMMISSIONER REFERRALS TO STAFF

Commissioner McCauley raised the issue of speeding cars going down the road in the middle of Alta Vista Park. Members of the community have expressed their concern and proposed asking the City to install speed bumps on that stretch of road in the park, out of concern for the safety of the children playing in the park.

Motion by Commissioner McCauley, seconded by Commissioner Almeida, to add this to the agenda for the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Berling absent.

Chair Korman-Soooper asked for more information about what is happening with the proposed Community Garden.

Director Koike said she will be able to report to the Commission at their next meeting what happens when this item is brought before City Council at their March meeting.

Commissioner Arrata said she would like to get a detailed report on the condition of those park amenities that were in the "poor" category on the report from Public Works.

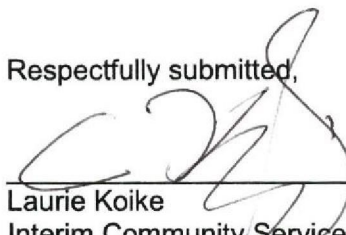
Director Koike said she could take care of that as part of the Directors Report.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Arrata, seconded by Commissioner Varvarigos, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously with Commissioner Berling absent.

Chair Korman-Soooper adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie Koike
Interim Community Services Director