

**MINUTES OF THE  
REDONDO BEACH HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 11, 2021**

**A. CALL MEETING 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 Light at 6:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Bauer, Callahan, Carlson, Chrzan, Light, Kilroy

Commissioners Absent: Walters

Officials Present: Stephen Proud, W.E.D. Director  
Elizabeth Hause, W.E.D.  
Robert Metzger, Fire Chief, RBFD  
Mario Fizulich, Police Patrol Captain, RBPB  
Jeffrey Mendence, Police Lieutenant, RBPB  
Ted Samaan, Public Works Director  
Mike Klein, Public Works Assistant Director  
Craig Stanton, Manager, RB Marina

**C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Carlson led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

**D. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Commissioner Kilroy, seconded by Commissioner Callahan to approve the order of the agenda. Motion carried, without objection.*

**E. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS - None**

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

**F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**F.1. APPROVAL OF AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2021**

**F.2. APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES: OCTOBER 12 AND 27, 2020**

Commissioner Callahan pulled Item No. F.2. from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion.

W.E.D. Director Proud announced there were no public eComments or emails received from the public regarding the Consent Calendar.

*Motion by Commissioner Kilroy, seconded by Commissioner Callahan, to approve Item No. F.1. of the Consent Calendar, as presented. Motion carried, without objection.*

**G. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

**G.1. (F.2.) APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES: OCTOBER 12 AND 27, 2020**

Commissioner Callahan referenced Page 4, second paragraph of the minutes from October 27, 2020 relative to her question regarding dredging in the Harbor and clarified she questioned why the proposal was to dump so close to the entrance of the Harbor.

There were no public or eComments on this item.

*Motion by Commissioner Callahan, seconded by Commissioner Bauer, to approve Item No. G.1. with the minutes of October 12, 2020 as presented and the minutes of October 27, 2020, as corrected. Motion carried, without objection.*

**H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None**

**H.1 For eComments and Emails Received from the Public**

W.E.D. Director Proud announced there were no public, eComments or emails received from the public.

**I. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS**

Chair Light referenced previous discussions regarding generating a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers and to Council and requested adding the latter to a future agenda.

**J. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION**

**J.1. QUARTERLY PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT**

Fire Chief Robert Metzger presented a quarterly update of Fire Department Harbor Patrol statistics and comparisons between 2019 and 2020 for various categories of activities and addressed notable incidents and issuance of citations.

Chair Light commented on increased swimming incidents, PFDs, and SUPs and in response to his questions, Chief Metzger clarified the location of the boat fire and expanded on the matter of the Harbor Patrol having authority to issue citations. The matter is being reviewed by the City Attorney's office in terms of the need to change the Municipal Code.

Commissioner Carlson discussed PFDs; noted there is a restroom sign close to and around the area of the hand launch and asked about staff coverage. Chief Metzger reported positively on staffing; noted challenges with the recruiting/hiring process and speculated it will be completed by third quarter or mid-year.

Commissioner Callahan commented on the significant events of 2020; noted increased activities at the Harbor and thanked Chief Metzger for the report.

Commissioner Bauer asked about increases in sea life disposal and Chief Metzger stated he has no explanation.

Chair Light mentioned parties in the harbor and asked for an update. Chief Metzger reported there have been several incidents; noted there are processes that must be followed for planned events that are being disregarded. Chair Kilroy expressed concerns that people may not be taking proper safety precautions.

Commissioner Chrzan referenced PFD violations and suggested the need for increased education to lower incidents.

Police Patrol Captain Mario Fizulich introduced himself and looked forward to working with the Commission in the future.

Lieutenant Jeffrey Mendence presented an overview of statistics; addressed calls for service in the harbor; spoke about striking a balance in terms of enforcement; discussed public outreach, foot patrols and safety-related messaging and listed typical violations, citations issued and provided an update on the repair and maintenance of the vessel.

Chair Light asked about the Police level of engagement related to boat parties and Lieutenant Mendence reported on enforcement monitoring and actions taken.

Sergeant Jason Sapien reported no citations have been issued but crime reports were taken and submitted to the City Attorney's office.

Chair Light requested copies of crime reports related to boat parties. Lieutenant Mendence will check with the City Attorney's office to determine whether they can be released and distributed. Sergeant Sapien explained citations related to poaching were issued for poaching inside the harbor.

Commissioner Callahan asked about the number of mental illness reports and Lieutenant Mendence explained the Police Department has a co-response model for mental illness calls where clinicians from the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health ride with officers for critical incidents. He added every officer is trained on the signs of mental illness and appropriate referrals for assessment; discussed a shortfall of LPS beds, assessment, and processing.

Commissioner Carlson asked about staffing on the water and Lieutenant Mendence reported no drastic changes. Commissioner Carlson suggested adding boater license checks to future reports.

Discussion followed regarding handling boat parties according to individual circumstances and assessments, maintaining relations with the community, the wide range of possible violations, enforcing existing regulations and encouraging people to follow proper procedures in terms of completing the City's permitting process.

In response to Commissioner Carlson's question, W.E.D. Director Proud explained the application and permitting process for special events.

Lieutenant Mendence discussed potential steps in enforcement.

Commissioner Callahan questioned requiring permits for other events; suggested issuing an alert to City staff, Police and Harbor Patrol and recommended distributing rules to the public. She added that she trusts the Police and other City Departments to deal with violators.

Commissioner Carlson agreed with Commissioner Callahan and commended the Police Department and Harbor Patrol for dealing with the situation. Commissioner Chrzan agreed; reiterated that education may resolve the matter and urged the City to take a proactive approach.

Chair Kilroy commended on the need for residents to feel responsible and be accountable.

Commissioner Bauer spoke positively regarding the issuance of permits and streamlining the process to be user-friendly; discussed the need to disseminate the rules and recommended taking a proactive approach.

Commissioner Kilroy agreed with Commissioner Callahan's comments and suggested leaving the item in the hands of public safety personnel to resolve.

Chief Metzger noted music on the water qualifies as a special event and the City already has a process in place to address them. He added that the value of the permitting process in reviewing the application describing the event noted it is a clear process.

Lieutenant Mendence reiterated the Fire Department would issue a crime report regarding the violation(s) to the City Attorney's office for review and actions.

Chief Metzger added the permit process identifies a responsible party through whom violations would be addressed.

*Motion by Commissioner Kilroy, seconded by Commissioner Callahan, to receive and file the Quarterly Public Safety Reports. Motion carried, without objection.*

W.E.D. Director Proud announced Chief Metzger will be leaving the City and thanked him for all his support and work and wished him well in his new endeavors.

**J.2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE STATUS OF TRANSIENT VESSEL MOORINGS IN THE MAIN HARBOR CHANNEL**

W.E.D. Director Proud presented an overview of the item; addressed direction from City Council to staff to explore removal of all or a portion of the moorings to reduce maintenance expenses; provided background; spoke about requirements in the agreement pertaining to reimbursement of funds on a pro-rata basis for moorings that might be removed; talked about the formula used to determine the value of moorings; listed reimbursement amounts for removal of 15 and 25 moorings; discussed mooring maintenance, costs, revenues and retaining versus removing moorings and presented recommendations.

Discussion followed regarding the impact on maintenance costs by reducing moorings by 50%, the possibility of rotating disabled moorings back into service, continual monitoring and adjustments, steps to take to avoid triggering repayment of the grant, the present mooring percent occupancy, availability of peak-season mooring statistics, assessing opportunities to increase mooring usage and quarterly cleanings and annual underwater inspections.

Commissioner Kilroy asked about total costs to install the 25 moorings; agreed with hibernating a set number of moorings but keeping the mooring field alive and well; suggested cutting maintenance in proportion to the number of operational moorings; talked about the number of moorings needed to

accommodate demand and noted the need to consider mooring hibernating costs. He suggested adjusting the number of available moorings on a quarterly basis.

Commissioner Chrzan commented on the need for flexibility; asked about pass-through of revenues and decrease in revenues in past years. W.E.D. Director Proud reported a decrease in revenues occurred when the harbor was being operated by the Harbor Patrol Division.

Commissioner Carlson agreed with previous comments; noted this is a good time to save money and asked about Beach Life paying for a lot of the mooring field. RB Marina Manager Stanton noted there was a spike from the Beach Life Festival in 2019 and addressed the policy for use of the dingy dock. Commissioner Carlson commented in favor of keeping mooring buoys as they serve as a feature or barriers for stand-up paddle boarders.

Commissioner Callahan stated one of the reason moorings are not used is due to the lack of amenities in the harbor; spoke in support of hibernating moorings rather than removing them and asked about plans for the mooring during dredging. W.E.D. Director Proud reported he would need to review whether there are any conflicts relative to disposition of the dredge materials versus the mooring field.

Commissioner Bauer spoke about increasing the utilization of moorings and asked why utilization increased when the marina took over. RB Marina Manager Stanton suggested they were more accessible than the Harbor Patrol. W.E.D. Director Proud added the City increased outreach and advertising and increased presence/awareness in various locations.

Brief discussion followed regarding the moorings to be hibernated and recommended actions.

W.E.D. Director Proud announced there were no public, eComments or emails received from the public on this item.

*Motion by Commissioner Kilroy, seconded by Commissioner Callahan, that the Harbor Commission recommend to the City Council not to permanently remove any moorings, not to be in a position to refund grant moneys, and let staff determine how many moorings to hibernate in any given quarter to reduce maintenance expenses. Motion carried, unanimously, by roll call vote.*

*Motion by Commissioner Kilroy, seconded by Commissioner Callahan, to receive and file the report. Motion carried, without objection.*

### **J.3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Previous Council Items**

- City Council considered consents to amendments for subleases on Redondo Beach Landing leaseholds
- Discussed the Skate Park at pad ten
- Held a strategic plan meeting and discussed a public amenity plan
- Moved forward with the Kingsdale site for the pallet shelter program
- Approved free holiday parking for the pier garage
- Received an annual report from the Redondo Beach Tourism Management District

#### **Upcoming Council Items**

- City Council will consider development of a Public Amenities Master Plan

- City Council will consider a lease from the Cancer Support Community
- Contract amendment for Kosmont Associates

#### Miscellaneous Follow-up Items

- Changing COVID-19 restrictions and rent deferrals
- Harbor Patrol docks
- Hotel renaming/rebranding
- Dredging

Commissioner Carlson asked about upcoming events and W.E.D. Director Proud reported the Kite Festival will be postponed and the Pier Association is not undertaking any events through the end of April. Commissioner Carlson suggested considering car service for the pier restaurant group.

*Motion by Commissioner Kilroy, seconded by Commissioner Callahan, to receive and file the report. Motion carried, without objection.*

#### **K. MEMBER ITEMS AND REFERRALS TO STAFF**

Commissioner Callahan asked to place an updated Vacancy Report on the agenda for the Commission's meeting in February and requested reviewing the dredging overlay of the moorings.

Chair Light discussed a review of the dredging letter to City Council and requested an update on the Skate Park and the EAS site.

#### **L. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:00 p.m., Chair Light adjourned the meeting to the next regular meeting of the Harbor Commission on February 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



ON BEHALF OF

Stephen Proud, Director  
Waterfront & Economic Development