



CITY OF DANA POINT
**LIBRARY & SEA TERRACE
PARK SUBCOMMITTEE**

MINUTES

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2006

**Location: City Plaza, City Council Chambers, 33282 Golden Lantern, 2nd Floor, Dana Point,
California 92629**

APPROVED: July 26, 2006

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Lacy called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. SUBCOMMITTEE ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS:** All members were present.

James Lacy, Council Member (Chair)
Wayne Rayfield, Councilmember (Vice-Chair)
Joanna Adrian
Philip Bordeaux
Lynn Dawson
Bill Johnson
Michael Mata
Judy Smith
Karin Schnell (Alternate)

STAFF PRESENT:

Sharie Apodaca, Director of Administrative Services
Brad Fowler, Director of Public Works
Kevin Evans, Recreation Manager
Larry Ryan, RJM Design Group

- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Terry Goller, Dana Point, spoke in favor of focusing on a library expansion perhaps outdoors to accommodate library related programs and other community events before improving the park. She submitted a letter for the record.

Dan Heredia, Dana Point, spoke in opposition to a passive park use. He stated he cannot fathom another greenbelt park and that the City needs to meet the needs of the entire community. He spoke in favor of an active park for older kids, i.e. soccer field, pool, basketball courts. He suggested a skateboard park for middle aged children who are skating in the streets dangerously. He asked the City to give the families in Dana Point another opportunity to participate again in the planning process for the park. He submitted a letter for the record.

Member Dawson noted that funding is limited; therefore Phase I will provide a nice park with trails and open areas. She stated improvements like a tot lot and restrooms have been recommended for future phases pending available funding.

Vice Chair Rayfield noted that the park design allows for open and free play areas. He stated that available parking cannot support organized sports activities. He also noted the City had applied for library grant funds but was denied, however will continue to pursue grant opportunities.

Greg Powers, Dana Point, stated he felt the statistics in the survey supporting the Parks Master Plan are not representative of the community as a whole. Further, he thought the survey questions were skewed. He stated he is opposed to baseball and soccer fields at the park. He stated a portion of the park should be designated for active use and suggested that half-courts for basketball be incorporated into the design plan now. He requested that the intent of Phase II improvements be conveyed to the public as part of Phase I presentations. He also suggested a "storefront" satellite library for children at the south end of the City.

Both Chairman Lacy and Vice Chairman Rayfield noted that they believe the survey for the Parks Master Plan was representative of the demographics of the community and the questions were valid.

Jacob Heredia, Dana Point, spoke in support of a skate park within Sea Terrace Park.

Irene Fascher, Dana Point, stated Dana Point is a small city with a lack of land. She stated the subcommittee needs to address its value structure and how decisions are made on behalf of the community while maintaining the quality of life.

5. MEETING MINUTES: Approve Minutes of May 8, 2006.

MOVED by member Dawson, SECONDED by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

6. RECEIVE AND FILE PLANNING COMMISSION'S MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2006 REGARDING APPROVAL OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR SEA TERRACE PARK IMPROVEMENTS.

Administrative Services Director Apodaca reported that nearly all subcommittee members attended the June 7th meeting of the Planning Commission and that Member Adrian spoke on behalf of the subcommittee's recommendations. She reported the Planning Commission approved the Coastal Development Permit and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

By order of the chair, the minute excerpt of the Planning Commission was received and filed.

7. REVIEW OF SEA TERRACE PARK IMPROVEMENT DESIGN PLANS (50% COMPLETE) AND TIMELINE.

Public Works Director Fowler introduced Larry Ryan, RJM Design Group.

Mr. Ryan presented the design plans (50% complete) for the subcommittee's consideration and input. He advised that his design concept is somewhat a Tuscan theme. He noted that it is important that thoughtful decisions are made due to limited funding. He stated that the park's infrastructure and utilities need to be constructed first in Phase I, and that additional features can be considered in future phases.

Mr. Ryan reviewed the plans and addressed the trail system, bike/pedestrian lane, outlook areas and barriers, free play areas and seating areas. He stated that half-court basketball could be located in the park, and suggested that a future location be identified so that the necessary grading can be addressed in Phase I.

Member Dawson suggested a sand volleyball court instead since a basketball court already exists at Salt Creek Park.

Member Adrian stated the plan needs to address pedestrian safety where the trail meets the driveway access to the maintenance yard, and that a traffic slowing device(s) is needed.

Vice Chair Rayfield asked if the access road to the maintenance yard could be moved further to the north.

Mr. Ryan stated that the plan needs to consider applications to prevent people from entering the maintenance yard.

Mr. Ryan proceeded to describe the recommended trees and shrubs, site furnishings, and fencing. Vice Chair Rayfield stated the plan needs to be mindful of drought tolerant grass that can appear dead and not maintained to avoid public complaints. Mr. Fowler stated that this will be addressed.

Light bollards versus pedestrian light poles and "light spill" concerns were discussed. Chair Lacy requested a report from RJM for the next meeting on lighting options. Member Smith asked that the report include statistics on lighting relative to safety. Member Mata asked for information on possibly wiring lights in trees. Mr. Fowler advised that wiring lights in immature trees is not advisable.

Public Comments:

Ingrid McGuire, Dana Point, stated the parks should reflect the needs and demographics of the City and surrounding home communities, including Monarch Beach Villas and Monarch Bay Hills homes which have very few children. She spoke against an active use and for a passive use.

Irene Fascher, Dana Point, stated the park should be resident driven and a heavenly place to walk. She cautioned that the trees that are planted may eventually block ocean views from the homes above the park. She stated a tramway may impact the homes and not be people friendly.

Vice Chair Rayfield noted that the tramway is a public facility required by the Coastal Commission to get from the St. Regis Hotel to the beach.

Dan Heredia, Dana Point, stated the noise generated from an active park is no greater than the noise generated from PCH traffic. He stated the existing active parks elsewhere in the City are already crowded and over utilized; therefore Sea Terrace Park should be an active park. He added that Sea Terrace Park should be designed for all residents and families. He suggested moving the maintenance yard closer to the hotel to avoid any liability. He would prefer more picnic facilities and shade trees.

That concluded the public comments.

Administrative Services Director Apodaca noted that over 1,000 meeting notices were mailed for today's meeting to the Niguel Shores Community Association.

Member Mata stated that definitions are needed of "active" and "passive" uses, as well as "free play" and "organized sports" to avoid any confusion.

Member Dawson stated that the tramway should be aesthetically pleasing.

Vice Chair Rayfield asked that RJM identify opportunities in the plan that will allow for public art.

Chair Lacy requested that staff prepare a list of the discussion items raised by the subcommittee and the public, including responses to those items that include the associated pros and cons.

8. STATUS REPORT ON PARKING DEMAND STUDY UPDATE FOR ST. REGIS HOTEL

Public Works Director Fowler reported that a request was received from the public to implement a 2-hour parking restriction along Niguel Road. He stated this could be a short term approach pending a long-term solution.

Vice Chair Rayfield asked that this request be forwarded to the Traffic Subcommittee for consideration along with the Sea Terrace Park Subcommittee's concerns regarding lack of parking for patrons of Sea Terrace Park and the library.

9 APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER TO SUBCOMMITTEE TO FILL CURRENT VACANCY

Staff to provide pending applications to Chair Lacy and Vice Chair Rayfield for consideration. The necessity to notice the vacancy will be determined by the Chair.

10. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Member Schnell reported that the City of Encinitas is building a state-of-the-art library facility that will be incorporating art elements. She added the subcommittee might be interested in visiting that facility when completed.

11. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m. to July 26, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sharie Apodaca
Director of Administrative Services