

**Community & Library Services
Commission
Wednesday, November 9, 2022
6:00 PM – Regular Meeting
MINUTES**



**City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
City Council Chambers**

STAFF:
CHRIS SLAMA, Director
Community & Library Services
ASHLEY WYSOCKI, Deputy Director
Community & Library Services
CHARLENE GOMEZ, Administrative Secretary
Community & Library Services

JANIS MANTINI, Chair
REV. JAMES PIKE, Vice Chair
PAT BURNS, Commissioner
LAURA COSTELLOE, Commissioner
DR. RICHARD HARRISON, Commissioner
LISA KEMMERER, Commissioner
TARYN PALUMBO, Commissioner
ELAINE PARKER, Commissioner
FAITH VOGEL, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER – By Chair Mantini at 6:02 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Burns, Costelloe, Harrison, Kemmerer (excused), Mantini, Palumbo, Parker (excused), Pike (excused), Vogel; Staff: Slama, Wysocki

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Wysocki announced one (1) supplemental communication on the Danger and Risks of Pump Tracks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Curry introduced himself as representing the Edison Park Community Group (EPCG) and spoke regarding the Edison Park redevelopment project. Mr. Curry is in favor of moving the parking lot and soccer fields, however feels that installing a pump track will be a sore subject with the Community and may trigger a Measure C if built in the proposed location. On behalf of the EPCG, Mr. Curry offered help and support from the residents to the City in the way of ideas and design recommendations. Mr. Curry asked Commission to direct staff to work with the EPCG on Item #1 as a starting point in developing Edison Park.

Erica Shane, a local resident in the Edison Park area, spoke in support of Plan #1 for Edison Park. Ms. Shane felt that Item #1 allows for the retention of the mature trees, while Item #2 removes the trees. Ms. Shane referenced an alternative design plan commissioned by the EPCG and asked that Commission take the time to view the plan and take it into consideration.

Tony Ricabonos, a local resident to Edison Park, spoke in support of Plan #1 as a starting point for the park redesign. Mr. Ricabonos asked that the plan be added to the RJM Design website for the Edison Park Project. Mr. Rocabonos would like to see a way to keep the

handball courts as well and asked the City to continue to work with the community residents on the design.

Susan Sheldon, a 25 year resident in the Edison Park neighborhood spoke in support of the open space and does not feel that a pump park is appropriate for the park. Ms. Sheldon feels that Plan #1 is a better plan than the others presented.

Nancy Buchoz, a local resident of the Edison Park neighborhood, is supportive of the EPCG plan design and is opposed to the addition of a pump track in the green space, although feels it could be combined with the Skate Spot. Ms. Buchoz also discussed the environmental issues, including the Ascon plant.

Jim Vandebos is a 40 year resident who spoke in support of keeping the handball courts as the President of the Handball Association of Southern California. Mr. Vanderbos offered his contact information to Commission and staff should they wish to speak to his expertise with handball courts.

Ann McCarthy, a 30 year resident of South Huntington Beach and current Regional Commissioner of AYSO 56, spoke of the need of more soccer fields at Edison Park. Ms. McCarthy provided statistics on the number of children who play soccer in the area and provided information on the loss of school and other local fields. Ms. McCarthy is in support of either the plan by EPCG or a plan by the City that would allow for soccer fields within the park.

Betty Flynn is a 35 year resident and co-founder of the EPCG community group. While Ms. Flynn is primarily in support of the plan developed by the EPCG, she feels that the City's Plan #1 would allow for the retention of more of the mature trees than the other plans. However, in Ms. Flynn's opinion, even calling for the removal of 25 trees is unacceptable and still needs work. Ms. Flynn is highly opposed to Plan #2.

Nancy Duremdes stated that she is a longtime resident who attended local schools through her youth and has watched Edison Park mature. Ms. Duremdes shared personal stories of Edison Park and asked that the handball courts be saved. Ms. Duremdes, is opposed to removing the trees and in support of Plan #1.

Fran Leibowitz, a 40 year resident and member of the EPCG, feels that Plan #1 is an improvement, but asked Commission, staff and RJM to consider the EPCG design plan.

Michael Clark, resident of the Moffett neighborhood and 7 time X-Game competitor/medalist and dirt-jumping champion, spoke in support of the pump track at Edison Park or a jump track in somewhere within Huntington Beach. Mr. Clark spoke of the benefits to the youth in

the community.

Mike Vo, a member of the EPCG felt that Plan #1 is an improvement, but also felt it would trigger a Measure C due to the cost. Although he is in favor of a pump track, he is opposed to locating it within Edison Park. Mr. Vo asked that Commission, staff, and RJM Design consult with the EPCG members prior to going forward.

Amory Hanson spoke in support of the EPCG design plan and felt it was a fair compromise of nature and sport, however, he was opposed to the installation of a pump track.

Ding-Jo Currie, member of the EPCG, spoke on the partnership between the City and the community group in working to develop a plan for Edison Park. Ms. Currie urged Commission to direct staff and RJM to use Plan #1 as a starting point and work with the EPCG to develop a final plan.

Craig von Freymann, a resident since 1973, provided personal memories of his youth growing up in Huntington Beach and his use of Edison Park. Mr. von Freymann asked that the park be kept as a neighborhood park for the residents and that their wishes be taken into account.

Cari von Freymann, a longtime resident, spoke on the types of residential usage of Edison Park and would like to see it remain open space.

Jerry Schreiber, resident of the downtown area spoke in support of AYSO soccer at Edison Park. Mr. Schreiber also spoke in support of preserving the nature and open space at the Park.

Leslie Chutney, a longtime resident who attended school in Huntington Beach as a youth, spoke on her concerns of the additional traffic and parking situations on Stillwell Street. She also spoke on concerns of pump tracks, the loss of trees, the nearby electrical plant, and more.

Ernie Courter, a longtime resident of Huntington Beach spoke in support of keeping the handball courts and the open space for use by various groups. Mr. Courter thanked the City, staff, and RJM for working with the EPCG and surrounding neighbors and listening to their concerns. Mr. Courter is in support of the City's Plan #1 with some revisions and stated that he was in favor of racquetball court, handball courts, pickleball courts, and tennis courts. Mr. Courter also provided alternative locations for a pump track.

Dani Hsia, a native of Huntington Beach and neighbor of Edison Park, stated that she works in non-profit environmental education. She provided information on the benefits of open

green space on humanity, especially our youths. Although Ms. Hsia felt Edison Park was in need of TLC and liked the ideas included in all of the plans, she felt they may be too much. Ms. Hsia express the needs to retain the nature and open space feel of the Park and asked that the City the plan presented by EPCG into consideration.

Tony Bisson, a resident near LeBard Park spoke on the noise created by pickleball. Mr. Bisson recommended that the City consider the example set forth by the City of Carlsbad, who wrapped their pickleball courts in sound-proofing material in order to not disturb the residents. Mr. Bisson suggested putting pickleball courts in Edison Park, but not at LeBard Park due to the proximity of the surrounding residents.

Linda Rowilson, local resident who uses Edison Community Center and Park with her family stated that she attended the conceptual design meetings offered to the public. Ms. Rowilson spoke on behalf of children that she has spoken with regarding their desire for a pump track.

Phu Vu, a resident and owner of a local bike BMX bike shop spoke about the loss of other pump tracks in the region and how important it is to have such places for youth and young adults alike, where they can spend time and energy in order to keep them active and engaged in a positive manner. Mr. Vu was in support of a pump track -- if not at Edison Park -- than some other location within Huntington Beach.

Gino Trazzo, a 23 year resident who lives across from Edison Park spoke in opposition of adding a pump track to the park. Ms. Trazzo was also opposed to the demolition of the handball courts due to the potential for contaminated dust and debris that could be created. Ms. Trazzo asked that the City take the time to develop a viable park or consider the design offered by the EPCG.

Robert Trazzo, resident since 1999, stated that he is a licensed geotechnical engineer with landfill construction experience. Mr. Trazzo expressed his support for the EPCG plan design, specifically in keeping the tennis courts. Mr. Trazzo was the engineer who stamped the EPCG plans.

Ceason Baker, local resident, spoke regarding health concerns with the redesign of Edison Park. Ms. Baker also asked that the City save the trees at Edison Park, listen to the community, and not move forward with any design until an EIR were performed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Request approval of the August 24, 2022 meeting minutes.
2. Request approval of the October 12, 2022 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Costelloe moved to approve the minutes from the August and

October meetings with Commissioner Palumbo seconding the motion. All in favor.

STUDY SESSION

1. **Edison Conceptual Design** – Slama announced that no action is required for this item at this time. The item was brought before Commission as an information item so that staff can receive feedback from Commission and the public in order to determine which direction should be taken. Slama provided background on the project saying that the City had been working with RJM Design Group on the design and in gathering input from residents through various means. Wysocki introduced a slide that provided information on publicizing the project through mailers, posters, and a direct email list that includes 521 interested parties' email addresses. Additionally, an advertisement was placed in the HB SANDS recreation guide that is delivered to every residence in the City, along with an e-blast to all email address listed in the HB SANDS online registration program. Additionally, various social media outlet postings were made in order to bring attention to this project. Wysocki also reported that topographical studies have been performed, along with workshops to attract public input. Wysocki provided the statistics from the project website, which has been active since 2021 and contains a "feedback" button to provide the public with a means to provide comments at any time on this project. Slama introduced staff from RJM Design, who provided information on existing conditions, site analysis, and community outreach.

Chair Mantini asked if the City could acquire the remaining 5 acres owned by the school district. Mantini felt that in order to shore up the land, the entire parcel should be addressed. Slama said that may be a possibility and something to address down the road. RJM staff continued to address the variations and cost between the three plans presented, such as the parking lot, soccer and softball fields, and the removal/retention of trees, based on community feedback. Discussion ensued on the trees from saplings, to the planting and saving of mature trees. Mantini asked that the consultant's team not spend very much time on Plan #2, as it did not appear to be supported by the community. However, there should be a focus on school site acquisition. Discussion continued on the fields, and where to locate the handball courts.

Commissioner Burns commented on the soil studies, contaminants from the AES plant and asked about the plan to prevent the sinking of the land. RJM staff replied that they had not performed any tests for methane or waste as of yet, however, they had completed testing for organic matter and testing on tree and soil health. Other tests will be included later and then a determination made on what improvements would need to be made. Slama informed Commission that the focus of this phase of the project, as directed by City Council, was to get a consensus from the community on the design. Environmental studies are costly and would be performed once a concept plan was developed for approval. RJM staff reported that a geosyntech report was completed in 2020 on the condition of the landfill, therefore, that analysis was being taken into consideration as they develop the conceptual design. Burns voiced his concern regarding the time taken for planning the concept

if there were still environmental issues. Further, Burns asked where the concept for a pump track in the middle of the park came from. He also asked about the safety of the pump track while other sports surround the track. RJM staff reported that 7 out of the 8 outreach session included public requests for a pump track. The thought was to locate the track next to the Skate Spot or possibly share space with the Skate Spot, and away from the parking lot, fitting well in the desire to keep the track away from vehicular traffic. The proposed location was within the landfill area, which would require analysis and would come at a cost. Burns asked if thought was taken regarding the location in relation to where children play and asked if there were any safety concerns of pedestrian injury as the pump track riders make their way to the track. RJM reported that with the relocation of the tot lot behind the community center, it should alleviate the safety concern of children at play within the vicinity of the track. Discussion continued on the safety of the location of the pump track and the potential for accidents, and regard for the E.I.R Negative Declaration Plan. Burns asked that the City be transparent with surrounding neighbors who are invested in this project.

Commissioner Costelloe thanked the community for coming out to voice their opinions on the project and thanked staff for slowing down the process so that those with concerns were heard. Costelloe inquired about the size of the pump track and suggested that staff actively find a location for this activity. Costelloe was in support of a pump track whether at Edison Park or another location. She felt it would give the teens, especially those across the street at the high school, a much needed opportunity for a positive activity. Costelloe felt the plans lacks elements for 5-11 year olds. She also voiced her concern about the trees within the plans, handball courts, and agreed that Plan #1 was a great starting point.

Commission Palumbo commented on the handball courts, the location of the pump track, the size and design due to the proximity to where children play. She would like to see the design take the comments into consideration, and would like to see information on other pump track locations. Palumbo stated that she like the curviness of the parking lot and asked if there was information on how the construction could impact the tree root system.

Commissioner Vogel acknowledged the challenges presented to staff and the design team, and appreciated that they were doing their best to please as many as possible.

Discussion ended with comparison of parking spaces within all of the plans.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. LeBard Park – Slama reported that at the last meeting, the item was in design for improvements, including the rehabilitation of the tennis courts and assessment of what is known as the clubhouse, which was dilapidated. A survey of local residents was taken regarding Pickleball through a mailer to the surrounding community to explore adding pickleball lines to the tennis courts. Given the feedback received, the nature and size of the park, and the adjacency to the neighbors, staff would not be

recommending pickleball courts be added at LeBard Park. Slama said that in the coming weeks, the project would be going out to bid for rehabilitation of the tennis courts, some additional seating, and the demolition of the dilapidated clubhouse structure. Until further outreach is conducted with the neighbors, the clubhouse will be temporarily replaced with sod, picnic tables, and open, usable space.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

COMMISSIONER/STAFF COMMENTS – Not Agendized

Slama announced that with the election of new City Council members the previous day, the new Council members would be appointing new Commissioners to replace those that were exiting. Slama said that the hope at the January meeting would be to thank those Commissioners who would be leaving as we swear in the new incoming Commissioners.

Chair Mantini thanked staff and said she enjoyed working with them and the community on park projects throughout her term on Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Mantini adjourned the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Minutes from August 24, 2022
2. Minutes from October 12, 2022
3. Edison Park Conceptual Plan Presentation

The Community & Library Services Commission will be dark the month of December. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Huntington Beach Community & Library Services Commission is Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.