

Huntington Central Park Committee
Wednesday, October 9, 2019 4:00 PM
Regular Meeting MINUTES

City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
Room B-8, Lower Level

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

ANN ANDERSON, Urban Forest/HB Tree Society
MARY BEHRENS, HB Equestrian Center
MIKE BARTUSICK, Park Bench Café
SHARI ENGEL, Secret Garden
STEVE ENGEL, Secret Garden
KAY GODDARD, Shipley Nature Center
VIC LEIPZIG, Sea & Sage Audubon Society
TOM LIVENGOOD, Shipley Nature Center
JUANA MUELLER, Secret Garden
JEAN NAGY, Urban Forest/HB Tree Society
JEFF SPOHR, Disc Golf Sports
VICTOR VARGAS, Primo Nash Concessions



COMMISSIONERS:

JANIS MANTINI, Committee Member
KRISTA STERUD, Committee Member

STAFF:

MARIE KNIGHT, Community Services Director
CHRIS SLAMA, Community Services Manager
TOM HERBEL, Interim Public Works Director
DENNY BACON, Maintenance Operations Mgr.
CHARLENE GOMEZ, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Mantini called the meeting to order at 4:01 at which time a quorum was met.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Mantini, Sterud; **Community Members** Anderson, Bartusick, Behrens, Engel, Engel, Leipzig, Livengood (arrived at 4:07pm), Mueller, Nagy; **Council Liaison** Delgleize; **Staff Members** Knight, Slama, Gomez, Herbel, Bacon

Absent: Community Members Goddard, Spohr, Varga

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner Mantini.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cheryl Johnson spoke regarding the lake embankment. Ms. Johnson asked when ground would be broken on the project.

PRESENTATIONS

Beekeeping in Central Park – Beekeeper, Mike Elliott, spoke regarding the prospect of bee keeping in Central Park. Mr. Elliott cited a City ordinance, which states, “no bee keeping within 200’ of a residence”. Mr. Elliott is proposing Central Park as a location. He provided samples of the bee keeping boxes and said he was seeking a place to house bees as a personal hobby and not for commercial use. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of bee keeping in the park, potential hazards and locations. Behrens said she could house some hives at the Equestrian Center. Knight asked Mr. Elliott to submit a formal written proposal outlining his request and submit it to the Community Services Department. Based on the proposal, the Equestrian Center may be a good location for a pilot program.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. **Central Park Current Project Updates** – Bacon reported on the elevated deck path. Bacon said that staff was writing specifications and then they would go out for public bid. Bacon also informed the Committee that the trash bins previously discussed, and samples shown, would have to go out for bid due to the cost. However, the funds from the FY 2018/19 CIP would carry over to the new FY 2019/20 CIP budget. Discussion ensued on the purchase process.

Herbel reported on Blackbird Pond. A survey was completed and designs were in the works. Public Works would bring the design to Committee for review in December. Construction was expected to begin after the first of the year. Herbel also reported on the lake embankment project, stating that securing rock had become a challenge due to the 405-freeway improvement. The freeway project had acquired all of the local quarry rock for the foreseeable future. PW would continue to search for a quarry that was within a cost effective distance of the City.

Bacon reported on the new maintenance agreement. The new contractor started on October 1, 2019. Some Community Members on the Committee voiced concerns related to the contractors work thus far. Herbel asked that the Members have patience while the new contractor is getting to know the park and provided instructions for Members to contact De La Torre or Bacon with any issues instead of directing the contractor's staff. Herbel provided his cell number in the event that Community Members were unable to reach David De La Torre or Bacon. Discussion continued on the process of communication.

2. **Potential CIP Projects for 2020 Fiscal Year** – Herbel reviewed the updated Huntington Central Park project priority list, which illustrated completed projects, those currently underway and implemented programs. He reported that Huntington Central Park had received \$1.5 million in park improvements since the FY 2016/17 CIP. He provided a list of upcoming projects and discussed the prioritization of the remaining items on the 5-Year CIP list. The Committee was reminded that they helped develop and approved the list in 2017. Bacon said he was proud of the work accomplished. Discussion continued on the priority list, irrigation and the lack of turf renovations needed due to the rain received over the past year. Steve Engel requested that the Committee give Supervisors and Managers of Public Works Department the latitude to prioritize the remaining items.

Knight asked for any additional items for the list. Mueller suggested adding restrooms near the Disc Golf facility to the list. Knight stated that the restrooms were not a maintenance project and any improvements more than \$162,000 would require a Measure C vote of the people, including the installation of restrooms.

Leipzig asked the size of the restrooms to be install in Central Park. Slama stated that they were the same style as those in Worthy Park but would include more stalls. Discussion continued on tree trimming, infrastructure funds, volunteer projects and budgets. Bacon would like to see the tree trimming on a four-year cycle; however, they were currently on a six-year cycle. Knight asked Committee Members to review the

priority project list. Additional items would be discussed at the November meeting.

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL – Nagy stated that the Eagle Scouts were in need of projects. She voiced her concern that the trail does not have enough railroad ties as a border and asked if it could be a project for the Scouts. Bacon announced a meeting scheduled for the following week in regards to a grant for 200 California Oak trees. Planting the trees along the trail and installing the railroad ties were potential projects for the Scouts. Knight suggested that the Scouts work with the Public Works Department on a plan. Once the Scouts present the plan, it would come before the Huntington Central Park Committee for vetting. Knight reviewed the volunteer projects process for the Committee Members.

CENTRAL PARK PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS – None

STAFF AND MEMBER COMMENTS - Not Agendized

Bacon informed the Committee that Chevron would be repairing a pipeline in December, deep in the park behind the Park Bench Café area. The project should take approximately 30-days.

Anderson thanked Bacon for the Urban Forest parking lot.

Steve Engel asked for the status of the irrigation system during the restroom construction. Slama responded that the irrigation water would continue without interruption.

Behrens commented on trash in the park, and asked if she could put together a group to pick up trash. Herbel said that Public Works would provide trash bags and pickup service.

Mueller asked about the Thomas property. Knight said to email questions directly to her. She would work with the Office of Business Development to provide the appropriate staff member to report at the November meeting.

Leipzig said that he had decided to cut his future presentation on Huntington Central Park Biological Resources into small section rather than present one large report. Knight approved of his decision and asked Leipzig to notify staff two weeks prior to the presentation date.

Nagy inquired about a bridge in the Urban Forest. Herbel said staff were in contact with the City's Hydrologist and had provided necessary information. Nagy discussed the possibility of using golf carts for park tours as a fundraising method. Additionally, Nagy raised a discussion on water preservation for future droughts and water restrictions.

Livengood announced "a work day" for the public on the second Saturday of each month at Shipley Nature Center.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA CONSIDERATION

1. Huntington Central Park Biological Resources – Vic Leipzig

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:32.

