



MEETING MINUTES

HARBOUR COMMISSION

**Thursday, June 23, 2022
Room B8, Lower Level
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

MICHAEL VANVOORHIS, Chair
CRAIG SCHAUPPNER, Vice Chair
WILLIAM LARKIN, Board Member
KIMBERLEY MILLIGAN, Board Member
CHRIS NIELSEN, Board Member
VAN VU, Board Member
DIANE WOOD, Board Member

COUNCIL LIAISON

ERIK PETERSON, Councilmember Liaison
MIKE POSEY, Councilmember Liaison

STAFF

SCOTT HABERLE, Fire Chief
ERIC DIETERMAN, Marine Safety Battalion Chief
BONNIE TO, Principal Administrative Analyst

CALLED TO ORDER

VanVoorhis called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Vu

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Vu, Wood

Staff Present: Scott Haberle, Eric Dieterman, Mike Bartlett, Bonnie To, Ashley Wysocki, Shawn White, Jim Merid, Terry Tintle, Jimmy Hoang, Devin Michaelis

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was one public comment provided by Lisa Ruoy regarding residential burglaries in the Huntington Harbour area.

CONSENT ITEMS

- A) Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2022

MOTION: A motion was made by Milligan, seconded by Schauppner to approve meeting minutes dated May 26, 2022.

The motion carried by the following vote, 7-0:

AYES: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Vu, Wood

NOES: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A) Presentation: Ideas for Improving Water Quality in Huntington Harbour, *Gary Brown, Founding Director, Orange County Coastkeepers*

Gary Brown, Director of the Orange County Coastkeepers, provided a presentation on improving water quality in Huntington Harbor. Mr. Brown gave an overview of the history and formation of the Coastkeepers organization and explained their mission of protecting the region's water resources so that they are swimmable, drinkable and fishable. They do this through major programs that include education, advocacy, restoration, and enforcement. He covered three topics: water quality in Huntington Harbour, OCTA initiatives and restoration programs for the Harbour. Mr. Brown explained that the water quality in Huntington Harbour has been better in recent years and provided the basis for the improvement. He also explained some of the barriers that continue to make additional improvement challenging. VanVoorhis asked if he could provide examples of OCTA projects that impact water quality. Mr. Brown said that there are a number of projects and they are divided into Tier I and Tier II projects. Examples of Tier I projects would include things such as trash skimmers, storm drain screens, etc. Tier II projects are more significant initiatives, such as large vegetated areas that contribute to better water quality. Vu asked if he could outline how to obtain grant funding for water quality improvement initiatives. Mr. Brown said it starts with outlining the need and then working with Public Works Department staff and qualified vendors to estimate costs and develop the scope for a project proposal. Schauppner asked where data on water quality can be obtained. Mr. Brown said Commissioners can contact him for the information and Haberle said that To would obtain Mr. Brown's contact information, which would be provided to Commission Members.

Mr. Brown introduced Claire Arre, Marine Biologist, who provided a *PowerPoint* presentation on restoration of marine habitats. She detailed current programs in Newport and Alamitos Bays and explained how Oyster restoration can be accomplished in Huntington Harbour. Ms. Arre also described the many benefits to water quality that Oysters bring to a harbor. Larkin asked who is responsible for maintaining projects once the initiatives are implemented. Ms. Arre said that ongoing monitoring of restoration projects can be challenging due to the need to come up with annual funding. Wood asked about the details of the permit that is required to do Oyster restoration. Ms. Arre explained the requirements, including cost, during the balance of her presentation. Vu asked if OCTA would provide funding for this type of project and Mr. Brown

explained that they would not since it is not a water quality treatment project. Vu asked if non-native Oyster species are discouraged because they displace the native species and Ms. Arre explained that the effort is not to remove the non-natives, but to encourage growth of native species so that they can become the dominant species. Vu also asked if Oysters are restored as wet shells or dry. Ms. Arre said that shells are baked in the sun for about a year, which kills any biotic contaminants.

B) Harbour Report

Dieterman provided the Harbour Report, which included updates on water quality and the Marine Safety Division response statistics for June 2022. He noted that Lifeguards are now stationed on the kayak and stand up paddleboard rental beach and Van Voorhis asked how many days they are there. Dieterman said they are there Thursday to Sunday and the staffing is being evaluated to determine the best schedule. To provided an update on changes to the Harbour Commission Website, which included meeting agenda, minutes and Harbour Report updates on the site. A shortened URL for the site was also designed and implemented during the past month and the adopted Harbour Commission Strategic Plan was uploaded to the site. She reviewed future changes that will be made, including a more detailed history of the Harbour, Strategic Plan project updates and additional paddleboard and kayak safety information. Wysocki said that the Historic Resources Board is researching additional information on the Harbour's history. She also highlighted a flyer on kayak and paddle board safety that her department designed and asked the Commissioners to provide Justen or To any feedback they might have on it. The flyer includes a QR code, which scans to more detailed safety information on the Harbour Commission website. Milligan asked if the QR code can be installed on the rental boards. Wysocki said that this can be considered.

C) Harbour Commission Strategic Plan

Haberle said the Harbour Commission Strategic Plan was adopted at the May 23, 2022 meeting and reporting on project initiatives will begin at the July 28, 2022 meeting.

D) Huntington Harbour Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee

Commissioner Vu provided an update on the upcoming Neighborhood Watch meeting on crime prevention through neighborhood cohesiveness and collaboration. It will be held at 5 p.m. on July 13, 2022 at the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club. The Club can accommodate 150 attendees. Commissioner Wood thanked Lisa Rudy for her public comments regarding the burglary at her home and expressed her appreciation for the City staff members who will be speaking at the upcoming event. Larkin said that there is a lot of interest in this event and anticipates good attendance. Lieutenant Sean White provided a *PowerPoint* presentation that included 2022 crime statistics for the Harbour area. It also had a listing of the proactive measures and crime prevention actions that the Police Department is taking. Larkin asked if the Police Department is working with similar neighboring cities to see if they are having some of the same problems. White said he would reach out to them. Vu asked about the eleven (11) burglaries shown in the presentation and White said that the number represents the calls for service but the ones on the following slide categorized as *burglaries* actually includes nine (9) instances of residential burglary in 2022. He said the group the Department has identified is referred to as the *South American Theft Group*. This is a nationwide criminal organization that has committed twenty two (22) burglaries in Huntington Beach. They typically focus on higher socio economic properties and enter through a second floor window or sliding glass door. For many of the burglaries they target smaller safes that can be carried away. Milligan asked if

alarm stickers on glass doors and windows is a deterrent and White said that this is a good preventative measure. Larkin asked how long they are usually in the residence and White said it typically ranges from a couple of minutes to no more than ten (10) minutes. Finally, he provided a list of specific recommendations to help prevent residential burglaries. Lieutenant White said he very much looks forward to working with the Harbour Community to address concerns in this area.

E) Consideration of Ad Hoc Committee on Dredging and Eel Grass

Nielsen asked about dredging done by Orange County Public Works Department in Huntington Harbour. He said it would be useful for the Commission to know when dredging is done, how often and if they conduct an Eel Grass survey. Gary Brown noted that much of the funding for harbor dredging is from the federal government and harbors such as Newport Beach and Dana Harbor qualify, where Huntington Harbour does not have the federal designation to qualify. Haberle said that City staff will obtain information from the County about their dredging activities and report back at the next meeting. He noted that it would be easier for staff to obtain this information. No motion to form an Ad Hoc Committee on Dredging and Eel Grass was made.

STAFF COMMENTS

Hoang introduced Code Enforcement Officer II Devin Michaelis, who will be assisting the Commission with municipal code enforcement issues. The Commissioners welcomed him. He also asked if the Commission would like the flyer for the July 13th Neighborhood Watch meeting to be distributed to Harbour Home Owners Associations and property management companies. Commissioners said that this would be a good idea. Haberle highlighted the Heart Safe HB Program and said Sidewalk CPR and AED trainings could also be provided to the group that is being organized by the Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee. The group could also help identify the best placement of AEDs in the Harbour area. Haberle said that opportunities for Oyster restoration in the Harbour will be evaluated by staff and a report provided to the Commission. They will follow up with Claire Arre regarding this and provide information on procedures, costs and potential locations.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wood reported that she has been working with Fire Department staff regarding the donation of surplus equipment to the fire department in a poor community in Baja California, Mexico. It will be delivered by a private boating group that is going there in the fall. Vu recommended that the group delivering the equipment do a video of the effort.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Vu and seconded by Larkin at 7:06 p.m. to adjourn to the July 28, 2022 meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote, 7-0:

AYES: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Vu, Wood
NOES: None

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harbour Commission will be scheduled for July 28, 2022 and will be held at a location to be announced.