

A REGULAR MEETING  
SIGNAL HILL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES

March 17, 2021  
6:00 p.m.

A Regular Meeting of the Signal Hill Parks and Recreation Commission was held by teleconference on March 17, 2021 pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom.

**CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 P.M.**

Chair Anhorn announced tonight's meeting for the Parks and Recreation Commission is held virtually.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:     Chair Anhorn  
              Vice Chair Hughes  
              Commissioner Lauer  
              Commissioner Rogers  
              Commissioner Kiss-Lee

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Anhorn led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Resident, Sandy Lopez, stated residents in the area are interested in a pickle ball court at Discovery Well Park. Would like her request to be taken into consideration. There are not a lot of activities for seniors.

Resident, Mark Malbon, stated he will wait to give his comments on pickle ball.

**PRESENTATION**

None

**DISCUSSION ITEM(S)**

**(A) 2021 PRIORITIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN STUDY SESSION**

Director Mancini provided the background and update regarding the 2021 Prioritization and Implementation Plan (PIP) which will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission before being presented to the City Council.

Commissioner Rogers asked for clarification on the survey results on the repurposing of Spud Field. Manager Dobay provided the information.

Commissioner Lauer suggested the City seek sponsors for the fencing around the Reservoir Park tot-lot. Director Mancini stated that the City is always looking for grants and sponsorships and donations are typically done through the Signal Hill Community Foundation. Commissioner Lauer asked if the Senior Center could be rolled into the renovation of the Community Center. Director Mancini stated yes, that is a possibility.

Vice Chair Hughes liked the idea of sponsorship for the tot-lot fencing.

Chair Anhorn commented that six of the nine items are all in Signal Hill Park. Chair Anhorn explained the public comment procedure and suggested a three minute time limit for speakers.

It was motioned by Commissioner Lauer and seconded by Commissioner Kiss-Lee to set a three minute time limit on public speakers.

The following vote resulted:

AYES:       Chair Anhorn  
              Vice Chair Hughes  
              Commissioner Kiss-Lee  
              Commissioner Lauer  
              Commissioner Rogers

NOES:       None

ABSENT:    None

ABSTAIN:   None

Signal Hill Resident Cecilia Fidora agreed the Senior Center does not need to stand alone and that pickle ball is a trend and is not sure if should be incorporated into the basketball courts.

Signal Hill Resident Susan put in her vote for a pickle ball court and thought it was a good idea to use the basketball court for pickle ball.

Signal Hill Resident Anna Kate thought the document was easy to understand and approved of the fencing of the tot-lot at Reservoir Park due to the busy street. Loves that the amphitheater is going to be renovated, perhaps extend it to have a performing arts facility and create more activities through the year for everyone.

Signal Hill Resident Joe asked for consideration for a pickle ball court. It is a good transition game with a small footprint and suggested extending the concrete at Discovery Well Park (DWP) to accommodate.

Signal Hill Resident Stephen Maher stated it was not too expensive to install a few pickle ball court and hopes the City will accommodate their request.

Signal Hill Resident Rick Ferreira supports the pickle ball court as they currently have to travel to Long Beach or Seal Beach to play. Works for all ages and DWP would be a perfect spot.

Signal Hill Resident Triphina Moore supports the establishment of pickle ball court at DWP. Could install it at the basketball court, which would be low cost; just pay for the lines to be painted. Schedule pickle ball in the morning and basketball in the afternoons.

Signal Hill Resident Mike stated pickle ball has a small footprint and four can fit on one tennis court. It is a social sport and would be utilized by youth and seniors. They currently have to travel to Long Beach, Seal Beach, and Tustin to play. Would be good to have one here.

Signal Hill Resident Robyn Valero lives next to two abandoned houses owned by the City and they are being overrun by rodents. Concerned what the City will do with the two derelict houses.

Signal Hill Resident Stephen Green has been playing pickle ball for a year and a half and Long Beach does not have any permanent pickle ball courts. Has to travel to Cypress and Seal Beach to play. It's for all ages and court does not need to be at DWP.

Signal Hill Resident Mark Malbon supports pickle ball and attests to the popularity of the sport. Pickle ball is universally accepted and is extremely popular. The DWP location would work out extremely well.

Signal Hill Resident Lisa Wong noticed the City shuttle was not in the presentation and hopes it is added to the list of priorities. Accessibility is needed for community engagement and participation. Would like to see an electric shuttle.

Signal Hill Resident Scott Wilcox stated he participated in the 2017 Needs Assessment and there was no such thing as COVID-19 then. Pandemic has changed how we use our parks and he is passionate about this (pickle ball). Take into consideration that the process was started before the pandemic.

Signal Hill Resident Lisa Janco would like to show her support for pickle ball court. Signal Hill is a nice place and it would improve the park and would get a lot of use.

Signal Hill Resident Carmen Brooks thought it was great so many Signal Hill residents were invested. When the 2017 Needs Assessment was done we did not have a pandemic. Need to take into consideration events going on now. Also, the two abandoned houses would be a great location for pickle ball. Senior center within the Community Center is a great idea. Asked Aly to read her comments from an email about a new dog park.

Signal Hill Resident Triphina Moore proposed an additional dog park in Signal Hill is needed. The current one is not big enough for larger dogs to run.

Director Mancini stated she received 15 emails in support of pickle ball courts at DWP and received one phone call from a resident opposed to the idea of pickle ball at DWP; parking is very impacted already. Director Mancini received four emails from residents requesting an additional dog park in Signal Hill.

Commissioner Rogers stated there are currently 17 pickle ball courts in Long Beach, and not opposed, but received phone calls about the impact it will have on parking at DWP. We should ask for sponsorship for the fencing at the Reservoir Park tot-lot. Spud Field space could be used for pickle ball courts and parking. Community Center can be renovated and combined with the Senior Center.

Vice Chair Hughes is concerned with DWP parking. It would harm youth in the community to have a dual use on that court, kids who do sports do better academically. The green space at DWP is for toddlers and families to play. Concerned with taking it away for hard space and parking there is always difficult. Hillbrook Park, it would be nice to see a splash pad there. Senior Center is a priority and can be adapted with other usage. The amphitheater is for everyone and it would be tremendous to use it for theater.

Commissioner Kiss-Lee thanked the residents for their feedback and comments. Asked if staff could look into the possibility of temporary pickle ball courts on the footprints of the houses being demolished adjacent to Signal Hill Park. Maybe DG and spray paint lines while looking at more permanent options. DWP is not a good location due to the parking. Is there room to combine projects at Signal Hill Park as our flagship park? Fencing around the Reservoir Park tot-lot is a priority that would complete that park. Wardlow Avenue is very busy and would make it safer.

Commissioner Lauer thought the fencing around the tot-lot at Reservoir Park is a safety issue and should be high priority. Utilizing DWP for pickle ball should be studied. Suggested Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for pickle ball.

Chair Anhorn is looking for best use of projects that will serve most of our residents in our City. Hillbrook Park is in a densely populated area and is dated; should be a priority for those that live in the area. The Reservoir Park tot-lot should be at the top of the list. Making Signal Hill Park the flagship park will be a long process. Replacing the playground would be much easier and a less expensive project to complete before a Senior Center. A pilot pickle ball program could be held at the parking lot, adjacent to the library, temporary courts in the morning, to gauge interest. DWP is already impacted by heavy use and the Signal Hill Park location is more centrally located in the City.

Commissioner Lauer commented that at the Signal Hill Park basketball courts there is ample parking and staff can study the hours of play.

Chair Anhorn commented that staff would also be able to monitor the noise level of pickle ball.

Commissioner Lauer stated that it is important that we do not reduce the green space at DWP.

Director Mancini will look into using Signal Hill Park basketball courts and will work with the residents interested in pickle ball.

The Parks and Recreation Commission ranked their nine different projects for prioritization in order of importance.

It was motioned by Commissioner Kiss-Lee and seconded by Commissioner Rogers to recommend the ranked project list into a draft PIP document for Commission review/approval.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: Chair Anhorn  
Vice Chair Hughes  
Commissioner Kiss-Lee  
Commissioner Lauer  
Commissioner Rogers

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

#### **(B) UPDATES ON CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, PARK PROJECTS, OR PROGRAMS**

Staff provided an update on various actions which affect the Community Services Department such as City Council direction and Community Services programs which have changed over the previous month.

It was motioned by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Vice Chair Hughes to receive and file the report.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: Chair Anhorn  
Vice Chair Hughes  
Commissioner Kiss-Lee  
Commissioner Lauer  
Commissioner Rogers

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

It was motioned by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Commissioner Lauer to approve the Consent Calendar.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: Chair Anhorn  
Vice Chair Hughes  
Commissioner Kiss-Lee  
Commissioner Lauer  
Commissioner Rogers

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

### **COMMISSION NEW BUSINESS**

Director Mancini read emails from Signal Hill Resident Mr. Simmons, into the record, regarding removing trees at Hilltop Park to improve his view.

Commissioner Rogers wished everyone a happy Saint Patrick's Day.

Vice Chair Hughes thanked staff for a productive and thorough meeting.

Commissioner Rogers congratulated Vice Chair Hughes for being receiving the Woman of Distinction Award, from Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnells office.

Chair Anhorn thanked staff, the Commission and the community for being involved. Read the City announcements.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Vice Chair Hughes to adjourn to the next Regular Meeting of the Signal Hill Parks & Recreation Commission on Wednesday, April 21, at 6:00 p.m.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: Chair Anhorn

Vice Chair Hughes  
Commissioner Kiss-Lee  
Commissioner Lauer  
Commissioner Rogers

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CHAIR ANHORN adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

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Tim Anhorn  
Chair

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Aly Mancini  
Commission Secretary