



**City of Pacific Grove
Beautification & Natural Resources Committee
Minutes of Meeting – September 25, 2007**

Present: Committee members: Jean Anton; Tom Akeman; Bill Kampe; Mark Travaille, Roger Phillips

Staff: Celia Perez Martinez; Paul Finnegan

Absent: Miles Stearman, Dave Meyers

Guests: Sue Andrews, Marine Mammal Center; Marc Kline, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration(NOAA); Robert Yerena NOAA; David Sherman, coastal biologist; Teri Nicholson, Hopkins Marine Station; Joe Cordaro (phone) Southwest Manager, National Marine Fisheries Service-NOAA

The meeting was called to order by Jean Anton at 4:00 pm.

1. Approval of the Minutes of meeting held September 25, 2007.
Motion by Mr. Kampe to approve the minutes: seconded by Mr. Travaille:
Four corrections:
 1. Mr. Kampe asked for the City "tree list" to be placed on the agenda
 2. Mr. Travaille asked that Rip Van Winkle Park be placed on the agenda.
 3. Correction to Mazi Kavooosi's name spelling.
 4. In correspondence change to "seals" not signs.Unanimous aye vote.
2. Oral Communications: Ms. Anton stated for the record that the following need to be on the next agenda:
 1. BID update under old business
 2. Rip Van Winkle Park under new business
 3. Directional signage per City Council under new business
 - A. and discuss sub committee needs for this topic
3. Old Business:

- A. Newsracks Update: Ms. Anton related she had e-mailed Mr. Kavooosi and he had replied with a 3 month timeline for the first three sites. She shared that the Mayor Dan Cort is also anxious to have the site at Lighthouse and Forest completed. Ms. Martinez reported that she offered to front the costs of the racks if that will speed things up. We are awaiting word.
- B. Residential Parking: Mr. Stearman was not present to speak on this item.
- C. Rocky Shores: Mr. Kampe reported that Ms. Anton, Mr. Travaille, Ms. Martinez and he visited the site to determine where the easement may be to accommodate completion of the path from the Asilomar State Beach to the current recreation trail that is "paved". Ms. Martinez reported that the Coastal Commission has the final say on the easement and it can be further into the property. That was well received as handicap accessibility could be a challenge other wise. The group that met at the site had general agreement about a path that could work for the path.

4 New Business:

- A. Tree permit summary for Sep 2007: Reviewed and accepted.
- B. Harbor Seals Protection Issue: The guests all had an opportunity to voice opinion and make suggestions to the committee and staff regarding the possible landing of Harbor Seals at Lovers Point particularly during pupping season. Mr. Cordaro was particularly insightful and had specific opinions and suggestions as to the City's options and path it may want to take should this natural phenomena take place. Mr. Akeman led the discussion with a background report on the behavior and population growth of the seals over the last decade. Ms. Nicholson expressed the opinion that the Lovers Point beach was too "human" for seals and that they have laid on the Lovers Point rocks for several years without landing on the beach. It was Mr. Cordaro's opinion and concurred with by the rest of the guests that if seals were to come on to Lovers Point Beach the City should take action to discourage their landing. It was also agreed upon by the guests, committee, and staff that if the City discovered pups and their mothers, that they would be protected until the time they chose to leave the beach. Mr. Yerena, Law Enforcement for NOAA, presented sections of the National Marine Fisheries enforcement code and Mr. Akeman provided a handout from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service website entitled *Potential Deterrence Methods for Pacific Harbor Seals and CA Sea Lions*. Mr. Cordaro encouraged the City's employment of these methods should the seals land on Lovers Point Beach. After the discussion was complete, a sub committee of Messrs Kampe, Akeman, and Phillips was appointed to come up with a plan to address the potential of seals coming on to Lovers Point.

Staff addressed with the guests the options available to further deter the public from heading onto the small beach at Ocean View Blvd. and Fifth St. with regards to the public crossing a barrier at low tide. Mr. Yereña indicated he would work with staff for posting of signs on the beach.

5. Sub Committee reports:

A. Recycling: No report was made

B. Tidepool: Ms. Anton indicated the committee was still finalizing the wording for the tide pool signs.

6. Correspondence: None

7. Agenda items for next meeting:

As mentioned above in the corrected minutes and the Harbor Seal Protection issue for a report by the sub committee.

8. Adjournment:

Motioned by Mr. Travaille, seconded by Mr. Kampe. Unanimous Aye vote.

The next meeting of the BNRC will be on Tuesday, October 23, 2007, 4:00 PM at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, 165 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove.