

La Jolla Town Council Minutes March 11
Annual Meeting by Zoom due to COVID

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 with a Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present- Bache, Brennan, Chasan, Jones, C.; Hammond, Hunt, Dagon, Rudolph, Baginski, Casco, Decker, Dershowitz, Jones, R.; Littlemore, Marsden, Merriman, Petterson.

Retiring trustees : McGowan, Forbes, Cole (resigned), Harris(resigned)

Minutes: Motion to approve as distributed by Jerri Hunt/second Rick Dagon. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve La Jolla Community Planning Assoc. (LJCPA)actions by Rudolph/second Brennan.

La Jolla Community Planning Association approved the actions below at their March Meeting.

1) Approved the **Coastal Bike Trail** along Gilman Drive with the addition of "Sharrows" as approved by Traffic and Transportation-separated trail

2) Asked the City of San Diego to develop a comprehensive plan for **Gilman Dr.** by 2026.

3) Approved at **416 Nautilus** a companion unit conversion in RM-1-1 Zone , Coastal Zone, Geo Hazard Zone, Transit Priority Zone on .762 acre

4) Approved a letter of support for PARC - Park & Recreation Committee in regards to altering the Master Plan for parks currently under consideration- asking for changes in the "point "system

5) Supported an extension of the EIR review period for the La Jolla Reservoir reconstruction on Mount Soledad /Country Club impact area.

6) Established a committee to work with the City of San Diego on the reservoir plans especially mitigation, transportation supervision of the project. Passed Unanimously

President Bache vacated the chair to permit consideration of the Traffic & Transportation Item :A permit for the Christmas Parade and Holiday Festival to set up No Parking Zones and street closures for the event scheduled for December 5,2021.

Motion to approve: Hunt/second Chasan.Passed.

President's Report- The President recognized the service provided to La Jolla by Boy Scouts of Troop 506. Emilio Mossimo and Santino De Soto organized trash pick-ups throughout Scripps Park to ameliorate deteriorating conditions of littering due to Covid . Canisters filled to overflowing with containers due to increased outdoor dining.

The President thanked outgoing trustees: Mike Cole, Tony Harris, Gail Forbes, Joe Pitrofsky, Elizabeth King, Steve Haskins, Cindy McGowan. She noted their assistance in improving the state of La Jolla Town Council over the last six years- finances, membership, office space, website, taxes, and the COVID quarantine.

Swearing in New Trustees - The President welcomed Councilperson Joe LaCava who administered the oath of office to the eight new trustees. Taking the oath in person :M. Dershowitz, R. Jones.(both re-elected to 3 year terms) and Brooke Baginski, Ernie Casco, Cody Decker, Christy Littlemore, Charles Merriman. Carolyn Madsen took the oath via Zoom.

Mr. La Cava complimented the work of and service to La Jolla performed by the trustees, officers, and volunteers of the Town Council. The organization acts as a place for information and advocacy and exchange of ideas and concerns.

Pres. Bache thanked Mr. La Cava and Bill Kellogg, President of the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, for helping with the in person ceremony, and conducting it in compliance with COVID regulations.

She Introduced Ed Witt of Enhance La Jolla, the Municipal Assessment District (MAD) who announced an event to be held on March 20, Saturday along Girard Avenue in conjunction with: La Jolla Community Center, La Jolla Village Merchants Assoc. (LJVMA) Parks and Beaches Committee, La Jolla Shores Assoc. and the Town Council. This will highlight the improvements to tree wells along Girard. He mentioned the painting of the Handrail barrier along Prospect at the Dip as another example of the MAD's repair work (Chris Cott painter). MAD hopes to make La Jolla a safe and clean area to work and play.

Election of Officers - Rick Dagon co-ordinated the election electronically through a sharing of screen on Zoom. The slate proposed by the Executive Committee acting as a nominations board was:

President - James Rudolph Jerri Hunt Treasurer- Chuck Merriman
Chief Tech Officer- Rick Dagon Secretary- Brooke Baginski

There were no nominations from the floor which would have been added to the slate electronically. Since the By-laws require a written ballot and the counting thereof the meeting proceeded to:

COASTAL ISSUES FORUM.

Beach Fires Dorie De Franco from the Barber Tract enumerated the serious problems surrounding the intense use of wood fires at the pocket beaches. Pollution, fine particulate smoke, smelly smoke, noise, hot coals left in the sand, misuse of fire rings, pallet burning, unattended fires, fire embers and wildfire or roof fire hazard, cinders and charcoal that blacken beach sand and water, floating logs that can harm swimmer, surfer, boaters.

Compounding the fire issue is the slow response time from Northern District Police to complaints about noise, dogs, or alcohol and drug use. Signs that should control behavior are ignored or insufficient. Such police calls are a low priority response in the hierarchy of crimes.

Suggested solution is a ban on wood fires and the use of propane fuel as a fire source. Other cities have banned wood fuel at the beach. Debris would be lessened. The chance for injury diminished. Propane fuel is affordable and easily contained to a setting without flaming embers. Ms. De Franco asked for a motion of support from La Jolla Town Council. The item will be put on the agenda for April as an **ACTION** item since it was not noticed as such at this meeting and no discussion ensued.

Seals at La Jolla Cove and Children's Pool John Leeks provided a brief local history from 1995 to 2015 of the seals and sea lions that now populate the shoreline along Coast Blvd. Some City actions were taken (signs to warn beachgoers to stay away, bluffs deodorized, fence and gates installed or repaired) "Crisis at the Cove" (2016) was a forum conducted by LJTC. Numbers increased, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) studied its side

effects with focus on the La Jolla Marine Preserve. They are eating native species and appear to be well fed animals. The animals are under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and have become a tourist attraction. Mr. Leeks proposes that the City should review the Protected status as it is obvious the Marine animals are thriving and the population is sustainable. He suggests the pinnipeds do not require protection. Data chart 2013-2016 . Many dive clubs, restaurateurs, lifeguards agree that the animals have nuisance value. Documents and an opportunity for more education or to contact authorities on the topic are on the LJTC website "Hot Topics".

Torrey Pines Mesa

The United States Golf Association (USGA) will hold the US Open Tournament at Torrey Pines in June from 17th to 20th. Due to COVID quarantine and shifting conditions the USGA was unable to provide exact information about ticket availability, prices, transportation, anticipated crowds. C. Merriman may be able to provide information by the next LJTC meeting.

North Torrey Pines Traffic Lights at UCSD Anuradha Delouri, UCSD Asst Director Community
The project is a collaboration between UCSD and City of San Diego and will ameliorate deteriorating traffic congestion along the outskirts of the campus 26 intersections, from Regents Road (Health Center) along La Jolla Village Dr. and North Torrey Pines Road to Revelle and North Torrey Pines to Genesee. The signals will adjust in "real time" by reacting to demand . It is a \$4million investment for intelligent management and uses a system of Transit priority. The Bus system will have built in communication with the system. Three phases of implementation are planned starting in summer 2021 and finishing in summer 2022. She shared a map of the areas. The system should be able to respond to special events, accidents, minimize maintenance and reduce congestion. Speed limits will stay the same.

Coastal Bluff Failure

Nicole Van Dore, Captain, Chief Ranger, California State Parks, San Diego Coast District described the geographic area from Carlsbad to La Jolla that is most prone to bluff failure and sudden collapse. This safety issue has been made more urgent by recent events in Del Mar and on Black's Beach. New Year's Eve daytime south of Lifeguard tower #1 and ½ mile south of Tower 7 on Feb. 27th. No injuries have been reported. Damage along the Coaster Train line will require emergency repairs; rail service has been interrupted.

Signs along the beach and in Torrey Pines State Park have been posted to warn people about the dangers of standing or picnicking below the cliffs, walking too close to the edge of the bluffs, and taking steep cross country routes along the cliffs to gain beach access. Bluff collapse can happen without warning at any time and is a natural process. A debris pile is a signal ;this is an active area - stay back. Check tide charts if planning to hike along the beach plan to hike at low tide to avoid proximity to danger slide zones. Leave dogs and pets at home so they do not approach bluffs.

During the quarantine of COVID Torrey Pines State Park has experienced record crowds. Crowds are controlled or limited mostly by parking lot capacity. There is no designated maximum ,but the rangers ask visitors to maintain social distance while visiting in the park. Learn the rules and regulations in the park. Stay on the designated trails. Watch out for rattlesnakes as temperatures warm. Wildflowers have yet to produce significant bloom but recent rains may provoke more flowers. The Ranger lodge is open to visitors.

Torrey Pine Gliderport Bob Kuczewski Torrey Hawks, shared a slide show outlining some of the problems he has encountered at Torrey Pines Glider Port. The property for the gliderport is City of San Diego (Pueblo) land dedicated to glider events in the late 1950's. It is the site of national flight events. Four main types include: Hang-glider, Sailplanes, Radio control planes, and sail kites(?). Problems he described include- accidents, lawlessness, bullying or intimidation and financial questions. He mentioned possible violations of the Coastal rules and hoped that a Citizen's Advisory Committee could hold current management to account for problems. The City lease expired in 2008 and explanations as to its renewal and enforcement of the terms of the lease he deems insufficient. Insurance has been an issue. The City of Los Angeles operates glider facilities differently, asking for waivers instead of proof of insurance. The issues have been discussed at City Council with no satisfactory resolution starting in 2014.

MOTION: J. Hunt/ second? From the LJTC Adhoc Committee on Gliderport Issues with chair: Michael Dershowitz, Cody Pettersen, and Ernie Casco. **Passed** 16 in favor .

REPORT From Election Committee 16 votes in favor of the new slate of officers. Swearing in of New Officers by former President A Kerr Bache.

Resolution to support Dorie De Franco in Barber Tract with a letter proposed by Jerri Hunt. A joint task Force with District 1 and District 2 could bring the issue forward. **TABLED**

Community Organization Report

La Jolla Shores Assoc. Jane Emerson, chair, The LJSA is in support of the change from permitting wooden fires to propane fuel. The Board has conducted elections. Officers will be Crime and Safety - Police Officer, Brian Broaddus, San Diego Police Department (SDPD) introduced. He answered questions. Crime maps is a website that is a private company that reports from the initial crime report and rarely updates. Some reports reflect inaccuracies and so does the website. A series of neighborhood robberies has occurred. Car thefts have increased. Car burglaries have occurred- leave your car empty so as not to entice a thief. Package theft from delivery can be avoided by making specific arrangements- Amazon drop box. Speeding- A new radar equipped patrol car is available for enforcement. Let the North office know of speed zones. If your security system records video of a crime you can send it to Police. Photographs can also be sent in for a report.. Catherine Douglas, LJTC Committee Safety & Crime reminded citizens that a report must be made to obtain staffing and service from Police. Very lucky to have Capt. Novak, Lt Rick Aguliar and Melanie Roette. Beach offenses like fires and noise have a low priority.

No other reports from Community groups. No Public comments.

Meeting adjourned. 7:05 p.m. (approx)

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Forbes

LJTC Secretary

