



Minutes
Surf Camp/School Policy Advisory Task Force
City of Pacifica

REGULAR MEETING – 6 PM

Tuesday April 20, 2021

VIA Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91956994341>

CALL TO ORDER:

Facilitator Cindy Abbott: called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. She welcomed the members and thanked them for attending.

Recreation Specialist Kenda Seeley: read the COVID announcement and took roll call.

I Roll Call:

Surf Camp Task Force Members Present: Cindy Abbott, Kevin Kellogg, Cynthia Knowles, Cliff Hodges, Mira Manickam-Shirley, Stefan Mayo, Kimberly Williams, Malcolm Carson, and Nia Rivers.

Members Absent: None

Members Excused: None

Staff Present: Director Michael Perez, Recreation Assistant Supervisor Beth Phipps, Aquatics Coordinator Anthony Schriver, and Recreation Specialist Kenda Seeley.

II Administrative Business:

A. Operating Procedures:

Cindy Abbott: reminded the members to have their cameras turned on during the meetings and to use the raise hand feature or to make sure their physical hand it held high enough to see.

B. Approval of Minutes:

Cindy Abbott: called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 03/16/2021 meeting. **Motion was made by Kimberly Williams, seconded by Kevin Kellogg, motion carried 9-0.**

C. Introduction of Parking Lot items:

Cindy Abbott: introduced the concept of Parking Lot items as a way of keeping track of important issues that need to be addressed at a future time.

Director Perez: advised that the PB&R staff has created a Parking Lot item list that would assist in capturing and tracking information, subjects, and questions during the Task Force meetings for future discussion and follow-up. He explained how the Task Force members would go about utilizing the form and then opened up the discussion for questions.

Chair Abbott: asked the Task Force members if they would like to vote on either items 1 or 2 of the Parking Lot items this evening.

Stephan Mayo: asked if 74 was the actual number of permitted spots that are being allowed for load?

Cindy Abbott: advised that item 1 was a broad overall statement and the actual number can be discussed if the Task Force members would like to do so.

Malcom Carson: asked what "load" actually means.

Cindy Abbott: answered that it is the maximum amount of surf camp students that can be on the beach at any one time.

Cliff Hodges: commented that surf schools closing on the holidays is a great idea. Load is also a good idea for studying beach impact but thinks using it for permitting is understudied and it is phenomenally too early to implement.

Cindy Abbott: mentioned that there had been about three people that have said, moving to load is too early. She suggested keeping the items as Parking Lot items for now.

Malcom Carson: commented that item 2, seems to have a consensus and thinks it should be voted on.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: asked for the holiday dates to be defined.

Kevin Kellogg: agreed that they need to identify what holidays are observed at the beach. He also commented that during the Dog Surfing Contest day should also be included.

Cliff Hodges: added that his Surf School is closed on major holidays like The 4th of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and during the Dog Surfing Contest as well.

Cindy Abbott: advised that there needs to be clarification of observed holidays and will keep item 2 as a Parking Lot Item until clarified.

Director Perez: advised that the PB&R staff will provide a holiday schedule that will list all the major holidays that the City observes.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: proposed going with the dates as a starting point that Cliff Hodges had mentioned.

Cindy Abbott: Thanked everyone for their additions to the Parking Lot items and opened the floor to Director Perez for the Survey Update.

D. Survey Update:

Director Perez: advised that Supervisor Beth Phipps met with the Park Rangers regarding the survey, but that no actual data has been turned in as of yet.

Beth Phipps: encouraged the Task Force members to participate in the survey through data collection as well and advised that she would send out the survey to all the members.

Cindy Abbott: confirmed that the rangers have been updated on the survey process and will start collecting data. She clarified that the survey was taken from the information that Cliff Hodges shared at the last meeting.

Cynthia Knowles: asked how and when the data would be collected.

Director Perez: clarified that the input time would be noted on the survey.

Beth Phipps: confirmed that the Rangers will be at the beach at random times so the times listed on the survey will be at random times. The times and dates will be random data.

Kimberly Williams: advised that she doesn't recall the data on the survey and asked what information they would be collecting.

Beth Phipps: clarified that they are collecting the number of people on the beach in general, the number of surfers in the water and on the beach, and the number of surf camp participants.

Cliff Hodges: reminded the Task Force members that at the last meeting, he presented a spreadsheet with the same data on it and everyone mutually agreed to have more information collected in that same form.

Kimberly Williams: asked if the Rangers will know who is in a surf

school and who is not?

Cliff Hodges: commented that the surf schools are required to wear jerseys and that they all have jerseys.

Kimberly Williams: advised that she wants to make sure that the Rangers clearly understand how to identify a surf school.

Beth Phipps: confirmed that the Rangers will only count the ones that they can identify as surf school members.

Cindy Abbott: advise that those are the ones who will be wearing a jersey.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: asked if the survey is only being done by the Rangers and not the surf schools?

Beth Phipps: advised that it will be available soon to the surf schools.

Cindy Abbott: commented that as previously noted, it will be available to the Task Force members. She asked Beth Phipps to send the survey out to the Task Force members and the surf schools.

Kimberly Williams: said that she is still concerned and asked how the collection of data will be controlled for accuracy? She is afraid that the data could be fabricated.

Cynthia Knowles: asked who she is concerned will fabricate information?

Kimberly Williams: answered that anybody could take the survey out to the beach and put random numbers into it. She is concerned that somebody who may have other goals in mind could send in numbers that are not correct.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: advised that she too echoes that concern and that everyone has bias.

Cindy Abbott: clarified that there are three populations that are actively engaged in the CAPP Permitting process. The Rangers, the Surf Schools, and The Task Force members.

Cliff Hodges: explained that he if anyone has doubts that they should go out and proactively see for themselves. He advised that there is no official or formal way to collect the data.

Kimberly Williams: stated that the only concern she has is that there have been certain surf schools who have made known, their opposition to this process and permit. She feels there is a problem when there are people with opposing viewpoints collecting the data. She does not feel they should be using inaccurate data.

Cynthia Knowles: advised that because of the crowding on the beach, it may be hard to get accurate information. She said if they compare all of the data that is brought in, it would be easy to spot random outliers. She thinks it is worthy to compare the information from the sources that they have.

Cliff Hodges: recommended that they should have to state who the source is coming from.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: advised that a critical condition of this survey would be the data should not be aggregated and conglomerated into one spreadsheet. She would like each survey turned in individually and the source be named.

Cynthia Knowles: asked how the information will be presented when compiled and suggested coming up with a process on putting the data into a final format.

Cindy Abbott: suggested putting the collection of the data as a Parking Lot Item. The item should include: numbers of people at the beach, activities they are participating in, name of source, and to come

up with a format to review the data.

Kevin Kellogg: commented that between the three groups collecting the data, the results should be consistent. If there is an outlier, they can test it by going out on the same day and time to do a recount.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: asked what the plan for the data is once the information has been collected and compiled. She would like to know what each of the survey question are trying to answer or solve.

Cindy Abbott: recommended putting the issue as a Parking Lot Item for next meeting as this was a follow up item. She reminded the Task Force members that they asked the PB&R staff to collect this data for this survey.

III Current Task Force Policy Snapshot Update:

Cindy Abbott: reminded everyone that within each Task Force packet that goes out, a Purpose and Current Policy will always be included. At the next meeting, the holiday calendar can be added to the policy to be defined.

IV CAPP Program Framework and Scenarios:

Cindy Abbott: introduced Mira Manickam-Shirley to present the CAPP Application Scenario and Timeline.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: gave a broad overview of the (CAPP) Application Scenario and Timeline which included the following:

- Two year permit period
- Deadlines for Applications
- Example of scenarios including load
- CARB review of criteria
- CARB recommendations
- CARB proposes permits
- Invite Draft Day – First calendaring day
- Invite Draft Day – Second calendaring day

V Task Force CAPP Questions and Discussion:

Stephan Mayo: asked how they calculate load.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: replied by creating a max number of CAPP participants on the beach at any time in four categories. Summer weekdays and weekends, and off season weekdays and weekends.

Malcolm Carson: asked if it is the responsibility of the CARB to go to bat for the CAPP schools and give them what they need, whose job is it to balance things out for the other schools.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: answered that the PB&R Commission is looking at the broader terms as a whole.

Malcolm Carson: asked if there will be an organized process for those decisions to be made. We do not want it to be arbitrary.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: commented that the idea is to build a system to accommodate demand. To her it seems like it will always be a negotiation so a balance needs to be created.

Malcolm Carson: advised that when there is a scarcity, instead of battling it out, there can be a lottery, draft, or by bid price. These are organized ways of negotiation.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: advised based on the understanding now, it's not so scarce that they cannot fulfil the request of the CAPP schools. Maybe in the future, they will have to adjust.

Stephan Mayo: mentioned that the role of the CARB group is really significant and that they have a big role as far as logistics and time are concerned. In examples, school 5 was not granted a permit based on the fact that they did not show proof that they are engaging unrepresented communities. This may put the City at risk by saying they are not diverse enough.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: responded that the CAPP criteria is clear. CARB would go down the list and determine what schools meet the criteria and which ones do not, and for what reasons.

Stephan Mayo: asked if it would then be a percentage of underrepresented students or the diversity within an organization, how would this be determined?

Mira Manickam-Shirley: commented that this can be a Parking Lot item with the recognition that without proactive outreach, programming, and pricing underserved communities have been left out of the surf game. Within the permit, there needs to be a way to recognize this.

Cliff Hodges: agrees that that CARB Board should not have the power to say that they are the ones who are going to define what disadvantage means. The CAPP permit system goal is to not allow commercial surf schools to sneak in under a non-profit permit. Scarcity in context to the resources means beach space and waves. Scarcity is caused by powers outside of this Task Force. Beachgoers have the right in the State of California to use the beach at will. The limiting on providing surf services has been in place for a very long time. The commercial surf schools who are there have been permitted and have rights to those spots. This needs to be considered when balancing equity and scarcity and what the CAPP Permitting Program is trying to accomplish.

Kimberly Williams: she wants to point out the criteria has been provided to the Task Force which would determine qualifications of a permit. The CAPP schools have the burden of fixing a system that they haven't been allowed to take part in.

Malcolm Carson: advised that the risk to the City is a legitimate concern. As long as the Mission of the Organization clearly states that they are dedicated to the category that has been established, then they should be fine.

Cynthia Knowles: advised that qualification, safety, and experience are the most important when teaching kids to surf and that should be considered across all the applications. She stated that while the efforts for the CAPP schools may have this burden, it is important to get the program off the ground.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: responded that many times, if a nonprofit does not have the experience, they will partner with other organizations to supplement for experience.

Cynthia Knowles: responded that this is why the nonprofits should not be disqualified because of the lack of those items.

Cindy Abbott: suggested creating a Parking Lot item for the next meeting for clearly defining the scoring criteria for the program.

Stephan Mayo: asked if the number of applicants per season are limited?

Mira Manickam-Shirley: responded that the vision for the CAPP program is that, if a school fits the criteria, they are encouraged to apply.

Stephan Mayo: confirmed that there could be an unlimited number of applicants and if the CARB accepted the application then the amount of schools during a season

could vary.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: reiterated that there should be a scoring rubric for accepting applications. She doesn't think 20 schools would apply but that in the future, if needed, the rubric criteria can be changed and considerations can be adjusted.

Cindy Abbott: commented that it is important to go back to the grant analogy. The scoring criteria is key when you have more people applying than you have grants. With the amount of selected spots available, not every camp will get what they ask for.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: reiterated that if they are not operating from scarcity. She advised that Cliff Hodges is a commercial school owner, has read the program proposal and criteria, and agrees that the numbers that have been presented are not unreasonable.

Cliff Hodges: advised that he doesn't feel that the CARB should have a mandate to accept all application. They should accept what is feasible and what is allowed.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: responded that she agrees and that it was not the CARB's intention to have a mandate. She explained that the commercial schools do not have to have prove anything and that the CAPP schools are working really hard to figure out how to share the beach. The commercial schools don't have to go through this process, they have their spots. It doesn't seem fair if the spots are automatically reserved for commercial schools while the CAPP schools are constantly having to prove themselves. It's not an equitable system and there is an inequity in the current program.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: she appreciates everyone's questions and comments but would like to point out that the commercial schools do not have to prove anything or go through a process. The CAPP schools are working really hard to figure out a way to share the beach while accommodating space for the commercial schools. It doesn't seem fair that the spots are reserved automatically for commercial schools without having to provide any additional information.

Cindy Abbott: explained the PB&R Commission's mandate and why we are constantly sharing the purpose and what the attention is of the task force is a reminder that they are looking at the overall program and making recommendations on the overall process. The Capp is a critical part and the driver of this but they will be looking at the overall process as well. It needs to be fair and equitable across the board with one group not being required to do more that another group is doing. This is why the task force will also be looking at the application process and the handling of existing surf school permits as part of this process.

Malcom Carson: commented that he sides with Cliff Hodges regarding the normality of a perpetually exclusive right to a natural resource that the current permitting process could turn into overtime. He sympathizes with the schools who get a permit, build a great business and are now trusted, who is to say that you should destroy that in one fell swoop by a public entity. But at the same time he doesn't know if he is ready for Pacifica to accept that just because you are first in line to use a natural resource that it is your (surf schools) right to exploit that forever regardless, and this is just the natural way of doing things and there is nothing wrong with it.

Cindy Abbott: reminded the Task Force members that there is a bigger picture to consider with the CAPP Program. The last couple of meetings have been focused mainly on the permit process.

Kimberly Williams: asked for clarification on how the one-off or one-day events play

into the use of the beach?

Cindy Abbott: asked if this is a topic that could be put in the Parking Lot? They can discuss the large surf events and other beach events that take up days, times, and space.

Cliff Hodges: wanted to respond to Malcom for the record so he is not misquoted. When Malcom said that Cliff stated that commercial entities have a precedent to have unfretted access to exploit natural resources that he does not want to go on record as saying anything like this. What he said was that there is a precedence for continuing commercial operation permits on public land because it benefits both the businesses that build the business and invest the time, as well as the cities, counties, and national governments that operate those lands to have sustainable businesses that can continue to operate. There is a lot of precedent for continuous renewal based on good performance.

Cindy Abbott: Asked if there were any other comments from Task Force members. There were none and she moved the meeting to the next agenda item.

VI Task Force Member Updates and Communications:

Cindy Abbott: Opened the floor for updates and asked Mira Manickam-Shirley to start.

Mira Manickam-Shirley: announced that she is stepping down as Director of Brown Girls Surf and will no longer be on the task force. She advised that the Associate Director Adrianna Guerrero will be taking over as Executive Director of Brown Girl Surf. Also, Jonny Irwin, the Founder and Executive Director of City Surf Project will be taking her place on this Task Force. She thanked everyone for their hard work and said it was a pleasure to serve as a Task Force member.

Nia Rivers: announced that she missed the meeting last month because she gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

VII Upcoming Meeting Roadmap & Next Steps:

Cindy Abbott: advised that the lineup to the Roadmap is correct.

- Policy overview
- Permit limits,
- Discussion on load
- Overall policy and purpose statement.

Cynthia Knowles: suggested putting a criteria review under #5 June 15, 2021 on the Roadmap.

VIII Public Comments:

Jonny Irwin: introduced himself. Thanked everyone for working on the CAPP Permitting. He advised that it is a conservative number that was given due to overcrowding when they created the presentation. He would like to think about load as they move forward with applications. Can the #74 number be raised? He advised that they are trying to move towards equity and hopes that Task Force can keep their sights on that. He asked that the program look at sharing the total space with the commercial and CAPP schools as equal.

Kyla Langen: Owns a small organization in the Bay Area that works to carve out space, increase access, and reduce barriers that keep LGBTQ folks away from the ocean. When they heard that the CAPP permit was expanding in Pacifica, they were very excited. It's nice to hear that the City of Pacifica PB&R is approaching this issue. On behalf of all the organizations like hers, she thanked the Task Force members for going through the arduous process and thanked them for putting the work in

IX Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:53 PM **Motion was made by Cynthia Knowles, second by Kimberly Williams.**

Next Meeting: May 18, 2021 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by,
Kenda Seeley, Recreation Specialist
Parks, Beaches, and Recreation

X

Facilitator, Cindy Abbott

