

CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH



05 Forest Ave., Laguna Beach

**JOINT CITY COUNCIL /
LBUSD MEETING**

RECAP/MINUTES

Thursday, July 15, 2021

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WELCOME

ROLL CALL

CITY COUNCIL

LBUSD BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Councilmember Peter Blake
Councilmember Toni Iseman
Councilmember George Weiss
Mayor Pro Tem Sue Kempf
Mayor Bob Whalen

**PARTICIPATING
MOTELLY:**

Carol Normandin, Board President
Kelly Osborne, Board Clerk
Dr. Jim Kelly, Board Member
Dee Perry, Board Member
Jan Vickers, Board Member

SENT:

None

None

EDGE OF ALLIGENCE: Mayor Bob Whalen

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ina Cook, Jennifer Zeiter, Ksenia McMillan, Bobbi Cox, and Jennifer Sterling expressed their opposition to the Education Elements policies adopted by the Laguna Beach Unified School District, particularly Critical Race Theory (CRT).

Laguna Beach Unified School District Joint Meeting Discussion Topics:**A. Trolley Status for School Year**

Mayor Bob Whalen said there were questions concerning the current status about the Laguna Beach Neighborhood Trolley service.

Director of Public Works Mark McAvoy gave an update on the on-demand Neighborhood Trolley service. He said it is scheduled to go before the City Council at the next meeting, July 27, 2021, with a proposed start time in the fall of 2021, and he described the program, which would mirror the routes of the previous neighborhood trolley program, but on-demand with smaller vehicles. To service the high school, the coastal route would divert up Park Avenue; to service Thurston Middle School, a trolley would be added in the afternoon.

Mayor Bob Whalen confirmed with staff that the number of trolleys could be increased if demand required.

Dee Perry, School Board Member, requested that the trolley service access the students in Laguna Canyon and off of El Toro Road. Director of Public Works Mark McAvoy said that staff could research this option.

Carol Normandin, School Board President, asked about the on-demand function of the trolley service. Director of Public Works Mark McAvoy explained that it was not door-to-door, but rather it would be the ability to request pickup along the current trolley route.

City Manager Shohreh Dupuis said the on-demand trolley service would not be available to students in the morning; however, she said it would be accessible in the afternoon.

Mayor Pro Tem Sue Kempf asked the School Board their opinion on the Neighborhood Trolley service being utilized rather than the standard school busses in the afternoon.

Jason Vilorio, School Superintendent, responded stating that the middle school students on Thursdays and Fridays tended to favor taking the trolleys into town after school and the district supported this action.

Councilmember Toni Iseman suggested the school busses utilize a different drop-off point to alleviate downtown traffic.

Councilmember George Weiss asked about the users of the on-demand application. Director of Public Works Mark McAvoy responded that the app could be used by anyone of any age; however, it was a neighborhood trolley that would stick to a standard route. He added that Sally's Fund was more flexible and provided door-to-door service for seniors in the community. McAvoy said it was cost-prohibitive for trolleys to provide door-to-door service.

B. City Housing Element Status and Bus Yard as Potential Housing Site

Director of Community Development Marc Wiener said that currently residential use was not allowed at the Bus Yard site. He said that as part of the state-mandated Housing Element, staff were currently exploring potential affordable housing sites and he said the Bus Yard property

was a possible site identified in the Housing Element, which would be rezoned for residential use. Wiener said this examination would be completed in the next six to eight months.

Mayor Bob Whalen emphasized that this decision would not move forward without approval from the Laguna Beach Unified School District, and the Housing and Human Services Committee was reviewing several feasible sites throughout Laguna Beach.

Jeff Dixon, Assistant School Superintendent of Business Services, said several District-owned properties were being reviewed for potential housing opportunities and they were happy to work together to come up with creative solutions that were feasible.

Dr. Jim Kelly, School Board Member, said he would support meeting the needs of the city, the students, and the state requirements.

Jan Vickers, School Board Member, said that in order to make any substantial comments on this subject, the School Board would require more information and data regarding land ownership.

Carol Normandin, School Board President, asked about the number of sites staff were investigating. Director of Community Development Marc Weiner said staff had identified 10 or 12 potential locations to meet the state Housing Element requirements. He added that the 10 or 12 locations were already zoned for housing and the District properties would be in addition to those sites.

Jan Vickers, School Board Member, said she would support exploring the opportunity to work collaboratively and cooperatively with the city on this endeavor.

Mayor Bob Whalen said staff and Assistant Superintendent Dixon should move forward with their investigation of the District-owned properties as potential housing sites.

C. Potential for a Second Community Pool.

Mayor Bob Whalen said the city and the District shared the pool use and he asked if the District recognized a growing need for a second community pool.

Carol Normandin, School Board President, said this issue required further investigation from the Assistant Superintendent to determine the need for a second community pool.

Kelly Osborne, School Board Clerk, said Laguna Beach had a robust aquatics community and although she did not have data to support her opinion, she believed there was a need for a second community pool in Laguna Beach.

City Manager Shohreh Dupuis said city staff had compiled reliable pool usage data.

Dee Perry, School Board Member, said she agreed with Board Member Osborne.

Councilmember George Weiss said there was a high demand for pool usage in Laguna Beach and he explained.

City Manager Shohreh Dupuis said staff could come back to the City Council and the School Board with a report on pool usage.

Jan Vickers, School Board Member, added that although there may be the demand for a second pool, it would be difficult to find a location.

D. Potential for reduction of water usage

Mayor Bob Whalen said that because the California Governor had called for a 15% voluntary water reduction, he had requested the City Manager look at areas in Laguna Beach to cut back on water usage. He asked if the District could join the city in this effort.

Jeff Dixon, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, stated that, regardless of a state mandate, the district was always looking for ways to reduce its water consumption and he discussed the conversion of school playing fields from grass to synthetic. He added that the fields were currently under construction, and they should be completed by December 2021.

CITY STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Shohreh Dupuis reiterated the city’s commitment to work closely with the LBUSD staff.

Interim Police Chief Jeff Calvert gave an update on the School Resource Officers accomplishments over the last year. He discussed e-bike safety and the return of the Road Safety Expo.

Mayor Bob Whalen voiced his concerns about e-bike safety and the importance of education.

Councilmember George Weiss asked if e-bike cyclists could be required to be certified. Interim Police Chief Jeff Calvert stated that bicycle city laws could not preempt state laws, which did not require e-bike operators obtain certification.

Carol Normandin, School Board President, asked if e-bike violators could be made to attend a class similar to traffic school for automobiles. Interim Police Chief Jeff Calvert said Laguna Beach had taken huge strides to educate e-bikers. He said that at this time, people that received e-bike moving violations would need to go to standard traffic court.

Dee Perry, School Board Member, stated that it was important that those that violated the laws were ticketed because that may cause others to think twice before they broke the law. She said educating the parents would be important.

LBUSD STAFF REPORTS

Jason Vilorio, School Superintendent, introduced Dr. Shelley Spessard, Public Information Officer, stating the importance of clearing up misconceptions within the community. He thanked city staff for their effective communications with the District. Vilorio addressed the public comments stating that the District did not intend to teach Critical Race Theory in the schools, and he explained Equity Training.

Dr. Chad Mabery, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, described the Adult Education Development program.

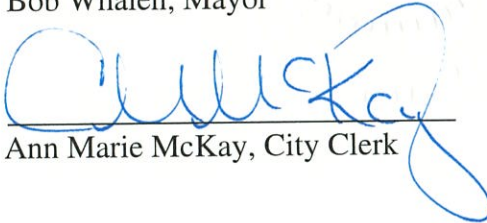
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Whalen at 5:08 p.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2021, recessed to the Regular Closed Session at 4:00 p.m., and the hybrid virtual/in-person Regular City Council Meeting at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at City Hall, 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, California.

Approved July 27, 2021



Bob Whalen, Mayor



Ann Marie McKay, City Clerk