



Newport Beach Women's Democratic Club

Advocating for Democratic Values

in Newport Beach and neighboring communities

PO Box 11761 | Newport Beach, CA 92658

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NBWDC Governmental Activism Committee Report

By Kathleen Andrews, Committee Chair

Newport Beach City Council Recap - May 28, 2019



Several interesting items below:

- ✓ City's Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) discussion
- ✓ John Wayne Airport Expansion (GAIP)

[City Council meeting agendas and videos are located here.](#)

Upcoming Events:

June 3 town hall with Mayor Dianne Dixon at Marina Park. [Details here.](#)

June 7 to 9 Wooden Boat Festival at the Balboa Yacht Club.

Every other Wednesday (6:00 pm) Listen and Learn Planning Commission meetings. Mayor Dixon encourages citizens to attend.

Items to be removed from the Consent Calendar:

- Herdman wants to pull items 5 and 6.
- Brenner wants to pull item 3.
- Item 14 pulled from consent calendar by staff.

Brenner on item 3: introduction of an ordinance restricting construction-related noise on Saturday, and requiring posting a project information sign for construction in high-density areas. Brenner pointed out that would penalize anyone doing their own work. That would be done on weekends, because the subcontractors might only be available on Saturdays.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead



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Herdman points out that reducing the construction week by one day reduces the work week by 17%, adding carrying costs to construction loans, and thus raising construction costs.

Brenner asks if there have been any comments from homeowner groups. City staff did not receive any letters of support, but at town hall meeting was discussed and seemed to be received positively. For the introduced ordinance, the City duplicated the existing Sunday restriction.

Contractors say they are exhausted, and want Saturdays off, too. City staff say that the homeowners 'need a break' from construction noise. Infraction could be charged as a misdemeanor or a citation.

Herdman recalled a study session on this topic, and said the Saturday prohibition and signage would only be for the high-density areas of the city, not out in residential areas. A map was shown with hundreds of red dots, one for each active construction permit in the city. High-density area is mostly Balboa Peninsula.

Avery sees this as not prohibiting construction, but about getting quiet on weekends. Brenner asks about the signage: suggests putting a phone number on the sign, so that someone could be reached if there is a problem with noise.

O'Neil points out that in other areas of the city, HOA's CC&Rs govern construction activities; wants to keep in mind why people buy into HOA's; people outside the HOA areas look to their city council to look out for them regarding noise.

Dixon asks about definition of 'noise'. City staff answers that the threshold is 55 decibels. Introduction of the noise ordinance passed unanimously.

Item 5: Intention to renew the Corona Del Mar Business Improvement District, levying assessments, approving funding support for FY 2019-2020. Comment by resident.

O'Neil introduced this conversion because he is against government compulsion, and wants to see if the businesses want to pay the bills assessed by the business improvement district. O'Neil wants to see it converted from "1984 Law", to 1994 law, so that it's not compulsory to be part of the BID.

Brenner also would like to see a gradual conversion to the 1984, also does not want the BID to be automatic.



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Avery also says we all want the improvements, but is interested in the concept of BIDs, but yet...no one showing up to city council meetings to speak up for or against this.

Dixon suggests holding back the \$40k public funding support to get recommendations for how to convert to the other form of BID. The BID would continue based on the money they get from assessments; the BID would re-work their budget without the public funding of \$40k. The city needs to approve the resolution, and approve the budget, before the public hearing. BID expires June 30th.

Council moves to continue the resolution until next meeting in two weeks.

Item 6: Newport Beach Restaurant Association Business Improvement District. 487 eating establishments in the city. Collected from 97% of the restaurants.

Dixon states that she approves of the concept of BIDs, as a form of self-government, is business-producing, and the businesses feel they are part of their success.

O'Neil makes same suggestion to remove the \$40,000 public money from the budget.

Muldoon votes against, others vote for continuing until the next meeting in two weeks.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

There are changes in airports, a move to more private jets, and more fractional ownership of jets. A man spoke up saying that the citizens would like to see more verbiage from city council, before the County Supervisor vote, saying that the city doesn't want to see a larger airport. Although need to only comment on what's in the existing EIR. The man points out that Street car 4 miles in Santa Ana, for a lot of money. With the same money, could use Elon Musk's The Boring Company-built tunnel shuttle to Ontario International Airport. Two residents spoke up saying that they approve of the way Dixon is speaking up for Newport Beach in front of County Supervisors at meetings.

Denise Oberman: spoke up again on a wall that was built to encroach on her property, and the city sent her a letter saying that city can't take action about that wall.

Resident of Balboa Island: Why want twice as many jets as now? Requests the council to back up the citizens, because the noise and the soot are driving citizens crazy.



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Max Johnson, from Balboa Island: observed a homeless man with drug paraphernalia (needles), and a glass jar of marijuana yesterday while walking Balboa Pier. Wanted to make sure the police department has a plan going forward, since 1,500 Junior Lifeguards will be frequenting the area all summer. Wants the police to have a game plan for dealing with homeless/drugs.

Full discussion can be found in the Council Meeting Minutes and Video. [City Council meeting agendas and videos are located here.](#)