



## **Newport Beach Women's Democratic Club**

**Advocating for Democratic Values**

**in Newport Beach and neighboring communities**

PO Box 11761 | Newport Beach, CA 92658

NBWDC.org | Info@NBWDC.org | 949.423.6468

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## NBWDC Governmental Activism Committee Report

By Kathleen Andrews, Committee Chair

### Newport Beach City Council Recap - July 9, 2019



Several interesting items below:

- ✓ Each NBWDC member should take the short survey at [OCVote.com](https://OCVote.com) to give input to locations of voting centers for the 2020 election.
- ✓ Anybody for or against AirBnB? See consent calendar item #7.
- ✓ **Don't like the tents at the bus station near Fashion Island? See the fourth paragraph under Public Comments.**
- ✓ **Let's thank Hoag Hospital for their contribution to assisting the homeless among us.** See notes under Public Hearing.

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

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Presentations: Orange County Human Relations Council Annual Report. Presented Mayor Dixon with a certificate recognizing her for her support of the group.

Announcements and Oral Reports:

- Duffield reported that on July 5th, his fourth grandchild was born.
- Muldoon thanked the police for a safe 4th of July. Wants to see the staff report to prepare for earthquake emergencies such as raising doors of fire stations when getting warnings of quakes.
- Brenner toured the undergrounding of utilities — seeing the difference before and after **undergrounding. Saw the Discovery Center's Ocean Quest exhibit in progress of construction at the Fun Zone.** Working with Kohl Center to be more involved in the

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*"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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community. Reminds community of the reopening ceremony coming up for the Corona Del Mar branch of the public library and fire station.

- **Herdman reported on the Red Cross' response in Ridgecrest, to give us clues on what to expect from the Red Cross should a quake happen locally.** Shelters are available and staffed, offers of food and water. Reminder for residents to be prepared.
- **O'Neill commented on Mariner's Park 4th of July parade. July 22nd will be homeless task force meeting.**
- Dixon commented on Balboa Peninsula family parade and the hard work of volunteers; also 4th of July Boat Parade. She did a police ride-along with the police chief from 6 to **9:30 pm, and recognized that things were 'manageable'** with 55 arrests. Reminds people to go to [www.ocvote.com](http://www.ocvote.com) and complete a brief survey on choosing a vote center location for the 2020 election.

All council members agree on adding to agenda bringing up formation of a traffic committee.

Interesting items on the Consent Calendar:

#7: Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Short Term Lodging: Dixon appoints Dixon, Brenner, and Herdman to the Ad Hoc Committee on Short Term Lodging (i.e. AirBnB, and similar).

Also, #8: Establishment of a Design Committee for the Proposed Newport Beach Library Lecture Hall. Dixon appointed Dixon and four members of the public to that committee.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

**A resident complains of getting fined \$500/day for file boxes in his garage, so he's parking on the street instead, and found a note taped to his garage, then met with city staff. He took care of the violation, and is going on vacation for two months, but wants city council to review the regulation about residents not being allowed to park on the street.**

Darby Jones commented on the trash, drug use, and homelessness that her daughter saw while on surf camp. She has been homeless herself, but wants something done about transients. One lives up in a tree in a hammock, another known sex offender watches kids. Dixon asked city manager for update on solutions: city manager increased funding to a contract service that offers various assistance **to homeless. Recognizes that regional approaches are necessary.** O'Neill reported on the homeless task force, and recommends that the public attend the meetings, and



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recognizes the seven members of the public who are members of the task force. Says if see crime, **to report it to the police.** He's frustrated by the misinformation and negativity about the homeless individuals he sees in comments on NextDoor. Brenner comments that although city council sound calm from the dais, that the council are all dismayed and concerned.

Community outreach for Laguna Playhouse thanked the council for the city's gift to the playhouse's outreach program that brings to life children's books at the theater for the next generation of theater goers. By building a coalition with Boys and Girls clubs and other non-profits, they are doing good. Mentions an upcoming play in October, called "I Never Saw Another Butterfly", and mentions that the playhouse is looking for funding and will give back by offering tickets.

A resident, Ruth, said she counted ten tents recently at the bus depot, and hears from others who no longer go to the bus depot because they don't feel safe. Encourages city to do something to take the magnet of the bus depot away. O'Neill suggests all residents reach out to OCTA and OC Sheriffs to see what they are doing about the situation, because the bus depot is leased by those entities from the city.

Public Hearing:

Ten-Year extension to a development agreement for Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian. The hospital has 455,000 of office space yet to develop. They pay \$300,000 per year for 10 years. Had originally asked for 25 years, but thru negotiations lowered that to 10 years.

The money would be used for a separate homeless shelter in addition to the money already in place to fund the Melinda Hoag Smith Center for Healthy Living, a one-stop shop at 307 Placentia Avenue, Newport Beach. They partner with over 70 non-profit partners to assist the homeless. Next step: public hearing.

Herdman says he can't think of a better use of development funds.

Muldoon is generally against developer agreements, and he was going to vote against it, but found out that Hoag wants to fund the homeless shelter, so he's going to vote for it. Wants Hoag to have naming rights for the facility when it comes to that time. Notes that judge compels Newport Beach to come up with a solution to the homeless issue. Said something about us being here to glorify God.



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Duffield says was going to be against this, but comments that the developer agreement makes health care cost more. Would rather have the money be used towards medical research, but will vote for the agreement.

Brenner has worked for the Hoag Foundation, and in that capacity, was amazed at how much community support there is for the hospital. **She comments that the hospital's support of the facility helps the hospital by helping the health of the community.**

Sanford Smith, Sr. President of Hoag Hospital: comments that they have been a community **hospital since the 1950's. Comments that the benefit of the development agreement allows them to be nimble in dealing with changes in where the funding gets used. Thanks city staff.**

Max Johnson, resident supports the hospital and the resolution.

Resolution passes.