



**MINUTES
SANTA MONICA PIER CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019
SANTA MONICA PIER AQUARIUM
1600 OCEAN FRONT WALK
SANTA MONICA, CA
6:30 PM**

Call to Order

Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Roll Call

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

Present: Chair Christopher Foster, Vice Chair Abby Arnold, Secretary/Treasurer Carter Rubin, Board Member Gray Bright and Board Member Misti Kerns

Absent: Board Member Allan Lipsky and Board Member Daniela Martin.

Also present: Santa Monica Pier Corporation Executive Director Negin Singh, Santa Monica Pier Corporation Deputy Director Jim Harris, Santa Monica Pier Corporation Office and Events Specialist Lara Talatinian, City of Santa Monica Pier Administrator Elana Buegoff City of Santa Monica Civil Engineer Omeed Pour, City of Santa Monica Urban Designer Alan Loomis, City of Santa Monica Civil Engineer Curtis Castle, Santa Monica Landmarks Commissioner Amy Green, Santa Monica Disabilities Commissioner Thomas John Hill, Santa Monica Conservancy President Carol Lemlein and Santa Monica Pier Lessees Association Representative Nathan Smithson

Chair Foster moved Item 5.A. Pier Bridge Alternatives Presentation and Open Discussion up on the agenda

5. New Business

A. Pier Bridge Alternatives Presentation and Open Discussion

City Engineer Pour presented 10 options that City Staff has worked on for the Pier Bridge Replacement Project.

The board discussed the alternatives, inviting representatives from the Santa Monica Landmarks Commission, Santa Monica Disabilities Commission and the Santa Monica Conservancy to participate in the discussion. Opinions raised included:

- With option 3-10 having elevators there will need to be a backup route planned if elevators were to be out of service.
- Will the possibility of building a Gondola, or a tram stand in the way of any of these options?
- Elevators must be emergency proof
- What will the design of the elevator towers look like?
- Will of pier or from pier be affected by any of the designs?
- Both the ends of the bridge are considered historic landmarks (the pier sign and carousel park), will those areas be affected?
- How many layers of approval will be needed?
- More space made with the new pier bridge could offer more room for programming
- Future mobility devices (wheelchairs, for example) will need access, and the population using these has skyrocketed. Will the pier bridge be accommodating?
- Consideration of what a non-car pier would look like was discussed by all.

MOTION

Board Member Rubin moved and Board Member Arnold seconded a motion to advise City Staff who are preparing the Pier Bridge EIR that pedestrians must have the ability to experience walking under the iconic arched Pier Sign; that the south side pedestrian path better serves the interest of Pier stakeholders; that the design maintains for future adaptability for future use; that the pedestrian path alongside the roadway should be even to that surface; and that the elevators be emergency-proof. The motion carried unanimously

Chair Foster adjourned the meeting for a short break at 8:09 PM

Chair Foster reconvened the meeting at 8:14 PM.

1. Special Agenda Items - None

2. Reports of Staff/Members

A. Staff and Programming Update

Executive Director Singh passed out a packed that included images from Twilight on the Pier captured by the Pier's new content capture team, Chrilleks. There is a 15% growth in crowds in comparison to last year. Comedy stage at Pacific Park, the turf lounge on the pier deck and the West End stage have been very successful. The Santa Monica Pier Corporations desire is to move the concerts up one week because it will make the event more appealing to prospective sponsors. This will also give breathing room to set up for the LA Opera event, which takes place the last Saturday of September. On October 26th the Pier is hosting an over-21 Speakeasy in the Carousel building called "Rated R Speakeasy" which will be a one night only ticketed event. The Pier Corporation's retreat will take place at the end of September in Downtown Los Angeles. Wonderland by the Water, the Pier's holiday program, is going to feature Australian artist PipnPop's work in the Merry-Go-Round building. The programming for Wonderland on the Water will also include the return of Bob Baker Marionette Theater, Story Time presented by the Santa Monica Library, and a possible opportunity to have a snow day on the pier.

B. Office of Pier Management Update

Pier Administrator Buegoff updated the Board on a number of things including that City Council approved funding in July and has requested for the next stage on the Pier Bridge Replacement BID. An update was given on the capital improvement project regarding a PA system on the Pier. Geico, who was chosen to complete the project will be giving a presentation to the Office of Pier Management regarding the 30% completion of the system. Possibility of project completion in Summer 2020.

C. July and August Budget & Financials

Deputy Director Harris reported that July and August were spent working towards Twilight on the Pier. Filming and Event rentals are lower, as well as Merry-Go-Round, although business will likely pick up in the upcoming season.

D. Santa Monica Police Department / Harbor Patrol

No report given.

E. Santa Monica Pier Lessees Association

Pier Lessees Representative Smithson from Pacific Park updated the board that last month's Pier Lessees meeting was postponed and is scheduled to take place in the upcoming week.

F. Landmarks Commission

Landmarks Commissioner Amy Green updated the board on a new brochure being printed that explains what they do as a commission.

3. Public Input

No Input

4. Consent Calendar

A. July 15, 2019 Regular Pier Corporation Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION

Board Member Rubin moved and Board Member Arnold seconded a motion to approve the July 15, 2019 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Continued Items

A. Board Study Groups

Chair Foster discussed checking up on the leasing committee and Board Member Kerns asked staff to please provide an updated list of study groups to be sent out to the board.

7. Future Agenda Items

Executive Director Singh announced that Santa Monica Fire Department Representative Dom Bay would like to give an update regarding fire deployment during the next meeting and that the Pier Corporation Marketing Guidelines will need to be reviewed

Adjournment

Chair Foster adjourned the meeting at 9:01 PM.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Board Secretary Carter Rubin

Board Chair Christopher Foster