

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall, 6165 Spring Valley Road, Hidden Hills 91302

Monday, April 6, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, all members of the Hidden Hills City Council or staff may participate in this meeting via a teleconference. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing and in accordance with Executive Order N-29-20, members of the public may participate in the meeting electronically as indicated further below. The City Council Chambers will not be open to the public. If you are an individual with a disability and need a reasonable modification or accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") please contact Deana Graybill at 818-888-9281 or staff@hiddenhillscity.org.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Hidden Hills was duly held via teleconference Monday, April 6, 2020 at the hour of 11:00 a.m. Mayor Bret Katz called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Council:

Mayor Bret Katz
Mayor Pro Tem Stuart E. Siegel
Council Member Steve Freedland
Council Member Laura McCorkindale
Council Member Larry G. Weber

Staff:

City Manager Kerry Kallman
City Attorney Roxanne Diaz
City Engineer Dirk Lovett
City Clerk Deana L. Graybill

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the April 6, 2020 special meeting be approved as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Potential Order Regarding the Closure and/or Regulation of Recreational Facilities that are Open to Residents (Community Center, Pool, Tennis Courts, Riding Arenas, etc.) in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Mayor Katz stated that due to the rapid spread of the Coronavirus and the need to protect members of our community, he is requesting the closure of the recreational facilities, community pool and tennis courts, as they are not recognized as essential. The state is requesting a stay at home order except for all essential businesses and to cease public gatherings. We have one chance to get this right. Mayor Katz also suggested the removal of the Riding Arenas from consideration of the closure, for which the Council was in agreement.

City Manager Kallman was asked to read an email from Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Liaison John McGinnis:

Due to work commitments, I will be unable to attend the City's Monday morning emergency meeting. I would like to give you my personal thoughts on the topic, and some background on our Association meeting Friday. Friday morning, the mayor called several board members to ask why we had not shut down all of the facilities in Hidden Hills. He stated that there was a mandate from the County of Los Angeles to do so, which turned out to be incorrect. He encouraged us to meet and review if these facilities should be closed. So we did exactly that. He did not say that if we made the "incorrect" decision, the city would override us. The president of the Board of Directors called an emergency board meeting for Friday afternoon. Before the meeting, the board president consulted with our Association counsel to make sure we had all of the available facts at hand. Our two main goals in this meeting were to 1) protect the health of our residents as well as the broader community and 2) provide safe outlets for our residents to exercise to preserve their physical and mental well-being. Our meeting Friday covered basketball hoops (on the sport-court and tennis courts), the tennis courts themselves, and the community pool. In a prior emergency meeting on March 13, the board voted to close the community center for all indoor activities (theater, exercise classes, etc.) and we removed all of the furniture from the pool area and tennis courts. Subsequent stay-at-home orders from the State led the Association to close our offices and have our staff work from their homes. The Association is taking the orders and recommendations from the State and local authorities very seriously. In Friday's emergency board meeting, the board voted to remove the basketball hoops on the sport-court and the tennis courts. We felt it is difficult to maintain proper social distancing at all times while playing basketball. We voted to restrict the pool use to lap swimmers only, and prohibit recreational playing in the pool or kids pool. (The

CDC website advises that the water in properly chlorinated pools poses no danger of virus transmission.) This decision aligns with the current pool use, where in the past few weeks we see mainly adult lap swimmers. Social distancing is built-in for lap swimmers. Further, there is no furniture in the pool area. Lap swimmers are in and out without loitering around. We voted to limit the tennis courts to singles play only, and only HH residents. (No more lessons, etc.) The singles requirement logically enforces social distancing across the net. While the tennis courts have seen much less activity, there have been several examples of family members enjoying playing together. We voted to install signs with the social-distance rules at all of the facilities, and we also asked Shannon to procure, if possible, mountable hand sanitizer devices at the pool area gate and on each tennis court. As of Friday, there was no order from the state or county that requires closure of these facilities. The LA County parks and rec department decided to close similar facilities in their public parks as people were congregating and not respecting the social distancing. That was their decision for their parks. Hidden Hills is not like the City of LA, or the County of LA that has parks open to the public where people were not practicing safe distancing. In our private community, Hidden Hills residents are behaving responsibly and are being respectful of the social distance rules. We feel that the action the association is taking is a thoughtful and reasonable approach looking out for the safety of our residents as well as the broader community at large. Of course, if the state or local officials post an order or mandate requiring the closure of any private tennis courts or pools, we will enforce the order. Until then, residents of Hidden Hills who respect the social distancing rules will be able to enjoy the safe use of the tennis courts and community pool. I encourage the City Council to respect the decision of the Association Board of Directors. I also hope that the City and Association continue to work together to provide timely information to all of the Hidden Hills community to continue helping all of us stay safe and healthy. Thank you for your continued commitment to Hidden Hills. I know you, like all of us volunteers, have the best interest of the community at heart.

City Manager Kallman then read a synopsis of emails that were sent to the City by residents:

Courtney Newman-Tennis should remain open. Don should be able to teach; Lizabeth Moses-Tennis should stay open, Doubles should be allowed, Don should be allowed; Gloria Doran-Leave pool open; Clarice Hovseplan-Tennis should remain open, Doubles ok, Don should be allowed; Sarah Philips-Arena should remain open; Dru Goldman-Keep Arena open, Stop Construction, Ban All guests, Residents Only, Close the Pool; Bernard and Judy Kaufman-Keep Arena open; Linda Yallen-Keep Arena open. What is being done about motorcycles and ATV's on trails?; Maggan Nord-Keep tennis open, let Don coach; Yana Galuz-keep tennis open; Alex Galuz-keep tennis open; Jill Rosenberg-keep arena open; Irena Shut-Keep tennis open; Lonna Weber-Keep arena, tennis, pool open with social

distancing rules; Melanie Abrams-Keep tennis open, Allow Doubles, Keep arena open; Vladislav Shut-Keep tennis open; Bonnie Palef-Keep Arena open; Boris and Yana Ratner-keep tennis open, Allow Don to coach, cleaning staff should wipe down court entrances, benches, fountains daily. Place hand sanitizer in courts; Jill Green-Keep Arena and trails open; Carrie Kasper Levis-Keep tennis open, allow don to coach, Further regulations with those not practicing social distancing at those locations; Camille Treacy-Keep Arenas open; Marika Foley-Keep tennis open; Alex Galuz-Keep Arena open; Ken Oder-Keep Arena open; Jennifer Lopata-Keep Arena open – encourage social distancing; Jackie Rosenson-Keep tennis open. Don encourages social distancing, private courts may not; Wendy Boice- Keep Tennis open; Stacey Feinberg-Put the basketball hoops back up; Debbie Kulik-Keep Arena open – different than pool or tennis; Lisa & Kelly Austin-Keep Arena open; Jennifer Zuiker-Keep Arena open, Pool, tennis courts closed. Dog poop station Sanitized every day. No dog walkers as dogs can get it. All construction shut down as Spec homes not essential. Seedland should not be able to use kitchen facility at Community Center; Keith Christian-Keep Arena open; Andrea Lascoe-Keep tennis open. Don is only one touching the balls; Scott Yasgoor-would like tennis courts open to play pickleball.

Mayor Pro Tem Siegel did witness some people today congregating at the Community Center, not following the social distancing rule. He feels that the Council should take a proactive approach to this and agrees that the facilities should be closed at this time.

Council Member Freedland has also witnessed many people congregating at the pool and tennis courts. When the risk of residents getting sick versus pausing the activities at these facilities for two to three weeks, he doesn't see the balance of risk versus reward. If the Order is approved, he suggests the City Council reevaluate keeping them closed and if the threat has passed, that we open them up as quickly as possible.

Council McCorkindale stated that she can see both sides to this situation; however, with other cities around Hidden Hills with the exception of Calabasas for very specific reasons; letting their private homeowner's associations make the decision, she does not believe that the City should override the decision by the Hidden Hills Community Association.

Council Member Weber agrees with Council Member McCorkindale that the Hidden Hills Community Association Board made the proper decision in restrictions, and he feels they will closely watch the tennis courts and if there is any abuse of the ruling they made, they can shut them down immediately I think the pool should be open as they suggest and the tennis courts open for singles only as long social distancing is being practiced.

Mayor Pro Tem Siegel also stated that while our homeowner's association is technically private, it is one association for the whole city and with residents and guests alike being able to utilize all the facilities, they become more of public facilities and more of a risk.

Mayor Katz stated that he is 100% behind protecting community. He feels they have one chance to get this right and as far as he knows there are no cases in Hidden Hills at this time. From all of the data he has read and been privy to on phone calls with the CDC, Health and other organizations that the next two weeks are a critical time and we have to put public safety first.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Katz, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Freedland to adopt an order under our authority under the Government Code, the Health and Safety and the City's declaration of emergency to order the closure of the facilities, including the Community Association tennis courts, basketball courts, swimming pool, all playgrounds, picnic areas and bathrooms, with the exception of every Tuesday, the picnic area and bathrooms will remain open during the hours of the Farmer's Market, effective April 7, 2020 at 12:00 a.m. and will remain in effect until April 27, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., and the order is subject to enforcement under our authority under the Government Code and the Health and Safety Code, and to direct the Mayor to sign the order in a form approved by the City Attorney. The motion carried 3-2 by the following voice vote:

AYES: Mayor Katz, Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, Council Member Freedland

NOES: Council Member McCorkindale, Council Member Weber

ABSENT: NONE

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.



Bret Katz, Mayor

ATTEST:



Deana L. Graybill, CMC, City Clerk