



**Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council**

**COUNCIL CONSIDERATION AND DIRECTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM  
THE CITY MANAGER'S CIVIC FACILITIES PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP**

**CEQA:** Determine the (i.e. project, ordinance, etc.) is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

(Interim City Manager Steve Napolitano)

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**Recommended Action:**

Staff recommends City Council:

1. Receive and file the Recommendations from the City Manager's Civic Facilities Project Advisory Group; and
2. Provide direction as needed.

**Executive Summary:**

The Civic Facilities Advisory Group was established to provide community input on addressing Hermosa Beach's aging facilities. Following a competitive process, 12 members were selected from 20 applicants by former City Manager Lowenthal.

The Advisory Group conducted eight meetings beginning November 25, 2024, examining site analysis, municipal best practices, funding options, and public engagement strategies. The group has completed its work and developed comprehensive recommendations (**Attachment 1**) to guide City Council's decision-making on civic facility improvements.

**Background:**

The City has established the informal Civic Facilities Community Advisory Group in response to the Hermosa Beach City Council's request for community input on future plans to address the City's aging facilities to better serve the community. This informal Civic Facilities Community Advisory Group will draw upon its collective knowledge to help refine project options, consider financing alternatives, review community feedback, and assist the City Manager in formulating recommendations to City Council.

On July 15, 2024, the City issued a press release inviting civic-minded residents and business owners to submit statements of interest for the Civic Facilities Advisory Group. The City Manager's Office received 20 applications, and the former City Manager Lowenthal selected the following 12 advisory group members:

**Advisory Group Members:**

Tom Bakaly	Rick Koenig
Claudia Berman	Adrienne Lindgren
Ira Ellman	Eric Oakes
Mike Flaherty	Lauren Pizer-Mains
Scott Hayes	Jim Rosenberger
Eric Horne	Jennifer Rosenfeld

The Civic Facilities Advisory Group held its kick-off meeting on November 25, 2024. Over the course of their engagement, the Advisory Group convened eight times to discuss various aspects of the Civic Facilities Project. Their deliberations covered a wide range of topics, including detailed project site analysis, examination of best practices and lessons learned from other local cities with similar initiatives, exploration of diverse funding and financing options, and strategies for raising public awareness.

***Past Council Actions***

Meeting Date	Description
<a href="#"><u>May 4, 2016</u></a>	City Council held a study session to review and discuss a draft City Facilities Strategic Plan and development scenarios.
<a href="#"><u>October 4, 2017</u></a>	City Council received a presentation related to conceptual site plan options and related budget estimates for the library needs assessment.
<a href="#"><u>October 2, 2019</u></a>	City Council held a study session to receive information regarding the structure, principles, and benefits of public-private partnerships.
<a href="#"><u>November 29, 2023</u></a>	City Council held a civic facilities study session as an introductory informational workshop building on facilities studies and strategic plans completed from 2013 through 2017 and to help develop a financing and development plan for a potential civic center revitalization. City Council directed staff to return with a recommended minimum six-month plan for community engagement.
<a href="#"><u>February 15, 2024</u></a>	City Council held a civic facilities study session to receive information on 12 to 18-month community engagement plan and staff received direction on formation of an informal civic facilities community advisory group.
<a href="#"><u>February 27, 2024</u></a>	During tentative future agenda items, Mayor Pro Tem Francois requested, and Councilmember Saemann supported, directing staff to return with

Meeting Date	Description
	an information item regarding formation of an informal civic facilities community advisory group.
<a href="#">May 28, 2024</a>	City Council awarded a professional service agreement with Lee Andrews Group, Inc. to provide comprehensive community outreach and engagement services for Civic Facilities Project. Council additionally provided direction in the formation of the City Manager's Advisory Group.

### **Discussion:**

After conducting deliberations across eight meetings, the Civic Facilities Advisory Group has completed its deliberative process and is prepared to present their findings and recommendations to the City Council (**Attachment 1**). Through this collaborative effort, the Advisory Group has formulated a set of recommendations that may serve as a roadmap for the City Council's decision-making process regarding the future of Hermosa Beach's aging civic facilities.

### **General Plan Consistency:**

This report and associated recommendation have been evaluated for their consistency with the City's General Plan. Relevant Policies are listed below:

#### *Governance Element*

#### **Goal 1. A high degree of transparency and integrity in the decision-making process.**

Policies:

- **1.2: Strategic planning.** Regularly discuss and set priorities at the City Council and management level to prioritize work programs and staffing needs.
- **1.6 Long-term considerations.** Prioritize decisions that provide long-term community benefit and discourage decisions that provide short-term community benefit but reduce long-term opportunities.

#### **Goal 2. The community is active and engaged in decision-making processes.**

Policy:

- **2.4 Public forums.** Host periodic public forums on issues important to the community, facilitating these forums with the purpose of guiding City policy.

#### **Goal 5. Small beach town character is reflected throughout Hermosa Beach.**

Policies:

- **5.5 Community benefits.** Consider incentives for new development that provide a substantial economic benefit to the community such as retail sales taxes, transient occupancy taxes or higher-paying jobs. Prohibit the provision of incentives that outweigh the direct benefits from the use.
- **5.8 Public private partnerships.** Pursue the use of public-private partnerships to implement projects and efforts that maintain character and benefit the community.

**Goal 6. A broad-based and long-term economic development strategy for Hermosa Beach that supports existing businesses while attracting new business and tourism.**

Policy:

- **6.2 Regional presence.** Encourage economic development strategies that will make Hermosa Beach a driving force and jobs center behind the regional economy of the South Bay region.

*Infrastructure Element*

**Goal 1. Infrastructure systems are functional, safe, and well maintained.**

Policy:

- **1.2 Priority investments.** Use City Council established priorities and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to identify and allocate funding for projects identified in the infrastructure plan.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

**Attachment:**

Recommendations from Civic Facilities Advisory Group

**Respectfully Submitted by:** Leo Zalyan, Management Analyst

**Concur:** Steve Napolitano, Interim City Manager

**Noted for Fiscal Impact:** Henry Chao, Finance Manager

**Approved:** Steve Napolitano, Interim City Manager