

**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION  
REQUEST FOR ACTION**

**MEETING DATE:** MAY 14, 2014

**SUBMITTED TO:** COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

**SUBMITTED BY:** JANEEN LAUDENBACK, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICES

**PREPARED BY:** DAVID DOMINGUEZ, FACILITIES, DEVELOPMENT AND  
CONCESSIONS MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** RC SAILBOAT COURSE IN CENTRAL PARK - HUNTINGTON  
LAKE

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**Statement of Issue:** Commission is being asked to approve the placement of temporary buoys in Huntington Lake to create a course for RC (remote control) battery-operated sailboats for a trial period of six-months.

**Funding Source:** N/A - Buoys will be placed in the lake and maintained by a sailboat enthusiast group.

**Recommended Action(s):** APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF TEMPORARY BUOYS IN HUNTINGTON LAKE IN CENTRAL PARK TO CREATE A COURSE FOR BATTERY OPERATED RC SAILBOATS FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS.

**Alternative Action(s):** DO NOT APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF TEMPORARY BUOYS IN HUNTINGTON LAKE IN CENTRAL PARK TO CREATE A COURSE FOR BATTERY OPERATED RC SAILBOATS FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS AND DIRECT STAFF ON HOW TO PROCEED.

**Analysis:** Presently, the use of remote control (RC) boats is allowed per Municipal Code 13.48.120. City staff has received a request from local residents to create a course for remote control (RC) sailboats in Huntington Lake. (Attachment 1) The sailing of RC sailboats is growing in popularity and other local cities have established courses and policies for use of the boats in public lakes and ponds. One such park is Mason Park in the City of Irvine. The City of Irvine has allowed the recreational sailing of the boats as well as club events and races.

Irvine and other cities polled have cited no issues or conflicts with other uses in their public lakes and ponds. In addition to providing a recreational benefit to enthusiasts, the

activity also generates spectator interest. Presently, the only other prominent recreation activity at Huntington Lake is fishing. Because the sailboats mainly utilize the interior portions of the lake, staff envisions no impacts with fisherman. In terms of the environment, RC boats do not produce any emissions. RC sailboats will be limited to those that are battery operated. Fuel powered boats are prohibited per Municipal Code 13.48.120.

Temporary buoys have been constructed by a local RC sailboat enthusiast, Steve Ford. They consist of a plastic ball, anchored to a weighted PVC pipe and can be easily placed and removed. Mr. Ford has constructed a custom RC boat that can drop the buoys in place. (Attachment 2) Based upon prevailing wind conditions at Huntington Lake, Mr. Ford has submitted a preferred layout for a course that would serve all levels of sailing enthusiasts. (Attachment 3)

Staff is supportive of the activity and placement of the buoys for a trial period and is therefore recommending Commission approval. Should Commission approve, staff will monitor the activity and report back to Commission after a three (3) month period. Should the activity be deemed successful, staff will bring the issue back to Commission for approval to keep the buoys in place for a longer term.

**Environmental Status:** N/A

**Attachment(s):**

	1.	Huntington Lake – Location Map
	2.	Custom RC Boat
	3.	Proposed Buoy Location Map

RCA Author: **D.Dominguez**