

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

June 25, 2012
6:30 p.m.
City Hall

CONTENTS

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Cajka, Rothans, Hersman, Manna, Allard, and Roth

Absent: Commissioner Allen.

Others Present: Parks and Recreation Director Richard Gill, Recreation Services Manager Idris J. Al-Oboudi, and Recording Secretary Mary Kirchwehm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 26, 2012 and April 30, 2012 minutes were approved as written.

CEREMONIAL

None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

12/0625.1 – Selection of 2012/2013 Parks and Recreation Commission Officers

Director Richard Gill reported that annually the Parks and Recreation Commission is required to select a Chair and Vice Chair for the Commission. In that past, officers have been selected on a seniority basis.

MOTION: Commissioner Rothans moved that Fred Manna be appointed Chair to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allard.

Ayes: Commissioners Rothans, Allard, Cajka, Hersman, Manna, and Roth.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Commissioner Allen.

MOTION: Commissioner Manna moved that Steve Rothans be appointed Vice Chair to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roth.

Ayes: Commissioners Manna, Rothans, Allard, Cajka, Hersman, and Roth.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Commissioner Allen.

12/0625.2 – Memo from Commission to City Council Regarding Skate Park (Draft is Attached)

The Commissioners introduced themselves and gave a little background information on themselves to the new Commissioners. The new Commissioners also introduced themselves to the existing Commissioners.

Commissioner Manna inquired if an ad-hoc committee would consist of two people or three as it would be the Commission's preference to have three members on the ad-hoc committee. Director Gill reported that he thought three was appropriate because the Commission consists of seven members, but he would double check with the city attorney.

MOTION: Commissioner Cajka moved that the ad-hoc committee be increased to three and submit the memo to council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hersman.

Ayes: Commissioners Manna, Rothans, Allard, Cajka, Hersman, and Roth.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Commissioner Allen.

Director Gill reported that the City Manager will be informing City Council that it is staff's recommendation that the issue of the skateboard park fall under the Parks Master Plan/General Plan. The General Plan encompasses parks, traffic and parking. The recommendation to build a skateboard park from the Parks and Recreation Commission will be brought up during this time. Under the Park Master Plan/General Plan the community will be noticed and there will be discussions regarding any issues or concerns.

Commissioner Allard reported that the Commission and staff has put a lot of work into research over the past 12 years and thinks the Commission should highly recommend the skateboard park not be part of a City General Plan, but have its own track for community meetings.

Commissioner Rothans stated that if the City does not have a skateboard park then the entire City becomes a skateboard park. Commissioner Hersman suggested that perhaps the school district and superintendent get involved.

Commissioner Hersman suggested providing City Council with the history of the skateboard park research since there are new City Council members.

Commissioner Roth suggested targeting the interest groups who would be in favor of the skateboard park such as parents, and the elementary and middle schools.

Recreation Services Manager Idris Al-Oboudi introduced Aaron Spohn, President of Spohn Ranch. Mr. Spohn is a leading innovator in the skate park industry and was asked to come to the Commission to provide the latest information on skate parks. ESPN partnered with Mr. Spohn in developing the concept of the X-Games and designing the competition courses.

Mr. Spohn reported that he is the designer and builder of many skate parks throughout the country, including Gardena. He reported that the sport has increased 50% in the last ten years and that 60% of the skateboarders are street skaters versus the old style pipes and bowls. Skateboard parks become the most used facility and if the kids have a skate park, they will go there.

After visiting the Marine Avenue Park site, Mr. Spohn suggested that if the City should decide to build a skate park on that site, it can be as little as 5,250 square feet or as large as 8,750 square feet.

Commissioner Manna inquired about the savings a skateboard park would provide rather than just the expense. Mr. Spohn reported that the installation of a skateboard park would reduce damage to City, schools and other public property that is currently being damaged by skateboarders. In addition, skate parks are comparatively lower in maintenance than landscaping.

The Commission agreed to await direction from City Council.

COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Allard reported an update on the ongoing improvements at the Joslyn Center. City Engineer Technician, Ish Medrano, attended the Senior Advisory Committee meeting and reported a completion date of July 20, 2012 with reopening of the facility two to three weeks later. Begg Pool will be reopening on Friday, June 29, 2012.

Commissioner Allard reported that the Senior Advisory Committee was developed to advise and make recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Department on older adult issues, and therefore, the Parks and Recreation Commission will begin receiving their minutes going forward.

Commissioner Hersman reported that the Commission and City Councilmembers received an email regarding bicycles not allowed in the parks. Commissioner Hersman requested information on the history as to why bicycles are not allowed in the parks.

STAFF ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.