

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

April 30, 2012  
6:30 p.m.  
Marine Avenue Park

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**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Rothans, Murray, Manna, Nicholson, Hersman and Cajka.

Absent: Commissioner Taylor.

Others Present: Recreation Services Manager Idris Al-Oboudi, Recreation Supervisor Brianne Sternad, Senior Recreation Leader Andrew Berg, Recreation Leader II Joe Hill, and Recording Secretary Mary Kirchwehm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None.

**CEREMONIAL**

The Commission recognized Commissioners Murray and Nicholson for their service on the Parks and Recreation Commission and presented them with commemorative gifts recognizing their service to the community of Manhattan Beach.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

11/0430.1 - Site visit to Marine Avenue Park as Possible Location for a Skateboard Park

Recreation Services Manager Idris Al-Oboudi introduced Recreation Supervisor Brianne, Senior Recreation Leader Andrew Berg, and Recreation Leader II Joe Hill.

The Commissioners and staff proceeded to visit the site for the skateboard park and walked around the perimeter of the field.

Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that the site location for the skateboard park is larger than the skateboard parks in El Segundo, Gardena, and Hermosa Beach.

Commissioner Nicholson inquired if the path is used as an exercise path. Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that the path does get used by pedestrians who walk or jog, but the exercise equipment does not get much use.

Commissioner Rothans presented photos and information on three very different skateboard parks that he visited:

1. Hawthorne
2. El Segundo
3. Hermosa Beach

Commissioner Manna visited the Hawthorne skateboard park separately and jointly visited the El Segundo skateboard park.

Commissioner Rothans reported that he met with Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Mark Hardison from the City of Hawthorne and had a lengthy conference call with Administrative Assistant Donna Hunter and two Senior Recreation Leaders with the City of Hermosa Beach. In addition, Commissioner Rothans and Commissioner Manna jointly met with Recreation Coordinator Shawn Green with the City of El Segundo. After visiting the three skateboard parks, Commissioner Rothans made the following recommendations:

- There are a series of statutes that deal with municipal skateboard parks and encourages the City to meet and consult with the City Attorney during this process. Formal hearings should be held regarding the design of the park, and City Council has to approve the drawings in order to meet the qualifications for immunity under the Health and Safety Code. Skateboard parks are considered to be an ultra hazardous activity by statute. By complying with various requirements, postings, warnings, hearings and approvals, it will provide the City with some proper protection.
- Consider the new Mira Costa High School (MCHS) commissioner be very involved with soliciting involvement from MCHS and the Manhattan Beach Middle School (MBMS) for youth input during the planning phase of the skateboard park.
- The City should carefully evaluate the fencing during the planning of the skateboard park. The Cities of Hermosa Beach, El Segundo and Hawthorne all changed their fencing to a higher height or installed additional fencing afterwards.
- Because of the location, consider installing a surveillance camera to monitor activity at the park during hours of operation as well as after the park closes. This could possibly be monitored by the Manhattan Beach Police Department or by the Watch Commander.
- Decide if BMX bicyclists will be allowed in the skateboard park simultaneously with skateboarders—similar to the City of Hawthorne.

Recreation Leader Joe Hill presented a handout on the skateboard parks mentioned previously.

*Hermosa Beach Skate Park, 710 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach*

Park Size: 8,000+ sq. ft.

Designer: LRM Skate Design

Cost: \$100,000.00

Hours: M-F (school year): 3-7 p.m.; Wknds: 12-7 p.m.; Summer: 12-7 p.m. daily

For beginner to intermediate skaters. Offers 3-5 ft. high quarter pipes, various rails and ledges. Built in 1999, it is the oldest skate park in this group. Commissioner Rothans added that this skate park cost \$100,000.00.

Larry Guidi Skate Park, 12100 Inglewood Avenue, Hawthorne

Park Size: 15,000+ sq. ft.  
Designer: Purkiss Rose  
Cost: \$465,000.00  
Hours: M-F: 3-9 p.m.; Su: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

This is the largest of the skate parks and has bowls and offers terrain to skaters of all levels. It has rails, ledges, and stairs for street riders, but also has quarter pipes and bowls for the transitional riders as well. This park is supervised.

Rowley Park, 13220 Van Ness Avenue, Gardena

Park Size: Approximately the size of two basketball courts  
Designer: N/A

This park does not have any fencing, and when skateboards get away, it can be very dangerous.

El Segundo Skate Park, 405 E. Grand Avenue, El Segundo

Park Size: 6,000 sq. ft.  
Designer: Purkiss Rose  
Hours: M-F: 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Sa: 2:30-10:30 p.m.; Su: 12-5 p.m.

This park was built for the kids of the teen center and offers most of the skate park services to them. This park offers beginner to low intermediate types of terrain and the majority of the obstacles are street type. The park is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., but once the teen center opens, it is in operation for the teens. This skate park is not staffed.

Commissioner Murray reported that she saw the Santa Clara skateboard park that is 16,000 sq. ft. and is restricted to Santa Clara residents and the Santa Clara school district. The park is safe for public use but challenging for experienced skaters. A registration form is required prior to skating.

Commissioner Hersman inquired if the Marine location is the only location that has been considered for the skateboard park. Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that other locations were discussed and this location met the criteria, including being away from residential homes.

Commissioner Hersman suggested gathering information from other City's that have their skate parks more secluded to find out their experience. She also inquired about the cost of the skate park that is being proposed.

Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that the last cost estimate we received several years ago when it was last looked at by the Commission was \$500,000, including the lighting.

The Commissioners inquired about the timeline. Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that upon City Council approval and direction, an ad-hoc committee would be established, provide notice to the community, hold community meetings, and get some input from the youths of the community. The ad-hoc committee would return to the Commission in September, go to the City Council in October, and put it on the CIP list in November for consideration, providing City Council approves to move forward with the development of a skate park.

Commissioner Cajka inquired about the construction time. Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that depending on the size of the park, it could take approximately three months.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Nicholson moved to recommend that the Commission properly notify City Council that the northeast backside of Marine Avenue Park would be a suitable location for a skate park. At Council's direction and approval, the Commission would like to proceed with developing an ad-hoc committee to explore the feasibility of a skate park at Marine Avenue Park and further develop a skate park concept , conduct commission meetings, and then present to City Council for approval.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manna.

Ayes: Rothans, Murray, Cajka, Hersman and Manna.

Noes: None.

Abstain: None

Absent: Taylor.

**COMMISSION ITEMS**

Due to the Memorial Holiday, the Commission agreed to hold their next meeting on Monday, May 14, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

**STAFF ITEMS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. to the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on Monday, May 14, 2012.

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Mary Kirchwehm  
Recording Secretary

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Thomas Cajka  
Commission Chairperson