

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

August 23, 2010
6:00 P.M.

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ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Rothans, Gill, Cajka, Nicholson and Manna

Absent: Commissioners Murray and Schoenfeld

Others Present: Parks and Recreation Director Richard Gill, Older Adults Program
Supervisor Jan Buike, Senior Recreation Leader David Ibarra, Senior
Recreation Leader Matt Morrow and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

AGENDA CHANGES

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 26, 2010 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting were approved as written.

CEREMONIAL

None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

COMMISSION ITEMS

Marine Park Sub-Committee

Commissioner Cajka reported that the Marine Park Sub-Committee will reconvene in September and have more to report at the September Commission meeting.

Sand Dune Park

Commissioner Nicholson inquired about the status of Sand Dune Park. Mr. Gill reported that everything seems to be going well; no complaints have been received from neighbors; the dune users have found the reservation system easy to use and reservations are averaging 10 to 15 for every hour available. Commissioner Nicholson reported that he is seeing more children using the dune than ever before. Mr. Gill reported that staff is going to City Council with a capital improvement project in September regarding the replanting of grass in the park. Mr. Nicholson complimented the City for the placement of two benches in the shady area of the park.

Senior Advisory Committee

Commissioner Nicholson, Commission representative to the Senior Advisory Committee, reported that he was invited to attend a meeting of the Senior Resource Committee (SRC) who meet at Manhattan Heights once a month. Commissioner Nicholson suggested that the SRC is made up of delightful, intelligent and committed people who take on a political activist role who want to improve the quality of life for seniors.

Petanque Court

Commissioner Manna inquired about the status of a Petanque Court for the older adults. Mr. Gill reported that the seniors will be going to City Council with a request to build a Petanque Court outside Joslyn Center/Scout House. Mr. Gill reported that Manhattan Beach Scout Troops and others have suggested that the area suggested for the Petanque Court is also used by their groups. Staff is going through a process to determine the best location for a possible Petanque Court. Commissioner Nicholson suggested that the area on the east side of Joslyn Center might be appropriate. Mr. Gill also suggested that a spot on Veterans Parkway might be appropriate.

Movies on the Beach

Commissioner Nicholson reported that the first “Movie on the Beach” on August 7 was a huge success and very well organized by staff. Just enough funds were raised to cover the event and Mayor Ward, Mayor ProTem Montgomery and Councilmember Powell were in attendance. The next “Movie on the Beach” is scheduled for September 11.

GENERAL BUSINESS

10/0823.2 – Update on Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation to Include Drought Tolerant Trees in the City of Manhattan Beach Tree Donation Program

Mr. Gill reported that during the April 26, 2010 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, the Commission passed a motion to recommend to the City Council that only drought tolerant trees be allowed for the City’s Tree and Bench Donation Program.

Mr. Gill reported that for the tree donation program, a list of trees was compiled that are suitable for the eco-climate of each park or open space. This list contains mostly ornamental trees and a few drought tolerant trees. Mr. Gill reported that staff believes that the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission is a proactive approach to donated trees that will help bolster the City's water conservation program. However, staff has a concern about allowing only drought tolerant trees. Each park in Manhattan Beach has its own micro-climate that works better with certain species of trees. Staff also believes that many donors will be disappointed that there are no ornamentals or pines on the list; also, much of the beauty of our parks comes from the wide variety of ornamental, pine, and flowering trees.

Mr. Gill pointed out that all the trees on the current and recommended list, drought tolerant or ornamental/pine, do not need watering once they are established. After the first several months of planting a tree, Public Works makes no special effort to water them other than the irrigation that waters the turf.

Mr. Gill reported that staff is recommending that the additional list of drought tolerant trees be incorporated into the existing list of trees and not be the only trees donors can select. He asked the Commission to discuss and make a recommendation to either amend their original recommendation to include only drought tolerant trees in the City's Tree and Bench Donation Program or leave it as is.

During a discussion among the Commissioners, the following points were made:

- Commissioner Gill suggested that because the city uses recycled water for irrigation, it might not be as necessary for the City to plant only drought tolerant trees.
- Commissioner Nicholson would like the residents to have an option to choose either drought tolerant or ornamental trees

A motion was made to amend the Commission's original recommendation to include only drought tolerant trees for the City's Tree Donation Program and recommends that the additional list of drought tolerant trees be incorporated into the existing list of trees. (MSC: Nicholson/Gill; Unanimous)

10/0726.1 – Tour of Live Oak Park

Mr. Gill reported that the tour of Live Oak Park facilities will start in Joslyn Community Center. He introduced Older Adults Program Supervisor Jan Buike. He reported that Jan knows more about senior services than almost anyone in the south bay and the City was fortunate to bring her to the City from Beach Cities Health District and South Bay Senior Services. Mr. Gill reported that three years ago the City spent no more than \$25,000 per year on the senior program. The City then made a commitment to expand the older adult program and hire additional staff; we now budget approximately \$250,000 per year on senior programs.

Ms. Buike reported that the Older Adults Program offers activities that happen every week on a continuous basis. These events, i.e. Pinochle, Ping Pong, Horseshoes, Wii Bowling and many others are all run by volunteers. Our philosophy is "if you want to try something, go ahead." Special social events are also held such as the "Lunch Bunch" with educational speakers held

every Tuesday in coordination with the Beach Cities Health District, performances in coordination with our “Play Reading group, Movies to Enlighten, and Renewal through Art. Ms. Buike reported that there is a great network of social service providers who offer free presentations on anger management, caregiving and elder issues. Ms. Buike reported that the Older Adults Program will be presenting an art exhibition at the Creative Arts Center September 10-16. This exhibition will showcase the talent of persons who are 55 or older and are either a resident of Manhattan Beach or enrolled in Parks and Recreation Department art classes. Ms. Buike reported that partnerships are important to the Older Adults Program and the program will be partnering with the Young Professionals with the Chamber of Commerce for Game Day.

Ms. Buike reported that the OASIS is the space in Joslyn Center designated strictly for older adults. The older adults also have priority in other rooms in Joslyn Center but share with Parks and Recreation classes and other events. The older adults play ping pong in the Scout House.

Ms. Buike reported that the Rotary Club recently painted OASIS, the Joslyn Auditorium Older Adults Supervisor offices and has plans to paint the kitchen; the Property Owners Association purchased the new window coverings in OASIS and the auditorium.

Ms. Buike reported that the monthly attendance for the Older Adults Program has grown in two years from 676 to 1,208.

Commissioner Manna, who serves on the Senior Advisory Committee’s (SAC) Marketing and Publicity Sub-Committee, reported that Ms. Buike does a phenomenal job of providing programs and events for older adults; the challenge she faces is getting the word out to a larger number of older adults. Ms. Buike indicated that the Senior Resources Committee was a force behind wanting to increase senior services.

Mr. Gill pointed out the following Live Oak Park amenities:

- Scout House – The older adults program has requested that a Petanque court be built on the east side of the Scout House; discussions are taking place regarding the use of this area by the Manhattan Beach Scouts and the Older Adult Program
- Live Oak Park Little League Field – used by Little League, Senior Softball League as well as the Parks and Recreation Department Kickball League
- Basketball Courts – use on a first come first served basis
- Tot Lot generally used by 3 years and under; gazebo can be reserved for birthday parties
- Tennis Courts were recently resurfaced - used for classes and citizen reservations
- Playground Program REC Room – used for children age 5 ½ - 12
- Ceramics Studio – Manhattan Beach is one of two cities in the south bay that offers ceramics classes
- Live Oak Park Hall – used for Parks and Recreation Department children’s classes and playground program as well as community meetings
- Dorsey Field – used by AYSO, Little League and Parks and Recreation Departments softball leagues
- Dog Run continues to be a popular destination for dog owners

Mr. Gill reported that an additional facility tour of Marine Avenue Park will be conducted at the September 27 Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 8:15 p.m.