

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

June 28, 2010  
6:30 P.M.

CONTENTS

	Page
10/0628.1 – Selection of 2010/2011 Parks and Recreation Commission Officers.....	1
10/0628.2 – Direction from City Council Regarding a Request from Manhattan Little League to Install a Commemorative Wall/Walk within Marine Park that Recognizes Our Youth and Adults Who Have Contributed to Youth Sports in Manhattan Beach.....	2

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Commissioner Schoenfeld

Others Present: Parks and Recreation Director Richard Gill, Recreation Services Manager Mark Leyman and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

**AGENDA CHANGES**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**CEREMONIAL**

Commission Chair Nicholson presented outgoing Commissioners Lynn Harris and Jennifer Rosenthal with a Certificate of Recognition from the Manhattan Beach City Council for their service on the Parks and Recreation Commission and their contribution to the community.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

10/0628.1 – Selection of 2010/2011 Parks and Recreation Commission Officers

Mr. 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. Vice Chair Murray would be next in line to serve as Chair, followed by Commissioner Cajka.

**A motion was made to select Commissioner Murray as Commission Chair.  
(MSC: Nicholson/Gill; Unanimous)**

**A motion was made to select Commissioner Cajka as Commission Vice-Chair.**

**(MSC: Murray/Gill; Unanimous)**

10/0628.2 – Direction from City Council Regarding a Request from Manhattan Little League to Install a Commemorative Wall/Walk within Marine Park that Recognizes Our Youth and Adults Who Have Contributed to Youth Sports in Manhattan Beach

Mr. Gill reported that last spring, two former Manhattan Beach Little Leaguers and Mira Costa High School baseball stars (Henry Pearson, Jon Wilhite) were involved in a terrible accident that took the life of Henry Pearson and critically injured Jon Wilhite. Little League representatives and the Pearson and Wilhite families met and felt that this tragic accident caused by a drunk driver should be remembered for the horrible effects alcohol and driving have on all of our lives.

Mr. Gill reported that staff received a letter on September 11, 2009 from the President of Manhattan Beach Little League to rename Marine Avenue Park and develop a commemorative wall that will honor the city's youth and adults who have contributed to the youth sports program in Manhattan Beach. At the October 6, 2009 City Council meeting, Council referred the project to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Gill reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission established a Marine Park Subcommittee with representatives from AYSO, Manhattan Beach Little League, Mira Costa Pony Baseball, Manhattan Beach Youth Basketball, members of the Pearson and Wilhite families and two representatives from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Gill reported that the Marine Park Subcommittee, in developing the vision and policy for the renaming and commemorative wall, proposed new concepts from the original City Council directive. City Council asked Manhattan Beach Little League to confirm their continued support of the project and return to City Council for further direction. On April 9, 2010, Manhattan Beach Little League drafted a letter of support to City Council for the continuation of the Marine Avenue Subcommittee efforts and various concepts proposed. The subcommittee discussed changing the commemorative wall into a commemorative walk, proposed to connect with children through a "living" park.

Commissioner Gill asked whether the subcommittee has to start over from the beginning or continue where they left off. Mr. Gill indicated that the subcommittee should continue from where they left off, but discuss the walkway only; no additional projects, i.e. netting, lights, skate park, etc. should be considered.

Commissioner Nicholson asked how the Commission might raise additional issues with City Council; whether they should meet individually with Council members to discuss additional amenities such as artificial turf, skate park, etc. Mr. Gill indicated that such issues should come from the Commission to the Council, not from the subcommittee. Commissioner Nicholson suggested that if the Commission goes back to the Council with requests for additional amenities, we should make it very clear that we have support from the community for funding. Commissioner Cajka also suggested that if and when we go back to the Council with recommendations for additional amenities, we should be very clear about what we are asking for with a very clear visual presentation.

Mr. Leyman reported that once the sub-committee meets and guidelines have been determined, the consultant would revise plans and return to the Commission for their review before going on to Council. Mr. Leyman indicated that he will be setting up a sub-committee meeting in the near future.

## **COMMISSION ITEMS**

### Status of Movies on the Beach

Commissioner Nicholson reported that since the 2009 Movies on the Beach were not being funded by the City, the Parks and Recreation Commission chose to fundraise for the event and were able to fund two movie nights. Once again this year, the Commission is undertaking the job of fundraising for two Movies on the Beach with a proposed budget of \$10,504. Commissioner Nicholson reported that over the course of the past two years, the “Movies on the Beach” events have seen their attendance grow from 500 to 1,100 and earn 100% positive survey results each screening.

Commissioner Nicholson reported that the Movies on the Beach subcommittee has selected two dates, August 2 and September 11, for the movie nights and are proposing the showing of “ET” and “UP”. Commissioner Nicholson reported that fundraising is commencing and the City is offering partnership opportunities of \$250, \$1,000 and \$3,500. He reported that we have already received a verbal commitment for \$3,200; Commissioner Murray has once again secured a \$1,000 commitment from the Manhattan Beach Lodging Association.

Commissioner Manna suggested that the subcommittee speak to Raleigh Studios about their vendor for the movie screen rental.

Commissioner Murray reported that the subcommittee is in contact with local restaurants and hotels and all the Commissioners could discuss possible sponsorship with individuals and organizations that they might be involved with. Commissioner Manna suggested that local restaurants might be willing to sponsor the movie nights and offer discounts for their restaurants on movie night flyers.

Commissioner Manna suggested that during the fundraising process, if we are not successful obtaining sponsorship from any individual or organization, we should try to find out why they are not interested in sponsoring the program in order to find out what works and what doesn't.

### Sand Dune Park

Commissioner Nicholson inquired about the status of Sand Dune Park. Mr. Gill reported that staff is going to City Council on July 6 with a proposal for reopening the dune and if approved we are scheduled to open the dune on August 2 with a reservation system. The existing fencing will remain until a trial period has elapsed at which time we will report back to City Council.

### Ladera Site

Commissioner Gill inquired about the status of Ladera School as a community site. Mr. Gill suggested that it is a dead issue because of the need to make the area ADA accessible.

### California Coastal Park Tour

Commissioner Murray reported that the California Coastal Park Tour conducted by the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commission and Board members (CAPRCBM) is scheduled for August 16 for seven days with 20 participants. Commissioner Murray thanked the Parks and Recreation Department and CPRS for helping to promote the tour.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Jane A. Grace  
Recording Secretary

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Deirdre Murray  
Commission Chair