

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

November 25, 2013
6:30 p.m.
City Hall

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ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Manna, Rothans, Hersman, Cajka, Allard, and Allen.

Absent: Commissioner Miketa.

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Mark Leyman and Recording Secretary Mary Kirchwehm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 28, 2013 minutes were approved as written.

CEREMONIAL

None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Manhattan Beach resident Jaeden Kesel stated that he has been skateboarding for eight years. He would often skateboard around the City but would often be told to leave. Mr. Kesel stated that although he lives near the middle school, he often goes to the Hermosa Beach skateboard park. He thinks the Manhattan Beach Middle School area and Polliwog Park area would be a great location for a skateboard park.

Manhattan Beach resident Shane Crow stated his desire for a skateboard park in Manhattan Beach. He has been skateboarding for four years and has wanted a skateboard park for a long time. He reported that skateboarders are forced to skate in the street because skateboarding is not permitted on the sidewalks or at the parks. As a result, skateboarders are forced to skate wherever they can. Mr. Crow reported that it is difficult to go to Hermosa Beach and El Segundo because he and other skateboarders are not old enough to drive. He also added that a skateboard park would benefit the younger skaters as well since it would provide a place for them to skate.

Manhattan Beach resident Blake Bordokas suggested the City reach out to companies for sponsorship in building a skateboard park as the City of Mammoth Lakes did. This would help defray costs to the City. He also suggested the City consider options for those who are not involved with sports such as baseball, basketball and soccer.

Manhattan Beach resident Richard Crow reported that he often drives the kids to other cities where there are skateboard parks. He stated that the implementation of a skateboard park would solve a number of problems for not just the skateboarders but for the community, such as business owners, residents, law enforcement and parents. In addition, a skateboard park would create a safer environment for the kids.

GENERAL BUSINESS

13/1028.1 – Proposed Rotary Project for the Installation of a Petanque Court

Parks and Recreation Director Mark Leyman gave a brief overview of the proposed Rotary project. Mr. Leyman reported that the Rotary presented a proposal to the City. Community meetings were held as well as meetings with Public Works and Community Development to discuss ADA access, landscaping, fencing, and railings. Mr. Leyman provided a cost estimate of approximately \$6,772 which would include everything. This estimate does not include the Rotary's portion. Mr. Leyman reported the ADA ramp would cost \$2,500, and the landscaping is in dire need of improvement. The homeowner, whose property is adjacent to the court, is in agreement with keeping or removing the tree as well as removing the chain link fence and installing a wood fence along the perimeter. The area inside the fencing would be maintained with landscaping consisting of drought tolerant plants and trees. The landscaping and fencing will provide the homeowners with privacy. The galvanized railing will be located on the south end.

Commissioner Manna inquired if there is an issue with removing any trees. Mr. Leyman reported that Public Works will make an evaluation once they re-landscape the area. Public Works will work with an arborist.

Commissioner Cajka inquired if the PVC pipes that are coming out of the wall are for drainage and if it needs to be taken into consideration. Commissioner Allard reported it is crushed granite and will drain in.

Commissioner Allard reported that when previously meeting with the Rotary, Juan Price stated the City would handle the fencing and landscaping. Commissioner Allard inquired if those costs should be broken out and if the City had previously planned the re-fencing and landscaping prior to the Rotary project. Mr. Leyman stated he will discuss this with Public Works.

Commissioner Allard inquired if this would be on the agenda at the first meeting in January on the consent calendar. Mr. Leyman reported that it would be after the January 7th meeting.

Older Adults Supervisor Jan Buike reported that \$800 is the cost the Rotary is estimating for the surface of the court.

MOTION: Commissioner Allard motioned to approve and submit the cost estimates to City Council and seek approval to move forward with the joint City/Rotary petanque court project. The motioned was seconded by Commissioner Rothans.

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

13/1028.3 – Discussion of a Skateboard Park

Commissioner Manna presented some background information on discussions of a skateboard park. Commissioner Manna reported the idea for a skateboard park has been in existence for a long time. It was incorporated into the Capital Improvements Plan back in 2001. In February of last year, at a Capital Improvements meeting, it was requested that City Council allow the Parks and Recreation Commission to re-examine the prospects of implementing a skateboard park. City Council gave the Commission approval to re-examine the prospects. The Commission then visited surrounding area skateboard parks, listened to a presentation from a skateboard park builder, did a fair amount of research, and had approximately four meetings devoted towards the subject of a skateboard park. At one point City Council wanted to look at the footprint of the City parks and decided they wanted it to be part of the Parks Master Plan. The Commission would like to get the process rejuvenated. Commissioner Manna explained that the Commission does not have authorization to proceed with anything without the direction of City Council.

Commissioner Cajka reported that the idea of the skateboard park went to the Parks Master Plan which got rolled into the Capital Improvements Plan. The project was then put on hold. The topic of the skateboard park was resurrected at the joint City Council/Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in June when the Commission expressed their frustration of not being able to do things, this project being one of them.

Commissioner Manna reported that the Commission would like to hold public meetings to obtain feedback from the community.

Commissioner Manna stated that the three large issues are funding, liability and location. In regards to funding, the Commission was informed by staff that capital improvement in the park is relatively inexpensive. Commissioner Manna also stated that liability is not a critical issue from the City's perspective. The Commission looked at a number of possible locations for a skateboard park. The Commission would like to see a skateboard park built for the community and is open to any suggestions.

Commissioner Hersman stated that when the Commission was looking at this project about a year and a half ago, there was discussion of exploring sponsorship.

Manhattan Beach resident Blake Bordokas inquired about the locations the Commission reviewed for a skateboard park. Commissioner Allard reported there are two locations. In 2008 the Strategic Plan had a location by Polliwog Park, but this Commission found a location behind the Marine Avenue baseball field that may also be suitable. The area consists of 11,000 square feet.

Manhattan Beach resident Richard Crow inquired how he and the community can work with the Commission to help move the process along. Commissioner Hersman suggested initiating a petition, attend a City Council meeting, and speak during the public comment section. Commissioner Manna stated that public support of the skateboard park would have an impact with City Council.

Commissioner Cajka stated that skateboard park designer, Aaron Spohn suggested the kids set up a Facebook page as a way to get support for the project.

Manhattan Beach resident Matt Hodges expressed his concerns that the Marine Avenue Park location does not appear to be easily accessible and suggested somewhere in Polliwog Park.

Manhattan Beach resident Jaeden Kesel suggested that some people in the community may have knowledge about building a skateboard park and thinks there are a lot of people who would be willing to help. Another suggestion is perhaps several Eagle Scout projects can be incorporated.

Manhattan Beach resident George Bordokas commented that although he was previously anti skateboarders he has since changed his view since he started transporting his son and friends to other skateboard parks. Mr. Bordokas reported that the older kids have a positive influence on the younger skateboarders.

Commissioner Rothans inquired about the status of the letter to City Council. Commissioner Manna reported that he drafted a letter that is being reviewed by Commissioner Cajka. Commissioner Cajka presented copies of the draft letter to the Commissioners. Commissioner Hersman offered to redraft the proposed letter to City Council. Commissioner Cajka inquired if the letter needs to be accompanied with the minutes when it goes to City Council. Mr. Leyman reported he will confirm if the letter from the Commission needs to be attached to the minutes and when this can go to City Council.

COMMISSION ITEMS

None.

STAFF ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.