

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

December 16, 2013
6:30 p.m.
City Hall

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13/1028.3 – Discussion of a Skateboard Park.....1

ROLL CALL

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

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 and November 25, 2013 minutes were approved as written.

CEREMONIAL

None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Manhattan Beach resident Shane Crow stated his support for a skateboard park in Manhattan Beach. He reported the benefits of a skate park to not only the skaters but to the entire community. A skate park would not only give the skaters a place to go, but it would inhibit damage to public and private property as well. In addition, Mr. Crow reported the difficulty it is for kids to find transportation to neighboring city skate parks.

Manhattan Beach resident Kyle Gaudio presented some photos to the Commission of some neighboring desirable skateparks such as Venice, Gardena and Westchester. He requested the city to take the time and effort to implement a quality skate park.

Ian Johnson, a student from Manhattan Beach Middle School, reported that a skate park requires less room than a baseball field and suggested looking towards sponsorship to help build a park.

Manhattan Beach resident Douglas Golubovic reported that the implementation of a skate park would minimize the necessity for policing public property.

Manhattan Beach resident Jackson Hogans reported a skate park would provide a destination for kids other than the streets and cause damage to properties. He also suggested that a skate park would add to the recreation of Manhattan Beach.

Manhattan Beach resident Preston Goldwag supported the installation of a skate park in the City.

Manhattan Beach resident Darby Dayton reported that skateboarding is not only a hobby, but a potential career. Ms. Dayton also stated that skateboarding is part of the South Bay area culture.

Manhattan Beach resident Chad Parks supports the installation of a skate park in the City.

Manhattan Beach resident and parent Richard Crow inquired how the skate park will be presented to City Council and also inquired how and what he and others could do to address the community members who may not support the skate park. Mr. Crow inquired about the possibility of creating a Facebook page.

Manhattan Beach resident, teacher and parent Felicia Crow stated that the youth of Manhattan Beach are positive and motivated children who find skating both challenging and rewarding. She supports the skate park.

Manhattan Beach resident Steven Robbins, who lives near Polliwog Park, is supportive of a skate park but has concerns about Polliwog Park as a proposed location. Mr. Robbins expressed his concern that the park is already heavily used and requests careful consideration of the location and impact on the neighboring residents.

Manhattan Beach resident Stephanie Robbins stated that the neighborhood next to Polliwog Park is very resistant to this location for a skateboard park for the reasons previously mentioned. She wanted to note that the park was designed as a catch basin for storm water rain off and expressed concern about the environmental impact of a concrete area. Although she is not opposed to a skate park she has concerns about the location. She requests the City be proactive with funding sources and be sensitive to the neighbors in the areas for consideration.

Manhattan Beach resident Josh Gaudio reported that skaters receive a negative reputation for causing damage and hanging around, but a skate park would help them and solve a lot of problems.

Manhattan Beach resident Dave Schwartzlander reported that he spends a lot of time transporting his children to various neighboring parks. He stated that his child also likes BMX biking and hopes the City would consider installing a park that would have features that would also include BMX bikers.

Commissioner Manna closed audience participation and explained that the Commission cannot proceed without the direction of City Council. Commissioner Manna reported that the Commission plans to present a memo to City Council at the January 7, 2014 Council meeting and welcomed the public to attend and express their support for a skateboard park within the City.

GENERAL BUSINESS

13/1028.3 – Discussion of a Skateboard Park

Commissioner Cajka reported that part of the process is public involvement and encouraged the public to attend the January 7, 2014 meeting to support the skateboard park.

Commissioner Rothans thanked the public for attending the meeting and commended Commissioner Hersman for drafting the December 16, 2013 meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Rothans motioned to approve the December 16, 2013 letter to City Council. The motioned was seconded by Commissioner Cajka.

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

Commissioner Hersman addressed Mr. Crow regarding implementing a Facebook page. Although someone would need to manage the page she stated it would be very helpful for the announcements and provide the community an opportunity discuss the potential project.

Commissioner Allen suggested parents also attend the City Council meeting on January 7, 2014 in support of the skateboard park.

Commissioner Manna reported that they will also be addressing potential objections and identify all the stakeholders.

Commissioner Allard reported that the public really made an impact at the last City Council meeting regarding the skateboard park.

Parks and Recreation Director Mark Leyman reported that he will be working with the Commission Chair in creating a staff report to council requesting direction from Council.

COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Hersman reported that Leadership Manhattan Beach selected the Live Oak Park toddler park as their project. She stated that they currently have \$7,500 and received a grant from Beach Cities Health District of approximately \$5,000. City Council approved the project.

STAFF ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on January 27, 2014.