

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

Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers

March 24, 2014

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

CONTENTS

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

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34PM.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Mark Leyman, Recreation Services Manager Idris Al-Oboudi and Recording Secretary Linda Robb.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The January 27, 2014 minutes were approved as written.

**E. CEREMONIAL**

None.

**F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None.

**G. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**13/1028.3 – Discussion of a Skateboard Park**

Commissioner Hersman gave an overview of the three Skateboard Park Ad-hoc Committee meetings that have been held since the committee was formed. Ad-hoc Committee consists of commissioners Hersman, Allard and Miketa. The Committee has been gathering feedback from the community.

Commissioner Hersman stated that the school district is on board with a skateboard park. A number of the potential locations are located on school district property. Commissioner Hersman has requested from the school district, a list of locations that are definitely not possible.

Commissioner Allard said that at the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting, the Commission will choose the top locations to present to the City Council in June.

Commissioner Hersman said that surveys had been distributed to local cities that currently have skateboard parks, she hoped that they would have information to present at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Ad-hoc Committee meeting. Commissioner Cajka asked if anyone would be speaking with the police department of the cities that have skateboard parks.

A survey was distributed to middle and high school students and their parents. Commissioner Rothans asked if the survey is online. Director Mark Leyman stated that it had been submitted but wasn't yet online.

Commissioner Manna visited a skate park in San Clemente with William "Bill" Thomas who has volunteered to come and share his knowledge.

Commissioner Rothans stated that his research did not find a single lawsuit involving skate parks as of three to four years ago.

Presentation by Mr. Spohn: Mr. Spohn has been volunteering services assisting with the skate park feasibility in Manhattan Beach. Mr. Spohn has been designing skateboard parks and venues for many years.

- At some point every community has to decide whether to police skateboarding as a nuisance or provide a place for skateboarding.
- Skateparks are not just for skateboarders – skateboarding is now more popular than baseball and is a fast growing sport
- Liability – California law AB1296 - makes skateboarding an at-risk activity, gives additional immunity for municipalities with skate parks.
  - The law only applies to ages 14 and over, 13 and under not covered under this law.
  - Requires use of safety gear. Need to have a local ordinance requiring safety gear.
  - Not able to staff. Signs are posted and parks are being patrolled.
- This community either needs a large park or a couple of smaller parks that add up to the same sq. footage
- Important factors:
  - Visibility – can it be easily patrolled
  - Proximity – central location is ideal
  - Typology, design canvas (topography) – most skaters are street skaters who want Plaza style (street). This type is more easy to accommodate than bowl parks
- Multiuse, can be created as a mixed use environment
- Potential locations:
  - Marine A (behind ball field)
  - Marine B (basketball courts/racquetball)–possibility for 12000 sq. ft.
  - Adjacent to Sand Dune park - about 24000 sq. ft.
  - Begg pool - 13,000 sq. ft.
  - slope by Begg pool (school district property)
  - Maintenance facility MBUSD – 55,000 sq. feet
  - MBUSD Maintenance Yard location B – 18,000 sq. ft.
  - Bruce's beach – 3500 sq. ft., other levels may have more square feet available
  - Manhattan Village corner – parking lot – 9000 sq. ft. would lose 50 parking spaces

- Opposite side of Manhattan Village soccer fields 7,000 sq. ft.
- Manhattan Village field different corner – only 25-30 parking spaces 9,150 sq. ft.
- Polliwog park – 10,000 sq. ft.
- Veterans parkway – 10,000 sq. ft.
- Veterans parkway trailhead – private property 12,000 sq. ft.
- Live Oak Park – Dorsey Field area
- Strand and beachfront – Venice has done it and it is iconic 15,000+ sq. ft.

Based on the City population, Mr. Spohn calculated that Manhattan Beach needs a park that is at least 12000 sq. ft.

The rough calculation is \$50/sq. ft. but there are so many factors that this is just a ballpark number.

Chairman Manna asked about the area between two of the baseball diamonds at Marine Park. This idea would require the loss of some soccer field area.

Chairperson Manna opened the floor to public comment.

1. Laura Santos – Ms. Santos stated that she opposes the skateboard park and does not want to reward people who are causing vandalism when there are other projects that need attention.
2. Mark Berrera – Mr. Berrera stated that he thinks more time is needed to examine the sites and suggested the large parking lot at El Porto for consideration.
3. Steven Robbins – Mr. Robbins stressed that the ranking criteria needs to be balanced and we must agree and take our time to do this correctly and take the neighborhoods into consideration.
4. Stephanie Robbins – Ms. Robbins wanted to stress the importance of sensitivity to residential impact. She is in favor of the Marine Avenue location as it has the least impact on residents. She also likes the idea of Fundraising opportunities because people with a vested interest will respect the park. She stated that the City needs to prioritize spending.
5. Blake Bordokas – Mr. Bordokis stated that the skate park is not just for kids. Mr. Bordokis asked if now is the time to start fundraising, start a non-profit or start collecting pledges.
  
6. Seth Fermenter – Mr. Fermenter stated that he is grateful for the opportunity to look at building a skate park and hopes that we can build something to accommodate the younger skaters and the older skaters as well. He stated that older skaters are an important part of skate parks as they bring their own kids as well as mentor younger skaters. The presence of older skaters reduces the opportunity for vandalism and violence.

Chairperson Manna closed the floor to public comment.

Commissioner Rothans thanked the Ad-hoc committee for their hard work and asked about the attendance at the Ad-hoc Committee meetings.

Commissioner Allard reported that 15 people attended the first meeting, 4 attended the second and 15 attended the third.

Commissioner Hersman said that when the committee was first formed they had thought that there would be ten people on the committee so there were many people invited to attend.

Committee is only 3 people for Brown Act reasons plus public input.

Commissioner Allard said that the committee is setting goals. Commissioners Allard and Hersman along with Director Leyman and Mr. Al-Oboudi are scheduled to go look at some local skate parks to take pictures and ask questions. The results will be part of the staff report that will be presented to the City Council.

Commissioner Cajka mentioned that for the location adjacent to Sand Dune Park the ADA requirements will be the biggest obstacle.

Commissioner Manna asked about the ownership of the El Porto parking lot Director Leyman said the upper lot is owned by the city and the lower property is owned by the County.

#### COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Manna attended the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) conference. The City of Manhattan Beach received two awards: Outstanding Event for the Tour de Pier and former commissioner Dei Murray was given a lifetime membership, the highest honor given by the CPRS. Commissioner Manna would like to attend some Parks and Recreation Commission meetings in other cities to try to increase CPRS membership. He would like to organize some social gatherings to exchange ideas with Commissioners from other cities.

Commissioner Allard gave an update on the Petanque court. The Rotary Club, in conjunction with the City will be breaking ground for the court on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The court will be located behind the Joslyn center. The date of the ribbon cutting will be forthcoming.

Commissioner Hersman gave an update on the Leadership Manhattan Tot Lot renovation. The City Council will be invited to the ribbon cutting to be held at the beginning of May. Chairperson Manna mentioned an organization called Kids Around the World. They collect old playground equipment, refurbish it and install in countries where there is a need for playgrounds.

Chairperson Manna received information at the CPRS conference regarding security systems that might be useful to the Police Department.

#### STAFF ITEMS

None

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hersman moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cajka.

Ayes: Commissioners Manna, Allen, Cajka, Allard, Hersman, and Miketa.

Noes: Commissioner Rothans

Abstain: None

Absent: None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. to the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on April 28, 2014.