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CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

October 2, 2006
6:30 P.M.

CONTENTS

	Page
06/1002.1 – Tour of Marine Avenue Park.....	2

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Gill, Harris, Lamb, Lear, Murray, Nicholson and Rachmiel

Absent: None

Others Present: Parks & Recreation Director Richard Gill and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

AGENDA CHANGES

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 28, 2006 Commission Meeting were approved as written.

CEREMONIAL

None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. John Sloway, representing the general public, spoke before the Commission regarding the condition of the city soccer fields. He reported that early in the season, the fields, i.e. Village and Marine Avenue Soccer, become muddy or dusty with large clumps of grass, making the fields difficult and dangerous to play on.

Mr. Sloway suggested that synthetic surface would be a viable alternative for the fields. He indicated that he has researched synthetic surfaces which have been installed in other cities, i.e. Redondo Beach (Aviation field), Laguna Niguel, California and Colorado and indicated that the surfaces have met all expectations. Although the synthetic surface is expensive (\$7.25-\$7.50/square foot), Mr. Sloway reported that there would be an eight-year payback (return on investment) because of maintenance and user revenue.

Commissioner Harris indicated that a like synthetic surface has been installed in her back yard and it is clean and easily maintained. Commissioner Lear inquired whether there was opposition to the purchase of the synthetic surfaces. Mr. Gill indicated that the only opposition is the expense and staff wants to make sure they are proceeding in the right direction before committing to the project.

Mr. Gill indicated that staff would report back to the Parks and Recreation Commission before going forward to City Council with a plan.

OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commissioner Lamb inquired about the response of City Council to his memo of August 7, 2006 requesting permission for the Commission to work with F.I.D.O. and other interested citizens to explore the issue of additional off-leash dog areas with the city and to make recommendations to the City Council.

Mr. Gill reported that City Council's response was "of course, you may look at future dog run areas that do not impact the neighbors." However, City Council indicated that the Commission should not revisit those locations on Veteran's Parkway that the neighbors have already spoken against.

Mr. Gill indicated that the City Council will be conducting a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission in November and suggested that it might be a good time to discuss the subject of dog runs at that time.

Commissioner Lear suggested that the Commission could refute the "urban myth" regarding dog runs, i.e. continual barking, smell, etc. due to the success of the Live Oak Park Dog Run.

Commission Chair Lamb indicated that he would draft another letter to City Council, indicating that the Commission would like to continue discussions about additional off-leash dog areas.

GENERAL BUSINESS

06/1001.1 – Tour of Marine Avenue Park

The Commission toured Marine Avenue park facilities, including the soccer field, baseball field, sports complex and recently opened dog run.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.