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CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

August 28, 2006  
6:30 P.M.

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**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 July 24, 2006 Commission Meeting were approved as written.

**CEREMONIAL**

None

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

06/0828.1 – Tour of Sand Dune and Marine Avenue Parks

Mr. Gill reported that Sand Dune Park has become the number one hot spot in Manhattan Beach. He reported that in 2000 a sub committee was formed, comprised of two Parks and Recreation Commissioners, six Sand Dune Park neighborhood residents and two City Staff, to analyze problems and recommendations for the dune. The sub-committee recommended the following policy changes and the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the changes:

- Open the park daily at 6:00 a.m. instead of opening at dawn.
- Close the park at 9:00 p.m. from April 1 through October 31.
- Close the park at 8:00 p.m. from November 1 through March 31.

- Establish quiet hours
- Eliminate the four parking spaces in the parking lot south of the tot lot for all except service vehicles and handicap parking (two spaces each).
- Divide the dune 50/50 with 50% for exercise use and 50% for recreational/youth use.
- Staff the park daily with Parks and Recreation personnel to enforce the above policies for an initial period of at least six months starting at 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. daily.
- Post signs at the top and bottom of the stairs adjacent to the dune that state “For your safety please no running on the stairs.”
- Remove and replace all current rules and regulations signs. Install signs that were developed by the sub-committee that welcomes users of the park and requests their cooperation in a friendly manner.

All recommended changes were approved by the City Council, with the exception of limiting the number of people on the Dune at any one time.

Mr. Gill indicated additional points regarding dune usage over the past several years:

- A full-time park services enforcement officer was hired in 2005.
- The dune is used by children as well as high school, college and professional athletes who use the dune for training.
- We have a zero tolerance for trainers on the dune.
- There is usually a drop in attendance after Labor Day.
- Park leaders do not always receive respect from dune users.
- The dune was built with State funding and, therefore, cannot be limited to Manhattan Beach residents only.
- After a traffic study was completed, parking was limited to the west side of Bell and the turn-about was added.

Mr. Gill suggested that the activity outside of the park is causing the real problem for residents such as loud car stereos of those entering the neighborhood on their way to the park, parking, noticeable litter, as well as the influx of people coming and going.

During a discussion among the Commissioners, the following points were made:

1. Commissioner Nicholson suggested that the dune can be a family experience; while parents use the dune, children use the playground area at the base of the dune.
2. Commissioner Harris reported that Rose Shriner, a sand dune area resident, indicated that the police seem to be stricter with children when their parents are not present.
3. Commissioner Gill suggested that since it appears that enforcement is the key, we should approach someone like Skechers to donate money to fund another full-time park services enforcement officer.
4. Commissioner Nicholson agreed that traffic enforcement is 80% of the problem.

Mr. Gill indicated that the department is interested in increasing the concrete area in the south west corner of the playground to construct a weather proof structure for the playground program.

Meetings would be held to obtain public input. Commissioner Nicholson suggested that the neighbors might be in favor of it, in that it would help provide a better playground program. Commissioner Harris suggested that when designing new playgrounds, the City should hire a consultant with a background in education.

#### **REPORTS**

Mr. Gill invited the Commission to attend the Manhattan Beach Arts Festival on September 10 in downtown Manhattan Beach and the Pet Expo on September 30 in Polliwog Park.

#### **OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Commissioner Murray invited the Commission to the annual Mayors Golf Tournament on October 9 at Candlewood County Club to benefit the Manhattan Beach Ed Foundation.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting on September 25, 2006, 5:30 p.m.