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CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

July 24, 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: Recreation Services Manager Idris J. Al-Oboudi, Park Services Enforcement Officer Malatesta, and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

**AGENDA CHANGES**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 22, 2006 Commission Meeting were approved as written.

**CEREMONIAL**

Commissioner Lear welcomed the three new members of the Parks and Recreation Commission Deirdre Murray, Steven Nicholson and Alex Rachmiel.

Mr. Gill introduced Recreation Services Manager Idris J. Al-Oboudi, Park Services Enforcement Officer Brent Malatesta and Senior Recreation Leader (weekend/evening supervision) Jesse Bobbett to the Commission.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

06/0724.1 – Selection of 2006/2007 Parks and Recreation Commission Officers

Mr. Gill reported that annually the Parks and Recreation Commission is required to select a Chair and Vice Chair for the Commission. In the past, officers have been selected on a seniority basis. Commissioner Lamb would be next in line to serve as Chair, followed by Commissioners Gill and Harris. Mr. Gill reported that although this has been the practice in the past, it is not the rule. The Commission has the right to choose any member of the Commission they feel is most qualified.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lear and seconded by Commissioner Gill to select Commissioner Lamb as the 2006/2007 Commission Chair.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lamb to reappoint Commissioner Lear as the 2006/2007 Commission Chair. Commissioner Lear declined.

A unanimous vote was taken on the motion to select Commissioner Lamb as the 2006/2007 Commission Chair. (MSC: Lear/Gill; unanimous)

A motion was made by Commissioner Gill and seconded by Commissioner Murray to select Commissioner Harris as Commission Vice Chair. (MSC: Gill/Murray; Unanimous)

#### 06/0724.2 – Selection of Commissioner to Serve on City Council Ad-Hoc Committee for the Department's Marketing Plan

Commissioner Lamb reported that, due to a vacancy in the City Council Ad-Hoc Committee for the Department's Marketing Plan, the Commission has been asked to select a replacement to serve on the Committee who will be trusted with the authority of the Commission to approve, on behalf of the Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department marketing strategy/plan.

Mr. Gill reported that last year the City hired a marketing firm, Blu Moon, to help market the Parks and Recreation Department's programs. A sub-committee was formed, including City Council and Commission Members, to supervise the program in order to not over commercialize our programs.

Commissioner Murray indicated that marketing is her business and would be interested in serving on the ad-hoc committee. Commissioner Nicholson also indicated an interest in serving on the committee.

Commissioner Lamb called for a vote: Commissioner Murray received six votes and Commissioner Nicholson received one vote. Commissioner Murray will serve on the City Council AD-Hoc Committee for the department's marketing plan.

#### **REPORTS**

Mr. Gill reported that the City Council has hired a consultant firm to create immediate and long-term plans for the renovation and expansion of existing facilities and construction of new facilities. The facility strategic plan committee, which will be coordinated through the City Manager's office, will include a diverse cross-section of residents. Mr. Gill reported that the committee will probably be meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission in the near future as they meet certain milestones.

Mr. Gill that reported that our Commission Update will now provide the Commissioners with information that falls within our department Vision Statement “We Create Community and Quality of Life through People, Parks and Program” and it’s nine Mission Statements:

- We strengthen community image and sense of place
- We support economic development
- We strengthen safety and security
- We promote health and wellness
- We foster human development
- We increase cultural unity
- We protect environmental resources
- We provide recreational experiences
- We facilitate community problem solving

Mr. Gill indicated that staff will provide information on past and future activities and programs and how they help to achieve these missions.

Mr. Gill reported that the Department has opened up a new full-custody playground program for resident and non-resident children between the ages of 6-12. The cost is \$89 per week for residents and \$95 for non-residents. Mr. Gill indicated that, with the addition of this new program, the free non-custodial playground program for Manhattan Beach residents (or for children who attend a Manhattan Beach school or for parents who work in Manhattan Beach) is more manageable because of fewer participants.

Mr. Gill invited the Commissioners to the following summer events:

- Sundays, through September 3 – Concerts in the Park
- August 5 & 6 – Charlie Saikley 6-Man Volleyball Tournament
- August 10-13 – AVP Manhattan Open Volleyball Tournament
- September 10 – Arts Festival
- August 24 – October 26 – Thursday Night Entertainment in the 13th St. or Town Square

#### **OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gill asked Parks Services Enforcement Officer Malatesta his opinion for the best location for a skate park, knowing the problems in the city. Mr. Malatesta suggested that the following things would be important at any site:

- Parking
- Easily accessible for parents
- No traffic issues
- Safety

Commissioner Gill inquired about the status of the NAYS program. Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that our Recreation Services Manager Mark Leyman has been selected to attend the 2006 Leadership Manhattan class and plans to ask them to become a supporter of the NAYS program. Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that three of our supervisors have been certified by NAYS and all of our contractors for children’s sports activities are gradually be certified. He reported that the next

phase will be for the parents of class participants to become members of PAYS which is the parent section of NAYS. Mr. Al-Oboudi indicated that once all this takes place, it will be easier to involve AYSO and Little League in the program.

Commissioner Rachmiel inquired about the status of a skate park in Manhattan Beach. Mr. Gill reported that very few Capital Improvement Projects, including a skate park, were funded in the last four years because of the Police Fire Facility.

Commissioner Lear suggested that the Commission should have a discussion at a future meeting to decide what the Commission might be interested in promoting to the City Council; following protocol by asking permission from the Council to explore a project, i.e. a skate park.

Commissioner Harris inquired about the status of discussions for further dog runs in the city. Mr. Gill reported that City Council's direction was if the dog committee finds a location that does not impact the neighborhood, the committee may bring it forward for discussion at a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that many of the things that people were fearful about regarding dog parks turned out to be unfounded, once the dog run was installed at Live Oak Park.

Mr. Gill indicated that if the Commission Chair, with the support of the Commission, may attach a memo to their minutes regarding a specific question or subject. It was the consensus of the commission that a memo should be attached to their minutes, asking for permission to work with F.I.D.O. to investigate an additional dog run site.

#### 06/0724.3 –Tour of Manhattan Heights Park, Polliwog Park and Marine Avenue Park

Mr. Gill conducted a tour of Manhattan Heights and Polliwog Parks. Due to darkness, a tour of Marine Avenue Park was scheduled for a future meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting on August 28, 2006.