

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
September 22, 2014
6:30 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Rothans, Commissioners Paralusz, Allard, Manna, Jones and Zaun
Absent: Commissioner Allen

Others present: Recreation Services Manager, Idris Al-Oboudi, Recording Secretary Linda Robb

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Allard moved to approve the August 25, 2014 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones.

Ayes: Chairperson Rothans, Commissioners Paralusz, Allard, Manna, Jones and Zaun
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Commissioner Allen

E. CEREMONIAL

none

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Chairperson Rothans opened the floor to audience participation.

Seeing none, the floor was closed.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

none

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

- **Discussion RE Update and status RE Proposed of “Salute to the Troops Picnic & Concert 2015”** - Chairperson Rothans stated that the City Council has put this item on the City Council agenda for October 7th. He stated that he would like to speak about some topics in advance to be prepared once direction is received from City Council. He restated that the purpose of the event is to thank the troops and their families for their sacrifice and service. He stated that his hope is that it does not end up being an add on to an existing event, such as Concerts in the Park, but an event in itself.

Date – Chairperson Rothans asked staff to propose two or three dates that may be

appropriate for a Concerts in the Park type event. The Commission would like a Sunday set aside exclusively for this event. The event should fall after Memorial Day and before the end of the Summer and should be a date that is specifically for the Veterans. Commissioner Allard stated that July 4th is on a Saturday so the July 5th Concert in the Park may be appropriate. Chairperson Rothans would like to finalize the date at the October 27th meeting.

Logo- Chairperson Rothans would like to start working on a logo and asked if anyone on the commission has any graphic art experience. Commissioner Jones asked if there would be a budget for this work or if there could be a contest to get the community involved. Chairperson Rothans stated that that would be a function of the fundraising. Commissioner Jones stated that she would like to use the logo on various items related to the event. Chairperson Rothans would like to order lapel pins with the City logo and a Salute to the Troops theme as a cost effective takeaway. Chairperson Rothans distributed some sample lapel pins. Commissioner Manna suggested a website called Fiver that produces marketing materials.

Chairperson Rothans also suggested that the portable Viet Nam memorial may be available. Commissioner Allard volunteered to follow up on the availability of the portable Viet Nam Memorial.

Display – Chairperson Rothans mentioned the possibility of displaying a collection of military badges, medals, scrambled eggs, etc. that may be earned in the service.

Commissioner Paralusz expressed concern about proceeding with plans prior to City Council approval. Chairperson Rothans stated that this is only research to prepare the Commission to hit the ground running if the proposal is approved. Commissioner Manna stated that they could wait until after the City Council meeting to start researching, if approved.

Commissioner Jones stated that Northrup Grumman has a USO contact that may be utilized for her military expertise and who may be able to streamline the whole process. Chairperson Rothans asked Commissioner Jones to set up a meeting after direction is received from City Council.

Chairperson Rothans stated that perhaps a celebrity can be approached to M.C. the event. Commissioner Jones stated that she could assist with finding a celebrity.

Fundraising – Commissioner Rothans suggested that, if approved, a letter should be drafted to solicit donations for the event. Commissioner Jones mentioned that a large sponsor may want to be the sole sponsor. Commissioner Rothans suggested holding off on a mailer until possible larger sponsors are contacted.

Chairperson Rothans wanted to clarify that the Commission is not moving forward with the idea until the City Council gives direction but would like to start research in order to hit the ground running.

Recreation Services Manager, Idris Al-Oboudi stated that the more complete the research is, the higher the likelihood of a sponsor wanting to be a sole sponsor.

Commissioner Paralusz is concerned that if one company is the sole sponsor it may not have the community feel that having other smaller sponsors (service

organizations, Scouts, etc.) would have.

Commissioner Rothans stated that a perhaps there could be exclusivity by industry depending on the sponsorship amount.

- **Discussion of Commission Employee Recognition program/event**

Mr. Al-Oboudi stated that the best date would be the staff holiday party on Thursday, December 4th, 2014. An alternative date would be the department training on June 13th, 2015.

Commissioner Jones preferred the June date because December is so full of events. Commissioner Manna prefers the December date as he does not want the idea to lose steam.

Mr. Al-Oboudi stated that Commissioners are invited to all events and that the June event is the most largely attended.

Chairperson Rothans stated that he would like to have the event this year as the Commission started talking about this in May and he does not want the event to be forgotten. He asked if the December date was a lunch or dinner. Mr. Al-Oboudi stated that it has not been decided yet and that the employees would be polled for preference.

Commissioner Manna stated that if the December event went well, there is no reason it could not be done again in June.

Commissioner Paralusz stated that she would like to do December and that it is early enough in December to avoid conflict with holidays.

Commissioner Zaun stated that he would like to do December so that if it went well, it could be done again in June.

The Commission is recommending December 4 to determine venue and time of day, this topic will be included on the next agenda.

I. STAFF ITEMS

- Mr. Al-Oboudi distributed some materials regarding an anti-bullying campaign.

- Overview of Pumpkin Races – Recreation Services Manager, Idris Al-Oboudi encouraged the Commissioners to participate in the race and Friendship Walk. He stated that is a very fun family event. He distributed instructions on how to build a pumpkin racer. Cheater pumpkins will be smashed.

Commissioner Allard suggested a challenge to the City Council.

Commissioner Jones would also like to have a banner to wave for the Friendship Walk.

Mr. Al-Oboudi informed the Commission that there is a sponsor event on October 25th for building the pumpkins. This is where the team building happens and where most challenges are set.

Commissioner Jones moved to have a pumpkin race design event on the 24th with follow up building with the community on the 25th. Commissioner Paralusz seconded the motion. The motion passes.

Ayes: Chairperson Rothans, Commissioners Paralusz, Allard, Jones, Manna and Zaun

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Allen

Commissioner Allard moved to challenge the City Council to race pumpkins.
Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passes.

Ayes: Chairperson Rothans, Commissioners Paralusz, Allard, Manna, Jones and Zaun
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Commissioner Allen

- Update on Parks and Recreation Department programs and events-
Mr. Al-Oboudi stated that the Parks and Recreation department will be very busy in the next few months. Halloween Carnival, Pumpkin races, Friendship walk, Veterans Day, etc. He asked that the Commissioners act as public relations to encourage people to look up Parks and Recreation events.

Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that the Parks and Recreation department is currently working on our Marketing Plan to more effectively market to the public.

Chairperson Rothans inquired on the status of the Skateboard Park Consultant RFP. Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that the skateboard park RFP had been pulled from the consent calendar at the City Council and then pushed to the October 7th meeting.

Commissioner Allard stated that the Senior Advisory Committee of the Older Adult Program, in conjunction with the Mayors Youth Council, is presenting an intergenerational event on December 6th, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. This event is an outgrowth of Councilman Lesser's Town Hall meetings that were held in the past two years. It will be a half-day event and will include a speaker and discussion groups. He stated that the hope is to do this type of event twice a year. Staff will make a presentation to the Commission at the October meeting.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Paralusz moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manna. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Ayes: Chairperson Rothans, Commissioners Paralusz, Allard, Manna, Jones and Zaun
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Commissioner Allen