

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
October 27, 2014
6:30 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Others present: Director of Parks and Recreation Mark Leyman,
Recording Secretary Linda Robb

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Paralusz moved to approve the September 22, 2014 minutes with the correction that Commissioner Manna's name be added as present at the September 22, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allard.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

E. CEREMONIAL

none

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Chairperson Rothans opened the floor to audience participation.

Mark Lipps (600 Blk 35th St.) – Mr. Lipps expressed the desire to build an urban farm on the abandoned playground behind Grandview Elementary School. The farm would be drought friendly, and use all recycled water. Mr. Lipps is seeking permission to do a formal presentation to the Commission as well as the MBUSD School Board and City Council. Chairperson Rothans asked Director of Parks and Recreation, Mark Leyman to approach the City Manager to determine where Mr. Lipps and his partner Mike Garcia should present first.

Mike Garcia (resident of Redondo Beach)– Mr. Garcia is the owner of Enviroscope LA and landscaped the City Botanical Garden twenty years ago. His vision for the urban farm is to be a beautiful edible botanical garden that may act as a fundraiser for the MB Education

Foundation by possibly supplying locally grown produce to local restaurants. Mr. Garcia has developed a soil garden that recycles water and he also mentioned that NASA has discovered aeroponics to grow without soil. With aeroponics, food can be grown in 1/3 of the normal time, going from seed to lettuce in thirty days.

Commissioner Manna stated that if the project is successful, it would become a model for what can be done. Commissioner Allard mentioned that the property is owned by the school district. Mr. Garcia stated that a presentation will be made to School district in mid-November.

Floor was closed to public comment.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

none

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

- Pumpkin race – Commissioner Zaun stated that he spent about 2 hours building the Commission pumpkin and enjoyed the experience. Commissioner Allard stated that the pumpkin was in the lead until it flipped over three feet from the finish line. Chairperson Rothans presented the Great Pumpkin award to Adam for his contribution to the pumpkin race.
- Commissioner Paralusz reported that the email blast for the Halloween Carnival advertised the event as taking place on Sunday, October 18th but was in fact on Saturday, October 18th.
- Discussion RE Update and status RE Proposed of “Salute to the Troops Picnic & Concert 2015” - Chairperson Rothans stated that the City Council had approved for the Commission to move forward with the event. The Primary purpose of the event is to have an opportunity for the community to honor the service active duty military and veterans.
 - Date – Chairperson Rothans suggested that before committing to a date, it would be best to get a commitment from possible performers. Director Leyman stated that the preferred dates would be June 13, 2015, September 13, 2015 and June 6th, 2015, in that order. Chairperson Rothans mentioned that September 13th is Rosh Hashanah. Chairperson Rothans asked how far in advance acts are committed for the Concert in the Park series. Director Leyman stated most of the 2015 Concerts dates already had been booked. Director Leyman stated that the department is flexible on the dates but the three mentioned would be the best.
 - MC for the event - Chairperson Rothans stated that Gary Sinise has a band (Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band) that may be contacted through the Gary Sinise Foundation. Chairperson Rothans stated that he would reach out to the Foundation to see if the band would be available. Commissioner Jones stated State the Gary Sinise Foundation has very specific requirements but a call should be made. Commissioner Manna attended a function where Gary Sinise received an award and the band played. Other celebrities suggested were Bill Engvall, Vince Vaughn and Kevin Nealon. Commissioner Jones suggested that if Gary Sinise is not available, the Foundation may be able to recommend someone. Commissioner Paralusz mentioned Marybeth McDade as a possible newscaster. Location – The commission agreed that Polliwog is the appropriate venue. Commissioner Allen made a motion to establish Polliwog park as the venue for the Salute to the Troops event. The motion was

seconded by Commissioner Paralusz.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- Sponsors – Commissioner Jones stated that she has a teleconference scheduled for Thursday, October 30th to discuss details and to take the possible Northrop Grumman sponsorship to next level. Chairperson Rothans stated that he would like to approach Northrop Grumman first to see what level of sponsorship they might offer. Commissioner Manna also suggested the Chamber of Commerce, Downton Manhattan Beach Business Association, Leadership Manhattan Beach, Chevron and Aerospace Corporation. Chairperson Rothans suggested that the Commission wait until after Commissioner Jones’ meeting to approach other sponsors. Commissioner Jones requested a range to request. Chairperson Rothans suggested \$10,000-\$25,000. Commissioner Paralusz stated that she would love for Northrop Grumman to sponsor the event would like to solicit as many sponsors as possible to make it more of a community event. Chairperson Rothans stated that he would love to meet and make a pitch to Northrop Grumman if it gets past the teleconference phase. Commissioner Allen suggested Belkin as a possible sponsor and Commissioner Paralusz suggested service organizations.
- Logo –Chairperson Rothans reported that the graphic artist is working on the logo so the logo will be addressed at next meeting. Chairperson Rothans would like to use that logo on letters to solicit sponsorships.
- Program – Chairperson Rothans stated that he would be reaching out to Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band. Commissioner Allard asked staff to check the availability of Military bands (Air force and Marine Corp.) He stated that the Air Force band usually plays at the Torrance Armed Services Day event and maybe this event could tag on since they will be nearby. Commissioner Jones stated Northrop Grumman has a USO contact who will be present at the teleconference.

Chairperson Rothans suggested that Kathleen, Adam and Janet work together to move ahead with Manhattan Beach Middle School and Mira Costa students working with veterans to make videos. Commissioner Jones suggested reexamining the project because of all the logistics. Commissioner Paralusz relayed her past experience with a similar project but warned that it was very time consuming.

Commissioner Allen moved that subcommittee consisting of Jones, Paralusz and Zaun decide whether to move forward with video project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allard. The motion passed.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Commissioner Allard suggested that service organizations might want to have informational booths around the perimeter. Commissioner Paralusz volunteered to research the structure of other cities' events.

Chairperson Rothans stated that Commissioner Allard researched the portable Vietnam Memorial Wall and it would cost between \$5,000-\$8,000.

Commissioner Paralusz stated that it would depend on the budget, whether or not she would like to include the Memorial Wall. Commissioner Manna was concerned that it would draw focus to only one conflict. Commissioner Zaun agreed with Commissioner Paralusz on the budget determining whether or not to include it. Commissioner Paralusz stated that it would be nice to have that it would not make or break the event to have it. Chairperson Rothans stated that he thought it might be another way to draw people.

Chairperson Rothans asked for public comment. Resident, Gary McAulay agreed with Commissioner Manna on the focus of the memorial. His opinion is that the event should keep the focus on the people that are living who have served or are currently serving. Commissioner Jones stated that the event should be kept meaningful and simple. Chairperson Rothans asked that it be stated in the minutes that the Vietnam Memorial Wall has been researched and is still on the table.

Commissioner Allen inquired if this is to be an all-day event and if a Saturday date would be possible. Director Leyman stated that there was no reason why Saturdays would be ruled out. Commissioner Paralusz inquired about food trucks and having them available for attendees to purchase if they do not want to bring their own food. Director Leyman stated that vendors could be arranged and could also be potential sponsors.

Commissioner Allen asked if there would be some sort of program to honor each branch of the military. Chairperson Rothans stated that there would be.

- Employee Recognition – Director Leyman advised that the Employee Holiday Luncheon would be held December 4th from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and invited the Commissioners to attend.

I. STAFF ITEMS

- Intergenerational Event – December 6, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon - Director Leyman gave an overview of the event which will consist of Keynote Speaker Freddi Segal-Gidan, followed by break-out sessions, ending with follow up and light snacks. The event is being presented by the Senior Advisory Council and the Mayor's Youth Council Commissioner Allard reported that hopefully, this event will happen twice a year moving forward to keep the seniors involved with the City's youth. Commissioner Allard invited all commissioners to attend.
- Update on Parks and Recreation Department programs and events – Director Leyman reported on the following events and dates:
 - The Skateboard Park Consultant RFP is officially available and the deadline for submissions is November 12, 2014. There will be a cross section of the community present on the selection panel who will review the submissions and present their recommendation to the City Council.
 - Pumpkin Races - the event was very successful. Director Leyman thanked the Commission for participating

- Veterans Day Event November 11, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.
- Holiday Open House Pier Lighting November 19, 2014, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- Holiday Fireworks December 14, 2014
- Holiday Crafts Night December 6th, 2014
- MB FIT overview – Director Leyman gave a brief overview of the newly established employee wellness program MB FIT.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Paralusz moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allard. The meeting was adjourned at 07:49 pm. The motion passed.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None