

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
October 26, 2015
6:30 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Allard, Manna, Allen, Jones, Paralusz and Enomoto

Absent: Commissioner Rothans

Others present: Parks and Recreation Director, Mark Leyman and recording secretary,
Linda Robb

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Manna moved to approve the September 28, 2015 minutes with the following changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allen. The motion passed.

P.3, paragraph 1- “He” changed to “She” in last line.

P.4, paragraph 1- Date corrected to read October 26th

P.4, paragraph , sentence 3- reworded for clarity

Salute to the Troops Budget and Expenses added as attachment.

Ayes: Commissioners Allard, Manna, Allen, Jones, Paralusz and Enomoto

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Rothans

E. CEREMONIAL

none

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Commissioner Allard opened the floor to audience participation.

Seeing none, the floor was closed.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS –

13/1028.3 Discussion of Skateboard Park – Director Leyman gave an overview of the history of the Skateboard Park feasibility process including community input meetings. He introduced consultant, Kanten Russell who presented five site design options at two potential locations. Director Leyman acknowledged the Parks and Recreation Commission for all of their work throughout the process and in the previous years; the Parks and Recreation team, Idris Al-Oboudi, Andrew Berg and Linda Robb. He also thanked Kanten Russell for his assistance with the process.

Kanten Russell, Stantec Action Sports Group gave his presentation. Mr. Russell stated that

in the community meetings, he tried to show what a modern skateboard park could look like and what features and terrain are available. He gave an overview of his background along with the background of the company and its principals. Mr. Russell showed some examples of different features and completed skate parks and skate plazas in different cities. He described the process of reaching out to the community for input on locations, features, colors and size. He touched on funding options.

Mr. Russell summarized the feasibility process

Stantec was asked to:

1. Analyze potential sites
2. Facilitate public input meetings
3. Gather surveys (at meetings and online)
4. Provide skatepark examples and costs
5. Explore funding options
6. Provide outcome results and recommendations

At the first meeting of the two meetings held, the locations were narrowed down to the top three potential sites: Manhattan Heights Park, Marine Avenue Park and El Porto. At the second meeting, the El Porto location was eliminated as an option because of resident opposition.

Alternative #1: Marine Avenue Park – back of park

Pros: not in residential area, does not interfere with existing amenities or activities, parking

Cons: funding, lower visibility

Size and cost: two options 2,000 sq. ft. design would cost about \$100,000 and 5,000 sq. ft. design would cost about \$250,000.

Alternative #2: Manhattan Heights Park – (two location options)

Location #1- adjacent to basketball courts, current horseshoe court

Location #2 - north side of community center facing Polliwog Park

Pros: close to schools and Teen Center, already skateboard classes taking place at the site, not immediately adjacent to residences

Cons: funding, smaller area

More linear design with buffers built in for basketball courts and sidewalk. The option for the north side of the building would be more of a skateable art feature. The skateable art feature would be more costly to build.

The consensus is that residents are not ready for anything large so concepts have been developed for 1,500 to 5,000 square foot parks with costs ranging from \$100,000 - \$250,000 to begin with. Mr. Russell stated that initially it would be good to start on a smaller scale and then evaluate whether there is a need or desire for anything additional or bigger.

Steve Nicholson, resident and former Commissioner – stated that he is impressed with the presentation. He stated that the benefits of Manhattan Heights are that it is near the schools and there is staff present but that location would be more attractive if the park were bigger.

He stated that if 2,000 sq.ft. works, it's a great location and that if we need 5,000 s.f. then Marine Ave would be best.

Commissioner Paralusz asked Mr. Nicholson what he would think if both options for Manhattan Heights could be built. He stated that Manhattan Heights would then be the best location. If both options for Manhattan Heights would not work, then Marine Avenue Park would be the best. He thinks it would be appropriate for the Commission to make a recommendation to the City Council. Mr. Russell clarified that having multiple spots has not been ruled out.

Mary Sikonia, resident – Ms. Sikonia would like for the skateboard park to be located in the Begg parking lot. She would like it be part of middle school curriculum to teach skating skills and etiquette. She stated that she didn't think it would back up to residents but the location would allow for an area larger than a spot or dot. The kids need a safe place off the street. Skateboarding is a sport now and should be taught in the schools. When kids are out in the streets, it's very dangerous for them with traffic and near misses. Ms. Sikonia submitted a petition recommending a skateboard park at the Begg parking lot, signed by over 620 people. She attended a school board meeting to present her idea and will go back to deliver her petition.

Commissioner Allard thanked Ms. Sekonia for her input and efforts to gather all the signatures. He stated that the City Council directive was to exclude all locations in Polliwog Park so it would be best for the City Council to see the petitions. Ms. Sekonia stated that she had heard that the location was excluded because some residents had gotten together and presented a petition and so maybe another petition may result in reevaluating the location.

Commissioner Paralusz thanked Mr. Russell for his presentation and inquired if Northrup Grumman and Manhattan Beach Studios had provided any input regarding the Marina Avenue Park location. She stated that a significant amount of the parking would be affected by Northrup Grumman fencing off the parking lot. Director Leyman replied that the Studios, Northrup Grumman and Adventureplex were noticed along with the public and that the City is aware of the parking issues. Commissioner Paralusz stated that the Manhattan Heights location is a no brainer because kids are already using the sidewalk and and a skate park would make it safer. Commissioner Paralusz applauded Mrs. Sekonia and stated that just because Begg is off the table now, does not mean it would be off the table later. She recommends going with the Manhattan Heights location; option 1 if there could be only one but both options, if possible.

Commissioner Enomoto stated that having it near the Teen Center would be the best because kids are already there and it can be scaleable. The project can start with a small spot now and then add another spot later.

Commissioner Paralusz stated the skate park may benefit the Teen Center in that more kids will be aware of the Teen Center as a result of using the skate park.

Commissioner Jones is leaning toward Manhattan Heights. She is concerned about the drivers on Manhattan Beach Blvd. trying to look at the people at the park. Mr. Russell stated there are things that can be done so that the park is not such a distraction for drivers.

Commissioner Manna stated he likes the Marine Avenue Park area because that is where the largest option could be. He stated that the visibility issue is a concern. He stated that he visited a number of skate parks and the skaters were very polite and self policing. He

added that the main hurdle is to get kids who are skating illegally to go to this safe place so the location is important. The success of the park will depend on the skaters using it and showing the city that it is a good thing. This project will need the support of skaters and their families.

Commissioner Allen stated that in his conversations, the important thing is the features and that if the features are there, they will find a way to get there. So the bigger and better it is, the more and longer it will be used.

Commissioner Allard asked the audience to attend the City Council meeting and encourage your friends to come as well. Commissioner Allard inquired about private property locations. Mr. Russell stated that they were not able to develop any concepts for the mall property because their plans are not fully developed. Commissioner Allard inquired about available funds from the Public Arts Trust fund. Director Leyman stated that it is up to the City Council to consider but there are funds that may be available.

Commissioner Manna stated that if you don't put a skate park in your city, your whole City is a skate park. It is important to get a footprint down.

Commissioner Allard stated that the City Council gave permission to have the Salute To the Troops on July 3rd, 2016. Discussion will be held at the next meeting due to the absence of Commissioner Rothans.

Commissioner Allard stated that the City Council has approved discussion of the sunscreen dispensers. Mayor Burton recommended that a health related company be involved in the sponsorship. Commissioner Paralusz commented that more dispensers should be proposed at Polliwog Park and less on the Strand. People going to the beach are more likely to have sunscreen with them whereas, people at the park might be less likely to have sunscreen with them. Commissioner Allard stated the Commission will make recommendations but the number and locations will be at the discretion of the City Council.

Commissioner Paralusz recommended dermatologist, Dr. Ablon as a potential sponsor. Commissioner Jones stated that Beach Cities Health District expressed interest but their involvement may need to be different from their micro loans. Director Leyman stated that the key is developing all potential options for presentation to the City Council.

Commissioner Jones asked if outreach could be done on City letterhead. Director Leyman stated that staff could assist. Commissioner Jones asked if the City were to install the dispensers, what would be the budgetary amount. Director Leyman stated that Public Works could do cost estimates for installation and labor costs for replenishment.

Commissioner Paralusz asked if are local statistics available on how much skin cancer is in the local population. Commissioner Jones stated that Beach Cities Health District may have that information. Commissioner Jones stated that Miami replenishes their dispensers twice a week.

H. **COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Allard was invited to be on the Veteran's Day committee. The mayor has asked for Commissioners to help distribute challenge coins at the event. There will be a concert in Joslyn Center after the ceremony.

Commissioner Paralusz wanted to commend staff on a wonderful Pumpkin race event. Commissioner Manna stated he is on the CAPRCBM, he would like to submit the Salute to the Troops for an award. Commissioner Paralusz also suggested submitting the Pumpkin Race. Director Leyman stated that there will also be a discussion on events to submit for CPRS.

Commissioner Manna announced that while he was in New York he witnessed a Zombie

Walk.

I. **STAFF ITEMS** – Director Leyman gave the following updates:

Halloween Carnival will be on October 31st .

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Paralusz moved to adjourn. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 08:03 p.m.

Ayes: Commissioners Allard, Allen, Manna, Allen, Paralusz, Jones and Enomoto

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Rothans