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CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

June 27, 2005
6:30 P.M.

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ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Cohen, Gill, Harris, Lamb, Lear and Paralusz

Absent: Commissioner Marrill

Others Present: Parks and Recreation Director Richard Gill and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

AGENDA CHANGES

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lear suggested that the comments made by Commissioner Weber were written accurately, but did not convey his (Commissioner Lear) opinion.

Mr. Gill reported that the May 23, 2005 Commission Minutes were pulled and discussed at the June 21, 2005 City Council Meeting. Councilperson Tell indicated that there is a concern among current Commissioners as to what they need to do to be reappointed; and that Council might think about establishing procedures or “norms” to be incorporated as guidelines for new Councilmembers coming on board. The Council stated that they would address this issue during their upcoming workplan meeting.

Commissioner Lear clarified that he does not believe that there was retribution involved in his reappointment to the Commission and he is pleased that the City Council is discussing the establishment of “norms” with respect to the reappointment of Commission members.

The minutes of the May 23, 2005 Commission were approved as written.

CEREMONIAL

None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

05/0627.1 – Selection of 2005/2006 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 Lear would be next in line to serve as Chair, followed by Commissioners Cohen and Lamb. 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 to name Commissioner Lear as Commission Chair. (MSC: Lamb/Paralusz – Unanimous)

A motion was made by Commissioner Lamb and seconded by Commissioner Gill to name Commissioner Cohen as Commission Vice Chair. A second motion was made to name Commissioner Paralusz and seconded by Commissioner Cohen to name Commissioner Lamb as Commission Vice Chair. Commissioner Cohen withdrew her name from nomination, feeling that Commissioner Lamb would make an excellent Vice Chair. (MSC: Paralusz/Cohen – Unanimous).

05/0627.2 – Selection of Commissioner to Serve on City Council Ad-Hoc Committee for the Department's Marketing Plan

Mr. Gill reported that City Council, at their June 21, 2005 meeting, considered a marketing plan for the Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Department programs and activities. The Council moved to approve the marketing plan and approved authorizing the City Manager to negotiate an agreement with Blu Moon Marketing Corporation. Council concurred that they would like to form a sub-committee with Councilmember Tell and Councilmember Aldinger representing the City Council and asked the Cultural Arts Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission to each appoint a member.

Mr. Gill explained that the department is not in the business of selling out the city or over commercializing the city with this marketing plan. Blu Moon inventoried the department and then packaged events, i.e. family events such as the fishing derby, ice block bowling, Halloween carnival, for particular sponsors. They are also suggesting that we license the name City of Manhattan Beach, the pier and 90266 in order to keep someone from doing it.

Commissioner Cohen indicated that she would be interested in serving on the ad-hoc committee. Commissioners Lamb and Paralusz also indicated that they would be interested in serving on the committee.

After a discussion among the Commissioners, a motion was made to appoint Commissioner Cohen to serve on the marketing ad-hoc committee. (MSC: Lamb/Harris – Unanimous)

REPORTS

Mr. Gill reported that staff is very busy with summer classes that began June 27.

Mr. Gill reported that the department and City lost a key member and good friend, Charlie Saikley, on June 17. For most of his adult life, Charlie taught children with special needs during the day at El Segundo High School and came straight to the Parks & Recreation Department and planned all of our sports events and classes. Charlie was a mentor to us all, reaching people of all ages and abilities through recreation and athletic competition. A special memorial service will be held for Charlie Saikley on Wednesday, June 29, 6:00 p.m., on the south side of Manhattan Beach Pier.

OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commissioner Lamb made a motion to express the sorrow of the Commission at the passing of Charlie Saikley and recognize the outstanding contributions that he has made to the City of Manhattan Beach and to convey their sympathies to his family. (MSC: Lamb/Lear – Unanimous)

Commissioner Lear indicated that he would like to open the floor to a discussion of Capital Improvement Projects and “take the temperature” of new Commission members with respect to where they were previously as a Commission concerning prioritization of CIP’s. He reported that discussions regarding a skate park were thwarted by the then current City Council. He indicated that since there is a new City Council, and it is not clear what their views are on certain CIP projects, the Commission may want to ask them where they stand on issues like a skate park, refurbishment of the pool and creation of dog runs. Commissioner Lear indicated that the Commission now has approval to discuss the refurbishment of outdoor basketball courts at Begg. Some of the reasons that the Commission chose that project is because it is 1) relatively inexpensive; 2) non-controversial; and 3) there were indications that City Council was interested in and might approve the project.

Mr. Gill indicated that he would provide the Commission with a list of all the Capital Improvement Projects with cost estimates for discussion at their next scheduled Commission meeting.

Commissioner Lamb expressed his concern that the Commission not step on the toes of City staff who have been working on CIP projects and, thereby, undermining their efforts, resulting in projects not going forward. Commissioner Lear suggested that Mr. Gill has been very good in letting the Commission know if they were going in the wrong direction and which projects would have the highest probability of obtaining City Council approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting on July 25, 2005

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
RECREATION and YOUTH SERVICES
AWARD

Presented to

BONNIE HARKENRIDER

by the

MANHATTAN BEACH
CITY COUNCIL

and

MANHATTAN BEACH PARKS
AND RECREATION COMMISSION

July 2005