

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
October 24, 2016
6:30 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Allen, Paralusz, Karger, Jones, Allard, Turkmany and Lauson

Absent: None

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Paralusz moved to approve the September 19, 2016 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Allen, Paralusz, Karger, Jones, Allard, Turkmany and Lauson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Commissioner Allen opened the floor to audience participation.

Seeing none, the floor was closed to public comment.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS –

15/1027.1 Discussion of Salute to the Troops Event –

Commissioner Karger reported that she had met with James Gill and Mark Burton who were going to reach out to their contacts in the Air Force. They discussed emphasizing different branches of the military at each concert as the Air Force is celebrating its 70th Anniversary. They also discussed at the Karger, Gill, Burton meeting, getting a physical piece from the Air Force, such as an airplane or vehicle to display at the concert.

Commissioner Allen asked what types of things could be done to focus on one branch.

Commissioner Paralusz had concern about celebrating one branch because it may make the other branches feel marginalized. Commissioner Karger clarified that the event would be for everyone but with a separate acknowledgment or highlight to commemorate the branch.

Commissioner Allen suggesting finding something to highlight about each individual branch throughout the event. Commissioner Jones stated that that spotlighting one branch would not serve the event well, as far as marginalization and logistics. Commissioner Paralusz stated that the Air Force's birthday should not go unnoticed but it should be

thought through very carefully. Commissioner Turkmany suggested that it is a Salute to the Troops with one branch perhaps, leading the ceremony.

Director Leyman confirmed that the City Council has approved the addition of Salute to the Troops to the Concerts in the Park lineup for July 2, 2016. Commissioner Allen suggested finding something special about each branch to incorporate into the Master of Ceremony script.

Commissioner Allen asked Director Leyman if the Commissioners could still ask for sponsorship specifically for the concert. Director Leyman stated that it is preferred to secure sponsorships for the entire series however if a sponsor wants only to sponsor this concert specifically, that is possible.

Commissioner Karger stated that she is working with the Community Liaison at Northrup Grumman. Commissioners Jones and Paralusz cautioned against getting any hopes up for Northrup Grumman approval due to the way Northrup Grumman decides what to support financially. Commissioner Karger will pursue the opportunity based.

Commissioner Allen confirmed with Director Leyman that items could be pursued for another raffle. It was agreed that if there is to be a raffle that the process must be reexamined to avoid confusion. Commissioner Allen reported that the winner of the last year's raffle prize of L.A. Rams tickets, donated the tickets to two active duty military personnel, who attended the game with their guests.

16/1021.1 Discussion of work plan items for City Council consideration –

Commissioner Allen announced that the Commissioner Handbook and Work plan item will be discussed at the November 15, City Council meeting. If it is approved, then work plan ideas can be discussed in depth at the November 28th meeting to present at the December 20th, City Council meeting for review and approval.

Commissioner Allen reviewed the following items that were discussed at the joint commission tour held on September 27th:

- Sand castle contest with professional artist
- Library events – speaker series
- Joint commission meetings
- Mural at Skate park
- City Hall mural

Commissioner Lauson stated that people her age are excited about the skate park and that a mural would be a great addition to the park. Commissioner Jones asked if the schools could get involved in the painting of the mural. Commissioner Lauson stated that student artists are looking for more areas to paint. Commissioner Jones offered that maybe there is a way to get 3 finalists and have the community choose. Commissioner Allen asked if the mural could be a temporary mural that rotates. Commissioner Paralusz recommended that the contest be open to any Manhattan Beach resident, age of 18 or under, and not just limited to Mira Costa High School students. Director Leyman recommended that further discussion take place after the item is approved on the work plan by the City Council.

Director Leyman informed the Commissioners of some upcoming training sessions. He recommended that training be included on the work plan.

Commissioner Allen recommended that if any of the Commissioners has an idea for the work plan, they can send it to Linda Robb to compile for the next meeting. Ideas are to be sent to Linda directly and not copied to the other commissioners so there is no Brown Act violation.

Commissioner Allen brought up the subject of a Citizens' Forum to solicit ideas from the public. Commissioner Jones shared that it might be most productive to have a forum for all three commissions where people can throw out their ideas and brainstorm. Director Leyman stated that once the work plan is set, it is a good idea to get the public involved.

Commissioner Paralusz raised the issue of condition of the Begg Pool bathrooms and asked if this was something that might go on the work plan. Commissioner Allen stated that it is a Capital Improvements projects and asked if this would be appropriate. Director Leyman stated that Capital Improvements projects are under City Council directive. He stated that if the Commission is interested, he can give updates on the Capital Projects.

Commissioner Allen mentioned the Field Allocation policy and Commission involvement. The City has a number of user groups who want to use the playing fields. The department is in the process of finalizing an allocation policy. Director Leyman stated that the Field Allocation policy is on a list of internal work plan items and that he would like the commission's feedback when the project is ready to move forward. If adopted, he would like field requests to be formally approved through the Commission. He stated that there is a current policy that prioritizes groups but it is contentious because the fields are so heavily impacted. Commissioner Allard asked if it would be most effective to deal with the user groups directly. Director Leyman stated that a set of options that have been vetted by the user groups would be presented to the commission. He added that the user groups currently work very well together so it is not an emergency. Commissioner Allen offered some history that several years ago there were many different personalities that made things contentious. Currently everyone is friendly but that could change so it is important to have policies.

The Commission decided to cancel the December meeting and reconvene in January.

Commissioner Jones made the following suggestions:

Grandparents' Park - This would be a gathering place for older adults with fitness equipment designed for older adults with benches, reading areas, a walking path and may be adjacent to another park to allow for grandchildren to play. One day a week could be designated for disabled residents to use. Director Leyman stated that this would be an item for the Park Master Plan that will be focused on in Spring 2017.

Santa Float –Turn the Santa Float into a modular float that could be used for many different occasions. Currently the float sits unused for 50 weeks a year and is brought out at Christmas time. The idea is to design interchangeable pieces to allow it to be used year-round for many different events. She believes it is currently an underused marketing tool for the City.

Director Leyman stated that when ready, the City Council can consider the presented list and approve the whole thing, delete some items or even add items.

H. **COMMISSION ITEMS –**

None.

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

The Pumpkin Races were very successful and he thanked the Commissioners for their participation. Commissioner Paralusz reported that she had heard that there were more pumpkins raced this year than ever before and that she and her daughter enjoyed watching the races from the sidelines.

The Cultural Arts Division had the Chuck Johnson quintet along with pop-up art show at the Art Center. There were over 120 attendees.

The Cheech Marin Chicano Art Collection opening will be Wednesday, October 26th 6:00-8:00 pm. The exhibition will continue through December 31st.

The Annual Halloween Family Carnival will be held October 29th.

TedX Manhattan Beach, What If? Will be held on November 5th at Mira Costa High School.

A Holiday Succulent Pumpkin workshop will be held on November 5th.

Precious metal clay jewelry enchanted birdhouse workshop will be held on November 5th.

Art as Experience –Den Design – this workshop will show you how to transform a paper bag into a home for critters.

Veteran’s Day, November 11th, There will be a ceremony at Veterans Monument followed by *Rock the Vets* at the Joslyn Center

Commissioner Handbook updates: highlights of staff recommended changes for City Council approval:

- Work plan item detailing the development of a City Council approved annual work plan.
- Add more specific details about orientation and training.
- Add High school representative to Cultural Arts and Library Commissions.
- Cultural Arts Commission meetings will move to the 1st Monday of each month to avoid conflicts with
- All commission meetings will begin at 6:00 pm.
- Addition of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Skate Spot update: ground has been broken, demo and leveling has begun with a completion date of mid December. Commissioner Jones asked about a ribbon cutting. Director Leyman will be working with the County Supervisor’s office to arrange.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Turkmany moved to adjourn. Commissioner Karger seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm to November 28, 2016 in the City Council Chambers.

Ayes: Commissioners Allen, Paralusz, Karger, Jones, Allard, Turkmany and Lauson
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None