

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Manhattan Beach City Hall**  
**1400 Highland Ave.**  
**Manhattan Beach, CA 90266**  
**January 23, 2017**  
**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: Commissioners Allen, Paralusz, Karger, Jones, Allard, Turkmany and Lauson

Absent: None

Others present: Director of Parks and Recreation, Mark Leyman; Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz and Linda Robb, Recording Secretary

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the September 27, 2016 and November 28, 2016 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lauson. The motion passed.

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstain: 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 Allen recognized Commissioner Karger's efforts on the Salute to the Troops project.

Commissioner Karger gave the following updates regarding Salute to the Troops:

Director Leyman spoke with Bob Holmes, former mayor who is very involved with veterans groups. He asked Mr. Holmes's opinion regarding focusing on the Air Force for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In that conversation, Mr. Holmes liked the idea of celebrating branch achievements every year. Commissioner Karger spoke with James Gill, who attended an Air Force 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event in Pasadena that included interactive simulator activities. Commissioner Karger would like to connect with the base commander.

Air Force representatives recommended asking for volunteers as a way to increase attendance. Having them volunteer would increase attendance as they get credit for

volunteer hours. This would require having specific jobs for volunteers.

Challenge coins – in the past 2 years, the challenge coins were sponsored by former Commissioner, Steve Rothan’s law firm. If a sponsor can be found to purchase 500 coins, that is fine but if not, he will sponsor again.

Director Leyman will follow up with the Northrop Grumman representative regarding possible sponsorship.

Air National Guard band of the west coast has been booked and Color Guard has been requested. Boy Scouts have been requested. Food vendors for Concert series will be present at the event and food for band and volunteers will be catered in.

Director Leyman reported that in his meeting with Bob Holmes, he gained some insight into where and how to market the event and expand upon our existing database.

Commissioner Allen suggested forming sub committees to plan the programming, sponsorship, etc. Commissioner Karger suggested having a huge birthday cake and maybe the Air Force volunteers could serve, pass out flags, challenge coins.

Commissioner Paralusz stated that Dennis McNeil did a great job last year so why try to figure out another emcee. Commissioner Allen commented that the program agenda would be the same regardless of who emcees the event.

Subcommittees were formed as follows:

Program subcommittee – Commissioner Jones, Allard and Karger

Fundraising and Sponsorship subcommittee – Commissioners Turkmany, Allen and Lauson

Commissioner Allen asked the commission if they would like raffle or door prizes and if so, to think about where that should be in the schedule.

Commissioner Karger will try to connect with the Air Force Base Commander to see what he can do to publicize and gain participation.

#### **16/1021.1 Discussion of work plan items for City Council consideration -**

Commissioner Allen reported that the work plan will be delayed until after the April 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

#### **H. COMMISSION ITEMS –**

#### **I. STAFF ITEMS – (With the commission’s permission, Cultural Arts Manager Betz’s presentation occurred after audience participation prior to General Business)**

Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz gave a presentation introducing the Cultural Arts Program. **Key points:**

The Cultural Arts Exhibition program emphasizes local and California artists and hosts an annual show featuring art from Mira Costa High School students.

The current show Very Cinematic Narrative exhibit shows two Los Angeles artists, Cynda Valle and Bill Sandell.

Exhibitions are scheduled out through 2018.

Ceramics program is very high quality and is one of the best in the state. The program is impacted to a point where we are forced to limit people's ability to come.

Youth Education Programs –Now that the exhibition programs are set, more time can be spent focusing on the educational youth programs including tot programs, StArt Program at Mira Costa High School and youth classes

Adult Education Programs – painting, drawing, jewelry, music, dance, theater, ceramics, workshops

The Cultural Arts Division is in charge of the Summer Concert in the Park Series which draws between 5,000 and 12,000 people every Sunday in the Summer.

Summer Movies – the outdoor summer movie program is gaining popularity. The program started at Metlox Center and has moved to the Library lawn.

Special Programs – Light Gate viewing; California Locos Pop-up event March 16-19; Library Bike Rally and birthday April 29; South Bay Film and Music Festival June 22-25, a collaboration with City of Hermosa Beach

Art as Experience –Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, families can drop in at the Art Center for free craft workshops. The program has built a following amongst families.

The Cultural Arts Commission oversees the Strand Alcove Bench Program, Sculpture Garden Program and Art in Public Places.

Commissioner Allard complimented the Cultural Arts e-newsletter.

Director Leyman gave the following updates:

Update to programs and events – Director Leyman acknowledged Mr. Betz's vision and the progress he has made building the Cultural Arts Program and team. His expertise and vision has greatly elevated the gallery experience.

The department is soliciting feedback from the community about what the public wants through Open City Hall online as well as a departmental survey. Go online, share thoughts, share link, etc.

Skate Spot update – the rain has caused great delays but it is moving forward. The retaining wall, elevation changes and quarter pipe have been poured. The ground needs to dry out before they can do the next pour so it pushes the schedule into February. The California Locos event will be a good opportunity to partner on the ribbon cutting event followed by live entertainment and a book signing at the Art Center.

## J. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Paralusz moved to adjourn. Commissioner Allard seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm to February 27, 2017 in the City Council Chambers.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

