



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Fahey and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation
Mark Leyman, Recreation Services Manager

DATE: April 19, 2005

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Recommendation from the Library Commission for Operating Improvements for the Manhattan Beach Library

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council consider the Library Commission's recommendations for operating improvements for the library and provide direction.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no impacts to the General Fund should Council approve any or all of the improvements. In fiscal year ending June 2004, the County's financial records indicated that Manhattan Beach residents paid approximately \$1.7 million in property taxes for library service and the County provided approximately \$1.1 million in services, leaving an excess of approximately \$600,000. In prior years, these excess contributions were retained by the County. Supervisor Knabe and County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd have supported a new policy that makes these excess funds available to the City of Manhattan Beach. The cost for any operating improvements would be deducted from those excess funds.

BACKGROUND:

At the December 21, 2004 Council meeting, the City Council discussed the issue of the excess funds that the County has approved to be used in Manhattan Beach for library services. At that meeting, the City Council unanimously decided to purchase the library and directed staff to take the appropriate steps. At that meeting, Council also said they would consider using a portion of the funds for current library needs. City Council then asked the library staff and Library Commission to prioritize a list of operating improvements that could be funded out of the excess.

DISCUSSION:

At the March 14, 2005 Library Commission meeting, the Library Commission reviewed a number

of potential operating improvements. The following items were recommended as priorities:

1. Children's furniture (additional/replacement furniture for the children's area) \$ 7,000
2. Programs (special event and educational programs for children and adults) \$ 8,000
3. General circulation materials for children (books, magazines, DVD's)
\$15,000
4. General circulation materials for adults (books, magazines, DVD's) \$20,000

These operating improvements in total come to \$50,000. Should Council want more details about these priorities, County Library staff will be available to discuss those questions.

Regarding the purchase process that City Council directed staff to pursue, there is limited progress to report at this time. The County Librarian and City Manager have spoken several times and hope to initiate the appraisal process this spring.

CONCLUSION:

Staff is recommending that the Council review the list of library improvements and give further direction.