

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
September 17, 2018
6:00 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Karger, Turkmany, Nicholson, Weiner, Greenberg, Apostol

Absent: Commissioner Allard

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the July 16, 2018 minutes will be delayed until the October 22nd meeting as the minutes were not attached to the agenda.

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Commissioner Turkmany opened the floor to audience participation.

Gary McAulay, resident – Mr. McAulay wanted to comment that this is the second time two commission meetings were scheduled on the same date. It was clarified that the Cultural Arts Commission meeting had been rescheduled to the following week.

The floor was closed to public comment.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

Donation Policy – Commissioner Turkmany informed the commission that the subcommittee has discussed this policy a few times with the commission and has restructured so that procedures will be in one document and the actual programs in another.

Commissioner Weiner stated that there is no lending type program, such as for the LOVE sculpture, addressed in the document. Language will be corrected to reflect lending donations. Tier 3 – cash donation issues, language needs to clarify how the money will be used.

#6 also mentions donations in public parks. Commissioner Weiner stated that it is confusing to call the tiles a purchase.

Commissioner Greenberg - section 5, Vandalism and maintenance –he recommended adding “in a manner consistent with City property.” The City will make “every effort”, should be changed to “reasonable effort.”

Commissioner Greenberg likes that the policy was separated from the programs. He stated that there

should be a section that talks about programs and how they will work. He observed that in its current form, it looks like in order to do anything, you have to write a proposal. Director Leyman stated that he is taking down all the notes and the committee should take it all in and then the committee can sift through. All input is valuable so that the committee can further discuss.

Commissioner Greenberg's 2nd piece of feedback – putting those items aside, how does someone propose a donation? His takeaway is that it is at the discretion of City Staff. He stated that what we are trying to get to is a policy that is more prescriptive. In its current state, the policy is so vague that all of the discretion is left to City staff. Commissioner Turkmany stated that the donation list will have specifics for the turnkey items. Commissioner Greenberg stated that he is suggesting that if the policy throws everything back to staff discretion, that is fine, but is no different than not having a policy.

Commissioner Karger mentioned that she had seen some military tribute banners when she was on the East Coast and would like to consider adding the banners as an option for the donation program.

Director Leyman stated that there is a challenge in doing an umbrella project; staff doesn't necessarily want to make every call. There are trigger points that need to be addressed. There is a big range of different types of donations that have different requirements.

Commissioner Nicholson stated that the policy is difficult to understand. He asked if it is correct that Public Works will make recommendations for every donation. Director Leyman clarified that since Public Works will be assisting with the installation of tiles or location of trees, for example, they would be providing input.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that it would be helpful to see the policy and the program documents together. He would like to see one program laid out so that they could look at the process.

Chair Turkmany opened the floor to public comment.

Gary McAulay, resident – offered his thoughts on the donation policy and said it looks good overall. He likes the recommendation to reserve the last 6 Strand benches for City Council consideration. It is mentioned in the staff report to maintain the tree and bench donation program, updating the donor agreement and price, however, he is not in favor of the existing wording for plaques. He does not think that the public lands should be for sale for people to purchase private memorials. He feels that memorials on public land should be for public figures. He stated that the staff report made reference to an appropriate historic commission, and asked if there is a historic commission. It is vaguely worded. Regarding section 4, City reserves right to amend and reject location, but there is no catch all allowing the City to reject a request for whatever purpose the City deems. Regarding the capital improvement projects, he feels that it seems almost tailor made for a current project and he cannot agree with a dedication plaque on public property. He feels that chipping in on a project does not seem like a good enough reason to put a dedicatory plaque on a public structure. Lastly, there is no section mentioning what cannot be done. He recalled ghost bikes and memorials on telephone poles, effectively creating a shrine for a death at any particular location. He believes that it should be addressed in the policy.

Rotary Special Event – Dr. Chris Ullman of the Manhattan Beach Rotary described the VetBeerBq event he is proposing for Veterans Day, honoring Veterans, Active Duty Military and First Responders in the Kinecta Parking lot.

Commissioner Weiner asked about parking. Dr. Ullman stated there will be limited parking and the organizers are encouraging Uber and Lyft. Dr. Ullman stated that the event will cover about an acre and a half and will include tables around the dance floor. Commissioner Weiner suggested standing

cocktail tables throughout the area. Dr. Ullman reported that this is a 21 and over event.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that it looks like a fantastic event for a fantastic cause.

Commissioner Greenberg moved to approve the recommendation to City Council. Commissioner Weiner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes:	Commissioners Karger, Turkmany, Nicholson, Weiner, Greenberg and Apostol
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Commissioner Allard

Field Use and Allocation Policy – Jessica Vincent, Recreation Manager – at the April meeting, the commission approved staff to present a formal recommendation to the City Council for the Field Use and Allocation Policy. When heard at the May City Council meeting, City Council redirected staff to create a sports committee to develop alternatives for a few of the challenges for the user groups. Those challenges included defining residency, the draft allocation model, efficient use of fields and revisiting the fees for youth sport organizations (YSO) only. That sports committee was formed and is comprised of one to two members of each sport organization; eight organizations total. The group met three times over the summer and developed a few potential changes to the policy. Those changes include:

- Defining the residents to include participants residing in Hermosa Beach as well as students attending schools in Manhattan Beach
- Changing field allocation procedures to increase optimal time for diamond field groups. Diamond field users have 3 weekday hours and 2 weekend hours per team during the season.
- Deleting the draft and pro-rata formula from the allocation procedures. This would only be in place if there was any sort of appeal made to the Parks and Recreation Commission. We would be allocating based on the model, 1 ½ weekday hours for all field groups and diamond groups will be allocated 3 weekday hours and 2 weekend hours. This draft would then be taken to the groups for review and finalization.
- Staff is looking at changing to a per-player model with additional fees assessed for closed registration and a non-resident rate.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that it is still a pro-rata field allocation model that would be done by staff. He suggested modifying the language in the staff report for City Council to make it less confusing.

Commissioner Nicholson asked why we are extending residency to Hermosa Beach residents and if there was reciprocity with Hermosa Beach. Manager Vincent replied that historically, several organizations have included residents of Hermosa and Manhattan Beach. The AYSO charter for the region is specific to Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach, so Hermosa Beach does not have their own AYSO region. Each organization has their own policies in place regarding residency.

Commissioner Greenberg clarified that the non-resident rate does not apply to Hermosa Beach kids. He added that one of the things we heard was that groups were very opposed to lowering the residency threshold and now this is broadening the definition to include Hermosa Beach residents as well as students who live outside of Manhattan Beach but attend school here. He asked if the Little League president is on board with this. Manager Vincent replied that he had been at all of the meetings and that it is a very collaborative group that understands the challenges we are facing by keeping at the

80% residency rate. They were open to the change and look at it as potential penalties by adding the fee, so that is where the compromise was made. Another point was that many Hermosa Beach kids will ultimately end up going to a Manhattan Beach school (Mira Costa).

Commissioner Weiner asked for clarification of the term “closed registration”. Manager Vincent explained that open registration means everyone plays, closed means you might not make the team because there is a draft. Commissioner Weiner suggested that the term “closed registration” be added to definitions.

Commissioner Turkmany asked if there was a big sticking point with the user groups. Manager Vincent stated that the group is working very well together and that the fact that there is only one representative present at the meeting says a lot.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that a fee escalation clause should be considered because if the fee structure is working well, it may be easier if it automatically ratchets up instead of having to come back in five years to consider a new fee model. He added that it is also important to consider a clause in the fee policy for, as the composition and usage patterns for the groups change, there should be a threshold at which the allocation changes, for example if a group’s usage changes, up or down, by more than x% that fees will be recalculated according to the established formula.

This policy is tentatively scheduled for the October 16th City Council meeting. Parks and Recreation has many staff reports going to the City Council in the next 2 meetings so it may be moved.

Commissioner Weiner mentioned that the entities are allowed to have clinics during their season. Manager Vincent stated that if an organization wants to have a clinic for the kids, they would need to submit a separate application. Commissioner Weiner inquired about appeals to allocations. Manager Vincent stated that if an organization is unhappy with their allocation, they can appeal to the Parks and Recreation commission. Based on commission recommendation, this may result in a 5 round draft.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that the ad hoc steered toward the hourly model with the objective to ensure efficient usage of fields. The policy has now moved to a per capita model. He does not want to lose sight of the objective of efficient utilization of fields. At the bottom of page 8 of the policy, there should be some language as follows - “It is not the intent of the City to allocate 100% of available field time. It is the intent of the City to allocate an amount of time based on the demonstrated needs of the youth sports organizations. Unallocated field time will be reserved for the City for use by emerging youth sports organizations, unforeseen needs of the existing youth sports organizations participating in the field allocation process and other organizations. He also suggests a way to measure field utilization. He added that if you don’t measure it, you can’t manage it. We still need a way to measure and manage field utilization. There should be a simple online portal for reporting non-use of a field. It could be as simple as a Google doc. Park staff should also monitor non-use as part of rounds. Manager Vincent reported that park staff does monitor and log non-use of fields.

Commissioner Nicholson asked about the provision for ensuring that all players play. He asked if each league makes their own rules. Manager Vincent confirmed that to be the case.

Chair Turkmany opened the floor to audience participation.

An audience member stated that the \$10 non-open registration fee appears in the staff report but not the policy document. She asked if all of the fees are going to be discussed as a separate item.

Commissioner Greenberg asked if the policy is coming back to next month’s meeting. Director Leyman stated that the commission can approve the policy with the changes proposed. If not today, a

special meeting may be necessary to approve. Commissioner Greenberg says that the policy and fees have to work together and he does not feel comfortable moving forward without all of the pieces. Director Leyman will work with the City Manager and explain the timing, if the City Council wants to see the item, we will call an emergency meeting. If it is pushed to a later date, it can be held off until the next meeting.

Manager Vincent will bring a revenue projection to the next meeting so Commissioner Nicholson can see a before and after. The goal is to increase revenue by \$100,000.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

Pickleball – *this item was addressed after Ceremonial, before General Business to accommodate the number of people present to discuss the subject.*

Chair Turkmany opened the floor to public comment.

Lynn Mayo, resident – Ms. Mayo stated that the pickleball facilities are limited and the equipment is old and damaged. Currently, the equipment must be set up by players and it is difficult. Play is limited to 3 days a week in Manhattan Beach. As a result, it is easier to travel to other cities to play on permanent courts., She requested the City convert a single tennis court at Manhattan Heights to four pickleball courts.

Mary Chieffe, Manhattan Beach – Ms. Chieffe loves pickleball and thanked commission for considering and supporters for coming to the meeting. She stated that since Pickleball was introduced in Manhattan Beach, the sport has grown and data has been collected. She gathered sign in sheets that showed about 214 unique players between March and July of 2018. There were 1195 sign ins in the same period, which does not include those who didn't sign in or regular players who may have been away on vacation. She added that permanent courts would give Manhattan Beach residents a chance to play when their families can gather. A beginners court is available in Manahattan Beach which is important to make new players welcome. To keep up with growing demand for pickleball many cities have started the process of converting tennis courts. Because of high usage and interest, Ms. Chieffe requested this to be fast tracked to top of the Parks and Recreation project list or piggybacked onto an existing project within the next six months. She added that the people who got the pickleball courts in Hermosa Beach are willing to help and that now is the time for permanent pickleball courts in Manhattan Beach.

Tom Kreig, resident – grateful for city starting pickleball. Mr. Kreig stated that pickleball is a very social sport and that the classes offered are well utilized. The demand requires a need for accessibility. He mentioned that pickleball is not necessarily only a sport for older adults. If the schools start teaching, the kids will want to play as well. He reiterated that it is time for Manhattan Beach to make permanent courts and is asking for the Commission to figure out how to convert some tennis courts at Manhattan Heights to permanent pickleball courts.

Lois Tuey – Ms. Tuey came to Manhattan Beach in 2014 and asked if the City wanted to start a pickleball program. It started and grew so big that another gentleman took over. Grandparents are coming out and playing with the kids. The sport is getting bigger all the time and you don't want Hermosa to out do you.

Commissioner Weiner confirmed with Ms. Mayo that Hermosa has 4 permanent courts that are first come first served. El Segundo has dedicated nets but not permanent courts. Ms. Mayo informed the commission that there are adjustable nets that convert paddleball courts into pickleball courts.

Commissioner Greenberg asked if there is any reason why the pickleball courts need high fencing around the perimeter. Ms. Mayo stated that you would lose balls without the fencing.

Commissioner Weiner asked about side setback. Member of audience answered 7 or 8 feet on the side. Commissioner Greenberg asked Director Leyman if we should have good data on usage. Commissioner Greenberg thinks it's great how the sport has emerged and how the group has unified and before we can take away tennis court, we need to evaluate tennis usage and if the change can be made without adverse effect on the tennis players.

Commissioner Nicholson also would like to know about paddle tennis usage and if it is a rational tradeoff. Ms. Mayo stated that there is no need to make a tradeoff. There are lines that could be drawn on the paddle tennis courts.

Commissioner Karger stated that we need to see the data and trends.

An audience member asked why the Manhattan Beach Middle School courts are not being utilized.

Another audience member added that she teaches pickleball and it is a great family activity.

Chair Turkmany thanked the audience for their participation and input and stated that the commission will continue to evaluate the request for permanent pickleball courts.

Commissioner Nicholson asked about the Dorsey netting project. He reported that it is done but there is one gap leaving an opportunity for a foul ball to go through the netting toward the ceramic building. Manager Vincent stated that at this point the project is closed out but is being monitored closely. No complaints have been made by the ceramics studio. Commissioner Nicholson offered to provide information about how many times a game it occurs. He stated that it would be somewhat unlikely for a ball to escape.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that Village Field looks great.

Commissioner Weiner asked about City Council recognition for recent winning teams. Archie reported that they had been forwarded to the City Clerk and he hasn't heard anything.

Commissioner Weiner mentioned that the November and December meetings may need to be rescheduled. The Commission decided to leave the November meeting as scheduled for the 26th and the December meeting could possibly be scheduled for Wednesday, December 19th.

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

Sand Dune reservations was added to the agenda because an email was received regarding exceeding the 20 per hour limit. Staff has been looking on an ongoing basis on how to make the process more efficient. We are looking at a third party reservation system. Commissioner Nicholson said the resident seemed to have an issue with groups showing up. Manager Vincent stated that one of the challenges with groups is that each person registers individually but they work out as a group. Staff is looking to mitigate this practice.

City Council summary – Director Leyman spoke with Councilmember Montgomery regarding the LA 2028 committee members and potential contacts. Staff is reaching out to potential candidates for committee members and will pass on leads to Commissioner Greenberg.

This past summer, the department brought in \$1.5 million with close to 7,500 registrations. For the two sessions in the Fall, so far there are over 2,000 reservations for over \$270,000. Summer revenue is up and number of registrations are down. This was expected because swim lessons went from two

to three weeks, REC program summer field trips were included in the weekly registration, and there were fewer tot camps.

City Council Updates:

- Approved a raise in parking meter rates to \$1.75/hour for street parking and \$1.50/hour in city owned lots.
- Adopted an urgency ordinance prohibiting shared mobility devices, such as scooters and e-bikes. There will be a 6-month moratorium.
- Adopted a 5-year plan to address homelessness. A task force will be created.
- Directed staff to gather information on the Transit Occupancy Tax and increase to 12, 13 or 14 %.
- Received a report on Leadership Manhattan Beach and gave LMB 60 days to evaluate leadership and return.
- New Mayor Napolitano, and Mayor Pro Tem Hersman.
- Directed Cultural Arts Commission to come back with revised list of Sculpture Garden options. Will be reevaluating 60 pieces.

Commissioner Greenberg asked what Parks and Recreation items are coming up to council – Director Leyman reported the following items: Field Policy; Fitness Court resolution (through CIP process); Prop A exchange to purchase Prop A funds; Historical Society inventory and potential facilities to house the historical collection; Sculpture Garden; RFQ for City Hall mural; Library surplus funds; Donation Policy; Walkabout event proposals; Community Grants; licensing, merchandising and branding; Wrapping utility boxes; Botanical Garden agreement; close out current grants; creating a private mural ordinance; and Rotary event.

Commissioner Weiner asked about the Pay and Play racquetball courts. Director Leyman stated that the owner will be approached at some point to discuss the future of the facility.

Commissioner Greenberg announced that the Metlox Art Walk will be held Saturday, September 22nd from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Turkmany welcomed Commissioner Apostol to the commission.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Turkmany moved to adjourn. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm to October 22, 2018.

Ayes:	Commissioners Karger, Turkmany, Nicholson, Weiner, Greenberg and Apostol
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Commissioner Allard