

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
January 27, 2020
6:00 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Greenberg, Karger, Nicholson, McCarthy, Turkmany, Jackson and Weiner

Absent: None

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Greenberg moved to approve the December 2, 2019 minutes as written.

Commissioner Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Greenberg, Karger, Nicholson, McCarthy, Turkmany, Jackson and Weiner

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Commissioner Weiner opened the floor to audience participation.

Lee Barr, resident – gave an update on the homeless count that was held the previous week. It was a successful count and new numbers should be released within the next three months.

Kimberly Koffler, resident - Ms. Koffler has worked with the City for the past two years to coordinate the teen opening bands for the Concerts in the Park. Residents have expressed disappointment that the teen bands will not be playing at the Concerts. She stated that the survey was small and many did not receive the survey. She would like a more open discussion with the Parks and Recreation department on the subject. It is great for the kids and a positive outlet. The kids are well behaved and there haven't been any complaints to the people who run it.

Salem Meade - girl guitarist. Ms. Mead stated that she loved playing at the Concerts in the Park and looking out over the families having fun. Kids came up to her later for a picture.

She wants to inspire other kids to play in bands. She would like for teen bands to continue because it's not fair to other kids that they won't be able to play there.

Kat Monk – Ms. Monk's son played for the last two years at Concerts in the Park and really enjoyed the experience. She doesn't think that an email survey is the most effective way to administer a survey. It is an amazing experience for the kids. There could be a better way to monitor approval or disapproval.

Bill Meade – Mr. Meade stated that he was touched by his granddaughter Salem's words and quoted Book 10 Plato's Republic. Poetry and music were going to be banned because it was corruptive to the youth. He does not agree.

Tim Mackey – Mr. Mackey's son plays in a band that played at Polliwog and it was the best experience of his son's life. Most of the time teen bands play to friends and family and it's not a new audience. The concert in the park had the largest audience of any they had played. People who never heard them were able to see new, great musicians. Teen bands do not always play at places with a full house. These are our future musicians.

Elijah Blanchard – Mr. Blanchard has lived in Manhattan Beach for almost a year and was never part of a band until moving here. Being a part of a band and experiencing playing at Polliwog has inspired him to continue playing music. To his knowledge, the people who didn't enjoy the teen bands, are a small percentage.

Brooke Blake – Ms. Blake was in the band that played before Queen Nation and it was the coolest experience of her life. She thinks it would not be fair to deny the experience to other kids.

Commissioner Weiner addressed the audience to thank them for their input and inform that the commission is not allowed to discuss the subject because it is not on the agenda. The next step will be to speak with staff.

Commissioner Greenberg echoed Commissioner Weiner's statement and added that he will request that the subject be on a future agenda.

Commissioner Nicholson – stated he was touched by the enthusiasm and value that the teens got from the experience. He would like to create other opportunities for performing within the community. He mentioned that when he was younger there were teen dances at Live Oak.

Commissioner McCarthy stated that there has been a big emphasis in the schools and the community should be also support that emphasis to encourage music and youth.

There was some discussion about the administration of the survey. It was clarified that the survey was administered at the last concert of the series. There were announcements at the concert requesting the audience to participate. Staff also distributed the survey briefly in the crowd. The survey was not sent out via email. Manager Vincent stated that staff will reconsider how the survey is administered to improve the process.

Director Leyman offered to provide the commissioners with additional information as he continues to meet with teen band parent representatives. He reminded the commission that this is a staff item. The commission can gather input from the community to assist in staff's decision but this is not a commission item.

Lee Barr – Mr. Barr wished the commissioners a happy new year and congratulated them on their accomplishments. He requested two items: 1. Commissioner Greenberg please keep

pushing to get things done faster. 2. Commissioner Weiner please keep trying to make the flyover happen for the Salute to the Troops. He added that all parks should be unlocked.

The floor was closed.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

None

H. STAFF ITEMS

Parks and Recreation Director Mark Leyman updated the Commission on recent City Council actions.

Department Events and updates :

Jan Buike has stepped into Eve Kelso's roll as Community Programs Manager and we are currently recruiting for Jan's Recreation Program Manager position. Eilen Stewart is the acting Cultural Arts Manager.

The *Mare Vitalis* exhibition, an ocean study Exhibition opened on January 17. Commissioner Greenberg attended the opening and really enjoyed it. Approximately 250 people in attendance.

Commissioner Weiner asked if the City has figured out an effective way to gather community input.

Commissioner Nicholson suggested that if staff at the concerts handed out cards with a link to the survey, there might be a better response. Commissioner McCarthy mentioned that when she showed the QR code for the PMP survey, people took the card. It was great to be able to go directly to the survey. Director Leyman stated that our response rate is higher than surrounding cities and years past due to social media and Open Gov. He encouraged the commissioners to talk to as many people as possible to gather input.

The discussion turned to concert volume how it might be improved. Manager Vincent stated that the department is currently soliciting bids for a new sound company to improve the sound quality.

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Weiner thanked everyone for being at the joint City Council meeting. Director Leyman stated that he thought it went very well, and thanked the Commission for their work.

Donation Policy – going back to the City Council on April 7, 2020. The ad-hoc committee is waiting for some information from contractors for the paver installation costs and design.

Park Master Plan update – The ad-hoc commission is starting with a standard that was done in Santa Monica. It looks good aesthetically and the format fits with what the committee and staff had already decided to do. The committee will put together a report that outlines our needs assessment and identifies opportunities that we can quantify and monetize. It will also will include section on funding opportunities. Senior Recreation Manager, Jessica Vincent presented a first draft of the plan. Four categories of themes were identified after reviewing the public feedback.

- Expand open space
- Create a sense of community
- Optimize existing park and beach experiences
- Enhance play for all ages

We have identified different quick wins and longer term projects within each category so that actionable items can be presented to City Council for consideration. She asked commissioners to review the draft and send any feedback to her by February 10. She is working on comparable city data. The goal is to develop a list of top 10 projects. This project is due to go to the City Council April. Commissioner Weiner stated that we are putting a story together for City Council to put heavy thought to future possibilities for facilities and parks.

Older Adult Program update – Commissioner McCarthy reported that bamboo forks did not work well at the holiday party so they will be renting silverware next year. She asked for feedback on the senior tennis program. Jessica met with two of the women who had requested the standing reservation for senior tennis. The program launched in January on one court, with fairly good attendance. The group has asked for one additional court due to the demand and level of play. The Senior Advisory Council (SAC) is concerned about the group welcoming new players.

SAC has noticed an issue with attendance drop for the bus trips. They are concerned that Manhappenings online is not effective for the older adults. Manager Vincent stated that there has been no drop off on most programs but we have determined that more brochures need to be printed. Commissioner McCarthy added, when sending out emails, attachments are not effective, information needs to be embedded in the email, with a clear subject line.

Commissioner Jackson reported that Kat Monk had reached out her regarding the teen bands. Commissioner Jackson would like to reach out to Mira Costa High School students and asked for Commissioner Greenberg’s assistance with the school district.

Commissioner Greenberg asked for update on Playground installation and requested acceleration. Director Leyman reported the latest update from Public Works is that the design RFP proposals are due February 19, 2020, followed by proposal review, interview, City Council for award, preparation of contract, design and plan check, bid for construction, award, preparation of contract, with construction complete by Summer 2021. Commissioner Greenberg requested an update from the engineer/project manager at a future meeting.

National Fitness Court is estimated to be complete in June or early July 2020.

Salute to the Troops – Linda Robb will look into the requirements for a flyover by the Tiger Squadron. The Commission agreed to invite the Satin Dollz back again to perform.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Greenberg moved to adjourn. Commissioner Turkmany seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Greenberg, Karger, McCarthy, Turkmany, Jackson, Nicholson and Weiner

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.