

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
February 24, 2020
6:00 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Greenberg moved to approve the January 27, 2020 minutes as written.

Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Greenberg, Karger, McCarthy, Turkmany, Jackson and Weiner
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Commissioner Nicholson

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Commissioner Weiner opened the floor to audience participation.

Marcel Lennon, resident - Ms. Lennon is interested in learning what she can do to facilitate and spearhead a dog park where Rowell and Vorhees Avenues intersect, near the school district administration offices. Commissioner Weiner confirmed that people are getting cited for having dogs in that location. Commissioner Weiner informed Ms. Lennon that the Commission is currently working on a parks master plan and feedback from the community indicates that more dog parks are desired. Various parks are being considered, including this property. Ms. Lennon proposed taking a part of the property and making a dog run. Commissioner Weiner would like to look at using the whole property for a dog park. Commissioner Greenberg stated that there are two homes immediately adjacent and wonders if those neighbors are in support of the idea. Director Leyman believes that the land is owned by the City and is a storm basin, similar to Polliwog Park. He stated that in terms of process, this will be identified in the Parks Master Plan and presented to City Council. If approved to research, the next step would be to gather signatures to move forward. Commissioner McCarthy mentioned that making it a large dog park may attract more people and cause

parking issues in the neighborhood. Ms. Lennon will plan to attend the City Council meeting when the Parks Master Plan is presented.

Ryan Beaupain (11 years old) – has been working on a campaign to plant trees in Polliwog Park and fundraising on GoFund Me for the project. The project began in December 2019 when he was playing soccer and realized that there weren't any trees at Begg Field and that there is a shortage of trees in the City. Ryan's fundraising goal is \$15,000-\$30,000. This is based on a cost of \$3,000 per 3X3 foot boxed tree, purchase and installation included. Director Leyman added that Ryan has been working with Urban Forester, Ernest Area to choose the types and location of the trees. Ryan's mother added that they are working with Moon Valley Nursery to negotiate prices. Ryan's GoFundMe page is called Increasing the Tree Canopy to Fight Climate Change.

The floor was closed to public comment.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

None

H. STAFF ITEMS

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

Council directed staff to work with a subcommittee on the revised banner policy, focusing on length of display, qualifying banners, fee waivers and pole banners. Commissioner Greenberg asked if the changes will affect any current banners, such as American Martyrs 5K. Director Leyman clarified that legacy events are largely unaffected by the changes.

Leadership Manhattan Beach's project will focus on reducing single use plastic bottles. They are looking to fund three or four water refilling stations for events. Commissioner McCarthy asked if anyone is monitoring the drinking fountains around town, to make sure that they work. Director Leyman recommended reporting fountains that are not working using the GoReach app which will geotag the fountain and report it to staff for repair.

The Cultural Arts Division will be bringing two new mural locations to the City Council. Both will be Bo Bridges pieces; one will be on the brick wall at the south end of City Hall, and the second will be on the back wall of parking lot 3, facing SugarFish. In addition, a living wall will be recommended for the corrugated walls on Civic Center plaza. Staff is gathering cost estimates for the living wall.

Special Event Fee Waivers, Manhattan Beach Open volleyball tournament, Manhattan Beach Education Foundation donor wall, Polliwog Park RFQ for pavilion, donation policy, City Hall mural finalists, banner policy, community art grants programs, are all scheduled to be presented to the City Council.

The request for proposal for sound for the concerts has gone out. Commissioner McCarthy reported that the Senior Advisory Committee had talked about this and the commentary was about where the speakers will be. Director Leyman stated that the sound system and having the ability to control is important. The project is expected to cost \$400,000 - \$500,000.

Director Leyman is hoping to bring in a Sr. Engineer to the next meeting for updates on the National Fitness Court and Polliwog Park project. They will explain why the process takes so long and have a Q&A on timeline.

Department recruitments – Eilen Stewart, Acting Cultural Arts Manager will be going out on maternity leave. Eric Brinkman will be covering as Manager and Ginna Muzingo will be the acting Coordinator. Jan Buike has been appointed Recreation Services Manager for Community Programs. Adela Cornejo has been the acting Older Adults Program Supervisor.

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

Discussion of work plan items and updates for joint meeting:

Presentation of the Parks Master Plan to the City Council has been pushed to May 5th so it will be brought back for review and approval at the March commission meeting. The ad-hoc committee will have a version to review next week. Jessica will schedule an ad-hoc meeting for Friday, March 6th. After meeting with the ad-hoc committee, a more final draft will be prepared.

Older Adults - Commissioner McCarthy reported that there was some question of how the senior tennis group was welcoming senior players, so a secret shopper was designated to join the activity.

They also discussed the Concerts in the Park and the fact that occasionally, the teen bands have not gotten off the stage on time which has backed up the main act. They were also concerned that some of the teen bands wander through the crowd trying to sell their merchandise. They felt that the bands should have to follow the same rules for sales as the main band. As far as the music, there were mixed opinions, but there was a consensus that the opening bands were too loud.

Commissioner Jackson reported that she received some questions about teen-led activities run by the City. She said that teens aren't very aware of teen friendly offerings.

Commissioner Greenberg reported that there was an article about Redondo Beach taking steps to allow dogs in parks. He commented that the article is misleading and implies that leashed dogs are allowed in Manhattan Beach parks. He recommends staff contact the Beach Reporter to clarify the City policy on dogs in parks.

Commissioner Greenberg added that he had received an email regarding Veterans Parkway at 1st Street. The chip path directs pedestrians to cross in the middle of the block instead of the crosswalk. He has observed that the path, in many places, directs pedestrians to jaywalk. He asked if any pedestrians have been hit crossing from the chip path. Director Leyman replied that he is not aware of anyone being hit by a car. Commissioner Weiner added that there used to be a dashed line indicating pedestrian walkway from curb cut to curb cut that should be re-marked. Commissioner McCarthy added that there are no crosswalks in the Manhattan Beach portion of the path. Director Leyman recommended contacting the Traffic Engineer for an explanation of why it is the way it is, as it is an ongoing issue.

Commissioner Greenberg reported that he has been reappointed by the Manhattan Beach Unified School District and will be serving a second three year term.

Commissioner Turkmany announced the American Martyrs 5K run will be on February 29.

J. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Commissioners Greenberg, Karger, McCarthy, Turkmany, Jackson, and Weiner
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Commissioner Nicholson

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.