

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Virtual – Zoom meeting

August 24, 2020

4:00 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Cullen, Greenberg, Karger, McCarthy, Turkmany, and Weiner

Absent: Commissioner Nicholson

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Weiner moved to approve the July 22, 2020 Special Meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Turkmany seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Cullen, Greenberg, Karger, McCarthy, Turkmany, and Weiner

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Nicholson

Commissioner Turkmany moved to approve the July 27, 2020 minutes with the following correction.

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Commissioner Karger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Cullen, Greenberg, Karger, McCarthy, Turkmany, and Weiner

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Nicholson

E. CEREMONIAL

None

Chair Greenberg will send a memo to the City Council requesting recognition of Ryan Beaupain, who completed his tree donation project for Polliwog Park.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Chair Greenberg opened the floor to audience participation. Seeing none, 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 and upcoming events.

Director Leyman shared the rendering of the newly approved City Hall lobby mural by architectural firm, Hou de Sousa. The mural is scheduled to be installed in early 2021.

Public Works' largest project, Peck Reservoir is in process and will continue for the next 18-24 months. There is a possibility that Begg Field will be used to stage some of the dirt required for the project.

The City Council workplan was adopted and the Parks and Rec department has about 15 items on the workplan.

Commissioner Greenberg asked about the overall budget impact on the City from COVID-19 and how it affects the Parks and Rec budget. Director Leyman replied that there will be quarterly updates to City Council. Revenues are trending lower than anticipated. City Council's focus is on keeping full-time employees working and active. The department has lost a number of part timers.

Sr. Recreation Manager, Jessica Vincent reported that while the revenues are not there, everyone is staying very busy trying to offer programs that satisfy all of the County requirements. Summer programming finished last week. Summer camps were offered servicing about 1,000 users. Revenues are at about 25% compared to last year due to closure of all programs. Fall programming to begin September 8th. Learning Centers for the REC program will be offered for grades 1- 5, Monday – Thursday, 7:45-4:15. Children will be grouped in pods for facilitated learning. Afterschool care will also be offered. Kids will be grouped in pods, with most activities happening outdoors.

The department will also be offering afterschool tennis, aqualetics, surf classes and swim team. LA County has developed guidelines for youth sports. Skill development, drills and practice are allowed, but no games. The City will charge a nominal fee for field time, for 2 hour blocks for 12 person teams.

Commissioner Greenberg asked if the registration has opened yet for the learning centers. He anticipates major interest in the program. He asked if there was a way to prioritize spots for first responders and essential service workers. Manager Vincent stated that the service is for essential workers only at this time. She added that there is room to expand the program if it fills up but the challenge is staffing. We are fortunate to have staff who are training to be teachers.

The department is continuing to permit for local businesses operating in the parks. City Council has waived the fees. Plans are to continue to offer reservations for tennis, pickleball, sand dune. Older Adult Program (OAP) is looking to expand to MBTV to serve those who may have difficulty participating via zoom. The Dial-A-ride service model has changed and often brings services to customers instead of customers to services.

Director Leyman added that the department continues to provide the Older Adult Hotline to connect older adults with volunteers to help with any needs that may arise. With the recent hot weather, cooling centers were being considered but the need wasn't great enough. Recreation Services Manager Jan Buike is looking into bringing popsicles out to the Senior Villas.

Polliwog Park project update – The specs are almost ready to move forward and Director Leyman is confident that expenses can be reduced. The plan is to offer add alternates to see what City Council wants to focus on. Still moving forward on the general timeline.

Commissioner Weiner is concerned that there is a lot of work to be done and is concerned about the timeframe. Commissioner Karger mentioned that the ADA component benefits the whole park and not just the playground so the cost of the ADA upgrades should come from a different pot. Commissioner Weiner stated that the general rule of contracting is the current project bears the cost of ADA upgrades. There some discussion regarding the availability of grant funds and staff is working on securing various grant allocations for the project. Due to the affluence of the community, and the amount of parks available in the City, the project is ineligible for the competitive grants researched so far. Director Leyman is working with Public Work Director Katsouleas to see any funds from other projects may be moved.

Commissioner Greenberg asked if there was any discussion of moving the location of the project. Director Leyman replied that there was no further discussion of the location. After the numbers come back, then other options could be discussed. Commissioner Greenberg encouraged discussion of the location. He would like to consider putting in a place where the equipment could have a longer life and there are no drainage issues.

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

Discussion of work plan items and updates for joint meeting:

Commissioner Weiner reported that the ad-hoc committee met and another meeting will be held in a week and a half. The goal is to produce a concise document that will outline our directive, processes, methodology, finds, costs and implementation. The committee will get the report out to the commission before it goes to City Council. He asked that when it gets to everyone, the ad-hoc committee would appreciate a quick and valuable response, as if reading as a councilmember. Commissioner Greenberg wants to ensure that this is not a report that sits on a shelf and that serves as an action plan that will have a positive and meaningful impact on the community.

Commissioner McCarthy – Older Adults update - reached out to Adela Cornejo and Jan Buike for updates and Jessica and Mark covered most everything earlier in the meeting. She said is impressed with how much the department has done to engage the older adults. Remote technology help is available, taught by Dayle Eisenhauer. The Older Adult Program staff are trying to make sure that every senior receives a welfare call.

Chair Greenberg – School District report - Public schools opening Wednesday with online remote learning. Gym project is on target.

Commissioner Cullen – Student update - starting school on Wednesday, he has heard a general good response and everyone seems to be happy. Wellness Wednesday (social emotional learning) is well received. Seniors are concerned with standard testing being cancelled. Students are interested in extra-curricular activities and volunteer work. Manager Vincent recommended that anyone interested in volunteering should contact the department volunteer coordinator.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cullen moved to adjourn. Commissioner Weiner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Cullen, Greenberg, Karger, McCarthy, Turkmany, and Weiner

Nayes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Commissioner Nicholson

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.