

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
Virtual – Zoom meeting
November 16, 2020
4:00 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Greenberg, Karger, McCarthy*, Nicholson, Turkmany, Weiner

Absent: None

*Commissioner McCarthy arrived at 4:06 pm

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

D. CEREMONIAL

None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Greg Dickinson, resident – Mr. Dickinson asked if private use is possible at Premier Field. It is currently only used by club teams and locked otherwise. He would like to have it open so that families could use it as well. Director Leyman stated that he would be happy to speak further with Mr. Dickinson about options. Mr. Dickinson offered his assistance.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS – This item was taken out of order, after Staff Items

Parks Master Plan Discussion

The commissioners were encouraged to send in all minor edits to staff. Commissioner Greenberg called for input from the commissioners on substantive changes.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that the descriptions of funding options is good but ultimately it is the City Council's decision on how to fund the projects.

Commissioner Karger mentioned the Legacy Donation program. She feels that this concept should be explored in more detail for the donation program, as it could result in property or money that may help fund projects. Commissioner Weiner added that either the City would need to make an effort to publicize this option, or hire a third party to market the concept.

Commissioner McCarthy inquired if projects can be marketed individually so that funds can be raised outside of the general fund budget process. She suggested advertising in the local papers. Commissioner Weiner stated that residents are likely to feel that they pay enough in taxes so they shouldn't have to contribute to add amenities. The thinking may be different if their contribution resulted in recognition or naming. Transparency in the budget is important so that the public is aware that there are not enough funds available for all of the projects. Manager Vincent stated that this would be a good subject to talk about at the joint meeting in January.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that it is not clear that the projects are being presented in prioritized order. Wording will be added to clarify.

Commissioner Cullen mentioned a “temporary pool” option that may be an opportunity to build an aquatics facility at a lower cost. These types of pools are built above ground and are not necessarily temporary. This concept may be explored when an aquatics center is being considered.

Chair Greenberg opened the floor to public comment. Seeing none, the floor was closed.

Commissioner Turkmany moved to recommend the Parks Master Plan and move it forward to the City Council. Commissioner Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Greenberg, Weiner, Karger, McCarthy, Turkmany, Nicholson, Cullen
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

G. STAFF ITEMS

Public Works Director, Stephanie Katsouleas gave an overview of current Parks and Rec projects and explained that if a project is valued under \$60,000 it can be done without going through the bidding process. Anything over \$60,000 must be bid out according to the Public Contracting Code.

In-progress projects include:

- Finalizing redesign of plan for the ceramics kiln
- Finalizing plans for Polliwog Park
- Mariposa Fitness Court

She added that in general, bids are coming in much higher than anticipated for most jobs due to the abundance of work available to contractors right now.

Director Katsouleas explained that there is a legal requirement to calculate the value of a project and allocate 20% of the budget to peripheral ADA improvements.

Commissioner Weiner asked about budget for maintenance items that were discovered on the parks tour, that need to be addressed. He is concerned that funds necessary for new projects might be consumed by maintenance needs. Director Katsouleas stated that there is a maintenance budget for facilities, which includes buildings located in parks. The budget used to be \$1,000,000 a year, but over the past 5 years, the budget has been reduced to \$400,000. She added that a dedicated fund for parks maintenance is needed but it is not clear where those funds would come from. Director Katsouleas gave a brief explanation of the CIP budget process. With the two-year budget cycle, the 2021-2022 budget year will be focused on the general fund and the 2022-2023 budget year will be focused on the CIP fund.

Commissioner Greenberg praised the Public Works staff for quickly addressing service requests he has made through GoReach. Director Katsouleas responded that staff is limited so sometimes, the smaller items are easier to address in a timely manner. The projects that require more resources may take longer due to the staff shortage. She encouraged residents to use the GoReach app to make Public Works aware of issues.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

Dates for future meetings were reviewed:

December 1, 2020, 6:00 pm – City Council meeting, Parks Master Plan presentation

December 7, 2020, 4:00 pm – Commission meeting rescheduled from November 23.

December 28, 2020 meeting cancelled

January 4, 2021, 6:00 pm – Joint City Council/Commission meeting

I. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Weiner moved to adjourn. Commissioner Karger seconded the motion.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 pm.