

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

**Virtual – Zoom meeting**

**December 7, 2020**

**4:00 PM**

**CONTENTS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Greenberg, Weiner, McCarthy, Turkmany, Karger, Nicholson\* and Cullen

Absent: None

\*Commissioner Nicholson joined the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Weiner moved to approve the October 26, 2020 and November 16, 2020 minutes as written. Commissioner Karger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Nicholson\*

**D. CEREMONIAL**

None

**E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)**

Chair Greenberg opened the floor to audience participation. Seeing none, the floor was closed.

**F. GENERAL BUSINESS –**

Workplan Items for City Council Joint Meeting

Chair Greenberg explained that there will be three items to discuss at the joint meeting.

1. Commission introductions
2. Review progress on the previous year's workplan
3. Discuss and present recommended workplan items for 2021

**Review of 2020 Workplan items:**

1. Salute to the Troops – Canceled due to COVID-19, but should remain as a standing item on the 2021 workplan. Commissioner Weiner suggested that there are related projects that will enhance this event, such as installing a stage and improving the sound system.
2. Commissioners to attend and support Parks and Recreation Department activities and events. This will remain as a standing item on the workplan for 2021. Commissioner

Weiner requested that the commission be advised of upcoming events to effectively plan for and ensure attendance.

3. Parks Master Plan – a lot of work and time went into this project that will be presented to the City Council. Commissioner McCarthy asked about the process to get the projects in the plan done. Director Leyman stated that ideally, every year, the commission will make recommendations at the joint meeting for projects and funding mechanisms. First, City Council will need to approve the plan. Then costs can be estimated, projects can be prioritized and City Council can decide what projects can be funded. The annual joint meeting will be the time when prioritization will be discussed. Manager Vincent stated that the goal is for the Parks Master Plan to be a living document with updates and accomplishments added over time. Commissioner Weiner mentioned that maintenance funds have been reduced over the years so funding is a major concern for new projects. He added that there isn't enough money now, to even do the maintenance work. He stated the commission needs to be familiar with the budgeting process.
4. Senior and Scout House – Chair Greenberg would like to remove because it has been on the workplan for years but there really is no commission involvement. There was general agreement from the commission.
5. Donation Policy – The policy and Park Amenities Catalog were approved in May 2020 and the ad-hoc committee is working on the Military Wall and Paver Program projects. Commissioner Weiner asked if there is a mechanism for making people aware of the program. Commissioner Turkmany stated that the pavers will be a specific campaign and other programs would be on the website and pushed out through social media. Director Leyman added that staffing shortages have pushed back the schedule. Commissioner Karger mentioned adding a Legacy Donation program for those who may be interested in including the City in their estate planning.
6. Pickleball and NFC Courts – Chair Greenberg feels that other than receiving updates from staff, the commission did not have much involvement in these projects in 2020. Director Leyman gave a brief update on the NFC project, the project is stalled due to construction bids coming in over budget. Chair Greenberg recommends that these projects be removed from the commission workplan as they are staff projects. There was general agreement from the commission. Management Analyst Robb agreed that unless there are actionable items for the commission, it should be removed. Director Leyman stated that there are no strict guidelines and therefore some gray area as to what projects belong on the commission workplan. He agrees that if the commission responsibilities have been fulfilled and the project has moved to a different stage, it may be removed from the commission workplan.

**Other accomplishments:**

1. Commissioner Cullen reached out to Volunteer Coordinator, Michelle Ami to coordinate student volunteers to write and deliver Seniorgrams to Older Adults. He is also working on a project to deliver pies to seniors.
2. Commissioner McCarthy mentioned that Ryan Beaupain's tree donation should be mentioned.

**Additional workplan items for 2021:**

Chair Greenberg shared information consolidating commissioner input for Parks Master Plan project prioritization. There was discussion about the level of involvement for certain

projects and how the list should be separated and presented to the City Council.

Manager Vincent stated that the main responsibility for these projects would be for the commission to do public outreach and be the sounding board for the community. Director Leyman added that all of the project would need to be directed from Council and they will decide what they would like researched and whether they would like to move forward.

Commissioner Turkmany suggested introducing each topic and asking for quick feedback, pros and cons, so that the commission and staff can get an idea of the challenges and/or support for each project.

Commissioner Weiner stated that it is important that we listen to the residents and include the top projects from the survey and public outreach. A new aquatics center, nature trails playground improvements, public art and dog parks were some of the most popular choices. It's important to put effort toward the projects that residents say they wanted most.

Chair Greenberg clarified that the commission is seeking permission from the City Council to explore projects. After research and public outreach, it may be determined that a project will not move forward, but it is worth the effort to see if the projects are feasible. The list should not reflect only those projects that the commission feels will likely come to fruition in the near future. He also clarified that putting a project on the workplan for the coming year doesn't mean that the project needs to be completed within a year.

Commissioner Nicholson stated that in his experience, many project ideas die because residents object to the location in their neighborhoods. In the case of the dog parks, perhaps the definition should be expanded to enhance existing dog parks, not just create new ones.

There was much discussion on whether or not the aquatics center should be recommended for the workplan

Commissioner McCarthy is concerned that project take a long time to complete, even when they seem very small. She would like timeline to be taken into consideration. She feels it is very important to include the projects that emerged from public input.

It was decided that exploring acquiring Armory Land and Repurposing Pay n Play Racquetball will be reclassified as Exploratory Projects and separated from the other projects. Aquatics Center has been reclassified as a Long Term Project.

Director Leyman suggested that it is important to communicate community priorities and commission priorities. Once the City Council has determined which projects they would like to explore, it will then become the commission's responsibility to facilitate the public outreach and develop options to then bring back to the City Council. At that point, if City Council decides to move forward, it comes off the commission work plan and becomes a department work plan item.

Commissioner Weiner believes that one or two ad-hoc committees should be looking at every project in the plan and looking at what it will take to get them done, including ball park costs.

Chair Greenberg agrees but sees that there are limits to the time available to look at each

project. At this point, he recommends identifying a smaller number of projects to push forward.

Commissioner McCarthy does not think of the list as commission priorities. She looks at it as taking the community's priorities and applying them to the existing landscape to determine how and where they can happen.

The commission will present the list as follows:

El Porto Family Park  
Dog Parks  
Design/build stage and pavilion at Polliwog Park  
Nature Trails at Sand Dune Park  
Community Garden at Begg Field

#### EXPLORATORY PROJECTS

Explore Repurpose Pay N Play Racquetball  
Explore acquiring armory land

#### LONG TERM PROJECT

Design/build an Aquatics Center

### **G. STAFF ITEMS**

Director Leyman gave the following updates:

City Hall mural – City Council requested some changes to the original design so the changes were brought back and City Council decided not to move forward with the project at all.

Two new scrambled crosswalks are being installed Downtown. One will feature the city logo in the center and the other will be an image of a lifeguard tower, drawn by our own Eilen Stewart, acting Cultural Arts Manager.

City Council reorganization – Suzanne Hadley is the new Mayor and Hildy Stern is Mayor Pro Tem. Joe Franklin joins the City Council.

Parks Master Plan will be presented to City Council on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Catalina Classic Statue will also be presented. The project concept was approved in 2018 as a donation from the South Bay Boardriders Club with the City to provide the infrastructure. The current proposal is for the statue to be paid for from the Public Art Trust fund with the infrastructure to be done and paid for by the South Bay Boardriders Club.

Sr. Recreation Manager Vincent reported that with COVIC-19 cases on the rise, the new Public Health Order shut down outdoor dining. The ad-hoc committee has been meeting to develop long term business solutions and the City has decided to open outdoor public spaces as areas for residents to enjoy take-out. In addition, retail occupancy has been reduced, and personal care establishments, playgrounds, fitness stations and batting cages are closed. Pool are limited to one person per lane. As a result, lap swim hours have been extended and Junior Guards and water aerobics programs have been canceled. Gyms operating outside must

reduce to 50%, outdoor fitness studios are limited to 15 max and must be 8 feet apart with face coverings at all times. Youth sports are allowed to practice only, no scrimmaging.

The pilot program at the Pacific and Meadow elementary school fields has been going well. Currently the fields are open Monday – Friday 3:30 to dusk. These hours also apply to Premier Field. Premier Field may be opened as early as 8:00am as it is not a school field.

The surfacing at the upper Polliwog Park playground will likely install the week of December 14.

Sand Dune is open until there is direction to close.

## **H. COMMISSION ITEMS**

Older Adult Program update – 97 participants for the flu vaccination events. Zoom classes continue to have strong participation. There are some special presentations in December including a talk by Gary Hartzell on the Alexandria Library, LA Department of Public Health presentation on Holiday Blues and a zoom tour of the Sleepy Hollow Christmas lights.

The Scout House was discussed and fundraising efforts are still underway but are delayed due to COVID. They are going to have to redo the costs as they are about a year and half old now.

Dial a Ride will be delivering some of the Holiday Luncheon meals for those who cannot pick up at the drive through event. Dial a Ride drivers have also been doing some park patrol.

Rotary and other groups in town are providing services to seniors in need of service.

The Older Adults Program web page has been revamped for ease of use.

School District update – Remote learning is continued. The district has applied for waivers to bring TK through second graders back on campus on a hybrid model, which should begin on Monday, December 14. Special needs students have been brought on campus at the middle school resulting in some positive COVID cases that were determined to be an outbreak. The middle school is currently closed to all students. Sports schedules are being reorganized. The high school gym is ready for students to come back.

Student update – Finals start the week of December 14. Teachers are concerned with cheating. Students are still looking for volunteer opportunities. Juniors are starting SAT prep.

Commissioner McCarthy asked about the Bruce’s Beach Task Force. Director Leyman stated that the task force is not related to Parks at this point.

Chair Greenberg reminded everyone of the January 4<sup>th</sup>, joint meeting with City Council at 6:00pm.

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Nayes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm to Monday, January 4, 2021.