

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

Virtual – Zoom meeting

January 25, 2021

4:00 PM

CONTENTS

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Greenberg, McCarthy, Turkmany, Karger, Nicholson and Cullen

Absent: Weiner\*

\*Commissioner Weiner joined the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Karger moved to approve the December 7, 2020 minutes as written.

Commissioner Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Weiner\*

**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 –**

Discussion of 2021 Workplan Items:

Chair Greenberg reported that following the joint meeting with City Council, he met (virtually) with Director Leyman to compare notes and get an understanding of which projects had more or less support from City Council, and what, if any, direction was given on those projects. Time will be a challenge for most of these projects given that the seven commissioners are all volunteers and staff time is limited due to reductions in number of staff. At that time, he thought it would be prudent to narrow the list, conscious of limited time and resources. What became clear is that everyone on the commission is passionate about the projects and the potential benefits to the community, so it was difficult to narrow. In addition to the nine projects presented, the City Council added a project regarding project finances. Council would like to have some cost estimates for the projects. Chair Greenberg shared a table for how to potentially organize the 12 projects. Rather than having 12 different ad-hoc committees, some projects were grouped together based on type of projects and

requirements.

After much discussion, the following ad-hoc committees were established with the understanding that these committees will be commissioner-led and staff-supported (with the exception of the Polliwog Park Enhancements), and that projects will move at different rates.

**2021 P&R Commission Ad Hoc Committees (Maximum 3 Commissioners per Committee)**

Committees and Projects	Committee Chair	Commissioners	Staff
<b>Ad Hoc Committee:</b> El Porto Family Park	Bruce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Laurie</li> <li>● JJ</li> </ul>	
<b>Ad Hoc Committee:</b> Nature Areas & Trails	Bruce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Laurie</li> <li>● JJ</li> </ul>	
<b>Ad Hoc Committee:</b> Dog Parks & Community Parkettes	Ken		
<b>Ad Hoc Committee: Polliwog Park Enhancements</b> Project 4: Design/build stage and pavilion for concerts Project 5: Fitness Court Project 6: Community Garden @ Begg Field	<b>Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Laurie</li> <li>● Suzanne</li> </ul>	
<b>Ad Hoc Committee:</b> Replace Sand Dune building	Steve N		
<b>Ad Hoc Committee:</b> Explore re-purposing Pay 'n' Play Racquetball Land/Building	Suzanne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● JJ</li> </ul>	
<b>Ad Hoc Committee:</b> Explore acquiring armory land	Bruce	Laurie	
<b>Ad Hoc Committee:</b> Explore feasibility of developing new/replacement aquatics center	Laurie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Matthew</li> <li>● Ken</li> </ul>	
<b>Ad Hoc Committee:</b> PMP Project Cost Estimates; P&R Maintenance and Replacement Budgeting	Ken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Laurie</li> </ul>	
<b>Ad Hoc Committee: Donations Policy and Programs:</b> Add legacy gifts and donations of art to policy; Marketing	JJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ken</li> <li>● Suzanne</li> </ul>	

Commissioner Weiner volunteered to be the keeper of the project list and make sure each project receives the necessary attention.

Chair Greenberg requested that Director Leyman and Sr. Manager Vincent assign a primary and backup staff person to each subcommittee and encouraged all subcommittees to schedule their first meetings, define project charters, and objectives to put together project plans. Updates will be heard from each committee at each commission meeting.

## G. STAFF ITEMS

Sr. Recreation Manager, Jessica Vincent gave the following updates:

Staff will be presenting the department workplan to City Council on January 26<sup>th</sup>. There are items on the workplan that overlap with the Commission workplan. Director Leyman listed the workplan items and gave a short description of each.

The upper Polliwog Park playground has been resurfaced and will be open by January 29<sup>th</sup>.

The department is looking to expand some pickleball programs at Manhattan Heights due to high demand. A pilot program will begin which will make two tennis courts available for pickleball on Thursday mornings from 8:00 a.m.- noon.

Winter registration began for residents on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The majority of classes offered are full, but at a reduced capacity due to social distancing requirements. Classes include tennis, REC Learning Center, and some outdoor fitness and enrichment classes. Sand Dune, the skate spot and tennis courts are open for reservations. Begg Pool is open for lap swimming and masters only. Offerings will expand as health department orders allow. An outdoor ceramics subscription service is being offered along with zoom classes for older adults.

All playgrounds are open. Picnic pads are open but not available for reservations. Staff is facilitating film permits. Fields are open for youth sports for practices only.

Premier Field has been opened to the public Monday – Friday 3:00- dusk.

Chair Greenberg mentioned that the field at Live Oak Park has not been available recently. Sr. Manager Vincent stated that it may have been unavailable due to City programs, and if he notices that it is unavailable when there are no programs, to please contact Michael Hudak.

Adult sports are still not permissible on the fields per LA County Health Department.

City Council continues to work on the Long Term Business Solutions ad-hoc committee and outdoor dining will be reopened. Staff has been doing a lot of work with businesses to try and encourage people to support local businesses.

There was some discussion on the difference between the Commission, Department and City Council work plans. Director Leyman explained that there is overlap and there are no clear guidelines. The City Council will decide their priority for what they would like to see staff and commissions working on for the upcoming year. Depending on the level of involvement, those projects may appear on the department and commission work plans with varying tasks and objectives.

Commissioner Weiner feels it is important to convey to the City Council that the Commission views the Parks Master Plan as a living 10-year document and plans to track the scope and cost of the projects so that when the time and financials are right, City Council can start to choose which projects to move forward. Director Leyman agreed.

## **H. COMMISSION ITEMS**

Salute to the Troops – Director Leyman stated that this event is currently on hold due to the pandemic but it is not being taken off the table completely. A compressed or extended summer concert season is a possibility but it is not likely that the concert season will begin in early summer. It is completely dependent on health orders.

Donation Policy - no update at this time

Older Adult Program update – Commissioner McCarthy reported that 315 holiday meals were delivered for the Older Adult Holiday Party.

The Older Adult Program newsletter was revamped to include links to zoom sessions. They are wondering if it is possible to embed those links into other Parks and Rec activities that might be interesting to seniors. Sr. Manager Vincent responded that there will be a discussion regarding marketing to Older Adults and she will report back.

Senior Grams are very popular and bringing joy to many. Commissioner McCarthy thanked Commissioner Cullen for being a part of that project. There are several groups working on this effort. A list of groups will be compiled for recognition. Chair Greenberg reminded Commissioner McCarthy that the City Council may want to do the recognition, so they should be asked if they would like to recognize the groups first.

Student update – Commissioner Cullen reported that he had helped some students get some community service hours over the holidays by making and delivering pies. This was in response to an assignment to do a passion service project. The PSAT will be happening on the Mira Costa campus. This will be an in-person event. The test will be proctored by parent volunteers. The middle school is switching to a 6 period day which may affect how they will take some classes.

School District update – Chair Greenberg reported that the District sent out an email saying they are hoping to get all teachers vaccinated and 6% of employees have said that they do not plan to get the vaccine. With the most recent announcement from Governor Newsome, TK through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will return to campuses on the hybrid model.

Chair Greenberg raised the question of whether rules for the use of personal equipment can be temporarily waived during COVID as long as all social distancing requirements are met. Sr. Manager Vincent reported that this subject has been already addressed allowing people, within reason, to set up personal recreation equipment in the parks, as a pilot program.

He also mentioned the current underutilization of the Mira Costa pool and asked if there is a way to create a path allowing the public to use the pool during school hours. Director Leyman stated that the Mira Costa pool is primarily used by club teams. The City has tried to squeeze in windows for community use and scheduling continues to be an issue. He suggested that Jesus Sandoval attend a future commission meeting to talk about aquatics scheduling. Sr. Manager Vincent added that the school district does not allow any public use of their facilities during school hours. Commissioner Greenberg asked if the possibility of use during the school day has been explored. Director Leyman stated that from previous discussions and for a variety of reasons, he doesn't believe the school district would be comfortable with that, but he will explore the option.

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm to Monday, February 22, 2021.