

Alexandria Latragna

From: Gary McAulay <gary.mcaulay@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 7:11 AM
To: Bruces Beach Task Force
Subject: [EXTERNAL] plaque language

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Hello HAB

There are some issues with the proposed plaque language, most of which I believe I have previously commented on. At the risk of repeating myself, today I comment on only a few parts of this week's draft.

Harassment of the Bruces and their guests by some White neighbors occurred immediately after the resort opened. According to the Los Angeles Times, "No Trespassing" signs were posted in front of the Bruces' resort on a strip of beach owned by subdivider George Peck where constables forced Black guests to walk a half mile out of the way to reach the water.

The LA Times article does not say that the two **deputy** constables "forced Black guests to walk" anywhere, and the language biases the narrative. More neutral writing would say,

According to the Los Angeles Times, "No Trespassing" signs and two deputy constables were posted in front of the Bruces' resort on a strip of beach owned by subdivider George Peck. Black guests needed to walk a half mile to go around his property and reach the water.

With the influx of Black landowners, some White citizens were concerned that this "Negro invasion" would negatively affect their property values. To protect their interests, they petitioned the Board of Trustees in November 1923 to condemn the land, thwarting the Bruces' business and driving the Black community out of the City.

I addressed the phrase "Negro invasion" in another email. It is hyperbolic language with no specific link to Bruce's Beach, and does not belong on the City's factual plaques.

Re the petition: Bigham wrote

Although the Board of Trustees had appeared sympathetic to the suggestion to condemn the area occupied by most of the Negroes Mr. Lindsey felt they were dragging their feet on the matter. Consequently he circulated a petition requesting the condemnation and presented it before the Board on November 15, 1923.

it appears that the petition was specifically to condemn the property to build a park. It had the result of closing the Bruce's bath house. With the exception of the Bruces, the other Black property owners bought other nearby properties.

In 1924, the Board of Trustees passed Ordinance No. 282, which ordered the acquisition by condemnation of Blocks 5 and 12 in Peck's Manhattan Beach with the stated intention of creating a public park. The area included 30 lots, of which only five were developed. These five lots were owned by members of the Black resort community and included Bruce's Beach.

"Members of the Black resort community" is rather overstating things, considering that only the Bruce's actually lived in MB. Simpler and more accurately, "These five lots, which include the Bruce's two lots, were all Black-owned."

Respectfully,
Gary D. McAulay

Alexandria Latragna

From: Isla Garraway <islagarraway@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 7:07 PM
To: Bruces Beach Task Force
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HAB plaque

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Dear HAB,

Thank you for your continued hard work and patience while continuing to correct the misinformation being propagated by a vocal few. You are on the right side of history as you stick to the factual documents describing the racially motivated eminent domain proceedings against the Bruce family and other African American landowners who developed property near the Resort. The majority of our beloved community is with you!

Isla Garraway

Sent from my iPhone

Alexandria Latragna

From: Diana Skaar <dianaskaar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 1:22 PM
To: Bruces Beach Task Force
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Bruce's Beach History Advisory Board

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Dear Historical Advisory Board members,

I continue to send my gratitude for the countless hours and energy you are pouring into telling a factual account of Bruce's Beach.

Please remain steadfast in your inclusion of the facts about the racially motivated eminent domain proceedings which were **documented in the HAB report and accepted by our MB City Council**. The pushback against this piece of history will continue to make Manhattan Beach look tone deaf.

I support the plaque language as proposed. I find the substance and tone to be appropriate. I urge MB City Council to accept the plaque language so we can all move forward as a community.

--

Diana Skaar
Manhattan Beach Resident

Alexandria Latragna

From: Donna <dttrinidad@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Bruces Beach Task Force
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank you

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Dear Bruce's Beach History Advisory Board - we just wanted to say thank you and to support the time & effort you are putting into writing the plaques to accurately reflect the history of Bruce's Beach.

We are sorry that there is a vocal minority who thinks they are experts & are making it more difficult for you to just do the job that was initiated & approved by our city, especially when all your time is all volunteer, unpaid work.

We appreciate you sharing your research with experts to ensure that we provide this piece of history as accurately as possible and we hope you ignore this mostly anonymous minority group that would like to change the tone or the words to whitewash the past.

Please know that there are many many residents who are so proud of your work & wish you a smooth & easy completion.

All the best,
The Choromanski Family
Sent from my iPhone

Alexandria Latragna

From: Laura H. Kainsinger <lalysix@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Bruces Beach Task Force
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HAB and Plaque

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Members of the History Advisory Committee,

Thank you so much for your countless hours and dedication to our Manhattan Beach community! I watched the September 22 meeting and appreciate your commitment to presenting a history based on facts. It may not be a history that makes us proud, but it is a history that needs to be told if we are to learn from our past and grow as a community. Know that you have a community that supports you and stands behind your work, a work that should not be edited based on people's opinions (no citations are ever provided) or feelings.

I urge the city council to approve the plaque language after the History Advisory Committee is done with any last minute revisions.

Laura Kainsinger
Former Task Force Member
8 year resident

Alexandria Latragna

From: Tony Trutanich jr <tonytrutanich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Bruces Beach Task Force
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question for Bruce's Beach Rediscovered: A Presentation for Black History Month

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FYI
Willas son and grandson both referred to her their entire lives as " Willie"

Kristin mentioned that if multiple newspapers report a story it must be true. Even back then newspapers shared stories. Just look at today as an example. Look at how many papers today are telling the same story with the same mis truths
You lady's are awesome.
Thank you for your time.
Tony

Alexandria Latragna

From: Gabbi Film <gabbivalleyfilm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 10:52 AM
To: Bruces Beach Task Force
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question for Bruce's Beach Rediscovered: A Presentation for Black History Month

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FYI
Negro Invasion ; search also "Block Busting "

Really cool video about the topic.

https://youtu.be/DZZ_5OC6TaA

Alexandria Latragna

From: Diana Skaar <dianaskaar@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 10:27 AM
To: Bruces Beach Task Force
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

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Dear Historical Advisory Board members,

First, I want to send you my immense gratitude for the countless hours and energy you have poured into making sure that the true history of Bruce's Beach is told.

I had attended the MB City Council meeting on July 20, 2021 where the plaque language was expected to be approved by the Councilmembers, and I was extremely disappointed that then Mayor Suzanne Hadley and Councilmember Joe Franklin de-railed those efforts. To me, it was not in the spirit of "getting this factual." Former Mayor Hadley nit-picked over benign words like "pioneer, legacy, abandoned and demolished" saying they are "emotionally charged." At that point, it showed me that unfortunately we have Councilmembers who seem motivated to delay the completion of this project and delay the true telling of the Bruce's Beach history.

I support the plaque language as proposed. I find the substance and tone to be appropriate. I urge MB City Council to accept the plaque language so we can all move forward as a community.

--
Diana Skaar
MB Resident