

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Virtual – Zoom meeting
August 23, 2021
4:00 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Karger, Greenberg, Weiner, Turkmany, Doran, McCarthy*

Absent: Grampp

*Commissioner McCarthy joined the meeting at 4:17 pm.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Turkmany moved to approve the July 26, 2021 minutes as written.

Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ayes: Chair Karger, Greenberg, Weiner, Turkmany, Doran

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: McCarthy, Grampp

D. CEREMONIAL

None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Chair Karger opened the floor to audience participation, seeing none the floor was closed.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion of 2021 Workplan Items:

El Porto Family Park (Greenberg, McCarthy, Turkmany) – Commissioner Greenberg recapped the community input meeting held at the proposed park site. There were about 20-25 residents in attendance and 15-20 email responses were received. There were many different opinions ranging from “don’t do anything” to “provide a small play structure” to “put in a dog park”. One consistent concern was that enhancing the area with additional seating may make it an area for the homeless population frequent. Commissioner Turkmany was a little surprised that there was not more positive feedback. He added that his one-on-one conversations at the meeting were valuable and successful in conveying the nature of the project vs. the perception of the project. The next step is to prepare a broad-based quantitative survey based on some of the community input.

Nature Areas and Trails – (Greenberg, McCarthy, Turkmany) Commissioner Greenberg gave the following update: A Scout cleanup was held on August 21st. Commissioner McCarthy was there to represent the commission and Michael Hudak. There were five adults

and seven to eight 12-13 year olds who all did their best. The Evening/Weekend supervisor took over when Commissioner McCarthy had to leave. Next step is to reassess and determine if more clean ups are needed or if it is ready to go.

Exploring Repurposing the Pay N Play Racquetball Courts – (Karger, Turkmany, Greenberg) Chair Karger reported that this item in the hands of the City Manager and City Attorney.

Polliwog Park Enhancements – Director Leyman reported that Public Works is moving forward with an amendment to the National Fitness Court design. The project appears to be within budget but needs to go back to City Council due to the new amount.

Polliwog Playground Replacement – Construction bids are now being accepted and will go to City Council for approval on September 9th, to award the contract. If awarded, construction is scheduled for October, 2021 through April 2022.

Dog Runs/Parkettes – Commissioner Weiner would like to set up a site visits with Public Works to get feedback on the current proposed dog run sites. Senior Recreation Manager (SRM) Vincent reported that she would work on arranging the walk throughs. She added that some upgrades have been made to the Live Oak dog run.

Exploring the feasibility of developing an aquatics center – (McCarthy, Weiner, Doran) Commissioner McCarthy gave the following report: the sub-committee met to bring Commissioner Doran completely up to speed and later that day met Aviation Track site. IN the space between behind the gym, there is a giant square of unoccupied grass where the pool used to be. On August 16th, the subcommittee met to discuss roughing out a presentation for the joint meeting with City Council. They discussed creating a template for presenting all the projects to City Council, with the idea that each subcommittee present for 5 minutes. The sub-committee will try to arrange a meeting with Gensler to come look at the various sites and possibly prepare some rough templates. The sub-committee found that the last bond issue was in 2016, which coincides with the last presentation on the feasibility of an aquatic center. At that time, the residents approved roughly \$145 million worth of bond issues so asking for more for a pool was not realistic.

Donation Policy and Programs – (Turkmany, Karger)

Chair Karger shared that the City of Santa Barbara's Parks and Recreation department has a relationship with a non-profit organization called the Parks and Recreation Community Foundation (PARC) that is similar to the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation's relationship to the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. PARC has a protocol set up to receive donations from organizations to fund projects. All donations to the Parks and Recreation department are funneled through PARC. Monetary donations are received and used to fund projects. The City of Santa Barbara does not have a donation policy like ours. There is no tree and bench program.

Commissioner Turkmany was approached by the South Bay Parkland Conservancy. This organization looks for and enhance open spaces and was alerted by the post card sent out for the community input meeting. Chair Karger and Commissioner Weiner plan to attend their board meeting to try and get more information on the organization. They are currently working on a restoration of Wilderness Park in Redondo Beach. Information on the organization can be found at SouthBayParks.org

Chair Karger would like to talk to the board members of PARC and then follow up with the

Parks & Recreation Director at the City of Santa Barbara to talk about how the system works. Commissioner Turkmany added that this is a different way to get projects funded. The organization does the fundraising. Commissioner Greenberg mentioned that with a foundation, there is always overhead, staffing, etc. which always comes with costs.

G. STAFF ITEMS

Director Leyman informed the commission that he will have Polliwog Park Playground Replacement cost estimates this week and will be able to share soon.

Banner Policy 2nd reading of the ordinance will be on August 24th. The new policy proposes to limit banners to events that are free and open to the public, no more than 3 banners per event, and a 14 day display period.

Senior Recreation Manager (SRM) Vincent gave the following updates:
Summer programs are wrapping up.

The MBO Volleyball tournament was much smaller this year with reduced bleacher seating. The hope is to expand again for the 2022 event.

The 6-Man Volleyball tournament occurred with 74 teams.

The third of four Concerts in the Park happened on Sunday, August 22nd, the last concert of the season will be held on Sunday, August 29.

Overall, the number of attendees for programs is very similar to 2019, so the numbers are bouncing back. People seem to be excited to be back. Fall programs have surpassed 2019 numbers. The department is having staffing challenges.

The department is completing maintenance of picnic benches. Tennis Courts scheduled to be resurfaced. Staff is working to clean up the dog runs. Basketball hoops at Bruce's Beach are scheduled to be replaced this week.

Staff is continuing to review tennis court usage at Mira Costa.

Pickleball is still in high demand. SRM Vincent is hopeful that she will be able to provide an update on modifications to the program and resurfacing of courts at the next meeting.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

Older Adult Program update – Commissioner McCarthy reported that the August Senior Advisory Committee meeting was cancelled so there is no update.

District update – Commissioner Greenberg reported that school starts on Wednesday and the new Superintendent is in place. Commissioner Greenberg plans to speak with the District regarding resident, Leyton Pace's concerns regarding the soccer field construction at Grand View Elementary.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Greenberg moved to adjourn. Commissioner Turkmany seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM to Monday, September 27, 2021.

Ayes: Chair Karger, Greenberg, Weiner, McCarthy, Turkmany and Doran
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Grampp