

Martha Alvarez

From: Bob Wyler <bobwyler@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 8:45 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: tom_horton@verizon.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Catalina Classic Statue

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As a pretty long time resident (1949, 1 yr old) I've enjoyed and endured the Catalina Paddleboard Race for the vast majority of my life. As kids in the 50's, we'd line up on the pier to watch the reservists from the Armory execute war games on the beach before the heroic paddlers would emerge from the horizon to finish to the excitement of the crowd. When my childhood best friend, Buddy Bohn, re-established the race in the '80's, I escorted him and later others across the channel on my sailboat. In 2001, '02 & '03, I paddled the race myself, whew!

Having a statue at the base of the pier commemorating the long standing hometown event would solidify Manhattan Beach as a classic California icon.

Please vote to allow this beautiful statue to stand tall as a symbol of our town, our sport, and all the athletes, homegrown and otherwise, who have contributed to its heritage.

Bob Wyler

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: Jeremy Burns <jburns76@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 7:52 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Catalina classic statue

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Good evening,

I writing in support of the Catalina Classic statue. Please pass this vote. A great and unique tradition the city should be very proud of!

Best,
Jeremy Burns

Martha Alvarez

From: Cole Horton <colhorton170@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:47 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Catalina Classic statue

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council members of Manhattan Beach,

I'm aware you have several concerns over the approval & construction of the Catalina Classic statue on Manhattan Beach pier. Those concerns being: not enough people know or care about this race to warrant a statue, the female paddler will be seen in inappropriate photos that may go viral, and that some strand owners do not approve the statue. I'd like to address those concerns so that you will conclusively approve this statue being constructed.

1.) "Not enough people know or care about this race to warrant a statue"

That's the point. Not ENOUGH people know about paddling...yet! That's what we hope to change. The Catalina Classic paddle board race is originally more globally historic than volleyball, yet volleyball has a hyperbolic amount of plaques on the pier. I love volleyball and have been playing with friends during summer even longer than I've been paddling (that being 9 years old when I used paddle boards during my first summer of Junior Lifeguards). However, while volleyball is famous globally and much more historic in many cities as opposed to just Manhattan Beach, this race is unique to ONLY Manhattan Beach and they we can claim that right for everyone to see. The statue will help spread the word of paddling so it can flourish and enact positive change in people's lives. Getting new members to achieve something incredibly impressive & unique, to feel pride in themselves and their community. Also everyone knows about SUPs and it's a big industry for sales, lessons and tourism. "Come to MB, get a pic of yourself paddling by the pier at sunset and make a lifelong memory with friends/family/romantic partner that you'll cherish forever. Try something new/ woohoo be open to new experiences". Whenever you say paddling someone is like "oh yes I love stand up paddling" and they HAVE NO IDEA about prone paddling and it's historic significance to the world, ESPECIALLY Manhattan. Education leads to progress and positive change in multiple ways. Also I've never seen a paddling statue. EVER. The body glove founders have a statue in redondo to celebrate/recognize their importance to diving and waterman culture. So do surfers on HB pier and volleyball on MB pier. And yes those 3 sports are more commonly known, so doesn't that make it EVEN more important to spread word of the niche sport that is paddling? Also remember what I said in my spontaneous speech at the council meeting 3 years ago. I never fit in athletically. I never had hand eye coordination. I was short the shortest kid. I was physically awkward. All these led to me getting CONSTANTLY berated and put down by everyone, including friends. It filled me with shame, depression and anxiety for my entire childhood, adolescence and even still to this day. It caused me to not want to exercise, not hang outdoors with friends, isolate myself during recess/free time while all the other kids(even my best friends) played sports. Because I thought, what's the point? Now I love surfing, I stood up on my first wave before I was 6 years old. However even with surfing you get teased and made fun of if you're not good, and it also leads to injury and loss of money by breaking boards and bones on the shore pound.

But paddling?! Paddling no one gives a flying hoot if you suck! We're all soooo damn inclusive, supportive, kind and empathetic towards one another. Whether or not you're a veteran who gets first place OR a first time newbie who is slow as heck and can't even knee paddle for one second without falling off. We're ESPECIALLY kind to those newbies, cheering them on to celebrate their effort and courage taking a chance on themselves to explore something new, to push their minds and bodies to past their limits. We take care of each other, lending each other boards and teaching newbies during planned group training sessions! Paddling is the only sport or activity where I've ever felt like I belonged! And that's a feeling I never thought I would experience in my entire life. Idk who I'd be without paddling. It brought me closer to my father and sister, made me proud of myself, gave me confidence I never would've had otherwise, got me in the best physical shape ever (even better than waterpolo), gifted me with so many new friends (most of them wayyyy older/twice my age, and how many kids can say that?), as well as lots of fond memories both on the island before the race, during the race, and after parties/celebrations. People are AMAZED when I can point to Catalina island and say "yea I paddled from there, solo, no relay, on my stomach and knees with just my hands, for 6.5-9 hours, through 15 knot winds & 3-7ft choppy swell conditions, lots of sharks, etc". It's something I could finally feel good about. So this statue and sport encourages all those other kids/adults who never found their athletic fit or spot in a community. Paddling welcomes anyone and everyone with open arms to a new family that'll probably be nicer to you than most of your friends and your actual family haha. It also brings a lot of tourism and economic stability to Two Harbors which is important because it's not well know to anyone besides fisherman, sailors, paddlers. Everyone else only thinks of Avalon when you say Catalina. A niche sport to bring attention to a niche island known area right off our coast thats also important to South Bay history & culture. It also encourages successful fundraising like with marathon runners. I don't know any other sport besides running that does this much fundraising. Both for terminal Illness(cancer, ALS, etc) and groups (jimmy miller, wounded warriors, etc).

2.) "The female paddler will be seen in inappropriate photos that may go viral"

Avoiding building a statue that celebrates the athletic feats of our Manhattan's female citizens is backing down to idiotic jerks & immature misogynists. It's like bargaining with terrorists. If we don't do this then we let them win and also say we aren't willing to be courageous enough to celebrate the unique athletic accomplishments of our local women role models. People take crude pics with MOST statues regardless of gender, and yes they will probably take sexual photos with the female paddler in the statue too. But they'd do it regardless of what position her body is in. They'd do the same thing with Jay Russell's body mold If he was on his knees. So I ask you all, what's more important? Stopping a few meaningless crude selfies OR depriving the MB of a unique landmark that celebrates our city's inspirational athletes and original race that sparked a sport community populated almost entirely of the most intrinsic kind of SoCal citizens(surfers, volleyball players, waterpolo, swimmers, lifeguards, lifelong watermen/waterwomen)? Also, does DJ O'Brian know what'll happen to a statue molded off her body? Yes! And does she give a single flying hoot? No she does not! I know her personally and she laughs in the face of these threats. Also it encourages women to join a sport dominated by men, push their minds and bodies to the limit to accomplish these channel crossings, feel elated and proud of themselves, thrive in their sisterhood, strengthen their connection to the ocean. Also there's a saying, "any publicity is good publicity". Viral selfies, both positive (interest in paddling) or negative (sexual and crude) will still bring attention to Manhattan Beach. That'll bring tourism to restaurants, shops, etc. It's a win-win for the city. Also someone might see a viral sexual selfie, think it's disgusting, look into the sport, find out about paddling for the first time, then fall in LOVE with paddling and get their friends involved with the sport, interest in the sport washing over

beach communities like a grand wave! Every city with statues gets crude viral selfies, so why should Manhattan Beach be any less bold and shy away from the fight?

3.) "Some strand owners do not approve of the statue"

You'll never get 100% blanket approval for ANYTHING from ANY group of people EVER. You could propose giving lollipops to orphans on Fridays. Most people will love the idea, some will say "oh so first they don't have homes and now you want make their teeth fall out?". Or you could propose planting a pine tree with a plaque to commemorate the story of some local hero. Most will love it/be apathetic to it, but some people will come out of the woodwork(see that pun?) and say "I'm allergic to pine trees so if the city approves it then their using my taxes to physically assault me" or "that hero's sister didn't say yes to my prom proposal so I don't want him to have a tree planted after him". I could go on forever. Basically if you've seen Parks & Rec on Netflix it's like all those town hall meetings haha. Anyways, what I'm saying is that you can't halt the production of something great just because of a few naysayers. Not to be rude, but in my personal opinion any strand-house owners (especially the absurdly rich homeowners who own those houses purely as summer homes) who oppose this statue are self involved and selfish. This statue celebrates the recognition of the global paddling community, the unique history of Manhattan Beach, as well as the economic and aesthetic benefit of the South Bay. What are their reasons for disapproval? Construction? Aesthetic? Foot traffic due to statue infamy? Waste of tax payer dollars? There is CONSTANT construction in the homes west of the green belt (beach homes) in hermosa and Manhattan for people to tear down original beach houses that are family owned and passed down through generations until they eventually sell because of gentrification or pressure from millionaires who move in from out of town and don't give any care about the city, it's people or it's history. Those of us lifetime & generational locals have to put up with the CONSTANT sound of construction and see these beautiful brick, stucco, and wood shingle colorful classic homes get remade into the basic/modern cookie cutter style architecture of the fiscally affluent (white/grey walls, sleek wood, glass walls, cubism shape. I don't know what the official name is but you know what I mean). We've lived our Hermosa Beach house since I was 8 years old and there's not ONE DAY that at least ONE property on either side of our block has been under construction. Messing up our sleep, our peace of mind, our sense of community/history, and our traffic/parking/driving routes. Now if their excuse is they don't want to see the statue, why? Do they not like a brilliant lifelike shining bronze statue that's artful and tastefully done that brings pride to their city? Also it celebrates gender equality, outdoorsmen, and physical fitness. To my knowledge the city isn't paying a dime for it since the paddling community is raising the hundreds of thousands of dollars to design & build it. It won't block their view or access to the beach. It won't make the pier any louder or more crowded than it already is. So if they still have a problem, I factually don't understand the validity of their reasons.

In conclusion:

If you're confused as to why we're soooo passionate about this statue, then ask yourself: would dispassionate people put in the time, money, blood, sweat, tears, and GRUELING amount of physical activity to paddle 32 miles year after year in awful ocean conditions?! If you want the city to support and side with selfish jerks, then by all means don't make the statue. BUT, if you want the city to side with its own unique history, economic growth, pride in the efforts and athleticism of its own citizens and neighboring towns, positive community ocean culture, and grassroots fundraising of passionate

selfless people, then please for the love of all that is good in this world APPROVE the construction of this statue!!! Thank you for reading!

Sincerely,
Cole Horton

Martha Alvarez

From: Laura Kiely <laurakiely@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:47 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Bruce's Beach plaques

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laura Kiely <laurakiely@verizon.net>
Date: November 16, 2021 at 5:33:20 PM PST
To: Man Bch City Council <citycouncil@citymb.info>
Subject: **Bruce's Beach plaques**

Dear City Council members,

"Most of us now understand the serious and wrong actions taken by the city of Manhattan Beach against 2 dozen MB families in the 1920s. Significantly, about ½ dozen of the affected families were Black. I agree that racism was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families. The stated reason was to form a new park. The real reason was to snuff out a burgeoning Black-owned business which brought Black guests and visitors to MB."

- A quote by Council Member Suzanne Hadley.

I agree with her. The plaques should reflect this truth. The plaques should accurately reflect the history report that was well researched and supported with evidence. The language on the plaques should accurately reflect the history report accepted by MB City Council.

The purpose of the plaques is not to make people feel better by choosing language that downplays the seriousness of the racism that motivated the eminent domain proceedings. Please accept the language the history committee presented.

Best,
Laura Kiely
MB resident

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: Laura Kiely <laurakiely@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:33 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach plaques

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Dear City Council members,

“Most of us now understand the serious and wrong actions taken by the city of Manhattan Beach against 2 dozen MB families in the 1920s. Significantly, about ½ dozen of the affected families were Black. I agree that racism was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families. The stated reason was to form a new park. The real reason was to snuff out a burgeoning Black-owned business which brought Black guests and visitors to MB.”

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Please accept the language the history committee presented.

Best,

Laura Kiely

MB resident

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Faith Backus Lyons <faithbl@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 12:48 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Council:

I am fully supportive of a review of the language by all five members of the council. I urge the Council to respect the hard work completed by the History Subcommittee of the BB Task Force, and respect their sound and well documented findings as an appropriate basis for the plaque language.

This has dragged on far too long. We need to make a decision, create and install the plaque, and stop quibbling. You can't change the facts of the history.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Faith and Tom Lyons

--

Faith Backus Lyons
(310) 266-3205

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Tom Horton <tom@southbayboardriders.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 5:03 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: Ed McKeegan; Michael Lee; Brian Kingston
Subject: [EXTERNAL] THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNANIMOUS VOTE OF APPROVAL FOR THE STATUE!!!

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Madam Mayor and Esteemed Council Members,

Wow! What a ride this has been since we decided in late 2016 to pursue this initiative. I thought I'd share the statue's initial rough sketched design concept below that Brian Kingston created in early 2017, and that we thought would be perfect to install on the pier. (We learned right away that there is no chance it would ever get approved to go on the pier.) This should give you an appreciation for how much the design has evolved based on input we received over the years from council members, Cultural Arts Commission, residents, and others, as well as the multiple installation sites that were considered. The original budget estimate for this design concept was \$50,000-\$70,000, so as the statue grew in size so did the necessary budget. Fortunately, all of us who have worked on this for so long are very pleased with the final design as well as its installation location resting on the sand. Additionally, our fear of not being able to raise enough funds turned out to be baseless due to the widespread support for this statue. Several large donors have been waiting for your final approval before donating, and due to your "YES" vote our bank account should grow significantly now so work can begin.

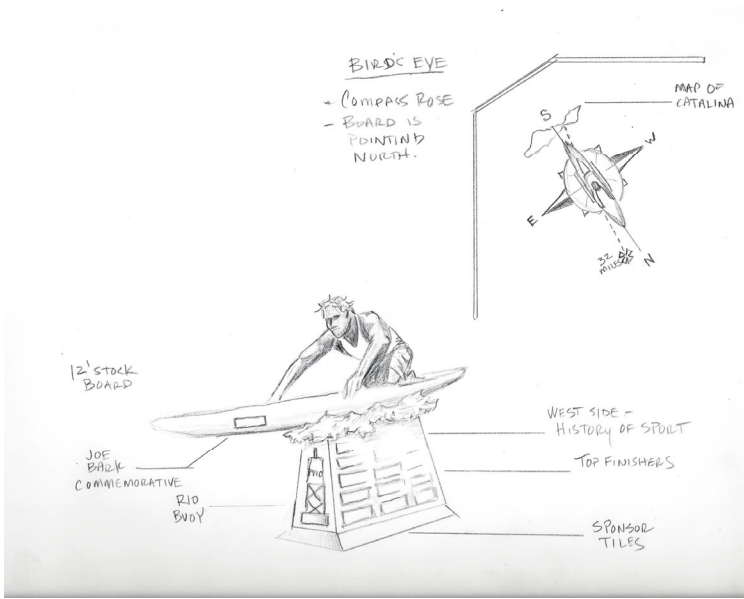
If you will endure me further, on a personal note The Catalina Classic Paddleboard Race, this statue initiative, and your approval of the statue is HUGE for me and my family, and I mean REALLY huge. I spent the majority of my early years growing up with a lot of self-doubt, and had a very limited outlook for my future. Not bad, just limited. When my dad asked me what I wanted to pursue in college, I said "I am going into pre-med to become a doctor". Without hesitation he said, "Why don't you think of something more realistic". Ouch! I was pissed off, but bought into it and eventually went to UCSB majoring in Business Economics even though I had no interest in it. Likewise, I never dreamed I was capable of doing the Catalina Classic Paddleboard Race, and was in awe of those who took it on.

Fast forward to marriage and two kids, boy and a girl, and history in some way is repeated. My son has no hand/eye coordination and was the kid on the playground who no one wanted on their team. He had a lot of friends but was typically the butt of every joke through the years. My daughter had lots of friends until middle school when she was the first to develop (if you know what I mean) and boys gave her attention and not other girls. She suddenly was ostracized by her former "friends" and not allowed to sit at the lunch table with them anymore, while being called a retard because she was in the IEP program for speech and hearing deficit. Needless to say, my kids also had self-doubt and low self-esteem based on their experiences growing up.

I am very happy to tell you that all 3 of us now are in a much better place with high self-esteem, and with a little self-doubt creeping in periodically until we choose to overcome it. I attribute much of this to the sport of prone paddleboarding and The Catalina Classic Paddleboard Race. To date I have completed 15 races, my son was one of only a handful to do the paddle at the age of 18 (none of his buddies have done it) and he has now completed 4, my daughter started paddling last year during Covid and she led the family in crossing the Catalina Channel last September while we raised money for the ALS Association. She has had the most

dramatic shift in her self-image and self-respect, and is now reviving her extrovert personality she lost when she had her "mean girl" experiences in middle school.

I share this so you'll understand that in addition to preserving an iconic, unique, and proud piece of Manhattan Beach's history, and commemorating the women and men who completed the Classic, this statue represents much more to a lot of us and I am grateful for your decision last night to allow us to move forward. Thank you from my family, and the community to make this happen.



Respectfully,

Tom Horton
President, Board of Directors
South Bay Boardriders Club
310-502-9658

