

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: debaets@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 1:06 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SAC Bylaws

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Council Members

The Senior Advisory Committee, SAC, recently updated our Bylaws and forwarded them to City Council for review and potential approval. It was brought to our attention that Council had questions regarding our Board makeup and term limits and also if we should be a Commission rather than a Committee.

Regarding term limits.

The current and past Boards of SAC have been made up of very dedicated and involved seniors from the community. The Board members have developed many of the very popular programs offered at Joslyn Center and in many case are the leaders of these programs. The Board continues to seek new programming from seniors, our community, outside organizations and other cities to improve the already diverse classes available through the Older Adult Program and the MB Parks & Recreation Dept. We actively recruit new Board members.

Instituting term limits on Board members would seriously disrupt the working relationship with the senior community members and the City. Our Board members are not looking to move through the City Commissions, they serve on SAC to the benefit of our senior community.

Regarding Committee vs Commission.

The reason I prefer SAC continuing as a Committee, is it allows us the freedom to work independently. As a Committee we can quickly respond to community input and address concerns without burdening City Council with requests for approval. Most ideas for new programs or concerns from residents can be resolved the same day. Since Board members are involved in the daily activities at Joslyn Center we can identify needed improvements without direction from City Council.

Please allow SAC Board members to continue serving without term limits and maintain our Committee status.

Respectfully

Steve De Baets
SAC Chair.

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: hcgrandy@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 3:12 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment for 10/6 City Council Meeting

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council,

The incidents of antisemitism, racism, bigotry and prejudice in this community are undeniably increasing. Events of the last year and last weeks are damaging our community. This town, so blessed with beautiful natural resources, is looking uglier and uglier by the day. Our community is broken. It is nowhere more evident than our schools. The MBUSD board is working on addressing these challenges, but it and MB families need the partnership and support of local government to make real strides. It is time for the city to show up, speak out and take action against hate. As Martin Niemoller said in a famous poem, Indifference, or not doing anything at all, even when you know in your stomach that it's wrong, is akin to hate. The city council must take action or else it will be taken as indifference, and thus condoning these events. As Elie Weisel sagaciously said, "Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. [...]" Wherever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must – at that moment – become the center of the universe." This means the city and school board must shine a light on attacks, not paint over them, euphemize them, minimize them or sweep them under the rug.

Speak out. Take action. Hold events to educate, promote and celebrate diversity, multiculturalism, tolerance and more. Bring curricula for elementary, middle and high schoolers that teaches children about the Holocaust, slavery, Jim Crow and more – United States and world history is not clean and efforts to sanitize do more harm than good. Bring assemblies and speakers who can share their experience with us and help us feel what it is like to stand in their shoes. Bring us workshops to show us our racial bias and discrimination. Bring parades and parties to celebrate other cultures and backgrounds. Bring love because it takes love to bridge divides.

Do not sit back and tell yourselves you can't do more, it's too political. It's not. This is about fundamental human rights and dignity, not politics. Do not tell yourselves these are sensitive subjects so we'll leave it to individual families. That's wrong too. It's not only on the shoulders of individual families. It takes a village, and the village of Manhattan Beach's government, needs to go shoulder to shoulder with its families on this. Do not think now is not the right time or we have other priorities. The time is now and this is a matter of public safety, which should be the highest priority of local government. Your families and community need you on their side to expel racial and religious hatred from our town. DO IT.

With regard,
Heather Grandy