

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

July 27, 2009  
6:30 P.M.

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**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Cajka, Fitzpatrick, Harris, Murray, Nicholson and Rosenthal

Absent: Commissioner Gill

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Richard Gill, Recreation Services Manager Idris Al-Oboudi and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

**AGENDA CHANGES**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the June 22, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting were approved as written.

**CEREMONIAL**

None

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

09/0727.1 – Discussion of the Formation of a Non-Profit Foundation

Commissioner Cajka presented a report to the Commission regarding the findings of the sub-committee for the formation of a non-profit foundation.

Commissioner Cajka reported that at the April Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, Commissioner Murray proposed setting up a foundation to raise money to help the City fund the replacement of facilities in the community, in particular Begg Pool. Commissioner Murray explained how San Clemente had set up a foundation and was in the process of raising money to fund an aquatic park. The Commission determined that a sub-committee should meet with Dr. Thomas of San Clemente to determine the feasibility of such a plan.

Dr. Thomas suggested that the Commission should have no involvement in the Foundation. The San Clemente Foundation Bylaws only allow one City employee, usually the head of the Parks and Recreation Department, as a member of the board and that position is a non-voting member. Dr. Thomas recommended that the foundation should be established by a small group of local citizens, not the Parks and Recreation Commission.

In a meeting with Mayor Cohen, Commissioner Cajka was informed that Brad Jacobson of the Civic Couch was forming a group whose intent was to raise money for facilities in the community. Mayor Cohen suggested that he get in touch with Mr. Jacobson to possibly pool our resources. In a meeting with Mr. Jacobson, Commissioners Murray and Cajka met to discuss the elements that needed to take place to officially set up a non-profit foundation.

Commissioner Cajka reported that there is no official foundation at this time, only several elements of the process; and there will be no official foundation until a board is convened and the officers are elected. Commissioner Cajka recommended that the Commission as a whole step back from the foundation and let it take on a life of its own; however, should any individual Commissioner desire to be involved, then that Commissioner should join the board as a “working board member” when the initial board meeting is convened.

During a discussion among the Commissioners, the following points were made:

- Commissioner Fitzpatrick recalled that a sub-committee, made up of Commissioners Cajka, Murray and Fitzpatrick, was formed at the Commission’s April meeting and plans were made to meet with Dr. Thomas of San Clemente. Commissioner Fitzpatrick suggested that the sentiment of this Commission has been in favor of creating a community foundation, with the pool being a top priority for fund raising. She suggested that after meeting with San Clemente, the Commission would then look at parks and recreation programs cut in the budget process and prioritize, as a Commission, what programs were important to the Commission for sponsorships. Commissioner Fitzpatrick suggested that the Commission needs to get back to that place.
- Commissioner Fitzpatrick inquired why Dr. Thomas recommended that the Commission should have no involvement in the Foundation and why the Commission wasn’t informed about the formation of the Foundation. Commissioner Cajka reported that the Foundation Board of Directors serve for three to five years and since the Parks and Recreation Commission seats turn over every three years, it wouldn’t make sense to have the Commission serve on the board. He reported that the Foundation board members have not been selected at this time.
- Commissioner Harris suggested that the formation of a foundation should be separate from the Commission and that for a Commissioner to be an official member of the foundation board could be a conflict of interest. Commissioner Fitzpatrick disagreed, suggesting that city council belongs to various outside organizations with no conflict.
- Commissioner Murray reported that she has been talking about the concept of corporate individual sponsorships, grants and the establishment of a foundation for some time and suggested that the foundation would include them all.
- Commissioner Nicholson agreed with the recommendation that the Commission as a whole step back from the foundation, but suggested that the sub-committee should have reported their findings to the whole commission.
- Commissioner Fitzpatrick agreed with the recommendation that the Commission as a whole step back from the foundation but suggested that the sub-committee should take on an advisory role regarding programs that might be important to the Commission, suggesting that if we step back from the foundation, we could lose control of our

priorities. Commissioner Cajka reported that in San Clemente the director of the parks and recreation department holds a non-voting position on the foundation board.

- Commissioner Nicholson suggested that from a Commission level standpoint, the Commission will be taking no action at this time to set up a foundation but that some commissioners might be interested in being active as individuals in the formation of a foundation.
- Commissioner Fitzpatrick disagreed with the format that was established for setting up a foundation.

A motion was made to dissolve the Parks and Recreation Commission Foundation Sub-Committee. (MSC: Cajka/Nicholson; Ayes: Cajka, Fitzpatrick, Murray, Nicholson, and Rosenthal; Abstain: Harris.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

## **COMMISSION ITEMS**

### Status Report on the Development of Ladera Field as Unprogrammed Space

Commissioner Nicholson inquired about the status on the development of Ladera Field as unprogrammed space. Mr. Gill reported that permission has not been given to hire an expert to investigate the possibility of receiving a waiver to the accessibility issues at Ladera Field.

### CPRS/CAPRCBM Parks and Recreation Training District 9

Commissioner Murray asked the Commissioners to all “save the date” for the CPRS/CAPRCBM Parks and Recreation District 9 Training on September 12, 2009. Commissioner Murray reported that they are in the process of selecting a site and program ideas are being discussed. She requested that if the Commissioners have any recommendations for topics, they should please forward those to Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Murray reported that the training would provide the Commissioners an opportunity to network with other cities within District 9.

### Senior Advisory Committee

Commissioner Nicholson reported that he attended the Senior Advisory Committee which meets the third Thursday of every month, 2:30 p.m. at Joslyn Community Center. Commissioner Nicholson reported that he was very impressed with the intelligent group of seniors who are working hard to promote various issues and a lot of good programs.

### Sub-Committee Report on Movie Night

Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that we have \$12,000 committed from 12 sponsors as well as in-kind sponsorship allowing us to conduct two “Movie on the Beach” nights. “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull” will be shown on Saturday, August 8 and “The Wizard of Oz” will be shown on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported:

- Acoustic guitarist to play prior to movie
- Movie to begin at dusk
- Promotion will include ads in the Beach Reporter, posters and flyers, City web postings, and e-mail blast
- Sponsors to have displays in the north pier parking lot

Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that there is a \$2,000 balance and asked for suggestions for its use. Mr. Gill suggested that the balance could be used for some of the programs/special events that were cut in this year's budget. Mr. Gill will request staff to provide the sub-committee with cost estimates for these programs.

Commissioner Murray reported that the hotel community is completely behind the Movie Night program and Roadrunner Shuttle will be launching a new Manhattan Beach hotel shuttle service on Movie Night and everyone is welcome to ride along.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Jane A. Grace  
Recording Secretary

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Steven Nicholson  
Commission Chairperson