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CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

March 24, 2008  
6:30 P.M.

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**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Gill, Harris, Lear, Murray, Nicholson and Shambaugh

Absent: Commissioner Fitzpatrick

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Richard Gill, Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen and recording secretary Jane Grace

**AGENDA CHANGES**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 28, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting were approved as written. (MSC: Lear/Gill – Unanimous)

**CEREMONIAL**

None

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

08/0324.1 – Presentation of Parks and Recreation Website Activity Video Clips

Director Gill introduced Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen, our newest department manager, who oversees all of the department marketing, including our new web site, as well as facility reservations and class/activity registration programs and staff. Mr. Gill indicated that Ms. Allen has been active in LERN, a leading training and consulting service for recreators and she has made several improvements to our class brochure (MANHAPPENINGS) which was named “Best Brochure” in our population range by the California Parks and Recreation Society in spring 2007.

Ms. Allen reported that the class brochure is a very popular tool for the community to search for activities and programs that the department offers. She indicated that a new project, video web clips, has been implemented which helps make the brochure more interactive, allowing the public to see a small video of what actually goes on in a class or activity. The project was launched in the spring 2008 issue of Manhappenings, and the viewer is able to download, on line, a video clip (30 second commercial) of a class or activity. There are 17 video clips in the spring 2008 issue and more will be added in future brochures. Ms. Allen indicated that these video clips are filmed by a Long Beach State student which allows our department to produce these at a minimal price.

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

- Commissioner Gill suggested that the brochure should include some type of index of all video clips available to view
- Commissioner Gill suggested that it would be advantageous for the Parks and Recreation Department to have a more prominent link on the home page of the City web site. Ms. Allen pointed out that there is a link on the home page for Class Registration.
- Commissioner Nicholson inquired whether it was mandatory to register for a class on-line. Ms. Allen reported that there are several ways to register: On-line, mail-in, fax-in and walk-in.
- Commissioner Harris reported that it is difficult to find the Manhattan Beach web site when you search for the city of Manhattan Beach using Google, because it is not one of the first several sites listed.
- Commissioner Murray suggested that future video clips might include testimonials from students in our classes.

## **OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### 08/0324.2 – Discussion regarding the Outlook of Begg Pool for the Next Decade

Commissioner Gill requested that this item be discussed by the Commission due to the fact a new library has taken priority during Facility Strategic Plan discussions, therefore pushing back any improvements to Begg Pool for at least 10 years. Commissioner Gill asked what could be done by the Commission to upgrade the existing pool and locker rooms.

Mr. Gill reported that the Manhattan Beach Unified School District will be going out for their own bond issue and the City might, therefore, drop plans for a bond issue for the library and other recreation facilities, choosing not to compete against the school district. Mr. Gill suggested that the School District might take a look at the condition of Begg Pool and include the replacement of the pool, in-kind, in their bond issue. Commissioner Nicholson suggested that it might be feasible for the School District and City to join forces in the replacement/refurbishment of the pool. Commissioner Gill suggested that he could go to the School District and discuss this suggestion with the school board.

### 08/3424.3 – Discussion regarding Implementing a Dog Park in Manhattan Beach

Commissioner Harris requested that this item be discussed by the Commission because she had been informed by F.I.D.O. that City Council would be voting whether to permanently approve the Bruce's Beach on-leash dog area at their April 1 Council meeting.

Mr. Gill reported that staff has recommended that the City Council receive and file the three month progress report for the Bruce's Beach on-leash dog area and recommends continuing the trial period until mid June when a comprehensive report will be given to Council and the public will be noticed.

Commissioner Nicholson inquired whether the Commission can go forward with plans for a larger dog park or if they should wait until the Bruce's Beach item is resolved. Director Gill indicated that the City Council has indicated that staff should research and revisit the possibility of a dog run or on-leash area in Polliwog Park. The Dog Issues Committee is also asking staff to revisit the proposed dog runs on Veteran's Parkway.

#### 08/0324.4 – Discussion regarding Tree and Bench Donation Program

Commissioner Harris requested that this item be discussed by the Commission because her children filled out a tree donation application from the City of Manhattan Beach Tree & Bench Donation Program, hoping to plant a tree in memory of two family dogs. Commissioner Harris reported that after talking to several people within the City, it still has not been resolved whether a tree can be planted in memory of their dogs, suggesting that the system is not working.

Mr. Gill indicated that Idris Al-Oboudi, Recreation Services Manager, is the Parks and Recreation Department staff member responsible for this program. Mr. Gill agreed that the donation program brochure does not include a name or phone number to contact for questions. Mr. Gill reported that the brochure is scheduled to be updated and a name and phone number will be included. Commissioner Gill suggested that the new brochure should be placed in Manhappenings and on the City website so more people will be aware of the program.

Commissioner Harris reported that her family had hoped to have a ceremony at the location of the tree planting but was told by the Public Works Department that no one would be available to plant the tree on a weekend. Mr. Gill reported that the City does not want ceremonies and plaques at the base of trees, having received complaints from the general public regarding memorial signs at the base of trees in the parks. Commissioner Harris suggested that staff take a look at the El Segundo Plaza where they install unobtrusive plaques; Commissioner Gill indicated that El Segundo Plaza is on private property.

#### Report regarding the 2008 California Parks and Recreation Society Conference February 27-29

Commissioner Murray reported that she was honored to attend the 2008 California Parks and Recreation Society Conference in February. She reported that there were 2,200 attendees including fellow parks and recreation commissioners and parks & recreation department staff.

Ms. Murray proudly reported that the City of Manhattan Beach received two awards; the Manhattan Beach Pumpkin Races were showcased; and Recreation Services Manager Idris J. Al-Oboudi received an award as an exceptional contributor to the society.

#### Report regarding the Annual Mayor's Golf Tournament/Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament

Commissioner Murray reported that the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Annual Mayor's Golf Tournament have joined forces to present the Mayor's Golf Tournament on Monday, May 12, at the Candlewood Country Club in Whittier. There will be terrific auction items as well as hotel give-aways; if anyone is interested in volunteering for the event they

should contact Recreation Services Manager Eve Kelso or contact the Chamber of Commerce web-site if interested in participating or donating auction items.

#### Commission Attendance at City Events

Commissioner Gill reported that he attended the Neighborhood Watch disaster training, indicating that there was a lot to learn and it was very eye-opening.

Mr. Gill reported that there will be a joint City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on May 13, 2008, 6:30 p.m. in the Police/Fire Conference Room. Dinner will be served. Commissioner Lear suggested that the joint meeting would be a perfect opportunity for the Commission to present a focused presentation to the City Council. With the apparent end of the facility strategic plan, this might be the perfect opportunity to report to the Council what individual projects the Commission might be interested in pursuing. It was suggested that the Commission could discuss and come up with their top three priorities and reasons why at the April 28 Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Murray suggested that if the Parks and Recreation Department is in need of a facility for replacement of scheduled classes they might consider the Neptunian Woman's Club. They are vacant a great deal of the time and have a large room with a stage that might be appropriate for some performing arts classes.

Commissioner Murray commended Recreation Services Manager Eve Kelso and Older Adults Program Supervisor Jan Buike for excellent presentations to City Council on March 18. They reported on the Parks and Recreation Department Older Adults Program and the Dial-A-Ride Program and Alternate Forms of Transportation for Older Adults.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

#### **REPORTS**

Commissioner Gill asked for an update regarding new playground equipment. Mr. Gill reported that Council approved the new equipment for Village, Heights and Marine Parks. Polliwog Park equipment for special needs children will be discussed at the April 1 City Council meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.