



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Cohen and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: October 6, 2009

SUBJECT: Consideration of Maintaining the Closure of the Dune at Sand Dune Park Until Otherwise Directed by Council and Referral to the Parks and Recreation Commission for Study of Alternative Ways to Mitigate Neighborhood Impacts. Parks and Recreation Recommendation, Along with Parking and Public Improvements Commission Recommendation, Will Both be Presented to Council Upon Completion.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve of maintaining the closure of the dune at Sand Dune Park until otherwise directed by Council and referral to the Parks and Recreation Commission for study of alternative ways to mitigate neighborhood impacts. Parks and Recreation recommendation, along with Parking and Public Improvements Commission recommendation, will both be presented to Council upon completion.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

BACKGROUND:

On August 14, 2009, staff temporarily closed the dune at Sand Dune Park to address maintenance issues that were caused by the recent high attendance at the park. The maintenance issues were related to the stairs that run parallel to the dune as well as the sidewalk, cul de sac and gate at the top of the dune and the fence that separates the dune from the nature area of the park.

DISCUSSION:

The maintenance issues were completed the week of September 21 but there are concerns with reopening the dune at this time without mitigating measures in place for the park and neighborhood. Staff discussed this concern with Council during the September 25 City Council work plan meeting and it was decided to keep the dune closed until Council directs otherwise. Additionally, at the work plan meeting, City Council directed staff to take this issue to the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on October 26 and discuss operational measures that can be implemented to mitigate the negative impacts caused by the high attendance on the dune. The Parks and Recreation Commission will look at hours of operation, possible reservation

systems, closing the dune for certain periods of times, planting the dune, and any other measures that will help the neighborhood and park facilities from experiencing the same damage, noise, traffic and trash that they have been experiencing.

Staff estimates that the Parks and Recreation Commission will need at least two or three meetings to discuss this issue and develop recommendations for park operations for City Council. The Parks and Recreation Commission should be able to develop the recommendations for City Council by January. This should coincide with the P.P.I.C. recommendations for neighborhood permit parking and meters on Bell Avenue going to Council in January. If the process is completed by City Council early next year, we believe mitigation measures will be able to be completed by spring.