

DRAFT

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

September 29, 2009
6:30 P.M.

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ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner Harris

Others Present: Recreation Services Manager Idris Al-Oboudi and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

AGENDA CHANGES

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 27, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting were approved as written.

CEREMONIAL

None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

09/0929-1 – Discussion of Use of Movie Night Funds Balance

Recreation Services Manager Idris Al-Oboudi reported that we have an excess of revenues over expenditures for the two Movie Nights on the Beach. The Parks and Recreation Commission has asked the sponsors of the program whether they would approve the use of the \$3,000+ excess for another department event (Halloween Carnival) that was cut from the City budget this year. Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that the sponsors were in support of using the excess funds for the Parks and Recreation Department Halloween Carnival.

Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that planning has begun for the Halloween Carnival; approximately \$2,560 of the excess Movie Nights fund will be used for the carnival, with the balance of the original \$3,500 budget being backfilled with teen center revenue.

Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that, in the future, many of our events that were cut from the budget may be combined with our self funding events; i.e. fishing clinic/family campout. Commissioner Fitzpatrick asked whether there were any programs that were cut that we don't see a way of continuing. Mr. Al-Oboudi indicated that programs such as the Arts Festival, Art Exhibits and the Pet Expo are not revenue-generating events and depend mostly on the general fund and/or donations and could, therefore, not be conducted in FY 2009-2010. Commissioner Nicholson suggested that programs such as Pet Appreciation might be revamped to make them less costly with less impact on the general fund. Mr. Al-Oboudi suggested that City Council does not want staff to skimp on quality. Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that the Pumpkin Races will take place this year, being fully funded of direct cost from outside sponsors; the safe trick or treating program will be included as part of the Pumpkin Races.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that she spoke with City Manager Geoff Dolan regarding the Pumpkin Races and Movies on the Beach and she reported that he is pleased with the outside fundraising going on and pleased that city staff is managing the events, therefore, maintaining the quality that the City is looking for.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that Mr. Dolan suggested that the [outside] Foundation that has been established or proposed should be in collaboration with the City in some way, whether it is through City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission or Parks and Recreation Department. She said that Mr. Dolan suggested that if your board is formed, it would be a good idea to meet with him; elected officials should determine priorities as it relates to historical parks and recreation programs and any event that would be held at City facilities; that the role of the foundation would be fundraising and the City would plan the events.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that Mr. Dolan asked for a status on what is going on with the foundation and that the next step would be to set up a meeting with him. Commissioner Nicholson asked where the Foundation stands. Commissioner Cajka indicated that there is no Foundation. He suggested that there is a concept but no foundation, no timeline, no board established and there have been no meetings and he seriously doubts anything will be established at this point. When asked what happened, Commissioner Cajka indicated that there is no momentum for the formation of a Foundation; and the only thing that was done was the reservation of the name and talking to a few people about possibly serving on a board. Commissioner Cajka indicated that nobody agreed to serve and at that point he backed away from the issue. Commissioner Fitzpatrick indicated that she was told that she would be considered to serve on the board but was never asked to serve. Commissioner Cajka indicated that Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Cajka, Brad Jacobson, and Kathleen Paralusz had been asked to serve. Commissioner Murray has chosen not to serve, suggesting that it would take a lot of time and effort and she didn't feel the work had been appreciated. Commissioners Cajka and Murray indicated that if anyone is willing to take on the project, it is available.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick suggested that the Commission had set up a protocol and sub-committee to research the formation of a foundation which was not followed and the Commission is trying to correct that. At the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission voted to not have the Commission involved in the Foundation and dissolved the sub-committee but they didn't vote to do nothing. Commissioner Nicholson indicated that there appears to be no one to take the project forward. Commissioner Fitzpatrick suggested it was bizarre that there has been no communication but she will report this information back to the Mayor and City Council.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Murray reported that the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM) CPRS District 9 Meeting held on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the Joslyn Community Center was a tremendous success. Ms. Murray wanted to give accolades to Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen, President of CPRS District 9, for her hard work and planning for the event. Over 40 commissioners attended from 15 cities throughout Southern California. Commissioner Murray reported that the next meeting will be in Palm Springs on November 14, 2009.

In Commissioner Harris' absence, Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that the International Day of Climate Action will take place on October 24, 2009, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Manhattan Beach Pier.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that at the City Council Work Plan meeting on September 25, it was decided that the subject of Sand Dune operations will be coming to the Parks and Recreation Commission in the near future. Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that the Commission will be discussing operations such as staffing, possible changes for the type of use, reservations, opening, closing and other options for the operation of Sand Dune Park. The Commission agreed that it might be important to attend the upcoming PPIC meeting to see what they will be proposing for parking at Sand Dune Park.

Commissioner Murray reported that there will be an Annual Mini Training Conference for CPRS Aging Services November 4-6, 2009 at Bass Lake. She also announced that she has been appointed vice president of the CAPRCBM which is made up of 196 agencies and she will be involved in workshops and recruiting new members. Commissioner Murray invited the commissioners to attend the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament on October 12 at the Rolling Hills Golf Course.

Commissioner Gill inquired whether the usage of recycled water in the parks is being restricted to the twice-a-week schedule of city water. Mr. Al-Oboudi indicated that Public Works is following those guidelines for all city parks.

Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that Commissioner Harris indicated by e-mail that she would like the Commission to follow up on the Ladera space and push for investigation of hiring someone to look at the accessibility issues.

Commissioner Nicholson adjourned the meeting by wishing Commissioner Murray a “very happy birthday.”

A0DJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.