




Agenda Item #:



Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager 

FROM: Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation 
Mark Leyman, Recreation Services Manager 

DATE: June 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Request from Manhattan Beach Little League to Rename Marine Park or Field and Install a Commemorative Wall/Walk within Marine Park That Recognizes Our Youth and Adults Who Have Contributed to Youth Sports in Manhattan Beach

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss the request from Manhattan Beach Little League to rename Marine Park or field and install a commemorative wall/walk within the Park that recognizes our youth and adults who have contributed to youth sports in Manhattan Beach and provide direction.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There is no fiscal impact at this time. If the City Council provides direction to continue the discussion of a new name and commemorative walk/wall, the Parks and Recreation Commission and Marine Subcommittee will develop cost estimates and staff will return to the City Council at a future meeting with funding options including a private fundraising component.

BACKGROUND:

Staff received a letter on September 11, 2009 from the President of Manhattan Beach Little League to rename Marine Avenue Park and develop a commemorative wall that will honor the City's youth and adults who have contributed to the youth sports program in Manhattan Beach. This request was presented at the October 6, 2009 City Council Meeting. At the meeting, City Council referred the project to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Parks and Recreation Commission established a Marine Park Subcommittee with representatives from AYSO Soccer, Manhattan Beach Little League, Mira Costa Pony Baseball, Manhattan Beach Youth Basketball, members of the Pearson and Wilhite families and two representatives from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Marine Park Subcommittee had three meetings to discuss the renaming of the park and commemorative wall. In developing the vision and policy for the renaming and commemorative wall,

the Subcommittee proposed new concepts from the original City Council directive. The Subcommittee proposed a commemorative walk instead of a wall and proposed the possible renaming of the baseball field. The Subcommittee's ideas were presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at the February 22, 2010 Commission meeting. Because the Subcommittee's proposal differed from the City Council's direction, the Parks and Recreation Commission sent a memo along with their meeting minutes to the March 2, 2010 City Council Meeting for their review and direction. Because the project differed significantly from the initial direction, City Council asked Manhattan Beach Little League to confirm their continued support of the project and return to City Council for further direction.

DISCUSSION:

On April 9, 2010, Manhattan Beach Little League President drafted a letter of support (Attachment A) to City Council for the continuation of the Marine Subcommittee efforts. As discussed in the letter from Manhattan Beach Little League, they are open to and supportive of the subcommittee's various concepts proposed. The Subcommittee discussed changing the commemorative wall into a commemorative walk. The commemorative walk concept was proposed to connect with children through a "living" park.

Another issue staff would like direction on is the renaming of the park or field. In reviewing the minutes of the October 6, 2009 City Council meeting, City Council requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission look into the possibility of renaming the park or field. During the March 2, 2010 City Council meeting, several City Council members spoke against the renaming of the park or field.

Another issue that Staff would like direction on is the subject of other park amenities. During past Marine Subcommittee meetings, the various groups brought up the need for additional park amenities such as synthetic turf and a skateboard park. As this is not part of the original scope of Manhattan Little League's request, staff would like direction on whether these discussions should be taking place during the Committee meetings.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the City Council review the request from Manhattan Beach Little League and provide direction.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Manhattan Beach Little League Correspondence
- B. Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes for December 14, 2009



MANHATTAN BEACH YOUTH ATHLETICS

Manhattan Little League, Inc.
Manhattan Beach Girls Softball, Inc.



Andrew R. Hunter, President

April 9, 2010

Richard Gill
Director of Parks and Recreation
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Re: Big Marine Park

Dear Richard,

Manhattan Beach Youth Athletics and Manhattan Beach Little League continue to support efforts by the Marine Subcommittee to explore an appropriate memorial to commemorate Henry Pearson and Jon Wilhite incorporating "Big Marine" field. Such memorial could include various concepts currently under consideration, including a memorial walk or wall; possible water or other landscaping features; as well as private funding from corporate sponsors and Manhattan Beach families interested in participating in the overall theme or direction, as determined by final approval of all parties (including MBYA) represented on the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Hunter
President
Arhunter6@gmail.com
cell – 310-365-3432

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

December 14, 2009
6:30 P.M.

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ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Parks and Recreation Director Richard Gill, Recreation Services Manager Mark Leyman and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

AGENDA CHANGES

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 16, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting were approved as written.

CEREMONIAL

None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

09/1026-2 – Consideration of a Request from Manhattan Beach Little League to Rename Marine Park and Install a Commemorative Wall within Marine Park that Recognizes Our Youth and Adults Who Have Contributed to Youth Sports in Manhattan Beach

Mr. Gill reported that Mark Leyman has spearheaded this project and will take a few minutes to update the Commission on its progress.

Mr. Leyman recognized subcommittee members which include Commissioners Lynn Harris and Ned Gill, Alby Silvera (Mira Costa Pony Baseball), Tom Tyrer (Manhattan Beach Little League), Lisa Popovich (AYSO), Kelton Durham and Kevin Pickett (Manhattan Beach Youth Basketball), Mike (Enviroscape) and the Pearson and Wilhite families. Mr. Leyman reported that the subcommittee has met twice, both times walking the site to explore ideas and develop a list of potential concepts with a clear vision of the project, making sure that they are connecting with youth of all ages. He indicated that Enviroscape enlisted a landscape designer Gabriella Newmark who has extensive background in community projects. Ms. Newmark has met with the subcommittee and will take that information and develop a conceptual design. She will also meet

with community youth and merge that information with the information from the subcommittee to complete a conceptual design to use with the fundraising portion of the project. Mr. Layman acknowledged AYSO for their donation of \$3,000 for preparation of the conceptual design.

Mr. Leyman reported that the ultimate vision of the subcommittee is to connect with youth; to create a park in a way that helps to build awareness in the choices they make and their importance; help them gain the confidence to make the right choices through activities, sports and knowledge. Additional mission statements suggested by the subcommittee include:

- Let every action, every reaction, every thought and every emotion be based on love, care and development for the youth in our community
- Let the light inside you always be your guide
- To thy own self be true
- The light within you will always guide you
- Look inside yourself; you know the right answer

Some of the ideas and themes for the park include:

- Universal concept of “Connecting with the Kids”
- It should be new, interactive and in itself become a conversation piece
- Create a “living park” that is interactive and inclusive and that can grow and inspire
- Mark the park “Just for the Kids” and offer opportunities to enlighten/educate kids
- Items discussed to be added/installed include: benches, trees, splash/water play area, lighting (bottom-up), pavers, giant monitor or big screen, synthetic turf on both fields, skatepark, mural on the studio walls, create a burm/amphitheater in center field to watch the game, “Flex Pave”, LEDs

Mr. Leyman reported that the project would have to be community funded. We need to develop a campaign for generating contributions from community groups, private donors and large companies. Some of the questions regarding funding include:

- Can this be run through one of the non-profit community groups? Establish a non-profit?
- Determine how the pavers will be installed when purchased (outside agency or City); determine what role the City’s engineering department will play in the project
- Create partnerships for funding (i.e. Raleigh Studios pay for a mural on the side of their building that would connect with kids at the park)
- Brick Pavers Programs: CPRS List Serv, Oceanside, El Segundo RPV, Point Vincente and many others

Commissioner Harris reported that when first presented to the Commission, the task was the renaming of the park. The project has since come full circle, with information that this was not the exact interest of the Pearson and Wilhite families; their interest was more to educate and support the youth of our community. Some of the ideas discussed included placement of inspirational words in the center area of the park and an area for trees and a bench; the idea of placing a skatepark in the area behind center field which presently contains a par course was also suggested as a later phase. Commissioner Harris indicated that a few of our skateboard youth are present tonight to offer any insight or interest in a proposed skatepark.

Commissioner Gill reported that after the subcommittee walked the area, they determined there was enough space to allow the purchase of pavers by anyone interested, with part of the proceeds possibly going to charity, i.e. MADD, to support the idea of kids making choices. He suggested that a skatepark would draw the youth (6-18 years of age) that the subcommittee is interested in reaching.

Commissioner Harris indicated that this proposal started out as a single purposed but now see it as a larger concept which would be done in phases and community funded She suggested that Tom Tyrer, Manhattan Little League, has many contacts who might be interested in funding the project; she also suggested that skateboarder Tony Hawk has sponsored similar projects. One of the skateboarders in the audience suggested that the name Tony Hawk would draw many local skateboarders.

Commissioner Gill reported that the main costs for the initial phase would be concrete work, pavers and a theme area containing certain types of trees. Commissioner Nicholson suggested that a budget should be presented with a handle on costs and ongoing maintenance costs; he indicated that he would not like the project to fail because of the addition of a skate park. Commissioner Gill agreed and suggested that the skatepark would be phase 3 or later.

Commissioner Harris suggested that the next step would be for the designer to meet with youth from Mira Costa, MBMS and sports leagues for ideas and then combine those ideas with the subcommittee/commission ideas. After meeting with the youth, the architect will meet with the subcommittee and then produce a landscape plan (with \$3,000 donation from AYSO) to present to the Commission with a proposed budget, possibly in March.

Former Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ed Lear reported that in the past, when prior Commissions were considering the installation of a skatepark, there was also no money available from the City. At that time, Mr. Lear spoke with the Vans CEO who indicated interest in sponsoring a skatepark. Mr. Lear suggested that the City needs to decide to what degree you want to commercialize your facilities.

Commissioner Cajka suggested that when the Commission presents this proposal to City Council, we will need to be ready to answer all of the questions they will likely have regarding all phases of the project.

COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Gill reported that the new Mutt Mitts being used in the city have changed and are very difficult to remove from the dispensers. He also suggested that a Mutt Mitt dispenser should be added on Veteran's Parkway near Hobo Bridge, near Elm, because there is a great deal of dog remains left in that area.

Commissioner Harris indicated her dismay that the City Council is considering management raises before reinstating and funding Parks and Recreation Commission programs that were cut from the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Jane A. Grace
Recording Secretary

Steve Nicholson
Commission Chairperson