

DRAFT

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

April 26, 2010
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 Idris J. Al-Oboudi and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

AGENDA CHANGES

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 22, 2010 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting were approved as written.

CEREMONIAL

None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

10/0426-1 - Selection of the 2010 Youth Services Award Recipient

Since 1972, the Commission has annually presented the Manhattan Beach Recreation and Youth Services Award to a local citizen who has made significant contributions in promoting leisure services for the youth of Manhattan Beach. The Youth Services Award is presented in July, which is recognized as “Parks and Recreation Month” statewide.

A letter is sent to all known youth agencies soliciting nominations. One nomination was received. Robert Scott was nominated by Margaret McWilliams for Beach Cities Symphony Association. After a discussion among the Commissioners, it was unanimously agreed that Robert Scott is extremely worthy of the award. Commissioner Rosenthal indicated that she was excited when she read the nomination since Robert Scott taught her to swim.

A motion was made to nominate Robert Scott as the recipient of the 2010 Youth Services Award (MSC: Rosenthal; Cajka - Unanimous).

10/0426-2 – Discussion of Private Funding for Movie Night on the Beach

Mr. Gill reported that the Parks and Recreation Department will be presenting Movie Nights, along with other programs, to City Council at future budget meetings. It is not expected that City Council will fund these projects again this year and it will be up to the Commission and/or private individuals to research and secure funding for the program. Mr. Gill reported that he recently spoke with Bill Glavin and Brad Jacobson with Civic Couch who are interested in resurrecting the project this year.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that she will be off the Commission in June but would like to see the project move forward; she was hoping that another Commissioner would be willing to spearhead the project and work with Richard Gill and his staff as well as Mr. Glavin and Mr. Jacobson to see the project succeed again this year. Commissioner Fitzpatrick indicated that she would be happy to pass along all of her working files on the project to any Commissioner who would be willing to take on the project.

Commissioner Murray indicated her support for the project, but since her workload has tripled in recent months in the hotel business as well as her service to CPRS (California Parks and Recreation Society) and CAPRCBM (California Association of Parks and Recreation Commission and Board Members), she would not have extra time to devote to the project.

Commissioner Nicholson indicated that he would be willing to take on the project. He suggested that most of the difficult work was done last year and he would be willing to work with those already on board (Civic Couch) and continue the project for this year. Commissioner Murray indicated that she would be willing to support Commissioner Nicholson with the project. Commissioner Murray reported that Bill Glavin has sponsored many successful golf tournaments and other events and we might consider asking him to help spearhead this project.

10/0426-3 – Selection of Marine Avenue Park Sub-Committee Member

Commissioner Harris suggested that the Commission wait until the newly appointed Commissioners are on board in June before selecting the new Marine Avenue Park Sub-Committee Member. Commissioner Cajka indicated his interest in serving on the sub-committee but would be willing to defer his appointment to the June meeting when the new Commissioners are appointed. Commissioner Nicholson suggested that the standing commissioners have more history regarding the Marine Avenue Park project.

A motion was made to select Commissioner Cajka as a Marine Avenue Park Sub-Committee member. (MSC: Nicholson/Gill; Unanimous).

Mr. Gill reported that the City has received a letter from Manhattan Little League President Andrew Hunter, indicating their approval of the change of the project from a commemorative wall to a commemorative walk. After review of the letter, City Council will then provide the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Sub-Committee further direction on the project.

Commissioner Harris indicated that even though she will no longer be a Parks and Recreation Commission Sub-Committee member, she would like to serve as a private citizen and see the project through to completion.

COMMISSION ITEMS

10/0426-4 - Request from Commissioner Harris to Discuss the Tree & Bench Donation Program

Commissioner Harris reported that her children donated a tree to the City in memory of their dog; the tree subsequently died and was replaced by a smaller tree. Commissioner Harris asked the following questions regarding the Tree and Bench Donation Program:

- Is the intention of the City to promote the tree and bench donation program or is it driven by people calling the City asking whether we have a tree and bench donation program?
- If it is the intention of the City to promote the program, is it true the City no longer has a tree committee, and why?
- Is there a general plan for maintenance and care of trees that are donated?

Mr. Gill reported that the tree committee at one time worked with Community Development due to an ordinance passed regarding trees on private property. Mr. Gill reported that the Tree and Bench Donation Program was driven by requests from the public for placement of “memorial” trees and benches. A program was initiated with guidelines for the placement of trees and benches in our City parks. Mr. Gill reported that at this time, there are very few spaces available for the placement of benches and trees.

Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that the list for the selection of trees was created by the Public Works Department working with a consultant/arborist. Occasionally, a tree not on the approved list is requested and will be considered by Public Works. Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that there are times when a tree is planted and it does not survive; possibly due to vandalism or incorrect maintenance.

Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that the requests for benches far exceed the need. The benches are made out of concrete and will last a very long time. If people indicated an interest in donating to the City and a tree or bench location is not available, we inform them of other items that may be needed in our teen center or playground program. We are also working with Public Works to come up with other items that might be needed for our parks, i.e. picnic benches and play equipment.

Commissioner Harris indicated that she would like the City's Environmental Programs Manager involved in the selection of trees for the Tree and Bench Donation Program and asked whether the Parks and Recreation Department is the best department to be involved in this program. Mr. Gill reported that the Parks and Recreation Department now works with the Public Works Department to determine what tree would be best planted in the various parks.

In support of the greening of Manhattan Beach, a motion was made to recommend that the City adopt only drought tolerant trees for the City's Tree and Bench Donation Program. (MSC: Harris/Murray; Unanimous)

Begg Pool

Commissioner Gill asked about the status of Begg Pool. Mr. Gill reported that the pool is now open and that lights have been installed to allow expansion of the program for nighttime programs.

Joint Meeting with City Council

Commissioner Nicholson inquired whether there has been any consideration of scheduling a joint meeting with City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission, reporting that it has been two years since the last joint meeting. Mr. Gill reported that he will inquire on the subject.

Senior Advisory Committee (SAC)

Commissioner Nicholson reported the following activities of the SAC:

- They are finishing up a survey and focus group on the needs of the seniors
- They are interested in expanding the Dial-A-Ride program and are concerned about the decrease in Prop A funds
- The City offers an "Older Adults Night on the Town" where the older adults have dinner every Wednesday night at a different Manhattan Beach restaurant

Commissioner Nicholson reported that Civic Couch will be completing their painting of Manhattan Heights after lights are installed by Public Works.

Commissioner Murray reported that her husband has applied for a position on the Senior Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Murray reported that she will be attending a local community meeting on Wednesday and will announce sponsorship opportunities for Movies on the Beach.

Commissioner Murray thanked Richard Gill and Idris Al-Oboudi for their help on plans for the California Coastal Park Tour conducted by the California Association of Parks and Recreation

Commission and Board Members (CAPRCBM) and getting the word out to the California Parks and Recreation Commission (CPRS).

Commissioner Murray thanked Eve Kelso and Richard Gill for the terrific Volunteer Recognition Dinner at the Comedy and Magic Club.

Commissioner Murray wanted to personally thank Commissioner Fitzpatrick for all her wonderful enthusiasm on the Commission and enjoyed working with her on “Movies at the Beach.” She thanked Commissioner Harris for all her work on the Commission including important dog issues and the renaming of Marine Avenue Park issues.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick thanked her fellow commissioners who have been her mentors during her service. She suggested that dealing with the many issues given to the Parks and Recreation Commission has been a real learning experience; she has learned to be more open minded and listen to both sides of an issue and appreciate the opportunity.

Commissioner Harris thanked everyone for the great Earth Day event, suggesting that this is the type of event you want to introduce to the youth of our community. She reported that many people were honored that day, including her good friend Ann Barklow who received the Lifetime Achievement Environmental Hero award. Commissioner Harris reported that she served on the Commission because she feels it’s important to always give back to your community. Her next project will be to work on legislation for a dog beach on an L.A. County Beach.

Commissioner Gill thanked Commissioner Rosenthal for her service on the Commission this past year. He indicated that of all the student commissioners he has worked with over the last five years, Commissioner Rosenthal has been the most involved.

Commissioner Rosenthal thanked everyone and said that it has been a great learning experience.

ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 7:58 p.m.