



Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_



# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** *DC* David N. Carmany, City Manager

**FROM:** Liza Tamura, City Clerk *LT*  
Ariana Kennedy, Management Analyst *AK*

**DATE:** February 15, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of a Request from the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden to Consider Changing the Official City Flower to the Beach Primrose

### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss and provide direction.

### FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications to the City associated with the recommended action.

### BACKGROUND:

On November 4, 2010 the City Council received an email from Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden Vice President Julie Gonella on behalf of the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden Board of Directors. Vice President Gonella requested the Beach Primrose (a Manhattan Beach native) be named the official City flower.

Staff contacted Ms. Gonella and shared the historical information that the City Council adopted the Camellia as the official City flower at the February 3, 1959 City Council meeting (Attachment B) and that this designation was made at the request of Mrs. Donald Cambell, Chairman of the Garden Section of the Neptunian Club (Attachment C).

Due to the fact that the Camellia is not a Manhattan Beach native plant, the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden is requesting that the City Council consider changing the official City flower to the Beach Primrose or consider the proposed flower as a second City flower (Attachment D).

### DISCUSSION:

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss and provide direction. The following options may be considered:

- 1) The City Council may maintain the Camellia as the official City flower;
- 2) The City Council may adopt the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden suggestion, the Beach Primrose, as the official City flower; or
- 3) The City Council may adopt both the Camellia and Beach Primrose as official City flowers.

Attachments: A) MBBG Request  
B) Minutes of the February 3, 1959 City Council Meeting  
C) Neptunian Club Request of 1959  
D) Beach Primrose Pictures

# ATTACHMENT

## A

Dear Council Members,

The board of directors of the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden would like to present a proposal for an official City flower for the City of Manhattan Beach.

The United States of America has a national floral emblem: the rose. The California state flower is the golden poppy, and the City of Los Angeles has the bird of paradise. Our neighbors in the City of Hermosa Beach have the daisy for an official flower. We feel it is time for our city to have an official flower.

We propose Beach Primrose, *Camissonia cheiranthifolia*, for the floral emblem of the City of Manhattan Beach. Beach Primrose, aka Beach Suncups or Beach Evening Primrose, is a Manhattan Beach native that, like our town, blooms on the sand dunes. Specimens are often visible just west off the bike path south of the pier (I've attached photos of samples taken on a beach and at MBBG.) Overall, this lovely self-seeding plant can be found in coastal counties throughout California and northern Baja in sandy soil near the coast. Its long taproot allows it to be significantly drought tolerant once established and its rapid, low spreading growth of 6"-12" high x 2'-3' wide is a big help in stabilizing the dunes. It is also easy to grow in the average coastal garden. Beach Primrose has simple yet abundant blossoms and a very long flowering season. It is a magnet for butterflies in spring and summer, and its late-season seeds provide food for songbirds during their fall migration. Small but beautiful, its glowing yellow is reflected in the City flag. Beach Primrose is unique to the beach and is noted in descriptions of our town from the earliest days.

We feel that no flower could be a more fitting symbol for our special home town. If adopted, perhaps Beach Primrose could be incorporated in the City's Centennial recognition.

Thank you for your consideration,

Julie

*Julie Gonella*  
*MBBG VP*  
*310 546-1354*

[www.manhattanbeachbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.manhattanbeachbotanicalgarden.org)

"We promote Earth-friendly gardening for the conservation of water, wildlife and the well-being of our community."

by a copy of the text of the Act, consisting of 38 pages, which among other things has for its purpose the blanketing of all Fire Departments under a single head. The City Manager stated that this piece of legislation would no doubt be thoroughly reviewed and discussed at the forthcoming League of California Cities meeting. It was moved by Councilman Warner, seconded by Councilman Walker and unanimously carried that the communication and other documents be received and filed.

AUTHORIZATION FOR POLICE CHIEF AND ASSISTANT TO ATTEND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ALL-ZONE MEETING

The City Manager reported he had a request from the Chief of Police for authorization for himself and the Assistant Chief to attend the Attorney General's All-Zone meeting to be held in Fresno, California, on February 19-20, 1959, at a cost of not to exceed \$75.00 for both. The City Manager recommended approval of the request. It was moved by Councilman Walker, seconded by Councilman Warner and unanimously carried that said officers be authorized to attend said meeting at the time and place stated, and that their expenses in making such attendance be allowed in a sum not to exceed \$75.00 for both officers.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY - JAMES L. SAWYER

The City Manager stated that due to slackening of work for the survey crew in the Engineering Department the services of three employees were terminated as of January 31, 1959. However, one of said employees, James L. Sawyer, will later take a position with the Parks Department as custodian of the new police building, and in order to protect his Civil Service status the City Manager recommended that he be granted a leave of absence without pay for the period of ninety days commencing February 1, 1959.

It was moved by Councilman Warner, seconded by Councilman Suppe and unanimously carried that James L. Sawyer be granted leave of absence without compensation for the period of ninety days commencing as of February 1, 1959.

CAMELLIA ADOPTED AS OFFICIAL FLOWER OF MANHATTAN BEACH

A communication was read from the Chairman of the Garden Section of the Neptunian Club, dated February 2, 1959, requesting that the City Council adopt the camellia as the official flower of Manhattan Beach.

It was moved by Councilman Warner, seconded by Councilman Walker and unanimously carried that the communication be received and filed and that the camellia be designated as the official flower of the City of Manhattan Beach.

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA - PERMIT TO OPERATE SALVAGE TRUCKS

The City Manager presented a communication from Volunteers of America of Los Angeles dated January 30, 1959, requesting that they be issued a license to solicit salvage material in the City of Manhattan Beach, such as paper, magazines, mattresses, furniture, etc., the proceeds to be used to help rehabilitate the physical, socially and mentally handicapped.

It was moved by Councilman Warner, seconded by Councilman Beverly and unanimously carried that the communication be received and

ATTACHMENT

C

February 2, 1959

Honorable Mayor and Councilmen  
Manhattan Beach, California

Dear Sirs:

The Garden Section of the Neptunian Club  
of Manhattan Beach, requests that the Honorable Council-  
men of Manhattan Beach adopt the CAMELLIA as the official  
flower of our City.

We would appreciate your consideration of  
this request.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Donald Cambell, Chairman  
Garden Section  
Neptunian Club  
4100 Strand, Manhattan Beach

February 6, 1959

Mrs. Donald Cambell  
Chairman, Garden Section  
Neptunian Club  
4100 Strand  
Manhattan Beach, California

Dear Mrs. Cambell:

The Manhattan Beach City Council at its meeting on February 3 considered your letter dated February 2, 1959, and by resolution adopted the "Camellia" as the official flower of the City.

Very truly yours,

GAYLE T. MARTIN  
City Manager

GTM:sl



BEACH PRIMROSE

ATTACHMENT  
D



BEACH PRIMROSE



**BEACH PRIMROSE**