

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
September 19, 2016
6:30 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Allen, Paralusz, Karger, Jones, Allard, Turkmany and Lauson

Absent: None

Others present: Director of Parks and Recreation, Mark Leyman and Linda Robb,
Recording Secretary

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Paralusz moved to approve the July 25, 2016 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allard. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Allen, Paralusz, Karger, Jones, Allard, Turkmany and Lauson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

E. CEREMONIAL

Commissioner Allen introduced Student Representative Commissioner Lauson who gave a brief self introduction.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-MinuteLimit)

Commissioner Allen opened the floor to audience participation.

Seeing none, the floor was closed to public comment.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS –

15/1027.1 Discussion of Salute to the Troops Event – Commissioner Allen raised the issue of the Salute to the Troops event becoming a part of the Concert in the Park series. Commissioner Jones asked Director Leyman about the pros and cons of becoming a part of the series. Director Leyman stated that being a part of the series makes the operations and sponsorships go a little bit smoother. There would also be some cost efficiencies as part of the series and there would still be a role for the commission assisting with the lineup and developing the event itself. Commissioner Paralusz believes that it should be presented to City Council for inclusion in the Concert in the Park series. She believes that the average resident is not aware that the event is not already included in the Concert in the Park series. Commissioner Jones stated that she would like for the concert to begin at 5:00 to fall in line with the rest of the other concerts. Commissioner Allen stated that even though the event would be a part of the series, there is no prohibition against securing sponsorship for this event only but sponsors of the whole series would not be approached. Commissioner Allard asked if the Cultural Arts Manager would have any issues adding to the Concerts in the

Park. Director Leyman stated that there is no conflict and there are many benefits to holding it as part of the series. Commissioner Jones would like to keep some of the activities that make the event special and unique. Commissioner Paralusz is in favor of keeping it at the beginning of the series and close to the 4th of July. She stated that the only thing that really changes is that the Commission is supporting staff in the planning of the event instead of trying to do everything. Commissioner Allen stated that the Commission should still have a presence there.

Commissioner Karger stated that she has connections at the Air Force and would like to loop in the Air Force. She stated that she had spoken with Councilmember Burton who also has contacts in the Air Force and would like to begin reaching out now.

Director Leyman reported that the department is currently seeking a key note speaker for the Veterans Day event. Commissioner Turkmany mentioned that the Air Force is turning 70 next year. Commission Karger will initiate the discussions to get the Air Force involved.

The commission requested Director Leyman to add the Salute to the Troops to the Concert in the Park series.

- H. **COMMISSION ITEMS** – Commissioner Allen mentioned that the Pumpkin races are coming up on October 23rd. Commissioner Jones volunteered to head up the committee to build the pumpkin.

Commissioner Allen stated that Commissioners should be thinking about items and projects that might be on the work plan.

- I. **STAFF ITEMS** – Director Leyman gave the following updates:

The Older Adults Program Senior Advisory Committee in partnership with Mira Costa High School received the prestigious Helen Putnam Award of Excellence for the Connected! technology program. The award will be presented on October 6th the League of Cities Conference in Long Beach.

Commission Tour – September 27th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.- This is an opportunity to thank the Commissioners and for the Commissions to meet each other. At the October 18th City Council meeting, the City Council will be considering the new Commissioner Handbook. During the tour, the Commissions will have a chance to throw around some ideas and look for overlapping future projects.

In fiscal year 2015/2016, there were total of 11,379 registered participants through ActiveNet. This does not include Older Adults activities, Teen Center drop-in and anything not registered through ActiveNet. There were 1818 different class offerings.

Commissioner Paralusz stated that her daughter is a member of the MB Dolphins swim team.

The Summer REC Program had attendance of 3500. The REC School year program has 157 children registered and is at capacity. The department is looking to partner with the School District to expand programming. The Teen Center has over 50 teens participating on a daily basis. Commissioner Jones asked if there is demand above the children who are already involved. Director Leyman stated that there is significant demand but there would need to be ongoing dialog between the School District and the City. Commissioner Paralusz thought it would be fantastic if MBX and EDP could partner with the City to increase offerings.

Commissioner Allen asked if the Commission would be interested in a quarterly report from Division managers. Commissioner Paralusz would love to hear from the Division

managers so they have a chance to thank the staff members personally. Director Leyman like the idea and stated that he will be inviting the managers to the Commission tour to meet everyone and describe their responsibilities. Commissioner Jones added that the managers could also give input on how the Commission can help with programs.

The John Van Hamersveld exhibition has been very successful. Cheech Marin and his Chicano art collection will follow with an opening reception on October 26th 6:00-8:00. The exhibit will run through December 31st.

The Cultural Arts Division received a grant from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission for a performance at the Joslyn Center by Chuck Johnson with the Los Angeles CJS quintet.

The Cultural Arts Division also received a grant to fund from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission for intern, Rebecca Diaz-Perez who worked with us through the summer.

Skate Spot – through the Youth Employment Plan, the department is working with CHOICE to assist with removal of debris and landscaping to prep the site. The CHOICE program is a transitional program for young adults with disabilities. The bids came in about \$170,000 over budget including the contingency. The item will go to City Council on September 20, 2016. Part of the reason for the overage that the contractors are very busy and the tight turnaround also requires a different type of concrete. City Council will weigh in on whether or not the department can move forward with the project. Commissioner Jones asked where the \$170,000 comes from. Director Leyman replied that the funds would likely come from the Capital Improvements Project fund. Commissioner Paralusz asked Director Leyman to send an update after the meeting on the outcome of the vote. Commissioner Allard inquired if it would be helpful for people to email the councilmembers. Director Leyman said that it is always helpful for people to share their thoughts with City Council. Commissioner Allen stated that the hope is that since the bulk of the project is being paid for with non-City funds, it will move forward. Commissioner Turkmany stated that if anyone knows anyone who is concerned about the skate park, you may want to reach out and ask them to either email or show up to the meeting. Commissioner Jones asked if there will be a public backlash regarding the requirement of additional funds. Commissioner Lauson stated that at Mira Costa, there seems to be a general belief that the project is not in any danger of not going through. The Commissioners encouraged Commissioner Lauson to rally students and make sure they know the issues and to attend if concerned.

Commissioner Allen asked about the department reorganization. Director Leyman stated that he is waiting for official word before any announcements can be made. He stated that when Recreation Services Manager, Gina Allen left, the managers carefully looked at the needs of the department and determined that the department needed a dedicated person to focus on marketing and promotions and another person to focus on projects and budget, staff reports and capital projects. In the restructure, the Recreation Services Manager will now be a recreation coordinator focusing on Social Media, the Executive Secretary position was elevated to Management Analyst, one Administrative Clerk position was elevated to Secretary and one Administrative Clerk II position was elevated to Registration Supervisor. All changes resulted in savings of up to \$16,000/year. The department is currently recruiting for an Older Adult coordinator. An offer has been made for the Sports Coordinator position and the acting recreation services supervisor has been promoted to full-time Recreation Supervisor.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Paralusz moved to adjourn. Commissioner Turkmany seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm to October 24, 2016 in the City Council Chambers.

Ayes: Commissioners Allen, Paralusz, Karger, Jones, Allard, Turkmany and Lawson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None