

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers

March 24, 2014

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

CONTENTS

13/1028.3 – Discussion of a Skateboard Park.....1

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:34PM.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Manna, Rothans, Cajka, Allard, Allen, Miketa and Hersman

Absent: None

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Mark Leyman, Recreation Services Manager Idris Al-Oboudi and Recording Secretary Linda Robb.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 27, 2014 minutes were approved as written.

E. CEREMONIAL

None.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

13/1028.3 – Discussion of a Skateboard Park

Commissioner Hersman gave an overview of the three Skateboard Park Ad-hoc Committee meetings that have been held since the committee was formed. Ad-hoc Committee consists of commissioners Hersman, Allard and Miketa. The Committee has been gathering feedback from the community.

Commissioner Hersman stated that the school district is on board with a skateboard park. A number of the potential locations are located on school district property. Commissioner Hersman has requested from the school district, a list of locations that are definitely not possible.

Commissioner Allard said that at the April 28th, 2014 meeting, the Commission will choose the top locations to present to the City Council in June.

Commissioner Hersman said that surveys had been distributed to local cities that currently have skateboard parks, she hoped that they would have information to present at the April 14th Ad-hoc Committee meeting. Commissioner Cajka asked if anyone would be speaking with the police department of the cities that have skateboard parks.

A survey was distributed to middle and high school students and their parents. Commissioner Rothans asked if the survey is online. Director Mark Leyman stated that it had been submitted but wasn't yet online.

Commissioner Manna visited a skate park in San Clemente with William "Bill" Thomas who has volunteered to come and share his knowledge.

Commissioner Rothans stated that his research did not find a single lawsuit involving skate parks as of three to four years ago.

Presentation by Mr. Spohn: Mr. Spohn has been volunteering services assisting with the skate park feasibility in Manhattan Beach. Mr. Spohn has been designing skateboard parks and venues for many years.

- At some point every community has to decide whether to police skateboarding as a nuisance or provide a place for skateboarding.
- Skateparks are not just for skateboarders – skateboarding is now more popular than baseball and is a fast growing sport
- Liability – California law AB1296 - makes skateboarding an at-risk activity, gives additional immunity for municipalities with skate parks.
 - The law only applies to ages 14 and over, 13 and under not covered under this law.
 - Requires use of safety gear. Need to have a local ordinance requiring safety gear.
 - Not able to staff. Signs are posted and parks are being patrolled.
- This community either needs a large park or a couple of smaller parks that add up to the same sq. footage
- Important factors:
 - Visibility – can it be easily patrolled
 - Proximity – central location is ideal
 - Typology, design canvas (topography) – most skaters are street skaters who want Plaza style (street). This type is more easy to accommodate than bowl parks
- Multiuse, can be created as a mixed use environment
- Potential locations:
 - Marine A (behind ball field)
 - Marine B (basketball courts/racquetball)–possibility for 12000 sq. ft.
 - Adjacent to Sand Dune park - about 24000 sq. ft.
 - Begg pool - 13,000 sq. ft.
 - slope by Begg pool (school district property)
 - Maintenance facility MBUSD – 55,000 sq. feet
 - MBUSD Maintenance Yard location B – 18,000 sq. ft.
 - Bruce's beach – 3500 sq. ft., other levels may have more square feet available
 - Manhattan Village corner – parking lot – 9000 sq. ft. would lose 50 parking spaces

- Opposite side of Manhattan Village soccer fields 7,000 sq. ft.
- Manhattan Village field different corner – only 25-30 parking spaces 9,150 sq. ft.
- Polliwog park – 10,000 sq. ft.
- Veterans parkway – 10,000 sq. ft.
- Veterans parkway trailhead – private property 12,000 sq. ft.
- Live Oak Park – Dorsey Field area
- Strand and beachfront – Venice has done it and it is iconic 15,000+ sq. ft.

Based on the City population, Mr. Spohn calculated that Manhattan Beach needs a park that is at least 12000 sq. ft.

The rough calculation is \$50/sq. ft. but there are so many factors that this is just a ballpark number.

Chairman Manna asked about the area between two of the baseball diamonds at Marine Park. This idea would require the loss of some soccer field area.

Chairperson Manna opened the floor to public comment.

1. Laura Santos – Ms. Santos stated that she opposes the skateboard park and does not want to reward people who are causing vandalism when there are other projects that need attention.
2. Mark Berrera – Mr. Berrera stated that he thinks more time is needed to examine the sites and suggested the large parking lot at El Porto for consideration.
3. Steven Robbins – Mr. Robbins stressed that the ranking criteria needs to be balanced and we must agree and take our time to do this correctly and take the neighborhoods into consideration.
4. Stephanie Robbins – Ms. Robbins wanted to stress the importance of sensitivity to residential impact. She is in favor of the Marine Avenue location as it has the least impact on residents. She also likes the idea of Fundraising opportunities because people with a vested interest will respect the park. She stated that the City needs to prioritize spending.
5. Blake Bordokas – Mr. Bordokis stated that the skate park is not just for kids. Mr. Bordokis asked if now is the time to start fundraising, start a non-profit or start collecting pledges.

6. Seth Fermenter – Mr. Fermenter stated that he is grateful for the opportunity to look at building a skate park and hopes that we can build something to accommodate the younger skaters and the older skaters as well. He stated that older skaters are an important part of skate parks as they bring their own kids as well as mentor younger skaters. The presence of older skaters reduces the opportunity for vandalism and violence.

Chairperson Manna closed the floor to public comment.

Commissioner Rothans thanked the Ad-hoc committee for their hard work and asked about the attendance at the Ad-hoc Committee meetings.

Commissioner Allard reported that 15 people attended the first meeting, 4 attended the second and 15 attended the third.

Commissioner Hersman said that when the committee was first formed they had thought that there would be ten people on the committee so there were many people invited to attend.

Committee is only 3 people for Brown Act reasons plus public input.

Commissioner Allard said that the committee is setting goals. Commissioners Allard and Hersman along with Director Leyman and Mr. Al-Oboudi are scheduled to go look at some local skate parks to take pictures and ask questions. The results will be part of the staff report that will be presented to the City Council.

Commissioner Cajka mentioned that for the location adjacent to Sand Dune Park the ADA requirements will be the biggest obstacle.

Commissioner Manna asked about the ownership of the El Porto parking lot Director Leyman said the upper lot is owned by the city and the lower property is owned by the County.

COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Manna attended the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) conference. The City of Manhattan Beach received two awards: Outstanding Event for the Tour de Pier and former commissioner Dei Murray was given a lifetime membership, the highest honor given by the CPRS. Commissioner Manna would like to attend some Parks and Recreation Commission meetings in other cities to try to increase CPRS membership. He would like to organize some social gatherings to exchange ideas with Commissioners from other cities.

Commissioner Allard gave an update on the Petanque court. The Rotary Club, in conjunction with the City will be breaking ground for the court on April 12th. The court will be located behind the Joslyn center. The date of the ribbon cutting will be forthcoming.

Commissioner Hersman gave an update on the Leadership Manhattan Tot Lot renovation. The City Council will be invited to the ribbon cutting to be held at the beginning of May. Chairperson Manna mentioned an organization called Kids Around the World. They collect old playground equipment, refurbish it and install in countries where there is a need for playgrounds.

Chairperson Manna received information at the CPRS conference regarding security systems that might be useful to the Police Department.

STAFF ITEMS

None

MOTION: Commissioner Hersman moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cajka.

Ayes: Commissioners Manna, Allen, Cajka, Allard, Hersman, and Miketa.

Noes: Commissioner Rothans

Abstain: None

Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. to the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on April 28, 2014.

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Police/Fire Conference Room
April 28th, 2014
400/420 15th St.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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13/1028.3 – Discussion of a Skateboard Park.....1

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:38PM.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Manna, Allard, Allen, and Hersman

Absent: Rothans, Cajka, Miketa

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Mark Leyman, Recreation Services Manager Idris Al-Oboudi and Recording Secretary Linda Robb.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 24, 2014 minutes were approved with the following correction:

Motion to adjourn vote – “No” vote corrected to read Commissioner Rothans

Commissioner Hersman motioned to approve minutes with correction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allard.

Ayes: Commissioners Manna, Hersman, Allen and Allard

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Cajka, Rothans, Miketa

E. CEREMONIAL

None.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chairman Manna opened the floor to audience participation and stated that no decisions have been made as to the possible location of the skateboard park. He stated that this meeting is about trying to move forward to present as a recommendation to the City Council. He stated that the Commission is not trying to force any locations upon anyone but that it is important to consider a skate park as we are surrounded by other cities providing skate parks .

Stephen Robins – 1500 block Herrin St. Mr. Robins inquired as to how the locations are narrowed down. Chairperson Manna explained that the locations scouted by Aaron Spohn were used as a starting point and various criteria are applied. Chairperson Manna assured Mr. Robins that the criteria would be made available to the public.

Barney Bouvier – 500 block 17th St. Mr. Bouvier favors the northeast Veterans Parkway. He also believes that it would be a good idea to poll high school and middle school students.

Blake Bordokas – 400 block 32nd St. Mr. Bordokas agrees that majority of users will be students but there is definitely an older element as well. He thinks it would be a good idea to reach out administratively through the city as it has been difficult to administer the survey on his own at school.

Commissioner Hersman mentioned that last time, the students filled out their surveys in class. And that this might be a better way to administer the survey.

George Bordokas – 400 block 32nd St. Mr. Bordokas stated that he sees all ages of skaters and skaters have many varied interests. Doesn't want to send his kids to other communities to skate. Studies have shown that skateboard parks are safe and that noise is not a big issue. Costs will be less by picking locations that do not need lots of demo and infrastructure.

Julie Profet -1300 block Lynngrove Dr. –Ms. Profet stated that sound studies do not address the actual sounds. Comparing skateboard sounds to cars is not realistic. Half of the Manhattan Beach population live nearer to Hermosa and El Segundo parks than they would be to a park in Manhattan Beach. Ms. Prophet suggested that Manhattan Beach help Hermosa Beach improve their park.

Stephanie Robins – 1800 block Herrin – Ms. Robbins stated that the Commission should focus on the areas that are least contentious. She stated that she doesn't think a skateboard park is a bad idea under the right circumstances but does not want the park to be a regional draw. She believes that the center field location at the back of Marine Park is a good location because it wouldn't impinge on as many residents.

Sharon Fuller – 1300 block Park View Ave. – Ms. Fuller feels the Marine Village location would be bad because of the large volume of traffic in the area. A skateboard park would cause much congestion and would be dangerous.

John Arazaga 1500 block 18th St. –Mr. Arazaga reiterated the sound issue. Skaters do not just skate on the ground. Skateboards on metal railing, jumping and landing all cause different types of sounds.

A resident near Polliwog Park (name not available) expressed concerns about putting more things in Polliwog park There are already traffic and parking issues on Redondo Ave. with kids running back and forth.

Seth Rementer- 30th street – Mr. Rementer stated that it's a mistake to consider adults as just another participant. The older element makes for a more enjoyable environment for all whether it be because it keeps the kids on better behavior or because they bring their kids. If we build a skatepark it should be built for kids as well as adults. He asked that questions for adults be added to the survey.

Laura Santos – Ms. Santos stated that we do not have to be the best at everything to attract people from other areas. For how few people will be using the skatepark, she believes the costs are not justified. Ms. Santos feels that it would be unwise to spend so much money when needs will change as skateboard park designs evolve.

Penny Bordokas - we've built all these fields for sports that accommodate far fewer people. instead of focusing on a number. Tennis courts

Annette Abram – resident of Senior Villas –Ms. Abram was concerned about the noise if park is located at Marine Village.

Kurt Schwader 1600 block 18th St. –Mr. Schwader stated that to say that it will only be used by a few isn't true, if we build a skateboard park, people from other areas will come. The environmental impact study that was done before the middle school was built said that there would be no impact, but there is. The sound of grinding skateboards is loud. The skateboard park noise is being compared to a dumpster and dumpsters are very loud.

Mike Hill - 19th St. – Mr. Hill what sites are on the list and how will the Commissioners decide which locations would be presented to the City Council. He asked if the residents located near a potential site opposed the location, would that be considered.

An unnamed resident asked if there has been outreach to local skate parks. Commissioner Hersman assured the resident that Staff had reached out. Director Leyman stated that the Ad-hoc Committee had visited several local skate parks. Recreation Services Manager Idris Al-Oboudi stated that to the high 90th percentile, most feedback has been positive. Some parks have made minor adjustments and improvements. Many of the negative concerns of the public did not come to fruition.

James Kessel - 5th St. –Mr. Kessel thinks that Marine Park is the best location. He spoke with a Westchester resident who said that her neighborhood has benefitted from the removal of the basketball courts and the installation of the skateboard park. Mr. Kessel inquired about fundraising. Commissioner Hersman stated that the Commission must first present options to the City Council and if the park is approved, there will be many opportunities to raise funds.

Stephanie Robins – Reminded the Commissioners that Polliwog Park is designed to be a catch basin for floodwaters and that the need for permeable land is essential to protect the surrounding community.

Stephen Robins is against the skate park being in Polliwog Park. He said that unless you live near the park, you do not know how noisy it is on a daily basis.

George Bordokas stated that Polliwog Park is very large. It seems like there may be a way to carve out 10,000 square feet for a Skateboard park in the 14 available acres.

One resident asked to please include skater input into the design of the park so that it isn't built badly.

Chairman Manna closed the floor to audience participation

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

13/1028.3 – Discussion of a Skateboard Park

Chairperson Manna, with regards to costs, stated that skateboard parks are a relatively inexpensive addition. Initially the building is expensive but there is not much maintenance required. The park would cost a quarter of what it cost to turf the soccer field. Chairperson Manna suggested that the criteria be measured against the Marine Avenue location as no better sites have been proposed. This is the site that staff had originally suggested.

Chairperson Manna stated that we would like to move forward with a recommendation to the City Council. There are many social benefits. With all of the concerns, most people have said that they aren't against a park, they just don't like the location and there are concerns about how the park will be funded.

Commissioner Hersman stated that since there are three commissioners absent, she would be more comfortable going through the list and discussing the locations instead of just picking one so everyone sees that the choices were carefully considered.

The following locations were reviewed by the Commissioners and eliminated for the reasons listed:

1. The Beach/Strand @ 26th/27th St. – The City does not have ownership of the land, needs to go through Coastal Commission
2. The Beach/Strand El Porto area – The City does not have ownership of the land, needs to go through Coastal Commission
3. Lower part of Bruce's beach - The City does not have ownership of the lower part of Bruce's beach, it belongs to the County.
4. Peck Ave. Begg Pool Parking lot – Include on list – Pros – impacts few residents, West of Begg Pool best location - There are current plans to revisit the pick up and drop off of MBMS on Peck Ave. west of Begg Field. Commissioner Allen stated that he likes this location as it impacts fewer residents. Commissioner Allard stated that the pool expansion may be an issue and parking spaces would be affected.
5. Bruce's Beach (upper terraced) – include on list – cons are terraced landscape will need costly grading
6. Ladera School Field – Would be very difficult to satisfy ADA requirements
7. MBUSD maintenance yard - The school district has potential future plans for this site. There is no infrastructure
8. Manhattan Village field south –the location
9. Polliwog Park, Open grass area along Redondo Ave.– Commissioner Allen is concerned about destroying the aesthetics of Polliwog Park with a street location.
10. Polliwog Park, area along Manhattan Beach Blvd. east of Historical Society House – This location is facing the street and would be very small.
11. Veterans Parkway –The end of Veterans Parkway is private property and the Veterans Parkway Master Plan was recently passed by City Council.
12. Manhattan Heights Paddle Tennis Courts – This location is very small, close to many residents and would require the removal of a well used amenity

The list was narrowed to the following locations which were further reviewed by the Commissioners.

1. Manhattan Village Field, Northwest corner of parking area – Commissioner Allen stated that the northwest corner of this location would be good when the mall is redone because of the planned parking structure. This location would impact relatively few residents, is of ample size and is on City owned land.
2. Marine Avenue Park - baseball center field – this location is the most shovel ready. The infrastructure is there and it would not require removing any amenities. Visibility is a concern with this location. There is heavy opposition from the user groups for this location.
3. Marine Avenue Park - basketball courts – this location has the infrastructure but would require removal of the heavily used basketball courts and the Pay and Play Raquetball court which is on a long term lease agreement. There is heavy opposition from the user groups for this location.
4. Marine Ave Complex- This location would require a reconfiguration of fields and is also opposed by the user groups.
5. Bruce's Beach upper area- This area would be cost prohibitive as it would require grading. There is also strong neighborhood resistance due to the historical nature of the site.
6. MBUSD Peck Ave West of Begg Field – This location would have less impact on homes than others and would be easy to develop. There is good visibility and the size is good. This location would affect parking for the Concerts in the Park. The City has plans to look at this area for other projects. Access to area is very narrow.
7. Polliwog Park, NE area between old restrooms and MBMS (near Picnic Pad #10) This location makes the most sense in Polliwog Park as there is good visibility. Some trees would need to be removed, that will be difficult. The location is convenient for the middle school students but may have to be closed during school hours limiting accessibility.

This list was narrowed to the following 3 locations

1. Marine Ave park (3 locations)
2. MBUSD Peck Avenue – west of Begg Field
3. Manhattan Village Field Northwest Corner

Director Leyman stated that the neighborhoods would be noticed and separate meetings for each location would be held. The Manhattan Studios and Northrup Grumman would be noticed as well.

May 12th - Marine and MBUSD facility locations ad-hoc committee meeting

May 13th - Manhattan Village Field Ad-hoc committee meeting

May 19th – Parks and Recreation Commission meeting

Director Leyman clarified that at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the locations will be reviewed. Likely, the Commission will request further information from staff on specific locations to be discussed at the June Commission meeting, where the Commission will formulate

their recommendations and options. Staff will take those recommendations and options, prepare a staff report and present them to the City Council tentatively for the second meeting in July at the earliest.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS:

Chairperson Manna announced that he had attended Parks and Recreation Commission meetings in Hermosa Beach and El Segundo to see how they operated and also to make the Commissioners aware of CAPRCBM. Mr. Manna would like to organize informal gatherings of Commissioners of local cities.

Commissioner Hersman announced that the ribbon cutting for the Tot Lot would be held Saturday, May 3, 2014 at 10:00 AM.

Commissioner Allard announced that the Petanque Court is almost finished and there will be a ribbon cutting when it is done.

I. STAFF ITEMS

Director Leyman thanked the Ad-hoc Committee

MOTION: Commissioner Hersman moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allen.

Ayes: Commissioners Manna, Allen, Allard and Hersman

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Cajka, Rothans, Miketa

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. to the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on May 19, 2014.

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
May 19, 2014
6:30 PM

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13/1028.3 – Discussion of a Skateboard Park.....1

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Manna, Rothans, Cajka, Allard, Hersman, Miketa
Absent: Commissioner Allen

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hersman moved to approve the April 28, 2014 as written. Chairperson Manna seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Manna, Rothans, Cajka, Allard, Hersman, Miketa
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Commissioner Allen

The motion passed.

D. CEREMONIAL

Certificate of Recognition – Thomas Cajka
Certificate of Recognition – Nancy Hersman
Certificate of Recognition – Madison Miketa

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Chairperson Manna opened the floor to audience participation. Seeing none the floor was closed.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

13/1028.3 – Discussion of Skateboard Park

Chairperson Manna emphasized that no decisions on location have yet been made.

Blake Bordokas, resident – Mr. Bordokas indicated that he is a constituent of the City who does not play any organized sports utilizing current amenities. He stated that the City should provide a skateboard park that he and many others could use. The park should be in a central location to allow skateboarders to express themselves legally.

George Bordokas – resident – Mr. Bordokas wanted to introduce a location that he feels meets or exceeds all criteria previously presented. This location in Polliwog Park would yield approximately 12,000 sq. ft. of skate park. The location is removed from residents and does not take away any amenities. The trees would provide a sound buffer. Mr. Bordokas stated that the Marine Ave. center field location is the worst location for many reasons and would ensure that the skateboard park would fail.

Gary Kessel, resident and father of skateboarders – Mr. Kessel stated that it is a shame that a city of this magnitude doesn't have a skateboard park of its own. Mr. Kessel presented a petition with approximately 90 signatures in support of a skate park.

Julie Profet, resident living across from Polliwog Park – Ms. Profet stated that all locations in Polliwog park were already ruled out for many reasons. She stated that the sounds of a skateboard park are stressful and that no one wants to live near the skateboard park. She emphasized Polliwog Park is not centrally located and that most people live closer to Hermosa or El Segundo parks. She asked why couldn't the City help enhance the Hermosa Skate park?

Jaden Kessel, resident - gathered signatures for the petition presented by Gary Kessel, Mr. Kessel stated that most people he approached were supportive of the skate park even if they didn't appear to be skaters. Mr. Kessel supports the Polliwog park location proposed by Mr. Bordokas.

Laura Santos, resident living near Polliwog park – Ms. Santos stated that she has been to all but one meeting and always leaves frustrated for the following reasons: 1) How will skaters pay for what they want? The City has many other things that need funding; 2) If the park is supervised, the City has a higher liability, if it is unsupervised, then the City loses control. 3) Skateboard park design needs change with time; 4) each of the sites proposed have many negatives; and 5) Manhattan Beach was built before skateboarding was popular. Ms. Santos' opinion is that we do not have a good place for a skateboard park.

Stephanie Robins, resident – Ms. Robins stated that she has attended all meetings and thought that we had solved the issue of location. Ms. Robins requested the specific statute of the Brown Act that substantiates the exclusion of non-supportive citizens.

Andrew Lelchuk, Regional Commissioner for American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) – Mr. Lelchuk stated that he supports a skate park but the location needs to be decided. He represents 1700+ kids using fields that might be impacted and does not believe that it is appropriate to displace existing programs. Based on the three locations presented, the Center Field location on Marine Ave is the best option as it does not displace any users. Mr. Lelchuk shared a statement from Eric Karros who could not attend.

Steve Staver, President of Manhattan Beach Youth Basketball (MBYB) – Mr. Staver stated that with over 2000 kids in the League, losing space would be very difficult. Losing the courts would mean cutting back on practice times for younger players. The high school league does not get practice time now. MBYB has resurfaced City courts and provided new adjustable hoops. MBYB can't afford any court loss at this point.

Seth Rementer, resident 30th St. – Mr. Rementer stated that skateboarding is a sport for kids that do not fit into many other traditional sports. There is a need for a space for skateboarders to practice. No one is asking for all of the basketball courts and tennis courts, just a space. He feels that the location behind Center Field is less than desirable and agrees that Polliwog Park is a good location because it is a large area and it wouldn't require displacing any other sports.

Bruce Field, resident – Mr. Field stated sometimes we have to say no. We can't accommodate everybody. We have to be selective about what we say yes to.

Chairperson Manna closed the Floor to public participation.

Commissioner Hersman gave an update on the Ad-Hoc Committee meetings. Six meetings have been held so far discussing operations, locations, funding and design. At the last Commission meeting, the Commission went through 20 locations and applied the objective criteria, ending with five possible locations. There were to be additional meetings noticing the residents and businesses surrounding the five locations. Staff informed the committee that two of the five were unable to move forward due to long term agreements, so the three remaining locations on Marine Ave were discussed. Commissioner Hersman stated that since the last meeting, she has learned that the Polliwog location will not require the removal of trees and can accommodate a larger park than originally thought and should be reconsidered.

Commissioner Rothans stated that he understands the concerns on taking away user space. The commission asked the Ad-hoc committee to hold meetings and make recommendations. He encouraged the committee to go back and look at the options again so that the Commission could present five locations to the City Council.

Commissioner Allard stated that the purpose of the Ad-hoc Committee was to get input from the community. As two of the five locations were eliminated reducing the number of locations to three. Commissioner Allard stated that he is also against taking space away from sports. He stated that he did a walkthrough of the proposed location in Polliwog Park and it seemed that it was a small location.

Commissioner Manna stated that the Commission is not trying to take anything away from anybody, it is trying to give. Skateboarders are athletes. They have no place to practice their sport. The key is location, funding will take care of itself. Commissioner Manna feels that parks are part of the City infrastructure so spending money is not a bad thing. A lot of feedback from residents supporting a skateboard park has been received. Nobody wants it in their backyard but no better locations have been proposed.

Commissioner Cajka stated that this has been a six year process and it is disappointing to see where we are now. He stated that the Committee needs to go back to the community and find additional locations and they should not be prioritized when presented to the City Council.

Commissioner Hersman requested suggestions from citizens for locations. The Committee wants to hear ideas. Commissioner Hersman believes that having a skateboard park is a benefit for the skaters as well as the community.

Commissioner Miketa agreed that there was a lot of negativity at the Ad-Hoc Committee meetings and not many positive suggestions. Commissioner Miketa agrees that other sports should not be displaced and that more locations should be considered.

Commissioner Rothans made a motion to send the matter back to the Ad-Hoc committee for further consideration. The Committee will find five viable location options that do not impact sports user groups to bring back to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hersman and passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Manna, Rothans, Cajka, Allard, Hersman, Miketa

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Allen

Director Leyman asked for clarification on the specific location in Polliwog Park so that staff can further review the location and provide the proper footprint to the public. He also stated that a timeline for the additional Ad-hoc Committee meetings needs to be established for selecting the additional locations. Once those locations are chosen, residents and businesses within 1000 feet of the location will be noticed for public comment.

Prior to the additional meetings, new Ad-Hoc committee members need to be chosen. A special meeting to choose the new Ad-Hoc committee members cannot be held before June 1st, as that is when the new Commissioners start their terms.

Commissioner Allard clarified that 5 locations will be vetted by the public before being presented to the Commission.

Director Leyman informed the Commission that all material related to the Skateboard park has been posted on the MB Forum on the City's website.

Commissioner Hersman stated that she hopes that the youth sports groups will come out to the meetings and support some new locations.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS
none

H. STAFF ITEMS
none

I. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hersman moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allard. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Ayes: Commissioners Manna, Rothans, Cajka, Allard, Hersman, Miketa

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Allen