

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
October 28, 2019
6:00 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Greenberg, Jackson, Karger, McCarthy, Nicholson, Turkmany and Weiner

Absent: None

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Turkmany moved to approve the September 16, 2019 minutes as written.

Commissioner Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Greenberg, Jackson, Karger, McCarthy, Nicholson, Turkmany and Weiner

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Commissioner Weiner opened the floor to audience participation.

Seeing none, the floor was closed.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

None

H. STAFF ITEMS

Director Leyman updated the Commission on recent City Council actions and upcoming events.

The City Council is considering moving the Dragon Tales sculpture from Veterans Parkway due to resident concerns and comments. Commissioner Greenberg asked about the process for getting the initial location approved in the first place. Director Leyman replied that there is a process, locations are vetted through the Art in Public Places Committee and the Cultural Arts Commission. The art and locations were approved by the City Council.

Homelessness Task Force – resident Lee Barr gave an update. The Homelessness Task Force was established and was able to secure shared grant funds and create a Homeless Resource

Guide. The City Council felt that the task force had served its purpose and dissolved it. Mr. Barr reported that the task force made some inroads and there are now two mental health clinicians that ride with the Police Department and make assessments when homeless citizens are encountered. The City has also assigned a contract with an interfaith group, which is now a resource available for the City's homeless. He added that receiving the grant funds was a multicity effort. Manhattan Beach teamed with Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach and the three cities share the grant. Mr. Barr reported that a new homeless count will be done in January. The biggest issue is that there is no shelter available nearby.

Commissioner Nicholson asked where he should call if he encountered a homeless person in need of assistance. Mr. Barr directed him to the Homeless Resource Guide. He added that if you have any concerns you can always call the Police Department.

He thanked the commission for the Parks Master Plan Community meeting.

Commissioner Weiner stated that the commission has been to the Hometown Fair, Best of the Beach, Community Input meetings (2), Halloween Carnival and Pumpkin Race so far, with many upcoming meetings. Commissioner Karger volunteered to talk to the Neptunians and Commissioner Nicholson will cover Senior Softball and Older Adults lunch bunch. Next Tuesday an announcement to do the survey, should be made at the City Council meeting during community announcements. Commissioner Greenberg will reach out to some Associated Student Body members at Mira Costa High School to publicize the survey, or to organize a focus group with students. Commissioner Jackson mentioned that it seems that most of the Parks and Rec activities are geared toward middle school aged kids and there is not much available programming for high school aged students.

Commissioner Weiner complimented Parks and Rec staff working the Pumpkin Race.

Commissioner Weiner stated that it looks like we're ahead of the timeline for Parks Master Plan. We are tracking to present to City Council in March.

Commissioner Greenberg mentioned that based on some of the survey feedback, he made two field trips, one to the Redondo Beach Wilderness Park and one to the El Segundo Wiseburn School District aquatics center, and encouraged the commissioners to do the same.

Director Leyman reported on the Red House museum assessment. The assessment found that if the City starts changing the structure, it triggers the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and becomes cost prohibitive. As a result, alternatives are being considered with the thought that it would be better to spend the money on an alternative structure that will better serve the community.

Parks and Recreation event – New art exhibition, IMMERSIO opening reception, November 1, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

The Cultural Arts Community Grant program has been launched. An information session will be held on November 4, 4:00-9:00 p.m. There is \$50,000 available for art organizations, private artists and walkabout events.

Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on November 11th, followed by refreshments at the Joslyn Center.

The mural on Highland Avenue, across from the library, is complete. Utility box wraps should be starting in about 2 weeks.

National Fitness Court (NFC) is now scheduled for an April 2020 opening. Staff visited the NFC at Redondo Beach and will be monitoring their progress.

Polliwog Park Playground timeline – Begin construction September 2020 with completion by late spring 2021. An RFP needs to be prepared for a designer to put the specifications together.

City Hall mural artist finalists will be meeting with the Art in Public Places Committee and two councilmembers in mid-November to receive more direction for their final proposals.

I. COMMISSION ITEMS –

Commissioner Greenberg Pumpkin Race feedback: more signage and lane lines for the registration table for the pumpkin race. There seemed to be much confusion about where to go and what to do. Water bottle filling stations should be spread out more so more people know they are there. Director Leyman stated that the Environmental services manager is looking into a few options for future events.

Commissioner Karger thanked staff for building the pumpkin for the Commission. She added that the Park Master Plan pumpkin was pretty amazing.

Commissioner McCarthy Halloween Carnival gave feedback that there was confusion about where to buy tickets for the events because all of the booths looked the same. Better signage is recommended.

Senior Advisory Committee - Commissioner McCarthy reported that a group of senior tennis players who have been playing together for five - seven years have a group of seven - twelve players would like to have a standing reservation of a two-hour block dedicated to seniors. Currently they have to call on Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. in order to get a reservation, every single week. They are willing to welcome other seniors and do not play competitively. They are aware that pickleball has standing hours reserved. Senior softball has time blocked out as well. Commissioner Nicholson stated that he would be amenable if they called themselves a senior tennis association, and are open to welcoming all and fostering an interest in tennis. Director Leyman stated that if it is open to all, we want to be able to offer open senior activities. Staff is looking at the usage and opportunities for a scheduled reservation and will be touching base with the group.

Commissioner Greenberg asked if there are plans to modify the open green space near Grandview Elementary and if that area is part of the school districts plan to redo the area. Director Leyman confirmed that the area will be turfed.

Commissioners Turkmany and Karger reported that they have begun researching installation of bricks and options for the Veterans Memorial.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there is any option for a dog park near Sand Dune Park.

Pickleball update –Director Leyman reported that we are still working with the vendor to schedule the work and do not have an updated timeline at this time. Commissioner Weiner asked if, in the interim, we can at least do the conversion net.

Recycling – Commissioner Greenberg reported no issues with the dumpsters leaking and staining the basketball courts this year at the Hometown Fair. The organizers used higher grade trash can liners this year. As far as actual recycling, two full pallets of cardboard trash

cans were delivered for the event. He suggested that Waste Management should have an offering to drop off plastic trash barrels instead of cardboard. He also wondered about the dumpsters, it is all comingled trash and if that trash is taken to a facility and later separated.

The November 25th commission meeting has been cancelled and an alternative date for December will be determined.

Director Leyman reminded the Commission that the Joint City Council/Commission meeting will be held on January 6, 2020.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Greenberg moved to adjourn. Commissioner Karger seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.