

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
March 5, 2018
6:00 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Karger, Turkmany, Allen, Allard, Weiner, Greenberg
Absent: Commissioner Tuffli

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Greenberg requested P. 2, paragraph 3, be corrected to: “Commissioner Turkmany moved to approve ~~to~~ and recommend the special event...”

Commissioner Allard moved to approve the January 22, 2018 minutes with the correction. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Karger, Turkmany, Allen, Allard, Weiner and Greenberg
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Commissioner Tuffli

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Commissioner Karger opened the floor to audience participation.

Joe Bennett, resident – Mr. Bennett’s wife grew up in Manhattan Beach and his daughter played Little League with the boys and played soccer with AYSO and has enjoyed what Parks and Rec has offered. Mr. Bennett is in charge of facilities for Manhattan Beach Little League (MBLL). He reported that he had a chance to read a draft of the field allocation policy. He feels that some of the solutions seem to be designed to accommodate certain groups rather than update the stated priorities of the policy. A requirement for resident organizations was reduced from 70% to 60%, which seems to be in direct opposition with the stated priority of insuring that residents have priority and access to facilities. In the case of MBLL, there is a high percentage of residents but the group is now on the same level as others with lower percentage. In addition, MBLL contributes about \$22,000 this year and countless hours of volunteer time for field maintenance. Speaking as a parent, he feels that Manhattan Beach bears much of the burden for the combined leagues with Hermosa. He feels that the policy does not address the inequity or provide solutions on how to get Hermosa to the table.

Commissioner Weiner responded that the policy is a work in progress. Commissioner Greenberg stated that Mr. Bennett’s comments bring to light the complexity of the issue that

the policy is dealing with. He clarified that the rationale for reducing the residency requirement was based on the way the current 70% threshold is being implemented. The intention is to bring consistency to the reporting where there was no consistency before among the different organizations.

Gary McAuley, resident 3rd St. – Tree and Bench donation policy – Mr. McAuley understands the desire to memorialize, however, he does not want to fill up the town with endless plaques dedicated to the departed. He stated that there are occasions when memorials are appropriate. With Memorial Day approaching he is thinking about those from Manhattan Beach who died during wars, with no monument to the fallen. He stated that there is no master list of fallen residents until Vietnam. He offered that one memorial for all of the fallen service men might be appropriate.

The floor was closed to public comment.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS –

Salute to the Troops –

Commissioner Weiner reported work is slow going. He suggested breaking down into subcommittees and reviewed responsibilities and the event timeline.

Commissioner Allard contacted the USO and a Marine Group out of Bell. There is a Navy recruiting station next to the In-N-Out Burger on Sepulveda. Commissioner Allard will follow up with them.

Commissioner Weiner reported that there is an Alzheimers group that may be interested in having a booth.

Linda Robb to follow up with Tiger Squadron for insurance for flyover.

Martin to work with sound company for filler music.

If Navy Seals have a local presence and can bring anything for kids to explore, it would be appreciated.

There was discussion about a letter writing booth run by the high school club Any Soldier.

Commissioner Weiner would like for each branch to be honored with their branch song.

It was decided that Commissioners Allard, Karger and Weiner will comprise the Organizing Subcommittee and Commissioners Allen, Turkmany and Greenberg will comprise the Operational Subcommittee.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS –

Field Policy update – Director Leyman stated that each of the ad-hoc committee members have brought great value to the group and have created a very solid draft. He thanked Commissioners Weiner, Greenberg and Allen for all of their hours and work.

Commissioner Greenberg related some of the issues that were reviewed by the ad-hoc committee to revise the Field Allocation policy and Fees. There are a number of criteria that drive the prioritization for field allocation. Revising the user fees is more complicated than the allocation policy. Currently some recreational groups pay a flat fee per participant per season, regardless of how much time they use. The policy is looking toward moving to an hourly fee. This is intended to change behavior as there is a perception that the fields are underutilized, partly due to groups not using space during their allocated times because there is no penalty.

Commissioner Weiner reported that there have been 10 iterations so far and that a draft will be reviewed by the commission. The policy will be presented at the April 3rd City Council

meeting. The ad-hoc committee met with the user groups separately and jointly.

Commissioner Allen stated that the user groups are most concerned with the allocations. The allocations will not change dramatically but the fees will. He stated that the user groups want to know what the fees will be used for and whether they will go into the general fund or to the facilities.

Director Leyman stated that the commission can make recommendations as to where the money should go. The commission's job is to report what they have heard and what they think is equitable.

Commissioner Allen stated that if they had a better idea of what the funds were being used for, there might be a different starting point.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that the market rates were determined but will not necessarily be applied to the user groups. It may be applied to the third party rate for a one-off user. Even so, the new rates are significantly different from the current rates.

Commissioner Allard stated that it sounds like the user groups would like to volunteer and maintain fields. Commissioner Allen stated that user groups would love to be responsible for a particular field but there are several user groups using the same fields. Commissioner Weiner stated that the user groups would like their volunteerism monetized and receive a credit for it. Commissioner Weiner stated that there should be a reasonable expectation for cost of living increase. Commissioner Allen stated that if the user groups knew that every dollar they were paying was going back in to the fields, there would be less angst.

Director Leyman stated that the process has been contentious but at the end of the day, everyone realized that it is about the kids and their experiences and that the groups will come together to make it work.

Commissioner Allen stated that the allocation policy is not as much of an issue as the fee schedule.

Commissioner Allard asked the commission to save May 28th for the Pinewood Derby. Started in 1928 in Manhattan Beach. Fundraiser for the Scout House and Senior center. Racers will be sold through the City and there will be much community involvement. City Council will enter cars, and she hopes that her fellow commissioners will participate as well.

Commissioner Turkmany announced the Leadership Manhattan Beach 20th Anniversary Black and White Gala on March 24th.

Commissioner Weiner asked if the memorial benches are the commission's responsibility. Director Leyman explained that the Parks and Recreation Commission will review the Tree and Bench donation policy and the Strand Alcove Bench donation program will be reviewed by the Cultural Arts Commission.

- I. **STAFF ITEMS** – Director Leyman gave the following program and event updates:
Spring Registration has begun. Annie Lewis' tennis classes filled up in 3 minutes and Aqualetics has a few hundred registrations. The Little League parade was cancelled due to the rain so the Summer Camp Expo was cancelled as well. Staff was present for pictures at Joslyn and passed out summer camp information.

Commissioner Greenberg asked about the convenience fee for registering online. Director Leyman stated that the 5% is an ActiveNet charge that is passed along to the customer. Commissioner Greenberg stated that in his opinion, customers should not be penalized for

registering online. Both Commissioners Allen and Greenberg recommended building in the convenience fee to the class price.

Tree and bench donation program – Director Leyman reported that the Tree and Bench donation policy will be delayed pending the City Council workplan discussion. Once the City Council gives direction, the policy will be brought to the Commission for review.

Facility Policy – Staff is updating the facility policy and will be bringing the new policy to the March 26th meeting for review. The policy will address issues such as how reservations should work; should the PD/Fire Conference room be available to the public; Reservable spaces, such as whether or not Bruce’s beach and parkettes should be reservable. Director Leyman asked the commissioners to review the distributed policy and provide input at the next meeting.

Director Leyman distributed the Spring Manhappenings catalog. Commissioner Turkmany mentioned that the commissions are not listed in the Manhappenings. Commissioner Greenberg asked what percentage of households register for classes as he is concerned about the environmental impact of printing the magazine 4 times a year and mailing to all households. He stated that perhaps we should consider an opt-in/opt-out program. Commissioner Greenberg would like to include questions about the Manhappenings on the Parks Master Plan survey.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Allard moved to adjourn. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Ayes: Commissioners Karger, Turkmany, Allen, Allard, Weiner and Greenberg

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Tuffli