

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
July 16, 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, Nicholson, Allard, Weiner, Greenberg

Absent: Commissioner Apostol

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Greenberg moved to approve the June 25, 2018 minutes as written.

Commissioner Weiner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Karger, Turkmany, Nicholson, Allard, Weiner, Greenberg

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Apostol

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Commissioner Turkmany opened the floor to audience participation.

Lee Barr, resident – Mr. Barr congratulated the commission on the Salute to the Troops concert. He mentioned that a previous commissioner had worked really hard on a project that had gone to City Council and it looked like it was going to be approved but at the final meeting for approval, one citizen stood up to speak and the whole project went down. He advised the commission to keep thinking outside of the box and not to be discouraged by setbacks.

The floor was closed to public comment.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

None

H. COMMISSION ITEMS – Donation policy – Commissioner Turkmany gave an update on progress of the donation policy.

Presentation to City Council has been moved to October 16th so there is a little more time to work on the draft. The subcommittee was not able to get together since the last meeting and will be meeting at the end July to do further work on the policy.

Commissioner Nicholson inquired if the donation policy includes objects but not donations for events. There was some discussion about the distinction between a donation and a sponsorship.

Salute to the Troops debrief – Director Leyman reported that the police department estimated 4,000 attendees. Commissioner Weiner stated that overall, it went off well and there are some things to think about.

- Booth banners were a little too long. Could have been about 16 inches long so that people could get into the booths. Overall, the booth participants were satisfied.
- Seemed like fewer challenge coins were given out
- Mayor pro tem Napolitano did a good job
- Band did the job but was not mind blowing
- Tool kit would be useful
- It is difficult to get the crowd to listen the announcements
- Commissioner Turkmany thought that the letter writing booth might have benefitted from circulating through the crowd
- Commissioner Allard stated that a vocalist would have been nice

Commissioner Greenberg asked if the composition of the Salute crowd is different from a regular Concert in the Park. Commissioner Nicholson replied that in his opinion, there were less younger families than at a regular Concert. Commissioner Greenberg asked the commission if they want to try to attract a younger family crowd in the future. Commissioner Karger stated that she was thrilled with 4,000. Commissioner Nicholson added that attendance is driven by the music and younger people usually do not gravitate towards the military marches.

Commissioner Karger stated that she really liked the Jazz Band portion of the concert and that the first part should not be exclusively military songs. Commissioner Weiner agreed that next year the playlist should be opened up to non-military songs.

Commissioner Allard recommended making the Color Guard process easier.

Commissioner Nicholson stated that he thought there was more security than was necessary. Director Leyman informed that security staffing levels are determined by the Police Department. Commissioner Nicholson added that the signage was better for handicap parking and the number of porta potties was sufficient.

Commissioner Weiner reported that the side speakers are not effective and that the announcements only go through the front speakers. He also mentioned that the trash is overflowing.

Field Policy - Commissioner Weiner asked about the Field Policy as that was a big reason that the meeting was rescheduled for this date. Director Leyman reported that the intention was to present the field policy but with summer schedules being very busy, it was not possible to get stakeholders together for a meeting. There will be a meeting on July 18th and then one additional meeting with the policy coming back to the commission in August. The policy is scheduled to go to City Council on September 18th. It was decided to move the August meeting from August 27th to August 20th.

Commissioner Weiner asked that if there is a change and the subject will not be up for discussion at the next meeting, that the commission be informed prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Greenberg made the following comments:

- Congratulated staff on the Day in the life of Manhattan Beach event at the Manhattan

Beach Art Center.

- His youngest son is participating at the Teen Center and the staff is great and the programming is great. He stated that Teen Center should be marketed better because many don't even know it exists.
- The 14U Beach Softball Girls All-Star team has qualified for the USA Softball Western National Championships in Salem, Oregon and he would like to bring it to the attention of the City Council. Director Leyman recommended finding out the name of the coach and directing the coach to the City Clerk. The City Clerk can coordinate with the Mayor and City Council. If City Council cannot fit it on their calendar, they can give it to the Commission.
- Update on the 2028 Olympics initiative - He had a good call with Mayor pro tem Napolitano to see if he was supportive of bringing the Olympic volleyball events to Manhattan Beach. Mayor pro tem Napolitano is supportive with any or all of the beach volleyball events coming to Manhattan Beach with the caveat that the City has no budget for this and the project must be budget neutral. Commissioner Greenberg will continue to charge ahead now that he knows he has the support.
- There has been a lot of discussion on Nextdoor regarding what seems to be the problem with the homeless population. He is curious to know the impacts in the parks. Director Leyman reported that there has not been a significant uptick in park issues with homeless and that the City Manager's office is working on this initiative.

Commissioner Nicholson reported that he has had people approach him about the blanket situation at Concerts in the Park and the change in policy. He stated that the amphitheater is blanketed by 9:00 a.m. if the band is good. Director Leyman reported that the current policy to not remove unattended blankets is a City Attorney recommendation based on personal property. He added that the situation will be monitored and reviewed at the end of season.

Commissioner Karger added that she loves the idea of the teen bands and stated that the band the week before was great.

Commissioner Weiner stated that the City has done a great job of introducing people to pickleball and people are asking about courts and where to play. It will be something to consider moving forward. Commissioner Greenberg stated that this was presented many months ago and there was going to be a proposal to repurpose some existing tennis courts to pickleball courts. Director Leyman stated that this would be a consideration for the Parks Master Plan and added that Net ball is also gaining in popularity so may also be considered. Commissioner Greenberg asked about new beach tennis courts mid-strand. Director Leyman stated that it was a resident request that was worked out with LA County. Commissioner Greenberg asked about a new sport that appears to be a soccer league playing soccer on the basketball court. He stated that it looks like an organized group that he thinks it is a league being played on Saturday afternoons. Director Leyman will check with Recreation Supervisor Archie Sherman to see if he is aware.

I. STAFF ITEMS – Director Leyman gave the following updates.

1. Village Field update – photos shown of the returf project. Musco lighting will eventually be swapped out and will use the Control Link module allowing for automation. For now, the bulbs and shields will be replaced but will not be LEDs until next year. The new lights will be lighter, brighter and have better shields. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for September 8, 2018.

2. Dorsey netting project is still active with estimated completion within 30 days. Live Oak was a previous landfill and there is soil testing that is being done. The project cannot move forward until soil samples are tested.
3. Pay and Play Racquetball Courts – The lease has been reviewed by the City Attorney and the City has almost no leverage. The tenant has two, ten-year options to renew after 2021. Commissioner Greenberg asked if there is a buyout possibility. Director Leyman stated that as we look at future usage, we may be able to look at a buyout as an option. Commissioner Nicholson asked if there were any maintenance requirements that might cost a lot of money. Commissioner Greenberg asked what would be the next step and Director Leyman stated that it would be a conversation with the City Manager and a reach out to the Pay and Play owner. Commissioner Greenberg asked that it be a standing item for updates.
4. Day if the Life of Manhattan Beach exhibition – There were over 600 attendees at the opening. It was a great collaboration and is likely to become an annual event.
5. MBO Tennis Tournament will be held July 26-July 29, 2018 at Live Oak and Mira Costa with finals at Manhattan Beach Country Club.
6. AVP MBO Volleyball Tournament will be held August 16-August 19, 2018. – no significant differences. Setup is very similar with the main stadium increasing capacity about 20% bringing seating to about 4,000.
7. International Surf Festival – 6-Man will be Friday and Saturday, August 3rd & 4th. Jr. 6-Man and the Sandcastle Contest will be Sunday August 5th.
8. 10th Annual Kids Extreme 10th will be on August 19th.
9. Manhattan Beach Grand Prix will be on July 22nd and will be adding a one mile run to the event, resurrecting the old Manhattan Mile.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Karger moved to adjourn. Commissioner Allard seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm to August 20, 2018.

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| Ayes: | Commissioners Karger, Turkmany, Nicholson, Allard, Weiner, Greenberg |
| Noes: | None |
| Abstain: | None |
| Absent: | Commissioner Apostol |