

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

**CONTENTS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM.

**B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**C. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Turkmany, Karger, Allard, Greenberg, Weiner, Nicholson and Apostol

Absent: None

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Weiner moved to approve the November 26, 2018 minutes as written.

Commissioner Karger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**E. CEREMONIAL**

None

**F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)**

Commissioner Turkmany opened the floor to audience participation.

Presentation by Ann Pitts – Ms. Pitts gave a presentation on Eva Joseph Goldsheid: Shining a Light on Local artist and Gifted Teacher. Ms. Pitts suggested that a community center classroom be named in honor of Ms. Goldsheid, and that she be featured in a short Manhappenings article. More information about Ms. Goldsheid may be found at [www.evajoseph.com](http://www.evajoseph.com).

The floor was closed to public comment.

**G. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**2019/0128.1** – Jim Denevan, Outstanding in the Field – Mr. Denevan requested the Commission to consider allowing the long table dinner event to happen on the Pier in 2019. The event was held in 2018 on the sand. Mr. Denevan described his background as an artist and chef. The theme of Outstanding in the Field is to present the story of place and represent the people behind the food. He has brought events such as this to all 50 states and will be celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

During the pier walk through, the issue of emergency vehicle access arose. In order to allow for

this, the table would need to be shifted toward the north or south side of the pier and some of the benches and trashcans will need to be moved. The general public may enjoy the pier at the same time. He likes it better if the pier is open to the general public because it looks great to see people eating together. Local chefs would be preparing the food at the base of the pier and a reception area will be at the end of the pier. The vision is for the table would go from the center of the pier outward. The table will be 400 feet long with the plan to seat 400 guests. The event fee would be \$285 and would happen rain or shine. A portion of the profit will be donated to the Roundhouse.

Outstanding in the Field is in communication with the California Coastal Commission. Commissioner Greenberg asked they would consider holding a certain percentage of tickets for residents. Mr. Denevan agreed that it would be possible to hold back a percentage. Kelly Stroman, who assisted in bringing this event to the City last year in her role as Executive Director of the Downtown Business Association, reported that a special code had been sent out in 2018 to some Manhattan Beach residents one day before they went on sale to the general public. The event sold out very quickly.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that increasing the ticket price and the number of guests would increase the revenue and asked if the donation to the Roundhouse would be proportionally increased. Mr. Denevan stated that the donation could be increased, but did not commit to an exact proportional increase. Commissioner Greenberg asked if the event was profitable last year. Mr. Denevan did not have specific information but stated that due to the lower price of the tickets and the expenses he does not think it was very profitable.

Chair Turkmany asked Ms. Stroman her opinion on how the downtown businesses feel about the precedent that the event might set for events on the pier. She replied that in her new role at the Chamber of Commerce, she cannot speak for the downtown business but that each event should be looked at individually. She added that at the 2019 event, our local chef's would be more in the spotlight. Commissioner Greenberg asked about the benefit of the event to the Downtown Business Association. Ms. Stroman replied that the long table dinner is part of a larger month long event called the LA Times Food Bowl. Last year, there were weekly activations at the Farmers Market and other events locally bringing business to downtown. The event showcases the downtown business scene. She added, speaking historically from her previous role, that she had not heard any negative feedback from the downtown businesses and that unlike many large events that happen downtown that cannibalize business, this event celebrates our local culinary scene. The positive feedback and the resulting publicity were long lasting.

Commissioner Nicholson is concerned with the idea of monetizing the pier. He stated that he was skeptical of the event last year but heard nothing but positive feedback afterward. He would support the event if 35% of tickets are saved for Manhattan Beach residents and if the donation to the Roundhouse is increased to \$15,000.

Commissioner Karger sees it as a win-win for the City adding that there are many sporting events in town and this event celebrates our chefs and great food scene.

Chair Turkmany is concerned that this will set a precedent for the pier as an event venue. Commissioner Greenberg is concerned that this would open up the pier to weddings and other private events. Commissioner Allard stated that the Coastal Commission requirement may deter future applicants.

Commissioner Weiner has attended Outstanding in the Field events in the past and has experienced difficulty obtaining tickets due to the popularity. He supports a set aside of tickets so that residents are able to participate.

Commissioner Greenberg commented that events should either benefit the businesses, the community in a big way, or be a big fundraiser. Therefore, he supports moving the event forward if 75% of seats are reserved for Manhattan Beach residents and to consider increasing the Roundhouse donation to \$25,000. Mr. Denevan agreed to set aside 50% of the tickets for presale to Manhattan Beach residents. Commissioner Nicholson supports a proportional increase in the donation, arriving at \$15,000. Commissioner Greenberg appreciates that there is no request to shut down the pier but stated that it will appear to visitors that the pier is closed.

Commissioner Allard moved to approve the event to move forward to the City Council with 50% of the tickets be offered presale to Manhattan Beach residents and \$15,000 donated to the Roundhouse. Commissioner Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Karger, Allard, Weiner, Greenberg, Nicholson and Apostol

Noes: Commissioner Turkmany

Abstain: None

Absent: None

### **Donation Policy -**

Commissioner Weiner pointed out that the terms “Donations” and “Donated items” are not interchangeable and need to be placed appropriately throughout the document. He stated that he read the proposed policy both as the author of the policy and as someone who might like to donate and found it difficult to read both ways. His suggested edits to clarify language, which will be examined by the ad-hoc committee for inclusion and reviewed again by the Commission at the February meeting.

Commissioner Greenberg asked questions related to the donation tiers. As a result, the language in this section will be cleaned up to be more clear. He suggested additional edits that will be reviewed by the ad-hoc committee.

He suggests that there should be a global policy, with programs and other types of donations addressed separately.

Director Leyman envisions a long-term umbrella policy with programs coming and going.

Commissioner Greenberg made the following suggestions:

1) Think in terms of reordering the content and restructured, The first part should be the high level, global policy that applies to everything. He believes that recognition should be clarified in this section and should not be buried in a brochure.

2) the second section should refer to the programs

Chair Turkmany commented that programs will change so the recognition parameters may change depending on the program. Commissioner Greenberg thinks that the wording should not be variable and that an exhaustive list of allowable recognition language should be identified in the global policy. He agrees that the specifics of the dimensions of the recognition plaque should be specific to the program but the language should be the same for all programs.

Director Leyman stated that donations language has been all over the map. If the commission would like to set down standard language, donors may always approach City Council with exceptions. He also mentioned that a certificate for a tree donation is different than a plaque on a bench, because it is not seen by the general public so a challenge has been to decide whether the certificate wording should be more flexible.

Commissioner Greenberg suggested that dates should not be allowed on donation plaques and the location of the bench plaques should be moved from the seat back to a less prominent location on the side of the bench.

Commissioner Weiner pointed out that Bruce's Beach is not included in the bench donation brochure. He added that for the Strand Bench program, he offered that the seven remaining locations could be auctioned off.

**Military Banner Program** – Commissioner Karger showed the Commission a sample of the military banner. There are multiple designs available and cost \$88 each to produce. The proposal is to hang the pole banners on Manhattan Beach Boulevard between the Salute to the Troops and Veterans Day. Commissioner Greenberg feels that the cycle is a bit long.

Commissioner Karger is waiting for the labor costs from Public Works in order to determine an appropriate price. Torrance charges \$220 and produces the banners in house. She sees the program as an opportunity to honor our resident Veterans and active duty military, not as a money maker. She added that it should be priced such that the City does not lose any money. Commissioner Nicholson is in favor of the banner program.

**Tile Donation program** – small handmade tiles and/or pavers at select locations, to be determined

Commissioner Weiner recommends getting all installation costs before finalizing a donor price. He would also like to offer location alternatives for the paver program, instead of only one location.

Director Leyman feels that the commission should review the policy at least one more time before it goes to City Council. If the Commission can agree on which programs to present, they can be better fleshed out. All proposed programs are community based. The Commission should consider if other more commercial options are desired for fundraising programs. He mentioned that the amphitheater at Polliwog Park has previously been discussed.

Commissioner Weiner added Metlox Plaza as a potential recognition area.

Chair Turkmany opened the floor to public comment.

Gary McAulay, resident – thought that the policy would be an umbrella program about memorials in general, but it has narrowed down to specific donations programs.

Regarding private memorials and private plaques on public property, he has always stated his belief that there should be no private memorials or plaques on public property. He understands that there is a desire for people to have their names on things so he somewhat likes the tile program. The City can afford benches and the program should not be used to line the City's coffers. He mentioned that he is disappointed with the extensive donor recognition at the Roundhouse aquarium. He feels that it is tacky to have plaques on everything when the City can afford to buy these items. He would like to see a removal date, and finite shelf life for plaques. He mentioned that the plaque in the bench brochure does not match the 14 x 2 inch description. He recommended leaving the seven remaining strand benches blank. He does not want dates on plaques and wants all plaque language, including positive wording to be carefully reviewed.

Regarding the military banner program, it sounds like a good idea on the surface but now the City is in a position of honoring those whose families will buy a banner for them. The City should be honoring all veterans and service members. He is all for recognizing veterans but maybe that is something the City could pay for.

The floor was closed to public comments.

## **H. COMMISSION ITEMS**

Salute to the Troops – Coast Guard Band and Color Guard need to be requested. Director Leyman stated that if a military band is not available, a commercial band could be a back-up

option.

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

Still gathering public input on Pickleball and Fitness Court items.

Fitness Court – RFP for design will go out in February. Looking at completion by the end of the year.

Pickleball – The current proposal is to maintain one paddleball court with two pickleball courts. There is feedback from paddle ball players that the courts should be mixed use. Commissioner Greenberg mentioned a letter to the editor about a resident complaining about noise from pickleball. Director Leyman stated that he has not heard any specific complaints in recent years. There are screens to dampen sounds. The City is aware and will look into sound mitigation options.

Polliwog Playground – The surfacing and equipment are at the end of their useful life. Equipment will need to be updated in advance of the Park Master Plan. A community input meeting will be held. Playground equipment representatives will present potential designs to the community and then bring recommendations back to the Commission. The Commission will then make a recommendation to the City Council. Commissioner Greenberg stated that it is very important to get feedback from the constituents who use the parks. This may mean conducting an input meaning in the daytime. Director Leyman asked commissioners if they see a great playground anywhere to please send him a link. There is currently \$1,000,000 allocated to the Begg Field synthetic turf project and some of those funds may be used towards the Polliwog Park project to replace equipment and resurface the lower and upper playground areas. Some of the funds may also be used to find a safety solution and lights for Begg Field.

Park Master Plan – Director Leyman would like to establish an ad-hoc committee to inventory, assess and identify the needs in each of the City's parks. Commissioner Greenberg is hesitating and questions what the City Council will do with the Master Plan. Director Leyman replied that this project is different in that we are doing it in house and the final will not be a 300 page booklet that will sit on a shelf. It will share where we were, where we are now and where we want to be and become a blueprint for staff and capital improvement projects. It will also share the community's priorities. It will be a simple document with much value. Commissioners Greenberg, Nicholson and Weiner will comprise the Parks Master Plan ad-hoc committee.

The Parks and Rec Department is near finalizing the department mission and values.

The Parks and Rec Department received a CPRS Award of Excellence for the Day in the Life of Manhattan Beach Community Art Show.

Director Leyman did a quick review of current unfunded CIP projects and recent City Council actions.

Director Leyman shared some documents from the Beach Cities Health District regarding student mental health and well-being. His view is that it is incumbent upon all of us community members to consider how we can get the word out about the resources available to kids.

Lee Barr, Homeless Task Force member and resident, updated the commission on the status of the Homeless Task Force. Through Measure HH, the beach cities were awarded \$150,000 to aid in the homeless effort. The funds will be shared between Manhattan Beach, Hermosa

Beach and Redondo Beach. The task force will be expanded to 11 people with the goal of developing a plan to address some homeless issues. Mr. Barr wanted to clarify that there are no plans for a shelter in Manhattan Beach. He reported that the homeless count was done the week prior. Last year 41 homeless were counted in the City, including those sleeping in cars. The current numbers will not be available for 3-4 months. Overall, he thinks they counted between 15 and 20 people. Commissioner Greenberg asked about the new rules and enforcement. Mr. Barr replied that the Police can use the new rules to an extent but if there is no shelter available, they cannot make them move.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Turkany moved to adjourn. Commissioner Apostol seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm February 25, 2019.

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