

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Manhattan Beach City Hall
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
June 24, 2019
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, Greenberg, Weiner, Nicholson, McCarthy, Turkmany and Jackson

Absent: None

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Weiner moved to approve the May 28, 2019 minutes with a correction to p4, paragraph 2 to correct the spelling of Commissioner Weiner's name.

Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

E. CEREMONIAL

Commissioner Weiner welcomed Commissioners McCarthy and Jackson to the commission. Commissioners McCarthy and Jackson introduced themselves. Commissioner Weiner encouraged the new commissioners to get as involved as possible.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Commissioner Weiner opened the floor to audience participation.

Lee Barr, resident – As a member of the Homelessness Task Force, he reported that the results of homeless count showed that the homeless population in Manhattan beach is down 45% to 22. The task force was expanded to 11 members and is collecting information to feed back to the City council.

The floor was closed to public comment.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

Polliwog Park Play Equipment Design Selection – Director Leyman commented on the public input process and recognized the commission and staff for the work done. Over 500 community members (206 registered) gave their input through the OpenGov survey. The representative from Kompan showed a new video of the Kompan design.

Commissioner Weiner stated that there was a significant amount of feedback from the

community. He believes that the comments served their purpose and resulted in a good design. Commissioner Turkmany thought there was a little confusion in that people said they did not want another South Park but it wasn't clear who built South Park.

There was a short discussion on splash pads and water features. Director Leyman added that a splash pad would be cost prohibitive and the flooding is problematic.

Commissioner Greenberg asked about the slide built into the hillside at South Park and if that is a possibility. Director Leyman stated that it is not possible for this particular project, but may be considered in a long-term plan.

Commissioner McCarthy asked why there aren't more swings in the designs. The Kompan rep. replied that swings have a large footprint so you have to balance with play value. The Rec West design featured a greater number of swings in the 5-12 age area, with two in the 2-5 age area.

Commissioner Greenberg thanked staff and the community for the input. He also thanked the representatives for working on the designs and for their responsiveness. After reading through the comments, there were definite themes: shade, fencing to keep kids in and ducks out, benches for caretakers and natural looking features. As for materials, people loved the pirate ship design but mentioned concern about maintenance of the natural wood. He cited, Gene Wengert, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison, a wood expert as saying that rubinia lumber will warp and someone walking on the wood may develop an allergic reaction if they got a splinter. Commissioner Greenberg is also concerned about the long-term maintenance. He asked if we could get the same structure, just not made of wood. The Kompan representative passed a sample of the wood around the dais and reported that there are alternatives, but real wood is better.

Commissioner Weiner asked about the warranty. The Kompan representative confirmed that there is a 10-year warranty on the wood and the flood area does not change the warranty. He added that the rubinia structures have been in the catalog for 5-7 years, competitors in Europe have been using it even longer in Europe.

Commissioner Nicholson is a fan of the pirate ship and likes the wood.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that the community spoke loud and clear that the Kompan design was their preference and that is his preference as well, but he would be interested in artificial product instead of the wood, for maintenance and longevity purposes. The Kompan representative confirmed that the warranty for the plastic is the same (10 years) as for the wood. The posts have a lifetime warranty.

Commissioner McCarthy asked about routine maintenance. Kompan will build in regular inspections for the first two years on the wood products because it expands and contracts.

Commissioner Jackson asked how long the most recent structure lasted. Staff confirmed that it was installed in 2003.

Commissioner McCarthy asked if elements of the designs could be combined. Director Leyman clarified that the commission is choosing a design and staff will be working with City engineers to build the RFP based on commission recommendations. He encouraged the commission to make recommendations if they would like any additional features.

Commissioner Greenberg moved that the commission recommend the Kompan design as the base design with additional recommendations to maximize fencing; shade for children and caretakers; and bench space. Commissioner Karger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Karger, Greenberg, Weiner, Nicholson, McCarthy, Turkmany and Jackson
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Donation Policy – Director Leyman explained that the strategy now is to present a selection of programs to City Council and receive direction on which programs they would like to move forward with. Based on the feedback, the program specifics will be developed and brought back for adoption.

Commissioner Karger stated that the Military Banner program costs will change from the previous numbers with new costs to come. She will look into a new size and check the size of Torrance's banners.

Commissioner Weiner asked about recognition language. Director Leyman stated that the recognition will be identified once City Council comes back with the programs they would like to see developed.

Director Leyman clarified that what is being presented to the City Council is an umbrella policy with specifics to come later.

Commissioner Weiner asked how the donation program will be marketed. Director Leyman stated that donation programs need to be better marketed than in the past. Each new program needs to be marketed separately as they are introduced. Commissioner Weiner is in favor of moving forward to Council.

Commissioner Karger moved to present the proposed donation policy and program options to City Council. Commissioner Turkmany seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Karger, Greenberg, Weiner, Nicholson, McCarthy, Turkmany and Jackson
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Salute to the Troops – Commissioner Karger has secured two Girl Scout Troops and Steve Rothans will be providing flags.

Commissioner Jackson will check with her friend in the Mira Costa chorus to see if someone can sing the National Anthem at the event.

Commissioners will arrive at 3:00 to assist. Challenge coins will be offered from a pop-up at the top of the hill.

H. STAFF ITEMS

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

The newly approved City logo was shown to the commission

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Weiner asked about the Fitness Court. Director Leyman replied that Parks and Recreation is working with Engineering and it is on schedule for a November/December completion date.

Commissioner Weiner mentioned the sand on the Strand and that LA County is responsible for cleaning the bike path. Director Leyman reported that the City receives a monthly report from the county on activities that helps to identify potential issues. He stressed that communication helps and the County is usually very responsive when they receive a complaint. He added that if you see any problems or issues in the City, the Go Reach app will geo tag your location when you report through the app.

Commissioner Weiner reported that the commission workplan was presented to the City Council and the feedback was that we should be looking at sustainability at our events. Director Leyman explained that the Special Events Committee requires each event to fill out Green Matrix for review by the Environmental Programs Manager.

Commissioner Nicholson commented that there should be better recycling avenues at the Concerts in the Park. Staff will follow up with Public Works to examine options.

Commissioner Greenberg asked staff to look into whether or not there is an option for special events to rent plastic barrels rather than buying disposable cardboard boxes.

Commissioner Jackson commented on the recyclables and would like to suggest taking a broader look at all the trash cans in Manhattan Beach as it is difficult to determine whether receptacles are for landfill or recyclables.

Commissioner Greenberg updated the commission regarding 2028 Olympics Beach Volleyball. It was decided previously not to pursue bringing the event to Manhattan Beach but other opportunities were identified. Those opportunities have been communicated to the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Greenberg met with Kelly Stroman from the Chamber, who is excited to run with the initiatives.

Commissioner McCarthy attended a Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting and the main subject involved the transition of Manhappenings to an online publication. SAC wants to make sure the transition occurs smoothly and have created a group to discuss the issue further. On a separate issue, the Older Adult Program (OAP) newsletter online is not updating quickly enough and the information is usually a month or more stale. There are two separate approval processes involved that may be redundant and are causing delays. There is concern that the delay in getting activities posted in a timely manner coupled with the elimination of the printed Manhappenings will affect participation. The OAP is doing a study to identify what services are being used the most, to aid in deciding what services can be right sized. Director Leyman commented that the process for updating the website is being addressed.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Greenberg moved to adjourn. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None