

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Virtual – Zoom meeting
September 27, 2021
4:00 PM

CONTENTS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Karger, Greenberg, Weiner, Turkmany, Doran, McCarthy, Grampp

Absent: None

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Weiner moved to approve the August 23, 2021 minutes including the following change requested by Chair Karger. Commissioner Turkmany seconded the motion. The motion passed.

P. 2, paragraph 6 – Add the word Foundation after Parks and Recreation Community

Ayes: Chair Karger, Greenberg, Weiner, Turkmany, Doran, McCarthy, Grampp

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

D. CEREMONIAL

None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Chair Karger opened the floor to audience participation, seeing none the floor was closed.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion of 2021 Workplan Items:

El Porto Family Park (Greenberg, McCarthy, Turkmany) – Commissioner Greenberg reported that the subcommittee is working to create a community survey and is hoping to have the survey out by the end of October.

Nature Areas and Trails – (Greenberg, McCarthy, Turkmany) Commissioner Greenberg gave the following update: he had a good discussion with Director Leyman and Sr. Recreation Manager (SRM) Vincent regarding concerns expressed regarding potential impacts of opening the areas to the public and how to proceed in light of potential opposition. The conclusion was to move forward with the trial period in order to learn the positives and negatives to opening the gates that are currently locked. Next steps: Risk Manager to do a final walkthrough, print signs for the 8 access points, provide post card notice to residents in the surrounding neighborhood and invite them to the October commission meeting to express any support/concerns/questions they may have regarding the project.

Exploring Repurposing the Pay N Play Racquetball Courts – (Karger, Turkmany, Greenberg) Chair Karger reported that there is no update for this item. This is currently in the City Attorney's hands. Commissioner Greenberg feels that the commission should be planning for what happens on January 1, in the event that the lease expires. Director Leyman stated that as this point the commission's role is complete as options for repurposing have been established.

Exploring the feasibility of developing an aquatics center – (McCarthy, Weiner, Doran) Commissioner McCarthy gave the following report: the sub-committee met with representatives from Gensler. Gensler will be doing some rough sketches to see how the Village and Begg sites can accommodate the basic required amenities and preparing some general initial cost estimates. Gensler suggested considering whether a splash pad is better suited for an aquatic center or a park adjacent to play equipment. Commissioner McCarthy thinks it might be wise to consider a splash pad as separate project from the aquatic center.

Dog Runs/Parkettes – Commissioner Weiner stated that is clear that there is no new real estate for dog parks. SRM Vincent stated that the chips have been replaced at the Live Oak dog run. Quotes to repair the fence have been received. Staff has been communicating with the City Engineer regarding the installation of a shade structure over the length of the dog run.

Donation Policy and Programs – (Turkmany, Karger)

Commissioner Turkmany reported that the subcommittee had established a connection with the South Bay Parkland Conservancy. Commissioner Weiner shared that this group is currently Redondo Beach centric and presently concentrating on Wilderness Park. They seem interested in Sand Dune Park. They may also be interested in the Greenbelt and possibly El Porto. The organization funds projects through grants. Commissioner Turkmany added that they are nature centric, and can probably gather people to clean up and plant things, possibly find grants. Commissioner Weiner stated that figuring out how they do it may be more beneficial than trying to get help.

Based on follow up information and the initial discussion with the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) of Santa Barbara, the subcommittee would like to switch gears on the donation policy presentation to City Council. The subcommittee proposes to get feedback from the City Council regarding forming a non-profit 501c3. The formation of a 501c3 would take the place of the current donation programs and would encompass everything in the donation program. The subcommittee feels that this could be a great asset to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Commissioner Weiner pointed out that there are three months until the joint meeting with City Council. Director Leyman asked the commissioners to save January 25th for the joint meeting. Date to be confirmed

Chair Karger recommended viewing the project template that was prepared by the Aquatics Committee in order to start building a cohesive and consistent presentation for City Council. The commission discussed and amended the template. It was decided that each project would list a basic cost but that Director Leyman will summarize the costs along with possible funding options and ask for specific direction from City Council. The commission will present a PowerPoint presentation at the joint meeting, detailing the progress on each project. Director Leyman stated that in the upcoming months, he would like to keep City Council informed of the progress of the projects through briefing notes in order to keep the projects

fresh in their minds.

G. STAFF ITEMS

Director Leyman informed the commission that Polliwog Park Playground Replacement construction contract award will be going to City Council on October 19th. The \$2.6M project is fully funded by City and grant funds, including the bioswale and shade structure add alternates.

The City Council completed their mayoral rotation making Hildy Stern the new mayor with Steve Napolitano as Mayor Pro Tem. If anyone on the commission knows of a person who should be recognized through Mayor Stern's kindness initiative, please forward your recommendation to the City Clerk's office.

Senior Recreation Manager (SRM) Vincent gave the following updates:

Four picnic benches have been replaced at Polliwog Park and the basketball hoops at Bruce's Beach have been replaced.

A new Maintenance Manager, Robert Sahagan has been hired. Mr. Sahagan is interested in developing new solutions and systems to address the quality of life issues that we have been faced with in our parks. Mr. Sahagan has been invited to come speak at the October commission meeting.

A membership program is being developed for pickleball and the skate spot.

The senior tennis card is being brought back. For a limited time, any resident over 55 or over can purchase the tennis card for \$1 that enable them to utilize the Live Oak tennis courts Monday – Friday, 7:00-9:00 pm or 12:00-2:00 pm, (times to be verified) free of charge. At the beginning of the year, 2022, the price will go to the regular price of \$25 per year.

Staff is working with MBUSD to offer tennis lessons at Mira Costa High School during the school day. This is intended to free up court time for recreational play at the Live Oak tennis courts.

Upcoming events:

Pumpkin Race, October 24th

Veterans Day, November 11th

Pier Lighting and Holiday Open House – November 17th

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

The December commission meeting has been rescheduled to December 14, 2021.

Older Adult Program update – Commissioner McCarthy reported that programs are continuing to reopen with limited capacity. Sign-ups continue to increase.

District update – Commissioner Greenberg reported that school is in session, in person, with COVID protocols. Sports are in full swing.

Student update – Commissioner Grampp reported that students are back in person and school spirit is the highest it has been in years, with record attendance at the football games.

Commissioner Grampp is interested in pursuing his Students to Seniors program. The

program would involve different clubs from Mira Costa doing an interactive showcase presentation monthly for the Older Adults Program. Commissioner McCarthy will reach out to Jan Buike and Adela Cornejo, who are in charge of the Older Adults program, and create a connection.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Greenberg moved to adjourn. Commissioner Doran seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM to Monday, October 25, 2021.

Ayes: Chair Karger, Greenberg, Weiner, McCarthy, Turkmany, Doran and Grampp
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: none