

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

February 26, 2007
6:30 P.M.

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ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Gill, Harris, Lamb, Lear, Murray and Nicholson

Absent: Commissioner Rachmiel

Others Present: Parks & Recreation Director Richard Gill and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

AGENDA CHANGES

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 4, 2006 Commission Meeting were approved as written.

CEREMONIAL

None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

07/0226.1 – Feedback from City Council Regarding Process for Future Dog Run Sites

Mr. Gill reported that City Council has given the go-ahead to the Parks and Recreation Commission to hold discussions on future dog run sites; to revisit old sites and try to gain approval from the various neighborhoods, based on the successes of the Live Oak and Marine Avenue dog runs. A dog committee, made up of F.I.D.O. and other community members, will meet to come up with a strategy to present to the Parks and Recreation Commission at a future meeting.

Commissioner Harris asked whether a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission would be allowed to participate on this committee. She reported that she participated with the original committee and would like to help again but would not want to jeopardize her involvement on the Commission. Mr. Gill suggested that it would be up to the Commission as to whether they want to send representatives, suggesting that a two member sub-committee could be established to participate on the committee and report back to the whole Commission. The Commission determined that it would be best that Ms. Harris not participate as an individual on the dog committee or that a sub-committee be formed at this time.

The Commission suggested that staff do some community outreach, i.e. notice in the Beach Reporter, letter to the editor and notices at the present dog runs, regarding the formation of the dog committee.

During a discussion the following points were made:

1. Commissioner Harris would like to add Polliwog Park to the list of proposed sites.
2. Commissioner Gill suggested a compromise idea, allowing dogs on leash in Polliwog Park during non-busy times (i.e. Labor Day to Memorial Day). Commissioner Lamb suggested that the change of regulation guidelines may be difficult to enforce.
3. Commissioner Lear inquired why we should limit dogs on leash during busy times. Mr. Gill reported that the community is concerned about dog bites and people not picking up their dog's feces.
4. Commissioner Lamb reported that dogs off leash in a city parquette are far from a rarity.
5. Mr. Gill suggested that the dog committee needs to strategize and pick one or two sites, possibly in Veterans Parkway, to bring before the Commission.
6. Commissioner Harris suggested that the people east of Sepulveda feel strongly about the need for a dog run in their area so they don't have to drive to a site on the west side.

07/0226.1 – Facility Strategic Plan (FSP)

Mr. Gill inquired whether the Commissioners had any comments regarding the review of the Facility Strategic Plan "Dream It" stage that Favaro/Johnson presented last month. Commissioner Nicholson suggested that they are now starting to focus on the "Plan It" stage of the plan and Mr. Gill encouraged the Commissioners to attend the future meetings, suggesting that the "planning" stage will be very exciting.

Mr. Gill reported that the School District has opened up their sites for the City to explore and determine possible uses for the sites.

During a discussion among the Commissioners, the following points were made:

1. Commissioner Lamb indicated that he is very impressed with the process, the fact that the City is stepping back and asking how a particular project might fit in with everything else they want to build.
2. Commissioner Nicholson suggested that a footprint will be created for the City that will be developed over the next 10 years and the Commission will need to determine whether the facilities will fit our needs; the City Council would then prioritize the needs and finances.
3. Commissioner Gill inquired about what is happening with the School District properties. Mr. Gill reported that the 7/11 Committee has not yet made a recommendation to the Board; the Board has indicated that they are looking at the Begg Site and the Ladera Site for Community use and has, therefore, allowed us to see if there is a way we could use the sites.
4. Commissioner Gill inquired about the full page ad in the Beach Reporter regarding a skate park. Mr. Gill indicated that the ad was placed by the skateboard community and was meant to bring awareness to the community, the City and Favaro/Johnson (Facility Strategic Plan). Mr. Gill reported that there has been very little representation from the skateboard community at previous FSP meetings.
5. Commissioner Lear suggested that this might be an opportune time to bring up the subject of a skateboard park to City Council. Mr. Gill indicated that the skateboard

park is part of the Facility Strategic Plan where facility placement would be decided. Commissioner Nicholson indicated that in the grand plan, the most important thing is to have a long term look at where things should be placed; the City would then go out for funding; and even if the funding falls flat the skateboard park, being comparatively inexpensive, might still be approved and built quickly.

6. Commissioner Gill inquired whether there could be a temporary skateboard park provided, until a permanent park might be built. Mr. Gill indicated that there are now portable ramps at the Manhattan Heights Teen Center.

REPORTS

Correspondence from ASA Events Regarding Proposed Two-day Action Sport Festival

Mr. Gill reported that ASA Events has approached the City, through Blu Moon Marketing Group, about a proposal for a two-day Action Sport Festival on the north and south side of the Manhattan Beach Pier. Mr. Gill reported that he has notified ASA Events that the event cannot be held between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The proposal will more than likely be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their March or April meeting.

Blu Moon Marketing Group

Mr. Gill reported that the City has just cancelled the contract with Blu Moon Marketing Group, effective March 31, 2007.

OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commissioner Murray reported that the Ad-Hoc Marketing Committee's main focus will be to secure sponsors for the City's special events; monetarily and/or in kind. Commissioner Murray suggested that the commissioners speak with the local business community, someone they may do business with, and offer them an opportunity to obtain recognition through sponsorship of our special events.

Commissioner Nicholson commended Senior Recreation Leader David Ibarra on the Beach Reporter Letter to the Editor, commending him on his caring and support of the older adult population.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Jane Grace
Recording Secretary

Ted Lamb
Commission Chair