

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

April 27, 2009  
6:30 P.M.

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**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Cajka, Fitzpatrick, Gill, Murray, Nicholson and Rhodes

Absent: Commissioners Harris

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

**AGENDA CHANGES**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 23, 2009**

Commissioner Cajka requested that a note of clarification be added to his comments regarding the review of the aquatics section of the Facility Strategic Plan:

Page 3, paragraph 2

Commissioner Cajka suggested a possible four-year plan:

- In two years, build two outdoor pools in conjunction with the existing pool
- In four years build a bigger facility including parking in an upper area

*Commissioner Cajka, understanding that the Council is now dealing with a negative budget, suggested that the Commission should encourage City Council to add some sort of a Facility Strategic Replacement Plan to their Workplan in the next 12-18 months. Commissioner Cajka suggested that something has to be done because our facilities are not going to get any younger and continue to require work. He suggested that if we can't move quickly on a pool, we might stretch it out over a 10-15 year period where we set aside money in some sort of capital improvement fund, similar to what was done with the Police/Fire facility.*

The minutes of the February 23, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting were approved as amended.

**CEREMONIAL**

None

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### 04/27/09-1 – Selection of 2009 Youth Services Award Recipient

Mr. Gill reported that since 1972 the Commission has annually presented the Manhattan Beach Recreation and Youth Services Award to a local citizen who has made significant contributions in promoting leisure services for the youth of Manhattan Beach. The Youth Services Award is presented in July, which is recognized as “Parks and Recreation Month” statewide.

Mr. Gill reported that staff sent a letter to all known youth agencies soliciting nominations. One nomination was received: Rose van Wier Hein was nominated by Dr. Beverly Rohrer, Manhattan Beach Unified School District.

After a discussion among the Commissioners, it was unanimously agreed that Rose van Wier Hein is extremely worthy of the award. Commissioner Rhodes reported that he personally knows the Hein family and indicated that they all work very hard on behalf of special needs children.

A motion was made to nominate Rose van Wier Hein as the recipient of the 2009 Youth Services Award (MSC: Nicholson/Cajka - Unanimous).

## **COMMISSION ITEMS**

### **Commissioner Murray – Report on CPRS Conference**

Commissioner Murray reported that she attended the California Parks and Recreation Society Conference in March in Santa Clara, California. She attended seminars that addressed issues that she felt would be helpful to the Commission.

Commissioner Murray suggested that the seminar “Foundations: Fundraising, Models, Integration, How Asking for Help Can Build Community Support” addresses our current discussions regarding funding. She reported that the seminar described how foundations are formed organizationally and legally and analyzed at least four different models of active foundations and 20 ways in which foundations can benefit communities.

Commissioner Murray reported that the City of San Clemente, with the help of the CPRS commission and board members, was able to accomplish the formation of a Foundation in about a week. Commissioner Murray suggested that the demographics of San Clemente are very similar to the City of Manhattan Beach and they have been very successful and are now in the process of building a new aquatics facility. Dr. William Thomas, president of the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commission and Board Members, has indicated his willingness to set up a meeting with us and the City of San Clemente to discuss their process for setting up their foundation.

Commissioner Gill inquired whether foundations choose their own projects or if they work through the Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Murray suggested that the Foundation would function under the umbrella of the City of Manhattan Beach.

Commissioner Murray reported that she would be meeting with Dr. William Thomas and the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commission and Board Members at the end of the week. She suggested that the Commissioners could e-mail her with any questions regarding the formation of a foundation, which she would then pass along to Dr. Thomas. She also suggested that the Commission could set up a meeting or conference call with Dr. Thomas to discuss the formation of a foundation.

Commissioner Gill suggested that before we start raising money we should have a plan for a project. Mr. Gill indicated that any project would have to be coordinated through City Council, but setting up a foundation would be a good vehicle to get started.

Commissioner Nicholson made a motion to select three commission members to serve on a sub-committee to investigate the formation of a foundation; Commissioners Murray, Cajka and Fitzpatrick agreed to serve on this sub-committee. (MSC: Nicholson/Gill – Unanimous) The sub-committee will set up a meeting or conference call with Dr. Thomas to look into how the City of San Clemente foundation functions.

Commissioner Murray asked that the commissioners mark their calendars for the 2010 CPRS Conference which is scheduled to begin on March 11, 2010 in Palm Springs.

#### **Commissioner Fitzpatrick - Private Funding for Movie Night on the Beach**

Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that since the Parks and Recreation Department Movie Night funding was cut from the 2009/2010 budget, she asked staff to provide the commission with the costs of the “Movie Night” in order to consider private funding for the event. Commissioner Fitzpatrick suggested that we consider going to the Downtown Business Association to see if there are local businesses that would like to fund Movie Night.

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

- Commissioner Gill has no problem if a business wants to sponsor the event
- Commissioner Murray suggested that there are resources that we haven’t gone after as yet, i.e. Raleigh Studios and productions within Raleigh Studios (Marvel)
- Commissioner Gill suggested that “Fresh and Easy” might be interested in a sponsorship
- Commissioner Fitzpatrick suggested that Paul Martins might be interested in a sponsorship

Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that she would work on the “Movie Night” budget presentations which could then be proposed to local businesses

#### **Commissioner Fitzpatrick - Discussion of Possible New Programs for the Community**

Commissioner Fitzpatrick asked if staff would consider installing a bocce ball court somewhere in our facilities. Mr. Gill reported that the older adults program was allowed to set up a temporary petanque court (similar to bocce ball) at Live Oak Park to determine if it would be

feasible to install a permanent court. Mr. Gill reported that, at present, the participation numbers have not been large enough to warrant a permanent court. He indicated that if we installed a permanent court, it would be open to the general public.

**Commissioner Cajka – Status of Ladera Field**

Commissioner Cajka inquired about the status of the Ladera Field passive recreation project. Mr. Gill reported that the last direction from City Council was for staff to bring in an outside consultant to determine accessibility requirements for installing passive recreation at the site.

**Commissioner Murray** reported that Earth Day was a fantastic event, “the best we’ve ever had.” She also indicated that the Volunteer Recognition Dinner was outstanding, and thanked Recreation Services Manager Eve Kelso for a wonderful evening.

**Commissioner Gill** inquired whether the City has a policy due to the present water shortage. Mr. Gill reported that the City will be coming out shortly with a water conservation policy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.