

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

January 26, 2009
6:30 P.M.

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ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Richard Gill, Recreation Services
Manager Idris J. Al-Oboudi and Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen

AGENDA CHANGES

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 6, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting were approved
as written.

CEREMONIAL

None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

09/0126-3 – Status Report from Dog Issues Committee Regarding Future On and Off-Leash
Areas on City Property

Recreation Services Manager Idris Al-Oboudi reported on the Community Dog Advisory
Committee activities since September 2008 including the following:

- Identified future emphasis on more access to parks, creative use of Polliwog pathways/grass and a South Veterans parkway dog run
- Proposed more dog runs (Polliwog Park, Veterans Parkway South)
- Proposed expansion of new access in parks (Polliwog, Live Oak, Marine Avenue, 8th St. Parquette)
- Proposed restricted access on ballfield (Parks & Recreation Department class) at Marine Avenue Sports Complex – staff to discuss with user groups
- New committee members needed – press release in local papers 12/3/08
- Draft proposal for a Marine Park Off-Leash Dog Class discussed
- Draft proposal for a Veterans Parkway South dog run discussed
- Voted for a Veterans Parkway dog run location between 5th Place and 6th Street
- Reviewed idea of a Strand Clean-up Day for “giving back to the community”

Mr. Al-Oboudi reported that he would return to the Commission with any further information from future Dog Committee meetings.

09/0126-1 – Presentation of Parks and Recreation Department Annual Report/Video

Mr. Gill reported that the annual report provides a comprehensive analysis of classes, special events and daily activities for the Parks and Recreation Department for FY 2007-2008. The report highlights the department’s accomplishments, attendances and budgetary information and identifies challenges facing the department. The annual report serves as a benchmark against which comparisons of attendance, customer satisfaction and costs can be measured and evaluated.

Commissioner Nicholson asked Mr. Gill about the deviations in net revenue for facilities and field reservations found on page 2 of the annual report. Mr. Gill explained that if this account has a surplus of funds near the end of the fiscal year, staff gains approval to make minor upgrades to some facilities such as resurfacing tennis courts, replacing the nets and windscreens or purchasing new mats for the self defense/exercise classes. This is not done every year, so the net revenue fluctuates in this account.

Mr. Gill reported that in addition to the annual report, staff developed a DVD video for all the department’s classes, special events and programs. Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen presented the video to the Commission and reported that it will be periodically shown on the local cable access channel throughout the year. The Commission congratulated Ms. Allen on a job well done for the production of the video.

09/0126-2 – Status Report on Commission’s Recommendation for a Feasibility Study for Passive Recreation at the Ladera School Field

Mr. Gill reported that City Council approved the commission’s recommendation to conduct a feasibility study for the possible implementation of passive recreation programs at the field just north of Ladera School. Mr. Gill reported that subsequent to City Council approval, staff conducted meetings with the various City departments that would be impacted by the implementation of passive recreation programs at the Ladera School Field as well as City Council/School District ad hoc committee members regarding this subject.

Mr. Gill reported that the main issue for the site is that it sits approximately 45-50 feet above street level. Therefore, accessibility and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance as well as demolition/construction and safety issues needed to be discussed. The City's engineers and paramedics determined that a ramp would have to be built to comply with ADA and emergency rescues. To comply with ADA, you must have no more than one foot of elevation gain without ten feet of ramp and a landing pad. The Public Works Department estimated that over 400 feet of ramp would have to be installed on a hillside that is all sand. Therefore, the ramp would have to be installed with intensive labor. It was estimated that a ramp alone would cost between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

Mr. Gill reported that this information was given to the City Council/School District ad hoc committee on December 3. The ad hoc committee asked staff about declaring a "hardship" for the project (criteria for not complying with ADA). Staff and the committee felt that it would be hard to defend and legally fight for this exclusion to ADA with the perceived affluence of Manhattan Beach.

Mr. Gill reported that because of the very costly ramping, staff has been told not to proceed further with this project.

Commissioner Harris voiced her disappointment in the decision not to proceed with the project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.