

MINUTES – MORRO BAY RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING –MAY 17, 2012

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – 5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Croley called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Commissioner Romero, Commissioner Croley, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Sidaris, Commissioner Munoz, Commissioner Ayob, Commissioner Dorfman, Staff Woods. ABSENT: None

MOMENT OF SILENCE

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Croley announced there will be a volunteer opportunity this Sunday as the Tree Committee will be doing a planting at Bayshore Bluffs from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Staff Woods reminded everyone the Annual Mermaid and Pirate Parade will be this Saturday from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. It will start at the Rock and will go along the Harbor Walk ending at Dockside.

PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

Unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Commission, the following items are approved without discussion.

A-1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2012 MEETING

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

A-2 CITIZEN'S REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

A-3 YOUTH SERVICES SUMMARY FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2012
SPORTS AND FITNESS SUMMARY MARCH AND APRIL 2012
FACILITIES AND PARK USE FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2012

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

MOTION: Commissioner Bates moved the Commission approve Consent Calendar Item A-1, A-2, and A-3 for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sidaris and carried. (7-0)

A-4 RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

Staff Woods reported there have been a lot of inquiries about the Del Mar Tennis courts. The contractor is just finishing up the punch list. We are working on a soft opening to get the public out to play. Staff is working on a grand opening. The same rules that are at Monte Young will apply at Del Mar. Additionally there will be signage that tennis shoes only are allowed on the soft courts. We will be installing a drinking fountain and a bench also.

Commissioner Ayooob asked if there is going to be a railing along the ramp leading to the tennis courts. Staff replied the path meets the specifications that don't require a hand rail.

Commissioner Bates inquired about plans for the Dunes Street properties where the three units had been removed. Staff reported the Department has made water available to the property, will provide weed abatement and bark mulch. Any plans will ultimately come down from the City Manager.

The Rotary Club of Morro Bay has entered into an agreement to service the Rock Sculpture for an additional five year period.

Eco Rotary of Morro Bay has adopted Bayshore Bluffs and is working with the Tree Committee replanting four planters with pollinator gardens. The planting will be this Sunday, May 20th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Cloisters Parkway Project is complete and staff is still maintaining the parkways. The June 26th City Council meeting will be the last in a series of three meetings to levy the assessments for Cloisters and North Point. We are looking to outsource the maintenance at Cloisters, but the North Point maintenance will remain in house.

Junior Lifeguard registration is underway. New staff will be attending the USLA Academy to receive their training this summer. Registration is available online or at the Department office.

The 43rd Annual Rock to Pier will be held July 7th starting at 8:00 a.m. The race is a 10K from Morro rock to the Cayucos Pier. Transportation will be provided back to the Rock where participants can enjoy a free pancake breakfast and entertainment. This year we are adding a 13.1 mile Half Marathon "Rock'n around the Pier. This event will be limited to the first 200 participants.

MOTION: Commissioner Romero moved the Commission approve Consent Calendar Item A-4 for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ayooob and carried. (7-0)

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 UPDATE ON CITY OF MORRO BAY SMOKING ORDINANCE 9.24

Staff Woods stated report is being brought back at the request of the Commission. Smoking prohibition began with the establishment of MBMC 9.24 which restricted the public from smoking on City T-Piers and City Beaches. State Law existed and is still applicable, which restricts the public from smoking within 25 feet of any play area and 20 feet from any building's operable window or door. The revisions to MBMC 9.24 increase the smoking prohibition to include all public places, which affects Department responsibilities both in the parks and at all public building sites. Public places are defined as any public or private place open to the general public regardless of any fees or age requirements.

Currently City parks have signage which prohibits smoking 25 feet from play areas. Staff will be modifying those signs to read: Smoking is prohibited. Areas where smoking is currently permitted will require new signage to educate the public and make aware the intent of Council's resolution. Staff is considering signs that state: PUBLIC PLACES ARE SMOKE FREE ZONES and would use the same design as the gateway and park signs to add to the branding of the City services.

Chair Croley asked when the Ordinance will go into effect. Staff replied it goes into effect 31 days from passage of the Ordinance which was April 10th; it is currently in effect. Chair Croley stated she was at Lila Keiser last night a man lit up a cigarette; we need some signage. Staff said signage will be placed stating Public Places Are Smoke Free Zones. We want to send a positive message. Chair Croley agreed, feels the Ordinance is necessary and stated it is against the law to smoke in your car when children are present.

Commissioner Munoz asked if there was signage out there now. Staff said the signs are the ones that have been there for some time. We want to make sure we are sending a positive message with the new signs. Staff added we are looking for feedback from the Commission. Commissioner Munoz asked if we would replace the existing signs with the new ones first. Staff stated we would modify existing signs and then add new signs.

Commissioner Bates asked if the signs could read public areas rather than spaces. Staff said we were being consistent with the Ordinance. Commissioner Bates commented when San Luis Obispo implemented their No Smoking Ordinance there were multiple things in the news and public service announcements. They provided education to get it through in nice ways. He said we are speaking of about 20% of individuals and that number is dwindling. He feels the signs would be more direct with symbols and added what if English wasn't my first language. Staff said we can have the signs and add the symbols below.

Commissioner Dorfman said he came from the San Diego area where most people are non smokers. He added over forty states have these regulations as well as most beach communities. He feels it is great to be consistent with what is happening, as a community we have a voice. When you implement the rules, the public will follow suit.

Commissioner Sidaris asked how many formal complaints the City has received regarding smoking. Staff stated he knew of no formal complaints but staff at the Community Center has noted that smoke does come in the open windows upstairs when people are smoking in front of the building.

Staff Woods encouraged the public to go to the City website and look at the details of the Ordinance. He also said the San Luis Obispo County Ordinance hearing date will go before the Board of Supervisors on June 19th.

MOTION: Commissioner Bates moved the Commission approve Item C-1 for file but include the addition of using universal signs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Romero and carried. (6-1) Commissioner Sidaris voted no.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR A TEMPORARY MASTER FEE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO CHARGE FOR GIANT CHESS BOARD

Staff Woods asked the Commission to review staff's proposal to offer Giant Chess at no charge this summer and make a recommendation to City Council to temporarily waive the fees. The past five years have shown average revenues of \$423 and fifteen annual reservations. The current procedures to rent the Giant Chessboard require the interested party to come to the Community Center to fill out a permit, pay the fees, leave a security deposit and pick up a key for the shed housing the pieces. At the conclusion of play, they are required to contact the Department so that staff can be dispatched, verify all the pieces are there, return the deposit and pick up the key. The proposed free chess play would make the large plastic chess pieces available in the morning when staff performs routine maintenance at Centennial Parkway. There would be signage inviting the public to play and leave the pieces for the next participant. At the end of the maintenance shift staff would secure the pieces for the evening. The evening closure would be posted and no reservations accepted after the daily close. The Morro Bay Chess Club would continue to operate the Chessboard on Saturdays utilizing the large wooden pieces.

Commissioner Sidaris thought it was a good idea to offer the plastic pieces to play at no charge and that staff seems to have the opening and closing covered with maintenance duties.

Commissioner Ayoob agreed. She felt the Department should continue to charge for the wooden pieces.

Commissioner Romero said he had been at the Chessboard recently on Saturday with his grandson who played a game with the wooded pieces. He noted the wooden pieces are very heavy for youth to move around the Chessboard.

Chair Croley inquired about neighboring businesses or the Chamber sponsoring the free chess.

Commissioner Dorfman also thought it was a great idea. He felt there might be a way to get sponsorship by putting business logos on the pieces. It will bring good will to the community and get people down there and active.

Staff reported they will bring back a report to the Commission in September on how the idea of free chess went and if any costs to maintain it were incurred.

MOTION: Commissioner Bates moved the Commission support and forward to City Council a recommendation to waive the fees for temporary free chess from June 10th through September 10th and to seek sponsorship for the activity.. The motion was seconded by Bates and carried. (7-0)

D-4 RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Staff Woods reviewed the program evaluation for the 2012 Kids' Camp Spring Break Program that was held April 2nd through April 13th at Del Mar Elementary School. Total direct costs were \$5,060.00. Support costs totaled \$2,992.00 for a total of \$8,052.00. Revenues included registration fees. They totaled \$6,935.00. Net loss was \$1,117.00 for a cost recovery of 86%. This program is classified as Merit Service with a target revenue goal of 70-79%.

The 2012 Adult Coed Soccer Program had 37 participants who played at Keiser Park for 8 weeks on Monday evenings. Total direct costs were \$2,122.00. Indirect costs totaled \$120.00 for a total of \$2,242.00. Revenues included registration fees and totaled \$1,902.00. Net loss was \$340.00 for a cost recovery of 85%. This program is classified as Merit Service with a target revenue goal of 70-79%.

Dixon's Spaghetti Dinner was held on Friday, March 23rd as a fundraising event for the Morro Bay Community Foundation Youth Scholarship Fund. The event is co-sponsored by the Morro Bay Community Foundation, the Morro Bay Recreation and Parks Commission, the Morro Bay Recreation and Parks Department and the Morro Bay Senior Citizen's Inc. The event had direct costs of \$505.00. Revenues were \$2,647.00 and included raffle tickets, donation from the Senior Citizens and dinner ticket sales. The total amount deposited in the Youth scholarship Fund was \$2,142.00. This event would not be successful without the support of local citizens and businesses.

MOTION: Commissioner Romero moved to accept the Recreation and Parks Department Program Evaluations for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ayoob and carried. (7-0)

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Croley asked to agendaize scheduling a special meeting for the Parks Tour. She also announced City Council has invited members of Boards and Commissions to Bella Vino next Thursday, May 24th, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. to thank them for volunteering their time to serve the City.

Staff Woods informed the Commission of a couple items that will be presented to City Council in the coming months. The trash receptacle project for the Rock is looking to replace the existing aggregates with the solar powered Big Belly. Staff is also researching corporate sponsors for the funding. Additionally, at the June 12th City Council meeting staff will be presenting an update on the Jody Giannini Family Dog Park.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Dorfman, second Commissioner Bates. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wright
Administrative Technician