

MINUTES – MORRO BAY RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING –September 19, 2013
VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – 5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bates called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Chair Bates, Vice-Chair Sidaris, Commissioner Romero, Commissioner Coxwell, Staff Woods, Staff Sweeny and Staff English. ABSENT: Commissioner Swain and Commissioner Croley.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Romero reported that he attended the Morro Bay Senior Citizens Inc. (MBSCI) board meeting last week. Commissioner Romero will be attending their monthly meetings and luncheons as liaison for the RPC.

Commissioner Coxwell announced that the Morro Bay High School girls' tennis team will be hosting a tournament fundraiser on Oct 5th. This annual fundraiser is used to purchase uniforms and other team necessities. The tournament is open to the public and refreshments will be served. Flyers are available at the High School and head tennis coach Kathy Dannecker is taking registration for the event.

Recreation Supervisor Karen Sweeny announced that registration for the 2014 Youth Basketball League will begin on September 23rd. The Morro Bay Community Foundation has increased their scholarship award for youth basketball to \$60. Scholarship applications are included in registration packet. Registration will be open until November 15th with assessments scheduled for Nov 16th at MBHS gym.

PRESENTATION

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.

Vice Chair Sidaris requested that item A-4 be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

A-1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2013 MEETING
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION AND PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY BOARD HELD ON AUGUST 29, 2013.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

A-2 CITIZEN’S REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

- A-3 YOUTH AND SENIOR SERVICES SUMMARY FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2013
- RECREATION CLASSES AND AFFILIATED CLUBS SUMMARY FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2013
- YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS SUMMARY JULY AND AUGUST 2013
- FACILITIES AND PARKS USE SUMMARY FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2013

MOTION: Vice Chair Sidaris moved that the Commission accept Consent Calendar Items A-1 through A-3 for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coxwell and carried. (4-0)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

A-4 RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT

Staff Woods summarized the Department Program/Project Status Report.

Staff Woods reported that the solar panel installation at the Teen Center has been completed and awaiting PG&E connection approval. Estero Bay Solar Solutions has provided a tremendous amount of work, providing manpower and soliciting sponsors.

Commissioner Coxwell asked if it is a complete or partial installation. Staff Woods stated that a complete installation was used and will provide enough to power for the entire center with live monitoring.

Staff Woods noted that the Market Street sidewalk improvements and the planting of new street trees have been completed with funding provided through the Pavement Management Program.

Staff continues to meet regularly with the Morro Bay Community Foundation (MBCF). The MBCF will be hosting Morro Bay Sings, their largest fundraiser of the year, on Saturday, November 9th in the Community Center. This year Morro Bay Sings...Elvis!

Commissioner Coxwell reported that several people in his neighborhood asked why the road projects in their area started after school was back in session. Staff Woods responded that there were scheduling delays with the contractor. In-house staff was not able to complete their finish work, including striping, until the contractor was finished. The work was not intentionally done at that time, the delay was unforeseen and unfortunate. Staff Woods stated that the Department continues to work on improving scheduling and planning all projects.

MOTION: Vice Chair Sidaris moved to accept Consent Calendar Item A-4 for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Romero and carried. (4-0)

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

Chair Bates adjusted the order of the Agenda by moving item D-1 ahead of item C-1.

D-1 PROGRAM EVALUATIONS: YOUTH FUTSAL, YOUTH T-BALL/COACH PITCH AND ADULT COED SOCCER

Staff Sweeny presented the following program evaluations:

Youth Futsal – ages 5-18 had 6 coed teams in each age group. This is a fun and non-competitive way for our local youth to end the school year. We had 113 participants and achieved 97% cost recovery. When calculating the cost recovery of our programming we are including volunteer hours as indirect revenue with the value of volunteers at \$22.14 per hour. Factoring in the value of volunteers is very important and will be used in all program evaluations. We purchased new bow nets and the middle school allowed storage on their site. Next year we plan to replace the indoor soccer balls.

Youth T-Ball - 4-6 year olds with 32 participants. The league ran from April to June with games initially at Morro Elementary and then moving to Lila Keiser when softball ended. We were able to meet our revenue goal with 86% cost recovery. We had 10 coaches with 20 volunteer hours each over the course of the season. We use a single umpire and field supervisor for games and teams were kept small so all kids get more ball touches.

Adult Coed Soccer had only 20 participants this year, lower than last year's 37. We have experienced a decrease in participation since 2011 when the field was closed for re-seeding. We did not meet the minimum goal for participation or cost recovery, only achieving a 63% cost recovery. Staff has decided to discontinue the program at this time due to lack of participation and unmet cost recovery goal.

Chair Bates commented that it is unfortunate to discontinue the adult coed soccer league and hoped it could be brought back in the future.

Staff Woods noted that if conditions change and there is no longer an opportunity for adults to play for free at Morro Elementary, the Department would certainly resurrect the program. Not meeting cost recovery goals is significant and triggers the need to re-assess.

MOTION: Vice Chair Sidaris moved that the Commission accept the Program Evaluations for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coxwell and carried. (4-0)

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 REVIEW OF PROPOSED CITY PARTNERSHIP POLICY

Staff Woods reported that the proposed City Partnership Policy was initially presented in May with no formal action taken. At that time the RPC was asked to review the policy, talk to neighbors and friends, and meet with Staff to ask questions or give suggestions. The proposed Partnership Policy includes the Sponsorship Policy, but Staff does not anticipate discussing that portion tonight. The Sponsorship Policy has been to Council with Council discussing the co-sponsorship portion. Tonight we are looking at an overall policy; a guide on how to partner with community groups.

The Partnership Policy is currently in draft form and proposal format. Not all potential partners will align with the City's goals and objectives and having a Partnership Policy in place will assist in evaluating the potential

partnership. The City currently has several partnerships such as the Morro Bay Senior Citizens Inc. (MBSCI), the Morro Bay Community Foundation and Project Surf Camp.

Staff Woods stated that the policy can be brought back again the RPC, that it is not Staff's desire to rush the process of developing this policy. A Partnership Policy is part of our City's Fiscal Sustainability Program and a means of helping to determine what we provide to our community and if we are meeting our community's needs. Staff Woods recognized Greenplay for providing the template used for creating our own unique policy.

Commissioner Coxwell noted that the current format needs some clean up, such as replacing Parks and Recreation with Recreation and Parks.

Chair Bates praised the thoroughness of policy and has no issues with it.

Staff Woods stated that Part I is the policy with Part II being the portion to be used by community groups to develop their partnership proposal. Staff Woods asked if we are asking the right questions of the groups coming in to make their proposals. Who has the authority to approve the partnership? What about the summary? Is 100 words or less appropriate, should the proposal be left as a narrative or should we create a series of check boxes?

Vice Chair Sidaris stated that 100 words is a good start. If there's a large project, perhaps requiring the funds to be held in escrow. He further stated that partnerships will benefit the community and residents of Morro Bay and that he would like to encourage eco-friendly, educational and fun events.

Commissioner Coxwell asked who makes the decision to accept the partnership if all criteria are met?

Staff Woods stated that decision is open for discussion tonight and that currently a dollar amount for sponsorships triggers a Council approval. Historically Adopt-A-Park proposals have not been brought to Council and that the Council, RPC and Staff have all been aware and comfortable with the program. There are five or six Adopt-A-Park 1-year agreements in existence that were developed by Staff with City Attorney approval. The MBSCI 20-year agreement is a significant partnership and goes before Council. Agreements lasting 5 or more years or involving \$25,000 or more should go before Council, but RPC can make recommendations. Staff can formulate some criteria at RPC direction.

Chair Bates state that he would like to see some criteria developed such as 5-year and/or \$10,000 would require Council review and that having a policy will allow for momentum.

Commissioner Coxwell stated that we could get a lot done by partnering with outside entities. He requested that before the policy is brought before Council that Staff clean it up, such as eliminating the snow removal information. He also asked if Staff was comfortable presenting the proposed policy to Council.

Staff Woods responded that yes, a policy gives us something to stand on and a way to enhance services and programs.

MOTION: Commissioner Coxwell moved that the RPC authorize Staff to move the proposed Partnership Policy on to Council with the suggested edits. Seconded by Vice Chair Sidaris and carried. (4-0)

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-2 REVIEW OF PROPOSED PUBLIC ART FOR SENIOR CENTER

Staff Woods reported that as part of the procedure we have for all public art proposals, the proposal goes to the City Manager then to the Advisory Board. The Morro Bay Art Association as well the Public Art Foundation will review the proposal as well and then it will go to Council for approval.

Staff Woods stated that Anne Marie Schnetzler has commissioned Chrissa Hewitt to create a sculpture in memory of Nicole Pocel. The art proposal is detailed in packet. The sculpture was originally slated to be placed in front of the Senior Center but its placement has been changed to inside the courtyard. The sculpture would sit on a granite topped pedestal matching the building. The sculpture is Italian white marble and jade from San Benito County; roughly 40" x 4' x 20" in depth. The privacy wall around the courtyard is currently 5'; Staff is looking to lower a portion of the wall to allow for viewing of the sculpture along with the addition of seating around the perimeter of the wall. The work on the wall would be completed by in-house Staff. Staff will work with the artist to include a cap on the wall that compliments the sculpture. The seating will be durable, all-weather and comfortable, encouraging the viewing of the public art. There is also a proposal for two plaques, one announcing the artist the other as a memorial to Nicole Pocel. The sculpture is titled "Love of the Sea" and is meant to be a unique piece honoring Nicole's love of the sea including some of Nicole's shells from her collection. Additional information about the artist can be found in the packet. Staff Woods also stated that the artist would be responsible for the installation and maintenance of the sculpture.

Commissioner Coxwell asked if the photos were of the finished sculpture.

Staff Woods responded that the artist is very close to being done and that the arrangement is similar to the finished product. It is an abstract representation of water, waves and rocks. The courtyard will provide the solitude to observe the piece and the finished project will have five pieces of marble.

Commissioner Coxwell asked if the \$2000 to lower the wall would be paid by the City or by donation.

Staff Woods responded that the work on the wall will be done by in-house staff and the cost absorbed by the Recreation and Parks Department. The wall cap may be part of the artist's donation. Staff Woods further stated that the resume of the artist included in the report and that we have a collection of photos of the artist's other work which can be viewed in the office. Staff Woods gave a brief explanation of the public art process noting that this is early in the process for this piece and that the hope is to have additional public input. He asked that if any Commissioners think of additional comments after tonight's meeting, to please contact Staff so that the comments can be included in Staff's report to City Council; all RPC's recommendations whether positive or negative will be brought forward to City Council.

Commissioner Romero asked if the MBSCI had commented on the art.

Staff Woods responded that only the president has commented; she is very favorable of the project and delighted with the pieces and the location. Staff Woods stated that he can request a letter of opinion from the MBSCI Board. The Senior Center is owned by the City and we have an agreement with MBSCI to run the Senior Center but soliciting their input would be worthwhile.

Chair Bates stated that he would like to see input from the seniors on the art piece.

Commissioner Coxwell stated that art is meant to evoke emotion and that this piece as presented does not evoke anything.

Staff Woods responded that when working with an abstract piece it can be difficult to see what the artist sees. That it is only when you sit down with the piece and really meditate on it that you start to feel the emotions promoted by the artist. Staff Woods noted that he could request time to view the piece in person.

Commissioner Coxwell stated that public art is fabulous and this piece may be incredible, but based on the tonight's information he would be very hard pressed to lend his support.

Chair Bates stated that not all of the artist's elements have been shown: the pedestal, granite slab, and shells. Not seeing those do not give the full picture of the piece.

Staff Woods noted that when the granite is added the pieces will be recessed into it to make them appear part of the granite with the granite depicting the wild sea. The artist has a lot of passion for the piece and plans to bring the rocks to life. Staff is looking for a general recommendation or Staff can bring it back for additional review. The RPC can also send a Commissioner forward with the proposal.

Vice Chair Sidaris recommended that the proposal be send to Council.

Chair Bates stated that the area is appropriate and that it looks like it was always intended to be a courtyard.

Motion: Commissioner Coxwell moved that the Public Art Proposal be forward to Council.
Seconded by Vice Chair Sidaris and carried. (4-0)

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Romero moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice Chair Sidaris and carried. (4-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste English
Administrative Technician