

## **MINUTES – MORRO BAY RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION**

REGULAR MEETING – November 21, 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, Commissioner Croley, Commissioner Swain, Staff Woods, Staff Sweeny, Staff Wilcox and Staff English.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Coxwell announced that the Morro Bay High School Music Department will be holding their winter concerts at the PAC on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the choir concert and on December 4<sup>th</sup> for the band concert. He also announced that the CIF Wrestling Tournament will be held at the high school January 10-11, 2014. This is the largest and oldest wrestling tournament in California.

Commissioner Swain encouraged everyone to attend the Morro Bay Merchant Street Fair on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Recreation Supervisor Sweeny thanked the community for their support of the Estero Youth Soccer program. The all-star teams were able to reduce the cost for participating in post-season tournaments from \$135 to \$25 through sponsorships and by hosting a drive-through BBQ. The Estero Youth Basketball season is getting ready to start and additional volunteer coaches are needed.

Staff Woods announced that the Community Holiday Tree Lighting at City Park will take place on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. He also announced that the Morro Bay Community Foundation would like to thank those who came out and supported the Morro Bay Sings Elvis event. The Foundation will be hosting "Love Letters", a 2-person play, on February 15, 2014 at the Vet's Hall.

### **PRESENTATION**

Maintenance Superintendent Mike Wilcox gave a Utility Savings Analysis presentation highlighting the energy savings success experienced at the City. The presentation was based on 7 years worth of data.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Bates opened Public Comment.

Trina Dougherty with Morro Bay Friends of the Library announced that they are "inches" away from beginning the remodel project, and only need to raise an additional \$25,000 with construction starting as soon as February 2014. Ms. Dougherty announced that raffle tickets will be available at the Merchants' Street Fair with prizes donated from local merchants and residents. They recently received a \$100,000 donation from the estate of Bertha Schultz. She asked that anyone interested in making a donation or finding out more about the Morro Bay Friends of the Library visit their website at [www.MBFOL.org](http://www.MBFOL.org)

Marlise Battistella and Kathy Moore of the Central Coast Women for Fisheries Sculpture Committee provided an update on the status of the Fisherman's Family Sculpture by Elizabeth McQueen. The funds for the sculpture have been raised and the sculpture will be ready for installation at the Council approved site in spring 2014. The Sculpture Committee requested that the RPC consider the use of City Park-In-Lieu fees for the preparation of the site. The Committee also displayed a miniature version of the sculpture and provided the RPC with literature about their group.

Kathryn Thomas spoke in support of starting Pickleball in Morro Bay. She stated that Pickleball is the fastest growing sport you never heard of and that at the World Senior Games there were over 500 Pickleball players participating. She also stated that Jack Hodges of Paso Robles is ready and willing to work with our community to get this going by providing free clinics and free consultation of site recommendations, set-up and costs. She recommended that for more information on Pickleball we can go to the US Pickleball Association's website: [www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org)

Nancy Johnson representing Morro Bay Beautiful announced that they are holding their annual Christmas Light Contest and that "elves" will be out on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> to determine the best holiday light displays. On December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. members of Morro Bay Beautiful and their friends and families and anyone else wanting to participate, will be on the trolley handing out the awards. She also announced that Carla's Country Kitchen has sponsored this year's prizes. For more information you can call Ms. Johnson at 772-3738.

Chair Bates closed Public Comment.

**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 SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 MEETING

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.**

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

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.**

MOTION: Vice Chair Sidaris moved that the Commission accept Consent Calendar Items A-1 and A-3 for file and pull A-2 and A-4 for further review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coxwell and carried. (6-0)

A-2 CITIZEN'S REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Staff Woods reviewed the correspondence received for the RPC. The first item is correspondence from the Morro Cove Homeowners Association regarding some concerns they have about their Adopt-A-Park agreement with the City for Morro Cove Park. Specifically they want to know if their agreement allows for any tree trimming, which it does not. Staff Woods stated that the City does not allow outside tree trimming. The HOA group is also interested in knowing if the City is satisfied with the work they have been doing at the park. Staff Woods stated that the City is very grateful for all the volunteer hours and efforts put in by this Adopt-A-Park group. The HOA group is also concerned about the lack of vegetation along the bluff and the high number of dogs in the park. There are currently two mutt-mitt dispensers at the park. Staff is looking to address the vegetation in the park and may be planting additional trees and/or shrubs in the park, possibly some of the 50 Monterey Cypress trees that are part of the Morro Bay 50<sup>th</sup> celebration. In an effort to address the amount of homeless using the park, staff is looking at installing some fencing along the sensitive habitat similar to the fencing found at North Point. The hope is that by protecting the sensitive habitat and bringing in the right plants the monarch butterflies will start returning to Morro Cove.

The other correspondence received is from Kathryn Thomas regarding Pickleball. Staff Woods stated that we are excited about Pickleball and very interested in promoting the sport in Morro Bay. The existing tennis courts at Monte Young and Del Mar can be modified for Pickleball. Another option would be the basketball court at Coleman Park with the idea of striping two Pickleball courts and using portable fencing. Staff Woods also mentioned possible indoor space at the Vets Hall and the Community Center, although there would be very limited times available.

Commissioner Sidaris stated his support of using Coleman Park for Pickleball.

Commissioner Croley asked about using the gym at Del Mar Elementary. She stated that she feels Del Mar Elementary is an under-utilized facility.

Commissioner Swain stated that in Fountain Valley Pickleball is played crossways on tennis courts with specific times set aside for Pickleball.

**A-4 RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT**

Staff Woods summarized the Department Program/Project Status Report. Staff Woods invited the RPC to contact staff if they are interested in additional information on any items listed in the report.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Croley moved to accept Consent Calendar Items A-2 and A-4 for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Swain and carried. (6-0)

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**C-1 REVIEW WORK PROGRAM**

Staff Woods presented the Work Program for a mid-year review prior to the January review for the 2014/15 fiscal year. Staff Woods stated that staff is looking for input from the RPC on any projects they want to be included in January's review.

Staff Woods reported that at their regular meeting on October 22, 2013, City Council requested that the RPC review the Work Program with the Northern Waterfront Implementation Plan (NWIP) in mind, and try to accomplish as much of the program as possible with the current balance of Park-In-Lieu fees. The City Council has put the master planning of Coleman Park, Target Rock and the Rock parking lot on hold. Staff Woods stated that no formal motion is needed tonight, just acceptance for file with possible notes of emphasis on any projects that are a priority for the RPC. Staff Woods reviewed which items on the 2013/14 Work Program have been completed or will be completed this fiscal year.

Commissioner Croley asked that the BMX bike park be included in the 2014/15 Work Program as well as the Fisherman's Family Sculpture.

Commissioner Coxwell requested that the Del Mar parking lot and restrooms be a priority in the Work Program.

Chair Bates noted that with the spring 2014 delivery of the Fisherman's Family Sculpture, we should likely adapt the master plan in order to receive the sculpture. Staff Woods responded that the public art proposal for the sculpture has been approved but there is no site specific plan for the area. The sculpture is to be placed in the south-west corner of

the Target Rock area and there are costs associated with adjusting the master plan and getting the area ready. It is staff's recommendation that Park-In-Lieu fees be used towards preparing to receive the sculpture.

Commissioner Croley stated that we need to fix what we have before developing new areas along the waterfront. Commissioner Swain agreed that we need to concentrate on maintenance and replacing restrooms.

Staff Woods noted that it is Council's intent to use the funds for tangible items and they are interested in what the RPC would want to bump to the front and really concentrate resources on. Staff agrees that we need to work on what we have and continue to make small improvements. Staff Woods further noted that not being prepared to receive the public art could be awkward and that we do have the resources to do some site specific plans but he is not suggesting that all the funds be used for that project. Spring of 2014 will be quickly upon us and a few months will be needed for site preparation. Staff Woods also noted that there are restrooms and play structures in need of replacement. Staff is looking for direction from the RPC on how to specifically concentrate resources.

Commissioner Coxwell inquired if we are committed to prepare a site for the sculpture. Staff Woods responded that the site has been dedicated to the sculpture and staff has determined that a minimal amount of preparation is necessary. Some of the preparation would include vehicle and pedestrian improvements. He further noted that any improvements made to the site can be incorporated into any future master planning of the area.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Coxwell moved that staff put preparing the site to receive the Fisherman's Family Sculpture on the Work Program as well as making improvements to Del Mar Park restrooms and parking lot a high priority on the Work Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Croley.

Commissioner Swain asked if the funds to be used to prepare the sculpture site would be general funds. Staff Woods responded that it would be Park-In-Lieu fees that would be used not general funds.

Commissioner Croley stated that we are committed to receive the sculpture but are trying to prioritize between bathrooms and play structures and it's not clear how to move forward.

Staff Woods stated that the fact that the sculpture is not on the Work Program does not mean it can't be funded. Not having the NWIP master plan move forward using Park-In-Lieu fees at the Council level does not eliminate the need to improve the site to receive the sculpture. If it is not a priority for the RPC to make the necessary site improvements then the sculpture will have to be stored in an off-site area until funds are secured.

Commissioner Sidaris recommended making minimal improvements to the site in order to prepare for the sculpture and eventually incorporate further improvements into the master plan.

Commissioner Croley stated that we should not make the improvements unless we can do the entire project. We should wait until enough funds are available to do the entire project.

Staff Woods has a tentative meeting with the design team coming up soon and they will be addressing potentially scaling back the improvements for the sculpture area in an effort to prepare to receive the art.

Commissioner Swain recommended that the design be developed in a way that it can be implemented in stages so that the sculpture can be received and placed on the site.

Staff Woods summarized what he understood to be RPC's direction: make replacing the restroom and resurfacing the parking lot at Del Mar Park a priority on the Work Program for 2014-15 and allocate some of the Park-In-Lieu fees for preparing the site at Target Rock to receive the sculpture.

MOTION: Commissioner Croley withdrew her second of the motion. Seconded by Commissioner Swain and carried. (5-1 Croley)

#### **D. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **D-1 PROGRAM EVALUATIONS**

Staff Sweeny gave a summary of program evaluations for Boys Middle School Volleyball, Middle School Track and Field, Spring Adult Softball, Rock to Pier Run and Labor Day Tournament. Staff Sweeny noted that we are now including the indirect revenue of the value of volunteer hours in our program evaluations. This volunteer value rate is based on the national group The Independent Sector Value Volunteers' 2012 rate of \$22.14 per hour.

Motion: Vice Chair Sidaris moved to accept the program evaluations for file. Seconded by Commissioner Romero and carried. (6-0)

##### **D-2 INITIAL REVIEW OF PROPOSED INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Staff Woods stated that this item is brought to the RPC by direction of the City Council. Staff Woods asked to break protocol to mention there was a member of the public present earlier, Marge Leggerton (leader of the community group Save Our Squirrels) that thought she could speak on this item as public comment when the item came up, as it is done at City Council meetings. She was informed that the current format for RPC meetings is to have public comment at the beginning of the meeting only. Staff will be looking into adjusting the RPC meeting format to be consistent with City Council meetings if the Council so desires. Staff Woods shared the following comments from Ms. Leggerton:

- Mr. Woods is trying to make a good faith attempt to give the City a policy for direction it currently doesn't have.
- The template chosen needs to be molded to fit Morro Bay
- This policy discussion is before the RPC tonight because the City put out poison in parks to kill squirrels. Based on this policy proposal, the method used would not be allowed.
- The word "pests" is too broadly defined.
- A City policy needs to reflect our values, and how those values will be encompassed in objectives and an action plan.
- Members from Save Our Squirrels (SOS) would be happy to serve on a sub-committee with members of the RPC to help craft an appropriate policy.

Staff Woods presented the staff report, noting that the City has provided pest management for years, but has not enacted a formal policy. Such a policy enhances the City's ability to respond to public concerns. Staff Woods also noted that City staff does not apply pesticides, only herbicides on a limited basis. The City utilizes outside companies for the application of pesticides. Staff Woods also stated that the development of an Integrated Pest Management policy (IPM) will provide the structure and the protocol to ensure consistent response to pest situations. Staff Woods emphasized the importance of input from community groups and residents in the implementation of an IPM.

Vice Chair Sidaris stated that he has been contacted by some Morro Bay residents with their concerns about pest management. He believes the plan is comprehensive but is in favor of creating a subcommittee that includes the public. He would like to make sure staff supervises the application of any pesticides.

Commissioner Swain would like to meet with the SOS group to enlist their help in educating the public on not feeding wildlife, perhaps requesting help from the group with the purchase of additional or larger signage.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Swain moved to accept the proposed Integrated Pest Management Policy as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Romero and carried. (6-0)

Staff Woods stated that there had been some talk tonight about bringing in some public input in the development of this policy although that direction was not included in the motion. Staff would still like to meet with representatives from the SOS group and is looking for a Commissioner to participate in that meeting. Vice Chair Sidaris stated that he would be willing to work with staff and the SOS group.

#### D-3 REVIEW 2014 MEETING CALENDAR

Staff Woods presented a staff report outlining a proposed meeting schedule for 2014. Staff Woods recommended inviting an Adopt-A-Park group to each future meeting in order to spotlight their work at their adopted park and to recognize their volunteer efforts. In addition to the Commission's 6 regular meetings, staff is recommending two additional special meetings.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Coxwell moved to adopt the proposed meeting schedule including the two special meetings with dates to be determined. Seconded by Vice Chair Sidaris and carried. (6-0)

#### E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Croley asked that staff look into additional use of Del Mar Elementary School for youth programs.

Commissioner Swain asked that staff look into the Honor Heroes Banner Program used in other cities. He stated that such banners feature a picture of a person serving in the military and that all fees are paid by the family of the featured military personnel.

Commissioner Swain also asked that staff bring Pickleball back to the RPC for discussion.

#### F. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste English  
Administrative Technician