

MINUTES – MORRO BAY RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING – June 3, 2015

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – 5:30 P.M.

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

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Chair Sidaris, Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Coxwell, Commissioner Romero, Commissioner Swain, City Manager Buckingham, Deputy City Manager Taylor, Recreation Supervisor Salyer-Frith, and Recreation Supervisor Sweeny. ABSENT: Commissioner Croley.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Coxwell announced that Bands on the Run was a huge success and thanked the Recreation staff for their help and support for the event. They were able to raise just under \$10,000 for the Morro Bay High School music program.

Chair Sidaris suggested the public visit the City's website to find out what is happening in town this summer: www.morro-bay.ca.us

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Sidaris opened Public Comment.

Ron Reisner, Morro Bay resident and Morro Bay Community Foundation (MBCF) Board member, asked that as the Commission considers fee schedules for the Recreation and Parks activities and facilities, that they remember who owns the facilities operated by the City – the citizens. The RPC should also consider who should benefit from the use of community facilities and services – the citizens. Mr. Reisner stated that to begin the dialogue around use of community facilities and services with the embedded concept of subsidy is to not address the larger imperative of community benefit. Mr. Reisner stated that the MBCF, which serves economically disadvantaged children, encourages the Commission to begin its deliberation concerning the use of community facilities and services by clearly recognizing the most vulnerable users of those facilities and services and the program benefits which have been and can be accorded to them. Mr. Reisner closed with stating that only after such consideration can the issue of fees logically follow.

Jeff Eckles, Morro Bay resident, business owner, has children in Recreation programs and President of the MBCF. Mr. Eckles stated that he appreciates the good efforts of the City Manager and City Council. Mr. Eckles made the following points:

- A robust recreation program contributes to a healthy sense of community and potentially lower crimes rates
- Many non-revenue benefits such as building engaged, better citizens of tomorrow by involving our youth in esteem building activities today.
- Families are connected when their children participate in recreation programs, fostering a deeper sense of community, belonging and connectedness to the City.

Mr. Eckles stated that such benefits are not measures in dollars and cents yet truly enhance quality of life in our city. Mr. Eckles reminded the Commission of the City's mission statement: "The city of Morro Bay is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the quality of life."

Chair Sidaris 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 FROM THE March 19, 2015 MEETING

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

A-2 CITIZEN’S REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

A-3 YOUTH AND SENIOR SERVICES SUMMARY FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2015
RECREATION CLASSES AND AFFILIATED CLUBS SUMMARY FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2015
YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS SUMMARY MARCH AND APRIL 2015
FACILITIES AND PARKS USE SUMMARY FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2015

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

A-4 RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

<https://goo.gl/pxPAFU>

MOTION: Commissioner Coxwell moved to accept Consent Calendar items A-1, through A-4 for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Romero and carried. (5-0)

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

B-1 NONE

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 NONE

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 PROGRAM EVALUATIONS: YOUTH SOCCER 2014/15, LOMS BOYS VOLLEYBALL, LOMS TRACK & FIELD
Recreation Supervisor Karen Sweeny presented program evaluations for Youth Soccer 2014/15, Los Osos Middle School Boys Volleyball and Los Osos Middle School Track & Field.

Commissioner Coxwell noted that the high school has seen an increase in skill level over the past couple of years due to the success of the middle school sports programs offered through Morro Bay Recreation.

<https://goo.gl/QpJ5ro>

MOTION: Commissioner Coxwell moved receive D-1 for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cox and carried. (5-0)

D-2 DISCUSSION OF PICKLEBALL IN MORRO BAY

City Manager Buckingham presented the Pickleball staff report noting that there is a vibrant growing group of Pickleball players in our community and that Pickleball not only provides a service to our community but also potential for Morro Bay to be a regional and national Pickleball destination for tournaments.

USPA Ambassador Kathy Thomas and Robert Thomas gave a summary of recent Pickleball participation and announced upcoming events and their work to bring Pickleball to Del Mar Elementary. Mr. Thomas announced that he is working with the Tourism Bureau to promote Morro Bay as a local Pickleball destination, using the phrase: “Came to play Pickleball, stayed for lunch.” Mr. Thomas also stated that the group would like to be able to make the Pickleball program available on the weekends. Mr. Thomas also stated that the RPC needs to decide if the youth program as Del Mar should be a school program or a Recreation program. He also said RPC needs to decide if the City can make dedicated courts.

Chair Sidaris noted that the RPC has previously asked staff to look into options for building a Pickleball facility.

Commissioner Coxwell stated that the Cambria group has raised money to build courts and if the Morro Bay group is asking the City to build the courts.

Ms. Thomas replied that their group is asking the City to build the courts. She stated that if the correct type of courts is built they can host tournaments that would pay for the cost. Ms. Thomas stated that the Pickleball group is not willing to do the necessary fundraising. Mr. Thomas invited the Commissioners to come out and play Pickleball.

City Manager Buckingham stated there are a number of potential Pickleball locations identified in the LEAP proposal. One location with some merit is Morro Bay Elementary. Staff will work with the School District to determine this is a viable location. City Manager Buckingham noted there is always friction between various sports needing to share facilities. Right now the Pickleball group has access to the courts at Del Mar Park at no cost because of their association with Morro Bay Senior Citizens Incorporated (MBCSI), including the newly striped basketball court. He further noted that it is important to manage the use of courts for multiple sports.

Commissioner Coxwell stated that the roller hockey rink at Del Mar Park is heavily used on the weekends by people playing soccer and roller derby.

Commissioner Swain said free usage for Pickleball doesn't sit well when he has to pay a fee for his basketball group to use the courts.

D-3 LOCATION FOR A MORRO BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TIME CAPSULE

City Manager Buckingham introduced Glenn Siloway from the Historical Society of Morro Bay. Mr. Siloway stated that the Historical Society was seeking approval and assistance in burying a time capsule. The time capsule is one of the last events for celebrating Morro Bay's 50th anniversary and will be buried for 50 years. The capsule will be filled with digitized memories and artifacts and the Historical Society plans to hold a ceremony on Founder's Day, July 17th at City Park to bury the capsule. Mr. Siloway is requesting approval to hold the event, burying the capsule, help creating the hole east of the flagpole and help sealing the hole with a concrete pad that will hold a plaque.

City Manager Buckingham stated that no action was necessary, just RPC's concurrence that City Park is an appropriate location to bury the capsule.

The Commission unanimously agreed that City Park is an appropriate time capsule location.

<https://goo.gl/2f7RJ6>

D-4 RECREATION SERVICES WITH THE CITY ORGANIZATION

City Manager Buckingham reviewed the staff report and discussed what to call the Recreation group and where it should be organized within the City. City Manager Buckingham noted recent organizational changes: moving

Consolidated Maintenance to Public Works, former Recreation and Parks Director no longer employed by the City. He also discussed the results of the recently submitted Management Partners Organizational study. City manager Buckingham requested the RPC consider the scope of Recreation and what that organization should be called; Recreation Services Division, Recreation Division, or something else. He also asked the RPC to consider our organizational structure and comparing us to peer cities, Recreation could be under Community Development, Police or the new Deputy City Manager.

Commissioner Coxwell stated his preference for Recreation to be under the Deputy City Manager.

Commissioner Cox stated his preference for Recreation to be under the Deputy City Manager.

Commissioner Swain asked for Deputy City Manager Taylor's credentials. Mr. Taylor stated his 4 years experience in City Administration including overseeing the rental of park facilities and the partnering with private groups to provide recreational services.

Commissioner Romero stated his preference for Recreation to be under the Deputy City Manager

Commissioners Coxwell and Cox both voiced concerns that parks would no longer have an advocate and that the public could be confused about where to go with park concerns.

Commissioner Swain voiced concern that Public Works might not fully understand the unique maintenance needs of recreational facilities in parks.

City Manager Buckingham stated that park issues will be shared between RPC and the Public Works Advisory Board. City Manager Buckingham stated that he was interested in the RPC discussion on this issue and did not require formal action, that he will use the discussion to help develop decisions for Recreation.

The Commission unanimously agreed that the best placement for Recreation would be under the new Deputy City Manager.

<https://goo.gl/wNF3Hr>

D-5 RECRATION AND PARKS COMMISSION PURPOSE AND OPERATIONS

City Manager Buckingham presented the staff report stating he agrees keeping "Parks" in the Commission's name is important. He stated he was looking for input on frequency of meeting and how the RPC see's itself operating and what level of input they desire. He wants to know if they see themselves remaining a Commission or becoming an Advisory Board and if meeting every other month was the right amount of meetings.

Commissioner Coxwell stated that the name doesn't matter and would want to meet more often, noting that the RPC would be more effective meeting more often.

Commissioner Cox agreed that meeting more often would be appropriate.

Commissioner Swain stated that due to recent changes, the RPC should meet more often until all changes are worked out.

City Manager Buckingham suggested 10 meetings per year with no meeting in December or July along with the ability to cancel meetings if necessary.

The Commission unanimously agrees to the proposed schedule.

<https://goo.gl/2LhUw5>

D-6 RECREATION FEE SUBSIDIES AND COST RECOVERY

City Manager Buckingham presented the staff report noting that no decision was needed, and that the RPC would be visiting this topic at their July meeting. He further stated that Council started the fee subsidy discussion in April and that the City needs to get full cost recovery in many areas. Recreation programming has a large community benefit and the City needs to determine an appropriate level of fee subsidy.

The RPC discussed the need for partnerships, prioritizing community needs, full knowledge of the City's financial situation, and accurate program costs.

Staff Sweeny offered clarification that the support received from the MBCF benefits the child and family and is not a program subsidy for the City.

Commissioner Swain who serves as liaison to the MBCF stated they are concerned about proposed increases to fees that may price out lower income families. He noted that the MBCF cannot increase the amount they give to families.

Recreation Supervisor Heather Salyer-Frith stated that Recreation already has a tool in place to determine cost recovery. That over the years the RPC has adjusted the tool by moving programs within the tool and that RPC would not be starting from scratch in their effort to determine appropriate subsidies.

D-7 REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2015/16 MASTER FEE SCHEDULE

City Manager Buckingham presents the staff report stating staff is currently working on a draft of the 2015/16 Master Fee Schedule which does not include any program fees which are frequently included by several other local and peer cities. He noted that program fees would not be included this year but may in the future. City Manager Buckingham stated staff is looking to simplify the schedule and will bring it back to the RPC in July for further review.

City Manager Buckingham further stated that parks are free and open to the public everyday 7 a.m. to dusk and are only subject to usage fees when someone is requested exclusive use of an area.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

F. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste English
Administrative Technician