

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

REGULAR MEETING – January 15, 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 Bates, Commissioner Coxwell, Commissioner Croley, Commissioner Ochs, Commissioner Romero, Commissioner Swain, and Staff Woods.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Coxwell announced the Morro Bay High School will be hosting the CIT Wrestling Tournament January 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. 65 wrestling teams will be competing in the tournament. Commissioner Coxwell also announced *Valentines' Delight*, a concert featuring the MB High School choir and band to be held February 14<sup>th</sup> at the Los Osos Community Center.

Commissioner Swain announced that the CERT class is underway at the Morro Bay Fire Department and encouraged residents to watch for future offerings of this class.

Staff Woods announced that City Council Member Christine Johnson is the new Council Representative to the Recreation and Parks Commission. Staff Woods also announced that he had a late email from a Cal Poly student expressing interest in working with the Recreation Department on our Needs Assessment. A team of three students will spend this quarter developing a pilot survey.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Staff Woods presented Trina Dougherty, President of Eco Rotary Club of Morro Bay with a Certificate of Appreciation for the club's volunteer efforts at Bay Shore Bluffs Park. Ms. Dougherty gave an overview of the Eco Rotary Club of Morro Bay and the work they do at Bay Shore Bluffs Park.

Staff Woods presented Jan Goldman, Vice President of the Morro Bay Garden Club with a Certificate of Appreciation for the club's volunteer efforts at the Harbor Walk Entrance. Ms. Goldman gave information about the MB Garden Club including Dahlia Daze and their commitment to beautifying the city.

Chair Sidaris expressed the city's gratitude for these groups of volunteers.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Sidaris opened Public Comment.

Kathy Thomas, Morro Bay Pickleball Ambassador, gave an update on Pickleball in Morro Bay highlighting the increased participation and need for additional courts.

Robert Thomas spoke on the popularity of Pickleball and how being able to host tournaments would attract tourists to Morro Bay. Mr. Thomas emphasized that Morro Bay could become a Pickleball destination.

Joel Hilden, Cambria Pickleball Ambassador, expressed his gratitude for the city's support of Pickleball and stated that Morro Bay has the opportunity to become a Pickleball destination.

Taylor Hilden, Cambria resident, expressed her support of Pickleball in Morro Bay and encouraged the city to convert any unused tennis courts to Pickleball courts. Ms. Hilden noted that Cuesta College has discontinued their tennis program and is looking to start offering Pickleball on their tennis courts. She stated that Pickleball is the future.

Ed Boise, Pickleball player, bought some equipment in 2010 and started playing in Ogden, UT. He is excited to see the sport expanding and to be playing in Morro Bay.

Lynda Merrill, Morro Bay resident for 30 years and a tennis player, does not want to see any tennis courts converted to Pickleball. She stated that members of the Surfside Tennis Club worked hard for the courts at Monte Young and that the soft courts at Del mar don't work for most tennis players.

Jeff Napier is a tourist that was passing through on his way to play Pickleball in Arizona, but decided to stay in Morro Bay for the winter because we have Pickleball and wonderful weather. Mr. Napier stated that converting tennis courts involved just adding some additional stripes. He also stated that Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America and is very safe with injuries uncommon.

Julie Brewer stated that a knee injury sent her to Pickleball and that she loves the Morro Bay courts. She has been enjoying playing here then going to lunch and exploring the area.

Bruce Bedrigen was a Morro Bay High School teacher for 33 years and his wife currently teaches P.E. His wife is teaching her students to play Pickleball because any skill level or ability will quickly have success with the sport. Pickleball appeals to all ages.

Nancy Weis, a retired teacher, stated that Pickleball is easily picked up by a wide range of ages, skill levels and abilities. She stated that additional striping is an efficient use of court space but that dedicated Pickleball courts would be most optimal. She expressed her appreciation for the support of the Commission.

Nancy Bedrigan, P.E. and Art teacher at Laguna Middle School has been teaching Pickleball for 10 years. Many of her students do not play other traditional school sports, but all can enjoy Pickleball. Ms. Bedrigan spends her summers at Mount Shasta where Pickleball players share courts with tennis players.

Karen Swarzman, Morro Bay resident since December, has found playing Pickleball a way to meet people in her new community. Ms. Swarzman praised Kathy and Robert Thomas for their efforts to bring Pickleball to Morro Bay.

Karl Ferson, member of Surfside Tennis Club, stated that the club currently has 70 members. Mr. Ferson shared that the sentiment of the club is that the city moves slowly on the conversion of any tennis courts to Pickleball courts. Mr. Ferson stated several maintenance needs for Monte Young Park tennis courts, and will give a list to Staff Woods. Mr. Ferson stated that the tennis club worked to build the courts at Monte Young Park and continues to raise funds for nets and other needs and that the Pickleball players should be raising funds for Pickleball courts.

Susan Babcock expressed her support of Pickleball and thanked the city for its support and Kathy and Robert Thomas for all their efforts.

Teri Schwartz, Morro Bay resident, purchased her home near Monte Young Park because she and her husband are tennis players. She expressed her support of Pickleball and that a year ago she was not in favor of striping a tennis court for Pickleball but now feels there is room for both sports at Monte Young.

Tom Riley, Morro Bay resident and Surfside Tennis Club member, expressed his concern about lowering tennis nets and his worry that the expensive nets will be damaged. He stated that the club pays for the nets at Monte Young. He also stated that Pickleball stripes are distracting to tennis players even though tennis stripes are not distracting to Pickleball players due to the smaller size of a Pickleball court. Pickleball is a great sport, they just need separate space.

Silva De Santas, Morro Bay resident for 30 years, uses the Monte Young tennis courts and stated that there are very few courts in Morro Bay. He also stated that many tennis players do not like the surface at Del Mar. He is supportive of Pickleball at Del Mar not at Monte Young where a lot of tennis is played.

Commissioner Romero asked if the Pickleball group has looked into using the basketball court at Coleman Park. Kathy Thomas responded that the court would need costly refurbishing and that it is easier to use the hockey rink. She also stated that the surface at the Del Mar tennis courts is not ideal for Pickleball.

Commissioner Swain asked why the nets would need to be lowered when putting four Pickleball courts on a tennis court. Kathy Thomas responded that the net is only lowered when the tennis court is being used for one Pickleball court. She also noted that the courts at Monte Young are wanted for weekend play of Pickleball.

Commissioner Coxwell stated that he is one of the tennis coaches at Morro Bay High School and asked what the group is doing to involve youth in Pickleball. Robert Thomas responded that not having weekend access to courts has hindered their ability to reach youth and working adults. He noted that during winter break there were several young people and working adults that came out to Del Mar Park and showed interest in Pickleball.

Commissioner Croley stated that she understands that tennis players don't want to lose courts and that this is similar to the city's shortage of playing fields for soccer, softball and baseball. She noted that Little League has been encouraged to raise their own money to secure more fields.

Chair Sidaris closed Public Comment and called for a 5 minute break.

**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 NOVEMBER 20, 2014 MEETING

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.**

A-2 CITIZEN'S REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.**

A-3 YOUTH AND SENIOR SERVICES SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014

RECREATION CLASSES AND AFFILIATED CLUBS SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014  
YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS SUMMARY NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014  
FACILITIES AND PARKS USE SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.**

A-5 SOLAR ENERGY REPORT

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.**

MOTION: Commissioner Coxwell moved that the Commission pull Consent Calendar Item A-4 for further review. The motion was carried without a second. (7-0)

MOTION: Commissioner Bates moved to accept Consent Calendar Items A-1, A-2, A-3 and A-5 for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Croley and carried. (7-0)

A-4 RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT

Staff Woods summarized the Department Program/Project Status Report noting that the Maintenance Division is no longer part of the Recreation Department. Staff Woods also noted the Bike Park MOU approval by Council, the Morro Bay in Bloom NEP grant for rainwater harvesting at Centennial Park, and the Main Street Parklet.

Commissioner Ochs asked how residents can voice their concerns about the Parklet.

Staff Woods responded that the best way would be to submit a letter or email to the City Manager's office.

MOTION: Commissioner Swain moved to accept Consent Calendar Item A-4 for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Croley and carried. (7-0)

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

B-1 REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE WORK PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015/16.

Staff Woods presented the draft of the 2015/16 Work Program requesting recommendations from the Commission.

Commissioner Croley requested that working with the BMX Bike Park group be added as #27 in the Administration Division.

Commissioner Coxwell noted that he and other booster members have experienced a lot of frustration when dealing with the city regarding facility reservations despite the Joint Use Agreement between the city and the school district. Staff Woods responded that the Agreement does not include Booster Clubs. Those groups are treated like other non-profit groups and that staff is working to improve the reservation process.

Commissioner Croley drew attention to #3 under the Recreational Sports and Fitness Division noting that there is a shortage of volunteer coaches, that the issue needs to be addressed and that parents don't have time to volunteer. Staff Woods stated that the department will work on ways to branch out and find other

volunteer sources. Commissioner Croley asked who parents should contact with their youth sports concerns. Staff Woods responded that they should contact Sports Supervisor Karen Sweeny.

Commissioner Croley asked to add the fact that baseball fields are in high demand and add the expansion of baseball fields.

Staff Woods noted that staff may not be able to address the costs and source of funds for all items prior to the next reading of the draft 2015-16 Work Program.

**C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

C-1 NONE

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

D-1 PROGRAM EVALUATIONS: HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING 2014

Staff Woods stated that the Holiday Tree Lighting event is not meant to offend anyone of any religion or non-religion. It is intended to be all inclusive and for anyone of any faith to enjoy the tree. There is a 0 % cost recovery for the program but a large community benefit. When the benefit is large enough the cost recovery is made up by the benefit. Staff Woods reviewed the program costs and recommended improvements.

MOTION: Commissioner Croley moved to accept the Holiday Tree Lighting Program Evaluation for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bates and carried. (7-0)

D-2 TIDELANDS PLAY STRUCTURE

Staff Woods gave a brief history of the Tidelands Park play structure and its current condition. Staff Woods stated that Council has allocated \$50,000 of governmental impact fees to be used toward the replacement of some of the play elements at the park. Staff Woods reviewed the proposed design and discussed ways of adjusting the design to stay within budget. The Commission established the following priorities:

1. Additional sand for fall zones
2. Pod of dolphins
3. Poured-in-place surface (blue color)
4. Remove whale tail and re-use elsewhere is possible
5. Keep the seals

MOTION: Commissioner Swain moved to move forward with the 5 priorities for replacing the Tidelands play structure established by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Croley and carried. (7-0)

D-3 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2014

Chair Sidaris opened the floor to nominations for the office of Chair.

Commissioner Coxwell nominated Drew Sidaris for Chair; Commissioner Bates seconded the nomination.

Chair Sidaris closed the floor to nominations for the office of Chair.

Chair Sidaris opened the floor to nominations for the office of Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Romero nominated Tom Coxwell for Vice-Chair; Chair Sidaris seconded the nomination.

Chair Sidaris declared nominations for Vice-Chair closed.

**D-4 ELECTION OF COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2015**

Chair Sidaris opened the floor to nominations for Commission Representative to the Morro Bay Senior Citizens Incorporated (MBSCI).

Commissioner Croley nominated Al Romero; Chair Sidaris seconded the nomination.

Chair Sidaris declared nominations for Commission Representative to the MBSCI closed.

**E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Swain requested that Pickleball be discussed at a future meeting.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste English  
Administrative Technician