

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

REGULAR MEETING – January 21, 2016

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chair Drew Sidaris, Vice Chair Robert Swain, Commissioner Kevin Carroll, Commissioner Jeffrey Cox, Commissioner Timothy Ross, Commissioner Skip Sorich, Deputy City Manager Sam Taylor, Recreation Supervisor Heather Salyer-Frith and Recreation Supervisor Karen Sweeny. **Absent:** Commissioner Al Romero.

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

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=2m15s>

Deputy City Manager Taylor welcomed new Commissioner Timothy Ross.

Commissioner Sorich said he had visited the new bike park and noted that it was a nice addition to the community.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=3m10s>

Trina Dougherty of Morro Bay asked to speak now on Item C-8, since it is the last item on the agenda. She is president of two organizations mentioned in the Item C-8 Staff Report: Eco Rotary Club of Morro Bay and Morro Bay Friends of the Library. She asked to correct a statement in the report that says Eco Rotary Club is not required to provide insurance to use the Community Center Lounge for its meetings. She said this is not the case; the group has provided proof of insurance every year. She said Eco Rotary has participated in the City's Adopt-A-Park program for several years and it was the group's understanding that it received free meeting space in exchange for maintaining Bayshore Bluffs Park. She asked that Eco Rotary be allowed to continue to use the Lounge at no charge. She also asked that fees be waived or greatly reduced for the Friends of the Library's use of the Community Center Auditorium for book sales.

### **A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=6m21s>

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

**A-1 Approval of minutes for Recreation & Parks Commission meeting held November 19, 2015**

A-1 was not presented, so no action was taken.

**A-2 Approval of minutes for Recreation & Parks Commission meeting held September 17, 2015**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

**A-3 Recreation Division Status Report**

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file.

**ACTION:** Commissioners voted unanimously, 6-0, to approve Consent Calendar item A-2 and accept Consent Calendar item A-3 for file.

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

NONE

**C. BUSINESS**

**C-1 Program Evaluation: Teen Action Club (TAC) Summer 2015**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=7m30s>

Recreation Supervisor Salyer-Frith presented an evaluation of the Teen Action Club's volunteer activities, noting that the club contributed 178 hours of volunteer service to the City during Summer 2015.

**ACTION:** Commissioners voted unanimously, 6-0, to receive and file C-1.

**C-2 Program Evaluation: 2015 Coast Girls Softball**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=10m0s>

Recreation Supervisor Sweeny reported on the Coast Girls Softball 2015 regular season and all-star season, noting that 103 girls participated in the regular season. Cost recovery for the regular season was 92 percent.

**ACTION:** Commissioners voted unanimously, 6-0, to receive and file C-2.

**C-3 Program Evaluation: 2015 Estero Bay Youth Soccer**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=15m13s>

Recreation Supervisor Sweeny presented an evaluation of Estero Bay Youth Soccer's 2015 season. She said 176 boys and girls participated. Cost recovery was 95 percent for the regular season. The all-star season broke even.

**ACTION:** Commissioners voted unanimously, 6-0, to receive and file C-3.

**C-4 Consideration of a recommendation to City Council regarding adoption of procedural steps for, and replacement of, the Park Naming Policy with the Public Property Naming Policy and Application Process**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=20m15s>

Deputy City Manager Taylor presented background on this item, explaining that the existing policy on naming City parks does not include a procedure for doing so. He said the proposed resolution amending Res. 88-80 would clarify the naming policy and include a procedure for naming City parks, buildings and public facilities.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cox moved to recommend to City Council that the proposed Public Property Naming Policy and Application Process be adopted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Swain and passed unanimously, 6-0.

**C-5 Consideration of and recommendation to City Council regarding adoption via resolution of the Public Art Policy, as well as modifications to said policy**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=26m56s>

Deputy City Manager Taylor presented background on the history of the Public Art Policy and explained proposed modifications, which are designed to streamline the process.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Swain moved to recommend to City Council that the Public Art Policy be adopted with the proposed modifications. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cox and passed unanimously, 6-0.

**C-6 Consideration of and recommendation to City Council regarding naming of the City's new bike park as Bonnie Johnson Community Bike Park**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=28m25s>

Deputy City Manager Taylor said Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers has requested that the bike park be named after Bonnie Johnson, who was instrumental in making it a reality. Taylor said the mountain bike organization is willing to pay for signage.

Chair Sidaris asked if there would also be room for signage of sponsors, and Taylor said there would be.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Robert Davis, chairman of the Morro Bay Citizens Bike Committee, said the Committee enthusiastically supports naming the bike park after Bonnie Johnson because of her relentless hard work on the project.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ross moved to recommend to City Council that the bike park be named after Bonnie Johnson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sorich and passed unanimously, 6-0.

**C-7 Consideration of and recommendation to City Council regarding City Signature Community Events**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=33m6s>

Deputy City Manager Taylor said the City has been working to ensure that it provides community activities for residents, not just visitor-serving events. To that end, staff is proposing designating a number of “signature” City events that would be presented either by the City alone or in partnership with local organizations. Events being proposed as City Signature Community Events would be: Fourth of July at Tidelands Park; the Brian Waterbury Memorial Rock to Pier Run; Halloween Downtown Trick-or-Treat; and the Lighted Boat Parade and Tree Lighting, which would be moved to the South T Pier. Staff also suggested that the Dixon’s Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser be included. City support of these events may include waiving permit fees and contributing Police and Public Works staffing. This resolution is in line with a proposed objective of the City Council for the upcoming fiscal year.

Commissioner Swain expressed regret about moving the Tree Lighting from City Park to the pier.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Carroll moved to recommend to City Council that the five above-mentioned events be designated as City Signature Community Events. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sorich and passed, 5-0. Commissioner Swain abstained.

**C-8 Consideration of and recommendation to City Council regarding the City Co-sponsorship Policy and guidance on community facility use by various groups at free or reduced cost.**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=42m5s>

Deputy City Manager Taylor provided background on agreements with a number of local organizations regarding their use of City facilities for free or reduced cost. He explained that these agreements lack consistency and that many have continued for years without written contracts. He stressed the importance of treating all City facility users fairly and equally and said clarification is needed on when it is appropriate to reduce or waive fees.

Taylor outlined two existing City policies that provide for reduced or waived fees: The Co-sponsorship Policy applies to visitor-serving events produced by nonprofit groups that bring revenue into the local economy during the off-season. (Winter Bird Festival, for example.) The City’s Partnership Program allows certain groups free use of City facilities in exchange for providing beneficial services to the city.

Taylor asked the Commission to recommend to Council how such situations should be handled: Should the City simply uphold the fee schedule? Should the Co-sponsorship Policy be modified to be more open? Should the Partnership Policy be expanded or clarified? He said the goal was to have clear policy on these issues in place before the beginning of the next fiscal year, July 1, 2016. Until then, the terms of previous agreements would remain in place.

Commissioners asked questions of Taylor regarding insurance liability, specific requirements for a city partnership, current status of existing partnerships, etc.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cox moved to recommend to the City Council that:

- Every organization that uses City facilities for free or at a reduced rate have a written agreement with the City.
- Staff work with each of these organizations to determine what special allowances the organization currently receives from the City and why.
- Qualification guidelines for a Partnership be included as part of the Partnership Policy.
- A one-year or multi-year time limit on qualification for a Partnership be established.
- The Co-sponsorship Policy be re-examined regarding its limitation to visitor-serving events.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sorich and passed unanimously, 6-0.

Chair Sidaris said he wanted the public to know that whatever changes may occur are not intended to target any specific group or groups. It's a simple legality that the City must have written agreements with everyone who uses City facilities.

#### **D. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

<https://youtu.be/7EwNqa0w53w?t=1h28m40s>

Deputy City Manager Taylor reminded the Commission that two meetings have been added to its schedule, one in April and one in August. He also noted that the Commission will have a joint meeting with the City Council sometime within the next few months.

Taylor said Council is expected to adopt its objectives for the coming year in February. Therefore, at the March meeting of the Recreation and Parks Commission, the Commission will be looking at Council's objectives that relate to Recreation and developing a Work Plan for the coming year.

#### **E. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. to the next regular Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on **Thursday, March 17, 2016**, at 5:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 209 Surf Street, Morro Bay, California.

Recorded by:

Tiffany Porter  
Administrative Assistant