

**MINUTES
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
CITY OF MORRO BAY
MAY 1, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by vice-Chair Hale at 5:07 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioners Munoz, Vaughan, Wenger, Vice-Chair Hale; Staff Woods, Wright.

ABSENT: Commissioner Solu (excused), Commissioner Hensley (excused), Commissioner Mahan (absent).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Eckis, Morro Bay – Morro Bay Pups Board of Directors submitted a proposal to the City Council to approve a Memorandum of Understanding. The City Council approved the MOU and it has been referred to the Recreation and Parks Commission for the June meeting.

IN REGARD TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2008 MEETING

It was moved and seconded to accept the Minutes of the April 3, 2008 meeting for file. M/S/C (Munoz/Wenger).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Munoz announced the Cruisin' Morro Bay Car Show is this weekend and he has sponsored an award on behalf of the Commission. The cruise is Friday evening and the car show is Saturday and Sunday.

Commissioner Hale reported the Del Mar Art Auction was a huge success. She thanked the community for their generous support. The PTA made a net profit of \$34,000.

A. NEW BUSINESS

A-1 SCHEDULING OF THE ANNUAL PARKS TOUR

Staff Woods recommended the Commission select a date and time for the annual tour of City parks. As the July 2008 Commission meeting falls on July 3, 2008, preceding the 4th of July Holiday, staff recommends the Commission schedule the Parks Tour on another date in July. Staff Woods added he would ask the Parks Superintendent to accompany the Commission on the tour.

A motion was made by Commissioner Munoz and seconded by Commissioner Wenger to cancel the July 3, 2008 meeting and schedule the Parks Tour for July 10, 2008 beginning at 5:00 p.m. M/S/C (Munoz/Wenger).

A-2 RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Staff Woods presented program evaluation reports for Coed Soccer and Youth Basketball. Coed Soccer has a target cost recovery of 80% and the cost recovery in 2008 was 93%. The target cost recovery for Youth Basketball is 70% and this past year the program recovered 89.5% of their costs.

Commissioner Vaughan asked what would happen if a program didn't meet its cost recovery requirements.

Staff replied if the cost recovery was close to the target recovery the program would probably be offered again, however if the recovery rate was not met again the program would most likely be terminated as some programs have a life cycle.

Commissioner Wenger asked if citizens were able to make donations to the programs.

Staff replied donations and sponsorships are welcomed on all Recreation and Parks Department programs.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Recreation and Parks Department Program Evaluations for file. M/S/C (Munoz/Wenger)

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B-1 RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT

Staff Woods reviewed the Recreation and Parks Department Status Report. He added the City Council at their April 28, 2008 meeting did not select a company to redesign the City website. Work continues on the Department website. The Bayshore Bluffs staircase is in need of necessary repairs. Signs have been posted that the staircase will be closed May 5th – 9th from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for repairs.

Commissioner Hale asked about the repaving at Del Mar Park. Commissioner Wenger said she had been to the Ironwood parking lot and it looks nice. The holes have been filled and the handicapped parking spaces have been striped.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Recreation and Parks Department Status Report for file. M/S/C (Munoz/Wenger).

Vice-Chair Hale recommended we address Item E-1 Morro Bay Smoke Free Areas at this time.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS – TO START NO LATER THAT 5:30 P.M.

E-1 MORRO BAY SMOKE FREE AREAS

Staff Woods asked the Commission to review the report, take public comment and forward a recommendation to City Council regarding smoking regulations in City owned Parks.

Currently the City of Morro Bay prohibits smoking within twenty-five feet from any play area. This is a law of the State of California and whereas the City of Morro Bay has no law more stringent, the State law prevails. The enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of the Police Department. The regulations on smoking have been and will continue to be passively enforced. This means the Police Department relies on peer pressure and self-governance by individuals to deter smoking in regulated areas. If a more stringent regulation is sought, staff believes there are three alternatives:

Commissioner Mahan arrived at 5:30 p.m.

1. The possibility of extending the existing twenty-five feet to fifty feet. The change would require proper posting and staff would modify the existing signs at a minimal cost to facilitate the new regulation.
2. Implement selected prohibition of smoking in parks, which include a sports field or sports element. This option presents the possibility of confusion to park participants as well as law enforcement.
3. The most extreme action would be to prohibit smoking at all City of Morro Bay owned parks. This action would require new ordinance development, adoption by the City Council, and implementation by staff.

Staff recommends the Commission determine their recommendation and should that be increased restrictions on smoking in public parks, staff strongly recommends the Commission hold one additional public hearing prior to forwarding the issue to City Council.

Vice-Chair Hale opened the meeting to Public Comment:

Mary Ann Britton, Del Mar School teacher and Estero Bay Youth Coalition (EBYC) member – Students are appalled to find cigarette butts at the base of the slide at the Del Mar Park playground and people smoking in the playground area.

Niko Yaroslaski, Lillian Sandoval, Maria Rios-Rodriguez, Melissa Martinez-Sanchez, Lacey Haas and Kavita Tilkaren, EBYC members – They spoke on the research they had done with regard to smoking and its effects on people, pets and the environment.

Nita Kenyon, EBYC member – She spoke on the laws on smoking in relation to foster children.

K.C. Chaffee, Student Mentor with Friday Night Live – she works with middle school and high school students and said they are against smoking in parks and public places.

Vedria Millage, SLO County Drug and Alcohol Services – She supports healthy lifestyles and smoke-free parks.

Christina LeFevre, Tobacco Control Program – She referred to the California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights that states children should play in a safe place and smoke free parks would be a safe place.

Patrick Vaughan, M.D., Morro Bay – Smoking is a disease and an addiction. Banning smoking a certain number of feet is sad, ban it completely.

Commissioner Mahan gave her support of a more stringent ordinance.

Commissioner Munoz said he would like to see extending the ban to one hundred feet first and then if that doesn’t work look at bringing it back to the Commission.

Commissioner Wenger also supported a larger area and definitely clearly mark all the play areas.

Commissioner Vaughan also supported extending the range.

Vice-Chair Hale supports an outright ban, saying this is what we stand for as a community.

Commissioner Mahan concurred.

Commissioner Wenger mentioned the smoking ban on the beach and added the ban could be extended to include areas that have children’s activities. She added it would be simpler to just have no smoking.

Commissioner Mahan said we can’t be more lenient toward adults, ban everywhere.

Commissioner Wenger suggested it be brought back to another meeting with more public comment.

Vice-Chair Hale felt we need to send a message to deter smoking.

Commissioner Mahan stated we represent recreation and healthy lifestyles.

Commissioner Munoz asked if we need to bring this back to the Commission if we are looking at more stringent rules.

Staff Woods recommended an additional public hearing, as it will require changing the City Ordinance and the Municipal Code. If you want to change get comment from both sides of the issue then go to City Council.

It was moved and seconded that the Commission is recommending to adopt a ban on smoking in all outdoor parks, to hold an additional public hearing to receive comment but know that the Commission is moving in that direction. M/S/C (Mahan/Munoz).

C. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

C-1 CITIZENS' REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Staff Woods noted a letter as well as his response about the removal of trees at Lila Keiser Park . There was also a Citizen's Report regarding grass clippings on the sidewalk along the Embarcadero.

Commissioner Wenger suggested using a blower/vacuum combination.

Staff Woods will mention this to the Parks Superintendent to get his opinion.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Citizens' Reports and Correspondence for file. M/S/C (Mahan/Munoz)

D. REPORTS

D-1 YOUTH SERVICES SUMMARY FOR MARCH 2008

D-2 SPORTS AND FITNESS SUMMARY FOR MARCH 2008

D-3 FACILITIES AND PARK USE SUMMARY FOR MARCH 2008

It was moved and seconded to accept the following reports for file: Youth Services for March 2008; Sports and Fitness for March 2008; Facilities and Park Use for March 2008. M/S/C (Mahan/Munoz).

D-4 SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Commissioner Vaughan reported there will be more Emeritus classes beginning in June. The Seniors have a trip planned to the Palace Casino on June 19th.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Senior Representative Report for file. M/S/C (Munoz/Wenger).

D-5 COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Hale reported she had been working on some promotion for the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. She has a one-page draft to share with the Commission so they may provide their input.

Commissioner Mahan said she had met with Joe Woods to discuss the possibility of a 'Fair' to promote programs and activities provided by the Recreation and Parks Department.

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DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. M/S/C (Wenger/Vaughan).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**BARBARA WRIGHT
ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICIAN**

u/w/commissn/rpcmin05-01-08