

Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting

Monday, March 23, 2026

4:00 PM

City Council Chambers and Zoom



APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Chair Tracey Windes

Vice Chair Karen Komatinsky

Commissioner Larry Zimbalist

Commissioner Roberta Schreiner

Commissioner Stephen Doran

Commissioner Russ Allen

Commissioner Ishaan Aggarwal

CITY STAFF

Parks and Recreation Director Mark Leyman

Senior Management Analyst Linda Robb

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to provide excellent municipal services, preserve our small beach town character, and enhance the quality of life for our residents, businesses and visitors.

MANHATTAN BEACH'S PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WELCOMES YOU!

Meetings are broadcast live through Zoom (Direct URL:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1618115172> , Meeting ID: 161 811 5172

The City continues to offer an opportunity to participate in Parks and Recreation Commission meetings via Zoom and in-person. The Parks and Recreation Commission encourages the public to participate by submitting comments in advance of the meeting, no later than 3:00 PM, the day of the meeting, via:

- 1) eComment at <http://www.manhattanbeach.gov/ecomment> or
- 2) Email to parksandrecreationcommissions@manhattanbeach.gov

All of your comments provided by the deadlines above will be available to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the public prior to the meeting.

Copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business referred to on this agenda are available for review on the City's website at www.manhattanbeach.gov, the Police Department located at 420 15th Street, and are also on file in the Parks and Recreation Department for public inspection. Any person who has any question concerning any agenda item may call (310) 802-5448 or email parksandrecreationcommissions@manhattanbeach.gov .

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (310) 802-5448 (voice) or (310) 546-3501 (TDD) or email parksandrecreationcommissions@manhattanbeach.gov . Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting, including but not limited to providing hand held microphones during the meeting. The City also provides closed captioning of all its Regular Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings for the hearing impaired.

CERTIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA POSTING

I, Mark Leyman, Parks and Recreation Director of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, state under penalty of perjury that this notice/agenda was posted on Thursday, March 19, 2026, on the City's Website and on the bulletin boards of City Hall, Joslyn Community Center and Manhattan Heights.

BELOW ARE THE AGENDA ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED. THE RECOMMENDED COMMISSION ACTION IS LISTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TITLE OF EACH ITEM IN BOLD CAPITAL LETTERS.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MAY ACT ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA.

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

This is the time for the Parks and Recreation Commission to:

(a) notify the public of any changes to the agenda; or

(b) rearrange the order of the agenda.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes:

[PRC 26-0001](#)

This Item Contains Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2026.

Attachments: [Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes - February 23, 2026](#)

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER PERSON)

At the discretion of the Chair, the Chair may allow 2 minutes of public comments.

Speakers may provide public comments on any matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, including items on the agenda. The Chair may determine whether an item is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Commission. While all comments are welcome, the Brown Act does not allow the Parks and Recreation Commission to take action on any item not on the agenda. If you would like to provide public comments from your seat, please inform the Meeting Clerk or raise your hand. Staff will provide a handheld microphone to ensure your comments are heard.

The Parks and Recreation Commission encourages the public to participate by submitting comments in advance of the meeting, no later than 3:00 PM, the day of the meeting, via:

- 1) eComment at <http://www.manhattanbeach.gov/ecomment> or
- 2) Email to parksandrecreationcommissions@manhattanbeach.gov

All of your comments provided by the deadlines above will be available to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the public prior to the meeting.

IN PERSON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Please complete the "Request to Address the City Council or Commission" card by filling out your name, the item(s) you would like to offer public comment, and returning it to the Meeting Clerk.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

Each speaker may speak for up to 3 minutes on each general business item. If you would like to speak from your seat, please inform the Meeting Clerk or raise your hand. Staff will provide a handheld microphone to ensure your comments are heard.

2. Consideration of Veterans Day Event Enhancements

[PRC 26-0002](#)

Attachments: [Preliminary Site Plan](#)

- 3. Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan 2026-2027

[PRC 26-0005](#)

H. STAFF ITEMS

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

J. ADJOURNMENT

K. FUTURE MEETINGS

April 27, 2026 - Monday - 4:00 PM

May 25, 2026 - Monday - 4:00 PM (Rescheduled to May 26, 2026)

May 26, 2026 - Monday - 4:00 PM (Rescheduled from May 25, 2026)

June 22, 2026 - Monday - 4:00 PM

July 27, 2026 - Monday - 4:00 PM

August 24, 2026 - Monday - 4:00 PM (Cancelled)

September 28, 2026 - Monday - 4:00 PM

October 26, 2026 - Monday - 4:00 PM

November 23, 2026 - Monday - 4:00 PM

December 28, 2026 - Monday - 4:00 PM (Cancelled)



CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

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STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: 3/23/2026

TO:

Honorable Chair and Commissioners of the Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM:

Mark Leyman, Parks and Recreation Director

SUBJECT:

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes:

This Item Contains Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission Adjourned Regular Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

The attached minutes are for the Commission's approval:

Attachment(s):

1. Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes - February 23, 2026

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Monday February 23, 2026

4:00 PM

Location: Zoom and City Council Chambers, City Hall

- A. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Windes called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
- B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**
- C. ROLL CALL**
Present (7): Commissioners Allen, Aggarwal, Doran, Schreiner, Zimbalist, Vice Chair Komatinsky, Chair Windes
Absent: (0) None
Others present: Parks and Recreation Director Mark Leyman, Senior Management Analyst (SMA) Linda Robb, Recording Secretary Rosemary Lackow
- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
It was moved and seconded (Zimbalist/Komatinsky) to approve, no changes; motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.
- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
1. Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2026
It was moved and seconded (Komatinsky/Aggarwal) to approve as submitted. Motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote.
- F. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3-Minute Limit)** – None
- G. GENERAL BUSINESS**
2. 2025/2026 Work Plan Update
- Veterans’ Day Event (Zimbalist, Doran): after a brief introduction by Director Leyman, Commissioner Zimbalist, as Ad Hoc committee chair, described the project and updated. The project goal is to enhance the existing Veterans Day event ahead of Veterans Day, 2026 in November. The committee comprised of himself, and Commissioner Doran will join and support efforts by Bob Holmes who is passionate about this and has many resources. The commission discussed; Commissioner Aggarwal volunteered to join the committee. Commissioner Zimbalist noted the committee will meet with Director Leyman tomorrow to discuss and create a broad outline for carrying out the project and then bring the outline to this commission to refine, to form a more specific recommendation which will be brought to City Council for approval. Some general “bullet points” of an outline so far: bringing to the event military hardware/equipment, families and students and doing more publicity. The

event will still take place at the veterans' memorial on the greenbelt at Valley/15th Street. The commission discussed and suggested reaching out to: city of Torrance regarding their Veterans Day programming, Councilmember Franklin, past Parks and Recreation Commissioner Laurie McCarthy, and the Redondo Beach Veterans of Foreign Wars.

- Pay 'N Play: (see staff items)
3. Consider Recommending Approval of an Agreement with Association of Beach Volleyball Professionals LLC DBA AVP to Operate the Manhattan Beach Open

Senior Recreation Supervisor (SRS) Archie Sherman presented with the aid of a Power Point, a proposal for a new 3-year contract with AVP to operate the Manhattan Beach Open (2026 – 2028). This year's Open will be held August 14 – 16 (Friday – Sunday) and marks the 65th anniversary of the tournament. The same basic court layout and plan will be followed from 2025 which included: VIP courtside seating, bleachers on the west and north sides of stadium court for general admission (75% open and free seating), and the "Walk of Champions" Pier Ceremony and reception. The contract provides for development of special programming marking the 65th anniversary to be developed. Within elevated VIP areas AVP will provide food and alcohol service.

The AVP will adhere to all applicable regulations and obtain special permits such as State Coastal permit, State ABC alcohol license, County Beaches and Harbors permit, and city permits (Building and Safety, Fire Department). AVP will hire private security to be on hand during the event to enforce the alcohol permit.

SRS Sherman invited Commission input.

The Commission discussed and came to a consensus to support, including the proposed layout, with input that more food should be made conveniently available to attendees.

It was moved and seconded (Komatinsky/Aggarwal) to recommend that the council approve a new 3-year agreement with AVP, including proposed layout, to operate the Manhattan Beach Open tournament.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote 7- 0.

H. STAFF ITEMS

City Council Recap and Parks and Recreation Department Updates. Director Leyman informed:

- City Engineer Gil Gamboa will present an update on the city's CIP program at the April meeting.
- Pay 'N Play Demolition: Public Works Engineering is currently prepping a bid package; bid process is expected to open in four weeks, after completing the required

construction contract and document process, it is expected that the demolition will start, tentatively, at end of summer; updates will be provided. The preservation of mature carrotwood trees per inquiry by Chair Windes will be carefully considered during the development of the demolition plan.

- Sand Dune Park: David Voltz Design (DVD) is preparing the final design of the plan that will be in the construction bid documents. When that plan is 90% ready, DVD will make a presentation to the Commission and Director Leyman will provide a timeline at next month's meeting. Otherwise, the Cultural Arts Commission, through staff liaison Eric Brinkman, will be working with the Commission and DVD towards a recommendation on the lace fencing as directed by City Council.
- Marine Avenue Soccer Field Fencing: bid package now ready; expect to be complete by summer.
- Mira Costa Tennis Courts: As a pilot program, city is working with the school district, using six school courts Tuesdays/Thursdays, primarily for Marine League and private lessons; going very well and hope to expand.

At 4:31 p.m. Chair Windes called for a recess; the Commission vacated the chambers to accommodate City Council closed session.

At 4:45 p.m. Chair Windes reconvened the meeting in the council chambers.

Present: (6): Commissioners Allen, Aggarwal, Doran, Schreiner, Zimbalist, Vice Chair Komatinsky, Chair Windes

Absent: (1) Allen

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

Student Update: Commissioner Aggarwal reported on several student items: athletics (track and field in full swing, basketball now ended - great season) and special activities (Senior Superlatives, Senior Assassin, Scholarship notebooks).

Older Adults Update: – Commissioner Schreiner reported on the February 10th Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting, including updates from Mayor Lesser regarding: Senior and Scout House Community Center status (in plan check with city, construction costs being estimated), council consideration of space needs for older adult activities (3/3/26 council agenda, with recommendation to table discussion); and various legislative advocacy items (e.g. impacts of new very dense residential development, e-bikes and traffic safety on Sepulveda). Many well attended older adult programs were mentioned as well as "Rotary Cares" community improvement projects.

School District Update: Commissioner Komatinsky reported: the district is engaged in union negotiations and is conducting a wide search for a new superintendent.

LoveMB: Commissioner Komatinsky reported that the non-profit will be sponsoring two additional benches for the Polliwog Park dog park and showed a tile, crediting LoveMB donations that will be attached to all donated items.

Director Leyman updated that LMB to submit needed information for its Iron Rails to Green Trails to the city this week; upon receipt he will create a timeline and share with the Commission.

Chair Windes requested a copy of the Parks and Recreation current Work Plan.

J. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:06 pm it was moved and seconded (Zimbalist/Komatinsky) to adjourn to Monday March 23, 2026; motion passed 6-0 (Allen absent) by voice vote.

DRAFT



CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

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STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: 3/23/2026

TO:

Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM:

Mark Leyman, Parks and Recreation Director

Linda Robb, Sr. Management Analyst

SUBJECT:

Consideration of Veterans Day Event Enhancements

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission discuss proposed enhancements to the annual Veterans Day event, for recommendation to the City Council.

BACKGROUND:

A Veterans Day Enhancement Committee was convened to explore ways to increase attendance, visibility, and community engagement at the City's annual Veterans Day Celebration. Committee members include: Larry Zimbalist (Chair), Stephan Doran, Ishaan Aggarwal, former Mayor Bob Holmes, and historian Gary McAulay.

The committee's core objective is to create a larger, more engaging, and more meaningful celebration for veterans, students, and the community at large, with a goal of zero incremental budget through partnerships, volunteers, and community engagement.

DISCUSSION:

1. Program Content Expansion

A. Veteran and Military Organization Participation

The Committee recommends expanding outreach to veteran and military groups to provide informational tables and direct engagement opportunities. Potential partners include:

- West LA Veterans Administration (VA Benefits Outreach)
- American Legion Posts (Hawthorne, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Westchester)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts (Hawthorne, Redondo Beach, Gardena, Carson)
- Vietnam Veterans of America - South Bay Chapter
- Manhattan Beach National Guard units
- National Guard Infantry Battalion (Inglewood)
- Coast Guard Cutter Marina del Rey
- USCG Sector Headquarters (San Pedro)
- Space Force (El Segundo)
- Local Military Recruiting Offices
- Condor Squadron Flyover

Goals:

- Increase event relevance for veterans
- Provide access to veteran benefits
- Strengthen veteran-to-veteran and veteran-to-community connections

B. Static Military Displays

To increase visual impact and draw families, the committee proposes securing static displays at no cost through outreach to the National Guard, Coast Guard, and local recruiters.

Possible displays include:

- Humvee or military transport vehicle
- Coast Guard small craft
- Equipment display tables
- Recruitment information booths

These displays are expected to increase attendance and create family-friendly photo opportunities.

2. Community Engagement Strategy

A. Student Involvement

I. Art / Essay / Poetry Contest

Theme: "What Veterans Day Means to Me"

- Winners recognized during the ceremony
- Artwork displayed at City Hall, Library, and Joslyn Community Center
- Winning student invited to read their essay at the ceremony

Participation is expected to significantly increase family attendance.

II. Student Band and Ceremony Enhancements

- Opening Bugle Call
- Anthem medley representing each service branch (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force)
- Veterans of each branch stand for recognition during their anthem

This feature is described as highly engaging and emotionally powerful.

III. Extra Credit Incentives

Partner with MBUSD to offer:

- Civic engagement credit
- Class participation or history credit
- Reflection assignments tied to attendance

This strategy is anticipated to increase overall student turnout.

B. Active Veteran Outreach

To personally invite all Manhattan Beach veterans, staff and committee recommend:

- City newsletter call-outs
- Social media submission forms
- Outreach through local veteran organizations
- Church and neighborhood association bulletins
- Collaboration with Manhattan Beach Rotary

Additional enhancements may include:

- Reserved seating for veterans
- Veteran name badges

C. Publicity Expansion

I. Local Media outreach to:

- Daily Breeze
- MB Weekly
- Easy Reader
- Beach Reporter
- Local veteran organizations

A press release and optional human-interest feature highlighting a local veteran are proposed.

II. School and Parent Channels

- MBUSD email blasts
- PTA newsletters
- School websites
- ASB promotion
- Greater involvement of Boy Scouts

III. Visual Awareness

- City street banners two weeks prior
- Social media countdown
- City homepage banner

4. Zero-Budget “Wow Factor” Enhancements

Proposed no-cost additions include:

- Veteran Photo Wall - “Faces of Manhattan Beach Veterans”
- Short 3-5 Minute Veteran Storytelling Segment
- Expanded Flag Ceremony with Scouts
- Patriotic Walk-Up Music Prior to Event
- “Thank a Veteran” Card Station for Children

5. Crowd Size Strategy

To increase overall attendance:

- Strengthen school-related participation
- Add visual military displays
- Public recognition of veterans, students, and scouts
- Highlight one compelling “featured veteran” story
- Increase pre-event social media buzz

ATTACHMENT:

1. Preliminary site plan

Veterans Day Celebration 2026



03/18/2026



CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

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STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: 3/23/2026

TO:

Honorable Chair and Commissioners of the Parks and Recreation Commission

THROUGH:

Mark Leyman, Parks and Recreation Director

FROM:

Mark Leyman, Parks and Recreation Director
Janeth Medina, Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT:

Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan 2026-2027

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the commission discuss the Parks and Recreation Work plan items.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Fiscal implications, if any, will be developed on a project-by-project basis and presented to the City Council as necessary.

DISCUSSION:

The City Council met on February 24, 2026, to discuss the City Council work plan and provide direction on items related to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The following topics were approved for continued work by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Pay N Play - (Windes, City Council directed staff to determine programming costs, revenue projections and long-term options (ie. Demolition of building), At its October 7, 2025 meeting, City Council approved the demolition of the Pay N Play structure and turfing the area to temporarily open it up as open space to the public. The area will remain turfed until the library needs assessment is complete, a new project is confirmed and construction begins. This project is on the CIP list and will be reviewed again by City Council after the library needs assessment is completed.
- Veterans' Day Event - (Zimbalist, Doran, Aggarwal) - an ad-hoc committee was formed to evaluate enhancement of city events to honor veterans
- FIFA- identify and develop opportunities to enhance the event experience for residents, pending City Council direction
- Olympics- identify and develop opportunities to enhance the event experience for

residents, pending City Council direction