

City of Pacifica

Fireworks Task Force Committee

Minutes from meeting of Monday, March 18, 2013

Meeting started at approximately 6:00 P.M.

Present for the meeting: Cindy Abbott, Tom Dennison, Chris Fogel, William Gray, Mike O'Neill, Sue Pemberton, Patty Sambrailo, Jim Tasa and Tim Dunkin (facilitator).

Jim Tasa distributed minutes from meeting of March 4, 2013, the Charter for the Fireworks Task Force Committee, the evening's agenda and a committee roster.

Jim Tasa advised the committee that the City Attorney continued to work on the issue as to whether fireworks can legally be used on Linda Mar Beach and no opinion has been rendered as of yet.

Tim Dunkin reviewed the Charter with the committee and it was agreed that we would proceed with the assumption that fireworks were allowed on Linda Mar Beach (as in the past). The committee agreed to focus on two items for the evening, 1) clean-up efforts on the beach and throughout the City, and 2) alternative sites to detonate "Safe and Sane" fireworks in the event they are not allowed on Linda Mar Beach.

Committee members identified the following potential alternative sites. This was a "brainstorming" exercise with no initial parameters put on the sites.

- Linda Mar Shopping Center, Linda Mar Park-n-Ride, Sea Bowl Parking Lot, Park Mall Shopping Center, Eureka Square Shopping Center, Pedro Point Shopping Center.
- St. Peter's Church Parking Lot, Oceana High School, Terra Nova High School, Oddstad School, Ingrid B. Lacey School, Gold Course Parking Lot. (William Gray was going to check with the Jefferson Union High School District about the availability of school sites).
- Lower Frontierland Park, Linda Mar Beach Parking Lot, Sanchez Field, White Field, Fairmont West Park, Rockaway Beach, Sharp Park Beach.

The committee then talked about what the criteria might be to identify whether the sites were useable. The following criteria were identified:

- Ownership/authorization
- Liability – If City sponsored, does the City need to have additional insurance?

- Safety – Is the location a fire hazard? Is there ample parking available? What crowd size can the location handle? Are fireworks booths at the site and do they present a fire issue?
- Staffing – Will City staffing be required at the site(s)? How many?
- Accessibility – Parking, traffic issues.

The question was brought up as to where other cities that allow the sale of “Safe and Sane” fireworks allow the fireworks to be detonated (i.e. San Bruno, Union City, Dublin, Newark, etc.)?

Another suggestion that was raised was the promoting of block parties throughout the community. This would encourage neighbors to interact and allow them to enjoy the “Safe and Sane” fireworks in their own yards/driveways/streets.

After talking about alternative sites, the committee focused on the clean-up process. It was noted that clean-up should not only address beach clean-up, but should also include the City as a whole and the litter that is left behind as a result of fireworks being discharged throughout the community.

“Brainstorming” for litter clean-up resulted in the following suggestions:

- Add “no littering” to existing 4th of July flyers/pamphlets. None of the current materials include any statements regarding litter. These flyers have been provided by TNT.
- Add signage to fireworks booth that states, “Litter is Illegal”.
- Litter campaign to educate and encourage the community to police their litter on and around the 4th of July, as well as, to dispose of fireworks safely.
- To have a more focused and possibly additional beach clean-ups other than just the few hours on the 5th of July on Linda Mar Beach.
- Identify if there are additional City services or crews for litter pick-up on the 4th of July.
- To place more garbage cans on Linda Mar Beach or alternative sites on the 4th of July to make it convenient for beach users to dispose of their litter.
- To have structured clean-up plans for each location/site, which may include street sweepers.
- To distribute 32-gallon plastic garbage bags to beach users to dispose of their litter. There would be an incremental cost to cover the purchase of the garbage cans.

- To incorporate other community groups, other than fireworks booth groups, to assist with the clean-up efforts.
- To do a “bill stuffer” with “No Littering” message.
- To utilize new Beach Park Rangers to assist with Linda Mar Beach litter issues if they are hired prior to 4th of July.
- Identified one of the major keys as educating the community regarding littering and getting the community support to address this issue.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

Originally, the Fireworks Task Force Committee identified April 8th and April 22, 2013 as future meeting dates/times, however, these dates/times conflict with Pacifica Council Meetings. Because of this, our next meeting will be held on April 15th with the following meeting on April 29th, 2013. The meetings will be held at the Pacifica Police Department from 6:00-8:00 PM.

Next Meeting

Monday, April 15, 2013

Pacifica Police Department

2075 Coast Highway, Pacifica, California

6:00 – 8:00 P.M.