

June 5, 2007

Honorable Mayor and Members of
The Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
June 12, 2007

**Beach Volleyball Court Installation Request
6th Street and the Strand**

Recommendation

At its April 3, 2007 meeting, the Parks, Recreation and Community Resources Advisory Commission recommended approval of two beach volleyball courts to be installed at 6th Street and the Strand.

Background

At its April 24, 2007 meeting, the City Council took action to review and reconsider the installation of the aforementioned volleyball courts.

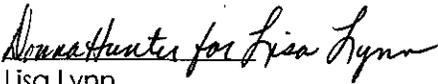
The Community Resources Department received a letter of request and application from Greg Maffei (Attachment C) dated February 14, 2007.

In coordination with the Departments of Public Works and Community Resources, the Parks and Recreation Commission instituted a combined Beach Volleyball Court Policy and Application in 1997 (Attachment B). Since 1997 there has been one approved installation request for beach volleyball courts, which occurred in May 2004 at 2nd Street and the Strand.

Attachments

- A. Volleyball Court Inventory
- B. Volleyball Court Application and Policy
- C. Original Letter of Request
- D. Correspondence: Greg Maffei
- E. Correspondence: Ron Pizer

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Lynn
Community Resources Director

Concur,


Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager

Hermosa Beach Volleyball Court Inventory
As of 3/28/07

NORTH SIDE of Hermosa Pier

# of Courts	1 st Court Distance from Strand	Location STRAND Addresses
3	45'	Mermaid
3	45'	Good Stuff/Poopdeck
3	45'	S. of Beach House
3	45'	Middle of Beach House
2	125'	FOURTEENTH
1	90'	Nobel Park (Broken)
2	27'	1614 STRAND (3 rd house N. of SIXTEENTH)
2	27'	1632 STRAND (2 nd house S. of SEVENTEENTH)
1	47'	1712 STRAND (2 nd house N. of SEVENTEENTH)
1	47'	(4 th house N. of SEVENTEENTH)
2	45'	1920 STRAND (4 th house N. of NINETEENTH)
2	43'	2108 STRAND (2 nd house N. of TWENTY FIRST)
2	45'	2126 STRAND (3 rd house S. of TWENTY SECOND)
2	77'	(1 st house S. of TWENTY FOURTH)
1	45'	2167 STRAND (2 nd house N. of TWENTY SIXTH)
1	35'	2728 STRAND
2	20'	2902 STRAND
1	48'	(5 th house S. of LONGFELLOW)
2	16'	3222 STRAND (6 th or 7 th house N. of LONGFELLOW)
1	29'	(3 rd house S. of THIRTY FIFTH/Bike path)

SUBTOTAL : 37

ATTACHMENT A

SOUTH SIDE of Hermosa Pier

# of Courts	1 st Court Distance from Strand	Location STRAND Addresses
2	56'	In between 16 & 18 STRAND (4 th house N. of LYNDEN)
2	56'	44 STRAND
2	55'	60/58 STRAND (5 th house S. of FIRST)
2	51'	(1 st house S. of FIRST)
2	50'	1114 STRAND (93 rd house N. of FIRST)
1	53'	1132 STRAND (6 th house N. of FIRST)
2	45'	230/232/234 STRAND (5 th house N. of SECOND)
2	55'	302 STRAND (1 st house N. of THIRD)
2	74'	FOURTH
2	48'	502 STRAND (1 st house N. of FIFTH)
2	45'	612 STRAND (2 nd house N. SIXTH)
2	39'	636 STRAND 1 st house S. of SEVENTH
2	58'	EIGHTH
2	52'	(4 th house N. of EIGHTH)
1	50'	Sea Sprite
3	50'	In between Sea Sprite and Sea Sprite Cottage
3	50'	ELEVENTH

SUBTOTAL: 34

GRAND TOTAL: 71 Volleyball Courts in Hermosa Beach

BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT APPLICATION AND POLICY

Purpose: Historically, in addition to City erected courts, residents have placed court poles at various locations on the beach to accommodate additional volleyball play. In order to evaluate requests for new courts, the Parks and Recreation Commission needs to review your request at one of their regularly scheduled meetings.

Applicant Information

Name _____
Address _____
Phone(s) _____

Court Request

Location _____
Number of Courts requested _____

Reason for request (the Commission will evaluate your request based on (a) recreational needs of the community, (b) availability of courts in the area, (c) use of existing courts, (d) other recreational uses of the beach, and (e) public input).

(you may attach additional information)

Rules & Regulations

1. If approved by the Commission, courts must be installed in accordance with the specification sheet (attached).
2. All courts on Hermosa Beach are considered public courts and must be open and available to all people who wish to play beach volleyball.
3. The City may remove any court that is not properly maintained.
4. The City and Commission reserve the right to amend approved court locations.

The applicant agrees to the Rules and Regulations above and hereby guarantees to hold harmless the City of Hermosa Beach, its officers, agents and employee, from any and all liability arising from the construction and/or use of the beach volleyball court(s) as applied for.

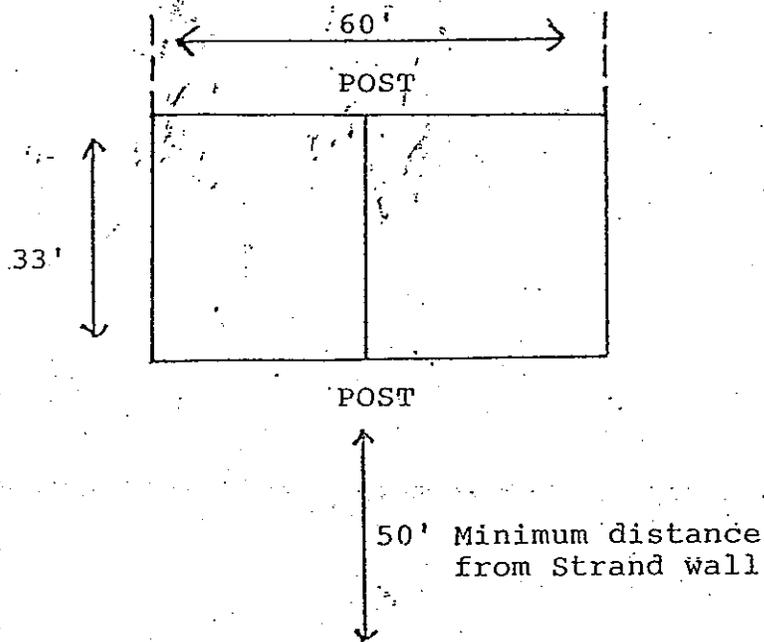
Signature of applicant and responsible party

Please print name

Approved: _____
Date: _____
Initials: _____

ATTACHMENT B

VOLLEYBALL COURT SPECIFICATION SHEET



STRAND WALK AND WALL

NOTE:

1. Post material is restricted to 4" X 4" wood posts only.
2. The only fastenings permitted on posts will be screw eyes (2 per post). No hooks, nails or other protrusions will be allowed.
3. No boards or post extensions shall be added or permitted.
4. No guy wires or other diagonal supports shall be used.
5. No names either carved in post material or on a sign shall be attached to posts.
6. With the exception of the courts already on the Beach, there shall be no more than two sets of volleyball courts per Strand block.
7. There shall be a minimum of 15 ft. between courts.
8. The City will not be liable for nets or other equipment.

Lisa Lynn
Community Resources Department
710 Pier Avenue
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

February 14, 2007

RE: Request for 2 new, side-by-side (east to west) volleyball courts just south of 6th Street, Hermosa Beach

Dear Lisa:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to apply for the installation of 2 new volleyball courts just south of 6th Street in Hermosa Beach. I have been a Hermosa Beach resident since 1990, and my wife, daughter and I recently purchased our house just a few houses from the beach at 43 6th Street. My 17-year volleyball ties are slowly being severed from the court at 35th Street as home and familial duties take precedence, and we'd now love to start a new volleyball tradition on the beach in front of our new home.

My 2-year-old daughter, Catherine, and I play on the beach in front of 6th Street on weekends and most warm evenings after work, and literally some of the first words out of her mouth were "Volleee-ball." With my wife and I hoping to increase the size of our family over the next few years, nothing would be better than to have a volleyball court in front of our street that we could enjoy with our volleyball friends and their young families.

Enclosed are satellite maps/pictures of all volleyball courts from the pier south to Herondo. 6th Street is the only street without volleyball courts. The courts closest to 6th Street rest near 7th Street to the north and each has a regular and active group of players. I'm not shy about making new friends, but one court seems a bit rowdy for kids and the other is a woman's court with a much lower net. We would love to build a family friendly 6th Street court close to our house that is great for competitive players and safe for small children and families.

Thank you so much for reviewing my request and taking a look at the satellite pictures of the proposed court and other South Hermosa Beach courts. Please let me know what else I can do to help this process along. I'm more than happy and eager to introduce myself to my Strand neighbors on the wealthier side of the railroad track (Beach Drive) to ask for their blessing to build this court.

Thank you again for this forum and I look forward to following up with you.

Sincerely,

Greg Maffei
43 6th Street
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
310-800-0388

ATTACHMENT C

BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT APPLICATION AND POLICY

Purpose: Historically, in addition to City erected courts, residents have placed court poles at various locations on the beach to accommodate additional volleyball play. In order to evaluate requests for new courts, the Parks and Recreation Commission needs to review your request at one of their regularly scheduled meetings.

Applicant Information

Name GREG MAFFEI
Address 43 6th STREET, HERMOSA BEACH, CA 90254
Phone(s) 310-800-0388 (cell) 310-318-1598 (home)

Court Request

Location JUST SOUTH OF 6th STREET
Number of Courts requested 2

Reason for request (the Commission will evaluate your request based on (a) recreational needs of the community, (b) availability of courts in the area, (c) use of existing courts, (d) other recreational uses of the beach, and (e) public input).

SEE FORMAL LETTER PLEASE

(you may attach additional information)

Rules & Regulations

1. If approved by the Commission, courts must be installed in accordance with the specification sheet (attached).
2. All courts on Hermosa Beach are considered public courts and must be open and available to all people who wish to play beach volleyball.
3. The City may remove any court that is not properly maintained.
4. The City and Commission reserve the right to amend approved court locations.

The applicant agrees to the Rules and Regulations above and hereby guarantees to hold harmless the City of Hermosa Beach, its officers, agents and employee, from any and all liability arising from the construction and/or use of the beach volleyball court(s) as applied for.

J. Gregory Maffei
Signature of applicant and responsible party
J. GREGORY MAFFEI
Please print name

Approved: _____
Date: _____
Initials: _____

From: Greg Maffei [<mailto:jgregorymaffei@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2007 6:20 PM
To: 'samedgerton@aol.com'; 'michaelkeegan@manhattanbread.com';
'jbrhbcc@aol.com'; 'kit.bobko@gmail.com'; 'peter@electpetertucker.com'
Cc: 'cthollander@adelphia.net'; 'bill@smacksportswear.com'; 'bellradiotv@mac.com'
Subject: Volleyball court hearing - b/w 5th Street & 6th Street

Esteemed Council persons:

My name is Greg Maffei and I live at 43 6th Street in Hermosa Beach. This is simply a letter of introduction in preparation for the City Council hearing that I am told is set for early June to reopen the ruling to allow 2 new volleyball courts to be constructed between 5th and 6th Streets in Hermosa Beach. As I understand it, our City Council recently passed the decision-making authority on such matters to the Department of Parks and Recreation (3 members who are cc'd here), but it seems that authority is only in place in the absence of a stern letter from a single Strand resident and well known local activist that continually combats the things that make this great city the outwardly embracing, social community it is..... a town that attracts young, physically active families like mine to chose to buy homes here.

I've lived in Hermosa Beach for 17 years and my wife and I became first-time homeowners on 6th Street in December 2004. I have played Volleyball regularly in North Hermosa since my arrival here after college in 1990, but now that I live in South Hermosa and have a 2-year-old daughter, I'd like to find a court to play on that is walking distance to our home. My wife and I looked for a home we could afford in the Hermosa Sand Section for more than 2 years so we could be walking distance to this great beach of ours..... so we could enjoy jogging on the Strand, walking to local downtown restaurants, and of course to play volleyball. In December of 2004, we found a beat-up, 100 year-old Craftsman home that we immediately fell in love with. Instead of tearing down this home that we were told may be the oldest house in Hermosa Beach (tax records show it to be built in 1904...3 years before our city's official inception), we have spent the past 2 ½ years restoring it...trying to maintain as much of it's original charm as possible.

In the two and a half years since moving here, I've only played volleyball one time in South Hermosa --- not because I've been too busy working on the house and working to pay for the house, but because my other South Hermosa friends and I find it very hard to get on a volleyball court within four blocks either direction from my house. I'm not kidding. I go jogging regularly on the weekends not much later than 8:00am, and the majority of the courts south of the pier are already "claimed" by then. I'm not complaining about the popularity of volleyball, mind you. After all, this city is known for volleyball and I want to raise my daughter to learn to play a sport that I myself won a State Championship playing...and that tournament, not ironically was held at a South Bay high school (Redondo Beach High). With a two-year-old daughter now, I'd simply like to be able to walk to the beach closest to us, plop down with some beach chairs, and play some volleyball with others South Hermosa residents like us that don't currently have a court to play on. Having a bathroom close by and a bedroom for diaper changes and naps (for my daughter, not me :-)) doesn't hurt either!!

It saddens me that...after a 3-0 vote to approve these new courts by the also esteemed Parks and Recreation directors that our city also elects...your board finds it necessary to re-open this case. Sadly, I truly believe that had the vote gone the other way, my

ATTACHMENT D

appeal to you would have fallen upon deaf ears with the explanation that the authority rests with the Parks and Recreation directors ---- the place where your predecessors chose for the authority to fall. Understanding, though, that life isn't fair and politics..well...are politics, I do look forward to having the opportunity to speak before each of you.

I would ask one favor....that you consider pushing the hearing to sometime before the first week of June, though. Sometime in the next two weeks if possible. As I am told, it can take up to 6 weeks to get the courts put up AFTER a successful bid (in no way presuming that we will be successful again), and by that time, it will be almost August with most of the summer behind us. Is that too much to ask?

Thank you for allowing me to write my view on this matter to each of you. Since I plan to live in this town for a long time, and who knows, maybe run for local office myself someday, I do look forward to experiencing city politics with something important but not life-threatening on the line.

Take care, and I look forward to meeting each of you.

Sincerely,

Greg Maffei
43 6th Street
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
310.800.0388 (ph)
310.388.0381 (fax)
jgregorymaffi@yahoo.com

May 1, 2007

We request that the Item J on the Consent Calendar be removed. This is Item 2 of the April 3, 2007 minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Community Resources Advisory Commission meeting. This approved motion **recommends the installation of (2) beach volleyball courts at 6th Street and the Strand**. We would like this decision be reviewed by the City Council and **not be approved**. We also request that the City Council schedule a **public hearing** on this subject after the Commission has had an opportunity to review the management and operation of this activity.

Please consider the following two questions:

Was the installation of two additional volleyball courts a well informed objective decision made in the best interest of the community or for the special interest of only a few volleyball players?

The Commission had no information from staff or other resources to support the decision to add volleyball courts to our beach.

The only documentation provided by staff indicated there were 34 courts **South** of the Pier and 37 courts **North** of the Pier. This gave the impression that the beach frontage used by the courts would be approximately the same in the North and South. The true situation is that **20%** of the beach frontage is used by courts in the residential area **North** of the business area and **35%** of the beach frontage is used by courts in the residential area **South** of the business area.

The specific location proposed for the new courts was a very poor choice because it is in a very volleyball court impacted area. The residential area South of Pier has **175%** more beach frontage used by volleyball courts than the residential area North of Pier. The North also has **6 single courts** that could be used for expansion without impacting the beach frontage. The South has only one single court in a very impacted location.

The current policy is that only **two** in line (East-West) courts are to be installed at the end of each street. Grandfathered courts are not included. If this decision is approved, near the end of 6th Street there will be the existing **four** courts to the **North** and **two** new courts to the **South**! This will permit **six** volleyball courts to be installed near 6th Street! The location of the new courts will also have to be located further to the South of 6th Street due to the marker posts for the storm drain. This will result in **55% of the beach frontage being used for volleyball courts between 5th and 6th Streets**. The practical spacing from volleyball courts should be about 30' to sit on the beach without interference with volleyball activity. This would make 73% of the beach frontage being used by volleyball activity!

I was told by staff that the applicant for the new courts was an older man that felt uncomfortable using the other existing courts because they were used by other groups. This new resident on 6th Street wanted his own court! I advised the Commission that there was no compelling reason for the addition of more volleyball courts and it was not in the best interests of the community.

ATTACHMENT E

This is a **management** problem. The City approves the location of the courts and installs the posts. The rest is the currently the responsibility of the volleyball players! It is easy to understand why we have **virtual ownership** of many volleyball courts.

The discussion by the Commission **did not include analysis of the beach frontage area impacted by two new volleyball courts South at 6th Street**. Consideration should have been given to the other people that use the beach and the California Coastal Commission. The total discussion was how nice it will be to have two new volleyball courts!

Was this recommendation made in conformance with legal requirements of a city commission for noticing and conflict of interest?

Noticing of this action item did not appear to be performed properly. Most of the volleyball courts South of Pier had **notices stapled to the court posts**. The notice for the impacted residents was delivered like hand-out advertising. Many residents did not receive notice. Proper noticing involves **posting notices at the site**. In this case, stakes with notices should have defined the two court areas.

One of the three Commissioners at this meeting had a definite conflict of interest. This **Commissioner should have recused himself from the meeting** and if he did not, staff should have advised the Chairman of this incorrect procedure. The volleyball motion could not have been approved if this action had taken place. Please note that the code Chapter 2.28 that establishes this Commission does not include conflict of interest. Chapter 2.32.040 of the code for the Planning Commission does specify **disqualification for conflict of interest**.

Hermosa Beach volleyball courts and operation could be one of the best in the world if we do our homework and make positive changes.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter of public concern.

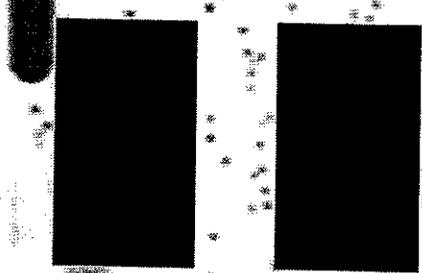
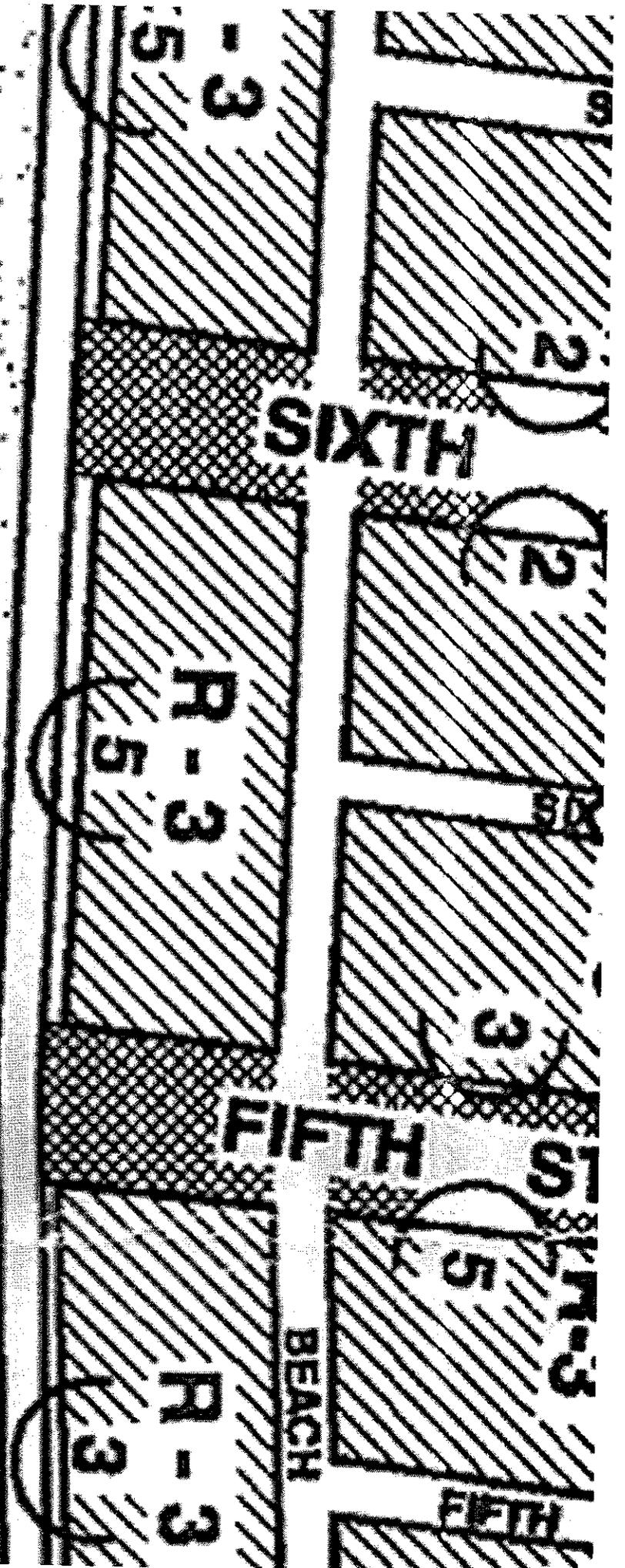
Ron Pizer
Toni Pizer

518 The Strand
Hermosa Beach
310 318-5848

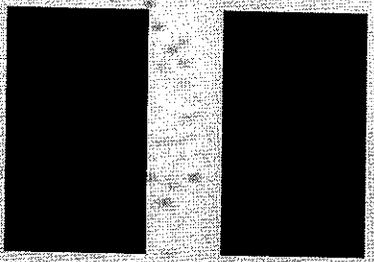
Hermosa Volleyball Court Beach Frontage as of 4/1/07

	Total Beach Frontage (feet)	Total Number of Courts	Number of Courts on Frontage	Total Length Needed for Standard Courts (72'/court)*	Total Percent of Beach Frontage Used by Standard Courts
Residential Zone North of Pier	5175	22	14	1008	20%
Business Zone	1350	22	8	576	43%
Residential Zone South of Pier	3075	27	15	1080	35%
Total	9600	71	37	2664	28%

*Note: A 6 foot border around each volleyball court which is 30' X 60' is the standard court specification (42' X 72') used in this table. In order for others to enjoy the beach, there should be a 20 to 30 foot border at each end of the court length.



PROPOSED COURTS



SCALE 1" = 60'

508 The Strand
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

June 4, 2007

Community Development Planning
Planning Division
City Hall
1315 Valley Drive
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Subject: Important Public Notice
Two Beach Volleyball Courts at Sixth & The Strand

To Whom It May Concern:

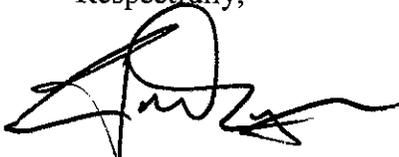
We are submitting this as an interested party desiring to participate and speak at the upcoming hearing for the subject item at 7:30P.M on Tuesday June 12, 2007. I am a 20 year resident of Hermosa Beach and have owned my current home on the Strand for more than a decade.

We object to the recommendation of the city to reconsider this activity. The volleyball courts (being considered) will block the views of the residents. A blocked view decreases our value of life and decreases our property values. These beach volleyball courts contribute significantly to excessive noise, loud obnoxious verbal obscenities, public consumption of alcohol on the beach, and disorderly conduct. The continual slapping of the ball every 15 seconds for an entire day, nearly every day of the year is difficult to deal with. Doors and windows have to be regularly closed during game play to avoid being overwhelmed by the loud and obscene verbal shouting and constant ball slap.

If the city is interested, I recently video taped a typical volleyball "game play" at this location from this past weekend. It shows public alcohol consumption, the shouting of verbal obscenities, rowdy game play, and the thunderous sound levels.

Do not put this in front of our homes and block the one last pristine and beautiful view we possess.

Respectfully,



John & Connie Droge

Rick & Adrian Pruetz
522 The Strand
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

June 5, 2007

City Council
City of Hermosa Beach
1315 Valley Drive
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

RE: June 12, 2007 City Council Public Hearing: Review and Reconsideration of a Parks, Recreation and Community Resources Advisory Commission Decision on April 3, 2007 to Install Two Beach Volleyball Courts at Sixth Street and The Strand

Dear Honorable Council Members:

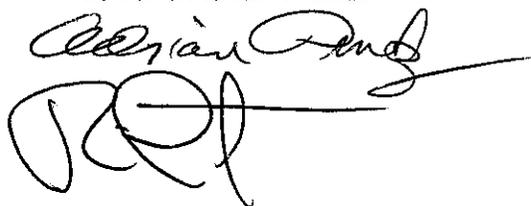
Please reject the proposal to install two more volleyball courts between the two courts already at the end of Fifth Street and the two courts slightly north of the end of Sixth Street. As you know, volleyball games discourage people from using a lot of beach surrounding each court. Plus the two proposed courts really have to be located south of Sixth Street to keep volleyball players away from the line of posts marking the storm drain right of way at the end of Sixth Street. As a result, the part of the beach closest to the Strand between Fifth and Sixth streets will effectively become a "volleyball-only zone" on weekends.

We would greatly appreciate a chance to be able to use a portion of the beach near The Strand in this block on weekends, particularly when we have guests with young children visiting us. In fact, this block is a popular spot for many young families and others who prefer to be near The Strand rather than mid-beach or near the water.

Conversely, volleyball players may not care as much where they are as long as they have a court to play on. For example, some volleyball players arriving by car might prefer to have more courts closer to Pier Avenue, where more parking is available. Even when the volleyball players walk or bike, they still may not care whether the courts are next to The Strand or set back from The Strand. From what we can see, there are lots of opportunities to set back courts further west, away from The Strand, in the mid-beach zone that is currently the least-used portion of the beach. If the City prefers symmetry, a second court could be added immediately west of single courts. That strategy would add additional courts and still allow a portion of the beach closest to The Strand to be used for something other than volleyball.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to deny this proposal.

Sincerely,
Rick and Adrian Pruetz

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is a cursive signature that appears to read 'Adrian Pruetz'. Below it is another cursive signature, likely 'Rick Pruetz', which is more stylized and includes a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Date: June 5, 2007

To: City Council members

Re: Volleyball courts

From: Toni Pizer, 518 The Strand, H.B.

We are all very lucky to live in Hermosa Beach. Our beaches are beautiful. They are named in the 10 top beaches in the U.S. It's very important to keep our open spaces on the beach for everyone to enjoy – **it's the fair thing to do.**

Volleyball has been and is important to our city, but we don't need anymore courts south of the pier! There are already 6 courts between 5th and 6th street. Two are on 5th street and 4 are on 6th street. If two more courts are erected north on 5th street, the beach frontage (as wide as the courts) will be full of volleyballs that are being constantly pelted out of the courts during volleyball games, and nobody would be able to use the beach for anything else.

For the 17 years we have lived here everyone has gotten along with each other just fine – beachgoers and volleyball players!

We used to use the courts for several years when we first moved here – we would have to get up a little early to save a court.

Over the years many of the 3 unit buildings have been replaced with single family homes – the result is there are actually less people using the courts than there were when we first moved here. Lately, there have been many times when some of the courts are not being used on weekends.

To keep our beaches balanced for everyone to use, please do not add any more volleyball courts to this area.

Toni Pizer

To: Members Of The Hermosa Beach City Council
June 1, 2007

From: Robert & Barbara Payne 532 TAX STRAND

Dear Council Members:

We question the arrangement whereby the Parks & Recreation Commission makes the decision on approving new volleyball courts while it also actively promotes volleyball in Hermosa beach. Some members of the commission can profit personally by promoting volleyball.

While we agree that volleyball is important for Hermosa Beach, we need some semblance of a balance on the use of the beach between volleyball and other beach activities-particularly those needed for families with children. At the present there are 8 volleyball courts between 4th and 7th St. in Hermosa Beach-two more would basically occupy the remaining part of the beach that is safe for children in this area. Like the volleyball players, families with children can use the beach only on weekends. The present courts are not being used most of the time. The commission takes the position that it is a big beach and the "footprint" of the volleyball courts is small. As far as the safety of children is concerned, the "safety footprint" of the volley ball itself is easily five times the area of the court. It is also occasionally not an environment that the children should be subjected to.

To put things into perspective, a very large percentage of the surrounding population does not play volley ball and it is an abuse of the beach to allow the small percentage that does to take over the entire beach that is needed for other activities. Even during peak periods the existing courts between 4th and 7th streets are presently being used about 50% of the time.

We do not feel that the city has adequately addressed the need for more volleyball courts in this area.

We ask that you carefully consider the requirements of the majority of the surrounding community.

Ron Pizer
518 The Strand
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
310 318-5848

Meeting Notes for June 12th Volleyball Court Hearing

A **revised copy** of the packet presented at the meeting requesting this hearing has been included in your packet for this hearing. This packet includes the revised letter requesting the City Council not to approve the addition of two new volleyball courts, table showing Hermosa Volleyball Court Beach Frontage as of 4/1/07, map showing the impact of Proposed Courts, and the letter from the applicant.

During the time between the approval of this hearing and the hearing, I have **observed and confirmed that no compelling reason has been established that benefits the majority of the community for expansion of volleyball courts** and if additional courts are desired by the City Council they should be added to the six single courts North of Pier. During the past three weekends I have recorded data(10:30 AM to noon) that **25% to 35% of the courts are vacant** without any indication showing intended use. Many courts do not have nets which discourages usage. I have sent a letter to the Parks and Recreation Commission requesting their setting up a committee to review the operation of our courts.

If you decide you want to add more volleyball courts, the proposed location of new courts to South of 6th Street is a very poor choice. This would increase the beach frontage used by volleyball to 55% of the total frontage from 5th to 6th Street. If you use realistic spacing of 30' instead of the standard 6' court spacing, the beach frontage impacted by volleyball courts is 73%. The residential beach front South of the pier is 175% more impacted from volleyball courts than the beach frontage North of the pier

During the weekends, I have observed many community uses in the proposed volleyball areas. Some of these activities include sitting on the sand, playing football, playing baseball, children playing, kite flying, exercising, and playing catch with various items. **Many of the current activities would have to be restricted or not possible** with the proposed new court installations.

Establishing volleyball courts sets the priority for land usage. What would happen if you sit on the beach in a designated volleyball court area? **Temporary volleyball courts** can be set up on the beach without permit if they are removed at the end of the day. The beach is available to everyone on a first arrival basis.

The City has done a very good job of noticing this hearing. As usual, some volleyball players have decided again to post hearing notices on the City owned volleyball posts to be sure their interests are well represented at this hearing. I have done no promotion to advertise this hearing and anyone other than our immediate neighbors are here because of the City noticing.

I hope you do what is fair and best for our community. Let's keep as much beach frontage as possible so we all can enjoy our Hermosa Beach

Ru Ry 6/5/07

June 2, 2007

Subject: June 12, 2007 City Council public hearing to hear a review and reconsideration of a Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Advisory Commission decision on April 3, 2007, to install two beach volleyball courts South of Sixth Street and the Strand.

We request that the City Council **not approve the installation of the two new courts.**

Please consider the following two questions:

Was the installation of two additional volleyball courts a well informed objective decision made in the best interest of the community or for the special interest of only a few volleyball players?

The Commission had no information from staff or other resources to support the decision to add volleyball courts to our beach.

The only documentation provided by staff indicated there were 34 courts **South** of the Pier and 37 courts **North** of the Pier. This gave the impression that the beach frontage used by the courts would be approximately the same in the North and South. The true situation is that **20%** of the beach frontage is used by courts in the residential area **North** of the business area and **35%** of the beach frontage is used by courts in the residential area **South** of the business area.

The specific location proposed for the new courts was a very poor choice because it is in a very volleyball court impacted area. The residential area South of Pier has **175% more beach frontage used by volleyball courts** than the residential area North of Pier. The **North** also has **6 single courts** that could be used for expansion without impacting the beach frontage. The South has only one single court in a very impacted location.

The current policy is that only **two** in line (East-West) courts are to be installed at the end of each street. Grandfathered courts are not included. If this decision is approved, near the end of 6th Street there will be the existing **four** courts to the **North** and **two** new courts to the **South**! This will permit **six** volleyball courts to be installed near 6th Street! The location of the new courts will also have to be located further to the South of 6th Street due to the marker posts for the storm drain. This will result in **55% of the beach frontage being used for volleyball courts between 5th and 6th Streets.** The practical spacing from volleyball courts should be about 30' to sit on the beach without interference with volleyball activity. **This would make 73% of the beach frontage being impacted by volleyball activity!**

I was told by staff that the applicant for the new courts was an older man that felt uncomfortable using the other existing courts because they were used by other groups. This new resident on 6th Street wanted his own court!

I advised the Commission that there was no compelling reason for the addition of more volleyball courts and it was not in the best interests of the community. This is a **management** problem. The City approves the location of the courts and installs the posts. The rest is the currently the responsibility of the volleyball players! It is easy to understand why we have **virtual ownership** of many volleyball courts.

The discussion by the Commission **did not include any information establishing a need for additional courts or an analysis of the beach frontage area impacted by two new volleyball courts South at 6th Street.** Consideration should have also been given to the other people that use the beach and the California Coastal Commission. The total discussion was how nice it will be to have two new volleyball courts!

Was this recommendation made in conformance with legal requirements of a city commission for noticing and conflict of interest?

Noticing of this action item did not appear to be performed properly. Most of the volleyball courts South of Pier had **notices stapled to the court posts.** The notice for the impacted residents was delivered like hand-out advertising. Many residents did not receive notice. Proper noticing involves **posting notices at the site.** In this case, stakes with notices should have defined the two court areas.

One of the three Commissioners at this meeting had a definite conflict of interest. This **Commissioner should have recused himself from the meeting** and if he did not, staff should have advised the Chairman of this incorrect procedure. The volleyball motion could not have been approved if this action had taken place. Please note that the code Chapter 2.28 that establishes this Commission does not include conflict of interest. Chapter 2.32.040 of the code for the Planning Commission does specify **disqualification for conflict of interest.**

Hermosa Beach volleyball courts and operation could be one of the best in the world if we do our homework and make positive changes.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter of public concern.


Ron Pizer

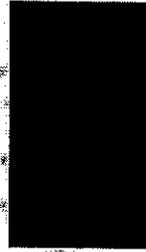
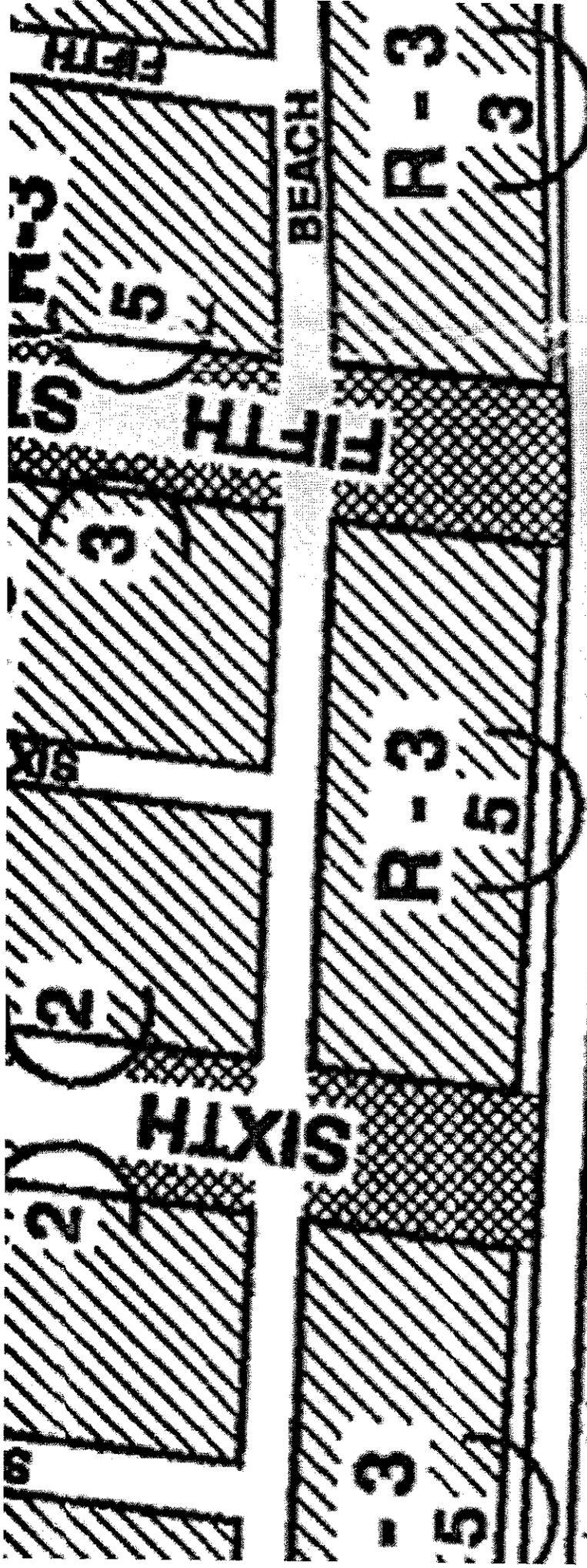
Toni Pizer

518 The Strand
Hermosa Beach
310 318-5848

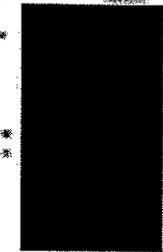
Hermosa Volleyball Court Beach Frontage as of 4/1/07

	Total Beach Frontage (feet)	Total Number of Courts	Number of Courts on Frontage	Total Length Needed for Standard Courts (72'/court)*	Total Percent of Beach Frontage Used by Standard Courts
Residential Zone North of Pier	5175	22	14	1008	20%
Business Zone	1350	22	8	576	43%
Residential Zone South of Pier	3075	27	15	1080	35%
Total	9600	71	37	2664	28%

*Note: A 6 foot border around each volleyball court which is 30' X 60' is the standard court specification (42' X 72') used in this table. In order for others to enjoy the beach, there should be a 20 to 30 foot border at each end of the court length.



PROPOSED COURTS



SCALE 1" = 60'

Lisa Lynn
Community Resources Department
710 Pier Avenue
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

February 14, 2007

RE: Request for 2 new, side-by-side (east to west) volleyball courts just south of 6th Street, Hermosa Beach

Dear Lisa:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to apply for the installation of 2 new volleyball courts just south of 6th Street in Hermosa Beach. I have been a Hermosa Beach resident since 1990, and my wife, daughter and I recently purchased our house just a few houses from the beach at 43 6th Street. My 17-year volleyball ties are slowly being severed from the court at 35th Street as home and familial duties take precedence, and we'd now love to start a new volleyball tradition on the beach in front of our new home.

My 2-year-old daughter, Catherine, and I play on the beach in front of 6th Street on weekends and most warm evenings after work, and literally some of the first words out of her mouth were "Volleee-ball." With my wife and I hoping to increase the size of our family over the next few years, nothing would be better than to have a volleyball court in front of our street that we could enjoy with our volleyball friends and their young families.

Enclosed are satellite maps/pictures of all volleyball courts from the pier south to Herondo. 6th Street is the only street without volleyball courts. The courts closest to 6th Street rest near 7th Street to the north and each has a regular and active group of players. I'm not shy about making new friends, but one court seems a bit rowdy for kids and the other is a woman's court with a much lower net. We would love to build a family friendly 6th Street court close to our house that is great for competitive players and safe for small children and families.

Thank you so much for reviewing my request and taking a look at the satellite pictures of the proposed court and other South Hermosa Beach courts. Please let me know what else I can do to help this process along. I'm more than happy and eager to introduce myself to my Strand neighbors on the wealthier side of the railroad track (Beach Drive) to ask for their blessing to build this court.

Thank you again for this forum and I look forward to following up with you.

Sincerely,

Greg Maffei
43 6th Street
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
310-800-0388

Steve Burrell

From: Jackie Drasco

Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2007 12:06 PM

To: Steve Burrell

Subject: Noticing for Volleyball Courts Review and Reconsideration

Steve – In compliance with noticing requirements, the legal ad noticing the public hearing for the above item will be in the Easy Reader on May 31, notices will be mailed on May 31 to all property owners and occupants in a 300' radius to the beach location of the proposed volleyball courts, and a Notice of Public Hearing will be posted on the beach location on May 31.

Jackie Drasco, Deputy City Clerk

5/23/2007

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PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2007 MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Bell at 7:05 p.m.



Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Sigler, Bell, Hollander.
Absent: Commissioner Cannella, Francis
Also Present: Lisa Lynn, Donna Hunter, Dante Pagulayan

Pledge of Allegiance

Dante Pagulayan

Approval of March 06, 2007 Minutes

Motion: "To approve as submitted."

Hollander/Sigler – All Ayes

Public Comment

Jim Lissner, Hermosa Beach. There is a brochure circulating about Pier Plaza being converted to a parking lot. No one can do that. Council can, but I do not think they will do that either.

Commissioner Bell: Is Pier Plaza under the jurisdiction of Parks and Recreation?

Lisa Lynn: For special event permits only.

Lissner: And it will remain a special event area where all the lights light up and all of that. You can view the website at vivahermosa.com. Mail the petitions by April 9. This is a critical issue for the City affecting what the Plaza is like, because if the ordinance sticks and the referendum does not succeed, that space will be more inhospitable than it is now.

Correspondence

None

Matters for Commission Consideration

1. PROJECTtouch Yard Sale

Donna Hunter: Staff recommends that Commission approve a request for PROJECTtouch to conduct a yard sale. The request is to have the yard sale at the Community Center on the East lawn. The date selected is Saturday, May 5 from 7am – 12 pm. The date does not conflict with any other events. The additional request for parking and storage can be easily accommodated. Staff recommends a perimeter fence be used similar to the Kiwanis tree lot.

Bell: Is there anyone here who would like to speak on the PROJECTtouch Yard Sale request?

Earl Feys, Board of Directors of PROJECTtouch: The sale has been done before and we did not leave a mess, we were prompt and on time. We will continue to be good citizens.

Donations will be accepted at the Project. Call in advance to make sure there is someone there to receive it. I will check with our Director to arrange for donations to be collected at the Community Center. Funds are used for an outdoor activity for PROJECTtouch boys and girls, usually a camping or socialization activity.

Hollander: PROJECTtouch has been around for a long time and serves the community well.

MOTION by Hollander to approve PROJECTtouch Yard Sale.

Commissioner Sigler seconded.

All Ayes.

2. Beach Volleyball Court Installation.

Dante Pagulayan presented the Staff Report. Staff recommends that Commission consider resident request to install two (2) beach volleyball courts at 6th Street and the Strand. The Community Resources Department received a letter of request and application from Greg Maffei. Mr. Maffei is requesting the installation of two (2) volleyball courts just south of 6th Street to accommodate the increasing number of volleyball players at the south end of the City. Attached to the staff report is the actual letter of request as well as the application and an updated inventory of all of the volleyball courts in Hermosa Beach from 35th Street all the way down.

Commissioner Bell: Do we have anyone here wanting to make a comment on the volleyball court installation?

Toni Pizer, Opposed: North of the Pier, there are wide expanses of sand and not as many volleyball courts. South, there are a lot more. On 6th Street, there are four (4) courts already. One of them is not being used because there are posts there and no net, two legitimate courts and one made with sticks for posts. We like to go on the sand with our grandchildren and people to sunbathe. You are being pelted with balls the whole time. You need a piece of sand without a volleyball court near it, a piece of sand for people to use. I am totally against it.

Ron Pizer, Opposed: I asked staff why these two courts are going to be added and I was told "because some people felt intimidated and people were pushing other people off the volleyball courts." I took a picture of the courts so we'll all know what it looks like. One court has branches holding up the net that has been up for over a year. Another proper court has a net. Are there any rules and regulations for controlling the nets? What is the maintenance policy? I think we have to be fair. Why do some courts have nets and some don't?

Commissioner Sigler: Some people take them down and then put them back up on the weekends.

Pizer: Why do they do that?

Commissioner Sigler: They do not want people to play there.

Pizer: Based on the usage I see on the 6th Street courts, I don't see a need. When you go up the Strand you'll find that four (4) courts on a street is a lot compared to the average. I just hope you consider it.

Greg Maffei, In Favor: I brought pictures and Google satellite maps so that you can all know how many courts there are from the Pier down to Herondo. There is no enforcement and people can claim courts. My friends are having a hard time finding a court we can get on. I don't mind where you put them, but we hope a new court could go up where we can play. At 8:00am people are on every volleyball court. I find it difficult to get on a court with our friends and be able to have our kids around without them being in danger.

Bell: Thank you. Questions?

Hollander: Bill Sigler, do the courts all have nets or not?

Sigler: They either have nets or people put them up on weekends. 90% have nets on them.

Maffei: People take them down so they can keep the court. The City pays for the poles. I am happy to pay for the net, lock it on, and have it available for people to play. We are asking for two courts, which leaves another for the public. We play sixes, which enables even more people to enjoy them.

Hollander: If we approve, you are not guaranteed a court.

Maffei: There is a court that we are not infringing on someone who has had a court for some time. I respect that even though they are not supposed to do that. We have a lot of people who want to play together.

Robert Payne, Opposed: I live right opposite the area you are talking about. There are two volleyball courts on 4th Street, two on 7th Street, and four halfway between 6th and 7th. For a block and a half you don't have a volleyball court. That is about the only area south of the Pier that doesn't have one. A small percentage of the population plays volleyball. The beach in front of us is used by a lot of people who have children who go out there and play. Close to a volleyball court it is hazardous. 99% of the time courts are empty. We don't need more. We need to get the ones we have playable. I think I am interested in having an area of the beach where children can come and play safely on the south side of the Pier.

Barbara Payne, Opposed: I would like to show a picture of 6th Street. I approve of volleyball and it is good for people, but I feel we have enough courts. I don't think it is up to the City to give personal volleyball courts to anyone. I think you should have some rules and regulations. You have a map of where the courts are. Children ought to be allowed to get on the sand. We don't have a volleyball court in front of us, but I

can't walk out on the sand without dodging balls. I feel we have enough of them and they should learn to share.

Rob Antrobious, In Favor: I am in favor of the volleyball courts due to demographics and location. On our street, like so many others, children have been popping up left and right. We walk down from 2nd Street to the beach and the volleyball courts get very crowded. The reason this is being proposed is for families. The families on 3rd Street would welcome going a few blocks down where it is less crowded. If it gets approved, it is the type of place that people will be proud of.

Veronica Mack, In Favor: My husband and I both play. The courts are available most of the week because we all work. My friends from Manhattan and Redondo come to Hermosa to play and some of us live in Hermosa. That brings tax dollars because of the parking and restaurants we frequent. Also, volleyball encourages a healthy lifestyle. Adding more courts would be great, not necessarily during the week when most of the courts are open, but on the weekends. We get out there bright and early so that we can get a court.

Jason Mosier, In Favor: 90% of the time the courts are open and the beaches are open. The courts take a small percentage of the amount of beach. There is some danger of being hit when you are around a court but they are safe for the beaches. We are all stating that each area is not owned by anyone, but Hermosa does not take care of the courts. The people here will help take care of the courts in that area.

Lorenda Howenbrink, In Favor: I frequent Hermosa Beach to play volleyball. I enjoy coming down with my friends. We are polite, have good etiquette and respect the beach. It is a very small footprint of these nets in Hermosa. I am out here at 8:00 in the morning to get a spot. You have a lot of opportunity for people who are responsible, who want to come and enjoy it, bring hard earned dollars as well to spend at your local stores. I could be playing up at my beach (Manhattan) but I also enjoy coming here.

Bell: We'll bring it back up here for discussion.

Hollander: I live on the south side and walk the Strand every day. The weekends are high demand for the nets but most of the time it is empty. The nets only take in a small footprint adjacent to the Strand itself. There is still plenty of beach on the south side to play, relax and sunbathe. I don't think it is a big problem to have nets up there to take into account the high demands on the weekends. I am in favor of the courts.

Sigler: I am involved with volleyball and it is territorial. If you go to a new area you have a tough time getting on the courts. I play at 7th, 8th and 2nd Streets. I definitely understand. Volleyball is the way you bond with all of your friends. I am down there about every weekend and running volleyball leagues at night. It's a huge beach. 71 courts, each court is 1800 feet, that's 125,000 feet. Hermosa Beach is at least a mile, millions of feet of beach. If you think of the volleyball courts in terms of the amount of beach it is a very small percentage. The crowd that wants to put these courts in is not a young, rowdy crowd that is going to be partying and disturbing the neighbors. We take it on a case by case basis and the crowd is the 30's and 40's crowd. The beach is for everybody and there are a lot of people in this area that want to play volleyball and there are not enough courts down there. From what I see, installation of courts south of 6th Street would not violate the City policy so I would be in favor of it.

Bell: This Commission has had volleyball issues brought before us and we don't just close our eyes and are blind to the needs of the homeowners or the non-volleyball players. I don't know how to play volleyball. I am volleyball challenged. In this case I am supporting the volleyball.

MOTION by Hollander to approve volleyball court installation at 6th Street and the Strand.

Sigler seconded

All Ayes

3. Movie on the Beach

Greg Wyatt, Hermosa Shorts Film Festival: I submitted a DVD for review and hope you all had a chance to review them. I have had a chance to speak with Laura Raymond, Friends of the Parks, and we have coordinated our efforts and I am prepared to answer any of your questions.

Hollander: I want to thank you for a diligent effort in making an independent film for the beach that I think is going to be very well accepted by everyone. I was impressed. I hope that it is still representing the independent film fest. That is my only concern.

Wyatt: Every film was pulled from the last two years of film festivals so they are representative of the festival. They are representative of a specific genre, the G and PG rated. We are planning to add on to the beginning an introduction "welcome to our screening on the beach". We are preparing, in

conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of George Lucas's Star Wars, on shooting some trailers here in Hermosa Beach. We are planning on using one of those at the beginning. We want to include a trailer, a promo, for Movie in the Park that is two weeks later. We want the people who are at our screening to be fully aware of Movie in the Park. Neither one of those packages has been produced. We would like to include those without your chance to review them.

Sigler: It is great advertising for Friends of the Parks. You will have a captive audience of people watching a movie in a social atmosphere that would probably also want to go see the Movie in the Park. Allowing them to do whatever kind of promo they want is good.

Wyatt: We are hoping that they will come back two weeks later and watch "Flushed Away" which is a fantastic film.

Bell: This meeting is to approve content of the event?

Lynn: Correct. We did not approve the event the last Commission meeting. It was brought back to review new content. You will base your approval or disapproval on the new content.

MOTION by Hollander to approve the event.

Commissioner Sigler seconded.

All Ayes

Bell: Does City Council need to see the trailer?

Lynn: Yes. It would go to City Council April 24th. I would need the collection of DVD's on the 17th.

Staff Report(s)

Lisa Lynn gave the following reports:

1. February 2007 Activity Report

Revenue for this particular month compared to last year is down. However our year to date figures are right on par with last year.

Hollander: Down? That's the first time I have heard of it being down.

Lynn: What has been happening, and a lot of it has to do with the renovations that happened at the Community Center. Our facility rentals are down because we were using classrooms for offices and because of construction there were some classes we couldn't hold due to the noise and construction. We are down because of the project completion delay.

2. Upcoming Events:

1. April 14th -- Hermosa Centennial 5k Run/Walk.

Commissioner's Reports:

1. Hermosa Arts Foundation -- Commissioner Bell: Hermosa Arts Foundation is a very active group. July 21 we are going to have, at the Community Center, an evening of choreography with 16 different choreographers going head to head. Arts Foundation is also supporting the Art Walk, all day Saturday, August 18 up and down Pier Avenue. In the Fall, we will be having family night at the movies. It is still in the works, but we will be having feature films a series of nights maybe five weeks in a row. If anyone would like to get involved with the Arts Foundation, or help out, the number is 310-798-2100.
2. Friends of the Parks - Commissioner Hollander: They are working on several parks currently. Namely Edith Rodaway and Kay Etow Park. We are waiting for Public Work's completion schedule.

Lynn: I will get that and report to the Commission.

3. Surfers Walk of Fame -- Commissioner Sigler: We are still taking applications up to May 31. The ceremony will be on Sunday, July 29 on the Strand with the ocean in the background. Roger (Bacon) has come up with some new sweatshirts and T-shirts. I am not sure how you can buy them.
4. Park Master Plan Committees -- Commissioner Hollander: In terms of South Park, our organizing group has had a couple of meetings already and we have done a walk-through. Our first public meeting is scheduled for June 11 at the Community Center, Room 4, 6:00pm. We will be advertising it at the Summer Celebration so that we can get as much participation at the public meeting as we can. This is an announcement for anyone interested in the long-range plan for South Park. There will be flyers passed around the City and information in the summer brochure.

Items Requested by Commissioners

None

Other Matters

None

Public Comment:

None

Motion: "To Adjourn at 8:05 p.m."

Hollander/Sigler – All Ayes

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