

CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ADAMS RECREATION ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES/PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

6:00 p.m.

MEETING HELD AT

Virtually on ZOOM

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Elizabeth Chennamchetty, Vice Chairperson
Estevan Negrete, Member
John Hartley, Member
Mark Lawler, Member
Nancy Lawler, Treasurer
Kim Emerson, NHUA
Jojo Turner, Member

STAFF

Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager II
Ashley Balingit, Center Director I
Kemii Soundara, (ACD) - Absent
Jenny Hall, SD Police Department - Absent
Brett Weise, SD Council District 3 – Absent
Normal Heights Public Library - Absent

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ted Ewing, Chairperson
Vavi Representative

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Vickie Everich
Taylor Everich
Jim Baross
Connie Terwilliger
Rosie Jimenez-Negrete
Caroline McKeown
Linda Case

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Elizabeth Chennamchetty, Vice Chairperson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Nancy L. / Kim E.) to approve February 25, 2020 minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0).

COMMUNICATIONS *(limited to items **not** on the agenda. Each one will be limited to five (5) minutes and is not debatable).*

- Jim Baross requested the Normal Heights Planning Group be included in the committee reports section again. He has volunteered to attend meetings on behalf of the group or find a designee to do so.
- Jim Baross also stated the Planning Group has requested the barrier along Madison RD at Ward Canyon Park be removed or modified to accommodate bikes and pedestrians to pass through. He stated he would forward the letter to Elizabeth Chennamchetty for more context.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Ted had announced, prior to his illness, that he will be stepping off the board. His last meeting will be the November meeting. Ted has been dedicated to the betterment of the community for over 20 years. We owe him a debt of thanks.
- Bob has also decided to resign from the advisory group - we also wish Bob well.
- Ted was able to meet with city representatives over the past few months, however due to his illness, we do not have any updates. We will look forward to hearing that in October.
- We will be holding advisory group elections in November. Please think about whether you would like to have a role and consider if you would like to join the advisory group.

ORGANIZATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. San Diego Police/Community Relations Officer -No report
2. City Council District 3 Representative -No report
3. San Diego Library -No report from library representative. Michele stated library staff is changing. We are waiting to hear who the representative will be.
4. Park & Neighborhood Safety Committee -No report
5. Mid-City Little League – Little league is up and running. 5 teams are participating. COVID safety plan is in place. All children have temperature checks and sanitation plan. There was a question regarding the batting cage lighting and permitting. The property belongs to SDUSD so they would provide the approval.
6. VAVI -No report
7. Normal Heights Community Association -No report
8. Normal Heights Urban Arts – NHUA has been meeting (Driveway socials). NHUA has teamed up with community association for several projects in the past few months. Kim Emerson reported NHUA has been working on painting the utility boxes outside of the rec center building (approved in January, delayed due to COVID, will begin this coming weekend). They will keep in theme (monarch butterfly). Kim also was able to share some renderings for the west wall of the rec center building. The design is being considered right now for approval. Once volunteers are available, and the city approves the plan, we will be ready to begin. Estimated fundraising goal: \$50,000.
9. Adams Elementary - No report
10. Normal Heights Elementary -Elizabeth stated Normal Heights Elementary changed to a traditional school calendar. The entire district is participating in distance learning. Staff are on campus, but students are not.

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORTS

1. Ashley Balingit, Center Director I -Recreation Center still closed, working on Virtual programming to launch. Currently working on guidelines and protocol for virtual programming. WIFI up and running. Halloween Costume contest in planning phase.
 - a. Jim wanted to state that the Planning Group has a Nextdoor account and a Facebook page. He also likes the idea of the on-line platform for the rec department.
2. Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager II – Michele reminded us that information is on the city website to update Recreation information. Staff has been busy, monitoring the parks. Moving forward with virtual classes and WIFI at the recreation centers.

Department is working on guidelines and polices for virtual programs. Virtual classes will hopefully begin in October or November.

- a. Kim asked a question regarding advertising on the marquee. It has been turned off, but will be turned back on once virtual classrooms have begun.

Circled back to Jim for community group NHPG

1. 40th street barrier at Monroe/Madison - the Planning Group has requested that the barriers be modified so that people can ride along the corridor along the east side of Ward Canyon Park. Elizabeth asked Jim how wide they requested. Jim said there is not a specific request but that 4-5 feet seems like an ideal size (on both sides). The Planning Group did not request a specific size. Elizabeth asked Michele who is responsible for this project (SANDAG/streets/Traffic). Jim said he will forward the letter to Elizabeth.

ACTION ITEMS Consent (Items are adopted without discussion)

No items

ACTION ITEMS Adoption (Each item requires individual action)

No items

WORKSHOP ITEMS

1. GDP – Ward Canyon Park. Most everyone agreed that the completion of the Ward Canyon Park GDP was the focus in moving forward in the most productive way. Michele confirmed that COVID has delayed many projects and Ward Canyon is one of them. However, we are still moving forward, slowly but surely. Jim asked if the mock bldg. would be demolished. The answer is yes.
2. Park Curfew – It is the understanding of the group that no members are currently active in this goal. We need to decide if this is something we want to continue to pursue.
3. Dog Park Concerns/Issues -Each member will be limited to 5 minutes for comment concerning this topic.
 - a. Michele provided an update from a city perspective. As of July 24th. Ted Ewing and Andy Field discussed the dog park. Andy Field stated the southern pen will remain closed for the foreseeable future. Many of the issues have to do with funding and structural needs. There is a large list of challenges with the dog park as it stands. As of now the southern area will stay closed. Maintenance staff is trying to maintain weeds, etc. The north area will remain open. The woodchips have been removed but now there is dirt.
 - b. Opened up the conversation to community members (3 minutes)
 - c. Connie – Connie was up to date on the decision to keep south side closed. She is opposed to this. She thinks that both parks should be opened. She would like to give it a try to see what happens.
 - d. Caroline – agrees with Connie to open the southern exposure. She has seen a lot of people using the park. She is opposed to spending any more money on the dog park as it stands unless it can be carried over to the new Ward Canyon Park plan. Take all the energy and work toward focus on the GDP. We should spend thoughtful money.

- e. John – When all this started, we discussed other options for relocated the dog park. Also, he thinks the dog group should be a community group that reports at the meeting.
 - f. Vickie – Supports the opening of the dog park. Asked if emails were received from the community. Michele stated they received emails. Vickie wants to know if the board is listening to the community. Michele responded that the group is listening, but they are not the only deciding factors and there are many moving parts.
 - g. Estevan – proximity is the primary problem with the dog park. It is not an anti-dog choose. It is impacting his way of life and is not an appropriate location for a dog park. The number of people who are in favor on a dog park is “mob rule over common sense.” We are asking that people compromise, everyone is uncomfortable. Push to get the GDP done.
 - h. Elizabeth – There is no easy solution.
 - i. Julie – the dog park is very crowded. The set up keeps small dogs away because the big dogs take over. Small wood chips are not good. They cause splinters. She also asked Estevan if there has been a sound study on a noise impact.
 - j. Elizabeth – we have been invested in this conversation for a long time. All the different community groups need to advocate for the GDP and completion of Ward Canyon Park. The dog park is an inconvenience for neighbors and also has a laundry list. The way to advocate for ourselves is to work together for the completion of the dog park.
4. Park Maintenance - Maintenance crews are still hard at work
 5. Joint Use Agreements -there are two elementary schools NHE and AE
 - a. Adams Elementary Joint Use – NHPG sent a letter to SDUSD advocating for joint use space. Lee sent a response. Not sure about sharing the information with personal addresses on the letters. Elizabeth invited Jim to speak, as he had requested a voice, however, he had left the meeting. Michele provided a basic explanation of the issue. The rec department has copies of the letters, we are trying to figure out how to post them since they have personal addresses on them. Elizabeth stated if the advisory group is going to take a position, it would be good to hear from all stakeholders for discussion. (NHE inner gates are locked, upper field is unlocked). The discussion continues to go back and forth. All joint use agreements have expired and each site will be reviewed and new agreements will be signed. Elizabeth said we should table the discussion, until stakeholders are able to attend and have a discussion.
 6. Adams Community Park – No report
 7. Interface with Normal Heights Community Organizations

INFORMATION ITEMS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Elections are Next Month. Please acknowledge your interest in a role by November 24th.
 - a. Positions include Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary

ADJOURNMENT

Elizabeth Chennamchetty, Vice Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:14 pm.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next Adams Recreation Advisory Group meeting will be:

October 27, 2020 at 6:00 PM on ZOOM

Submitted by: *Ashley Balingit*

Ashley Balingit, Center Director I

Reviewed by: *M. Chicarelli*

Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager II

THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATE FORMATS UPON REQUEST.
CONTACT ASHLEY BALINGIT, CENTER DIRECTOR I AT (619) 235-1149.