

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**ADAMS COMMUNITY RECREATION GROUP**  
**MINUTES/PUBLIC MEETING**  
*Virtually on Zoom*  
Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Estevan Negrete, Chairperson  
Kim Emerson, Secretary  
Dennis Reiter, Member  
Connie Terwilliger, Ward Canyon Waggers  
Mark Lawler, Member  
Nancy Lawler, Member  
Ryan Darsey, CM Whitburn

**STAFF**

Rafael Padilla, Recreation Center Director I  
Jenny Hall, SD Police Department  
Jennifer Cyphers, Librarian, Kensington-Normal Heights Library  
Kelly V, San Diego Library

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jim Baross, NHCPG  
Ally Welborn, NHCA  
Jojo Turner, Mid-City Little League  
Michael Nichols, VAVI Representative  
Emily Rose-Weber, Member  
Pete Evangelisto, Member  
Elizabeth Chennamchetty, Vice Chairperson

Vickie Everich  
Gary Weber  
Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager II  
Jane Bird, VOLO  
Jessica NHCA  
John NHCA

**COMMUNITY GUESTS**

Tara Graviss and Ryan Freeze.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Estevan Negrete, Chairperson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion for approval: It was moved/seconded (Kim Emerson/ Connie Terwilliger) to approve minutes from July 26, 2022, meeting. MOTION APPROVED (5-0-0).

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

**Nancy Lawler** - reported that the vacant building had a homeless camp. There is about 5-6 people that are there. **Nancy** also noted on separate visit to Ward Canyon. She noticed someone at the vacant building taking measurements. **Estevan** noted that there still might be plans from Verizon to occupy the facility. **Rafael** was unaware of anyone measuring anything over at the vacant building.

**Tara Graviss** - reported some issues that have been going on. Issues with VOLO softball group. Windshields, house windows broken. 3 windshields broken and one house window. On site staff from VOLO did not acknowledge Tara in her attempt to speak with someone. Stating that VOLO is not taking accountability. Wants to know how to become a member.

**Estevan** noted that The City of San Diego has investigated the netting issue. **Estevan** insured Tara that CRG can push these concerns up the chain of command in The City of San Diego.

**Ryan Freeze** - reported that he has been in communication with VOLO. With Felix and Cameron. Making it a note that he has had three windows broken. He wasn't getting any response from VOLO until he stepped on the field one night to express his concerns.

Recommends that the Softball team relocates in the meantime until a net is in place. **Ryan** mentioned that on one instance he was able to talk to one member however just to be bribed.

**Estevan** intervened and suggested that we add an action item. Send a letter to The City of San Diego up the chain. Addressing that neighbors are coming forward with their concerns.

**Estevan** also stated that he was going to reach out to the VOLO representative. To ask if there is a quick and easy resolution regarding these issues. **Estevan** also suggested that the other

thing to continue to do is to keep the specific netting as workshop item so that every month is on the agenda and must address it. Even if it's a tiny bit of progress.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – **Estevan Negrete**, Chairperson reported that he met with Rafael Padilla on 8/22/22 at Adams Recreation to drop off the check from the Nonprofit. **Estevan** also reported that he received an email from Kim. Stating they might be receiving funding for the completion of Ward Canyon Park. **Estevan** wanted to remind everyone that Adams CRG no longer has a Vice Chair. For a formal nomination for a later date.

## **ORGANIZATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. San Diego Police/Community Relations Officer – Jenny Hall “(619)5406041”**, reported that there “Get It Done Reports” submitted regarding the encampments over at Ward Canyon. **Jenny** noted that she has spoken to Michele the week prior. She’s reaching out to her contact to see about who they use for environmental services since it is city property to coordinate a cleanup. **Jenny** did have a suggestion to put a temporary fence. To make it more difficult for people to have access. Idea was brought up to Michele. Michele liked the idea. **Jenny** also noted from previous CRG meeting regarding the national suicide hotline number that 988 number. They’ve always had a national number but made it easier for people to call. If they did receive a call, they would contact our dispatch directly. **Jenny** also noted that a report that occurred on the fourth of August. At 5:30am. A woman going all around starting multiple fires. Locations consist of the following: 4734<sup>th</sup>, 4600 Wilson, 3400 Adams, 4036, 3500 and Madison. Officers got there and detained the woman. She was arrested for multiple charges.

**2. City Council District 3 Representative – Ryan Darsey** started off by saying in regarding the homeless encampment. To Keep submitting the Get it Done. As they are getting sent out to Police officers and Outreach programs. Also informed Tara and Ryan to reach out to him directly. To address the issues. **Ryan Darsey** also noted that the City of San Diego budget starting early to prepare 2024 budget priority memo. **Ryan** encouraged the group to a brief survey that’s embedded in the chat. By September 6<sup>th</sup>. The more input they receive the better. The survey is three sections. “ The community that you are in”, “What kind of issues are most important to be funded” and the last section is for “you to put specifically” for example if you want a street to be repaved or a specific group project to be funded.

**3. San Diego Library – No report.**

**4. Mid-City Little League – No report.**

**5. VOLO – No Report.**

**6. Normal Heights Community Association (NHCA) –No Report.**

**7. Normal Heights Urban Arts (NHUA) – Kim Emerson** reported that will be set up at the Adams Fair on September 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday only). Scott Kesler is allowing NHUA to be part of their permit. They are going to have one wing of the mural cut out. They are going to have it displayed for public to put pieces of mosaics on the wing. They will also be selling things via donations.

**8. Normal Heights Planning Group – No report.**

**9. Ward Canyon Waggers – Connie Terwilliger** reported the good news that they found out the state had provided funding \$97 million dollars and chunk of that towards the “Ward Canyon Permanent Plan”. Very excited and posted it on their Facebook Page “The Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park” Page. **Connie** reported that their second Saturday Sweep unfortunately Greg who has been helping recruit pickers was unable to do any outreach. **Connie** noted that her outreach was ineffective. She was by herself for the sweep. From 9am-10am. Just focused on 40<sup>th</sup> street. Next sweep is September 10,2022. Greg will probably be present.

**10. Adams Elementary – No report.**

**11. Normal Heights Elementary- No report.**

## **PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORTS**

**Rafael Padilla, Center Director I** – Reported the summer programs, summer lunches, summer camps came to an end. Noted that Movie in the Park was huge success. Rafael shared a drone footage captured throughout the event.

**Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager** – Michele emailed her report.

Report:

We do not have any updates on the Verizon tower at Ward Canyon Park.

We are continuously submitting Get it Done requests to assist with encampments.

**ACTION ITEMS** Consent (Items are adopted without discussion)

**ACTION ITEMS** Adoption (Each item requires individual action)

**WORKSHOP ITEMS**

- **Nancy Lawler** stated that people were playing on the soccer field with dogs off leashes.

**INFORMATION ITEMS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Michele** stated that the information about Verizon, **Michele** does not have all the information. Michele was hoping that a Park Planner was going to attend the meeting. Just to update us and the community. Verizon is looking at the vacant building at Ward Canyon on the corner. The one that is deemed to be demolished. Verizon has two thoughts. They were going to use south of the building. Attach a small building to put in a tower. Verizon has been informed that the building was going to be demolished. Verizon second proposal that they are looking at to do demolish the building and put landscaping. **Michele** noted that we are going to place this **Information Item** again on next months agenda. As we are still receiving new information coming in. With proposals being exchanged.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Estevan Negrete – Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next Adams Community Group meeting will be Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Submitted by: *Rafael Padilla*

Reviewed by: *MChicarelli*

Rafael Padilla, Recreation Center Director I

Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager II

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

# Adams CRG

## Quick Fact Sheet

### Workshop Item:

Interface with Normal Heights Community Organizations

### Normal Heights Urban Arts

The Normal Heights Urban Arts Group is a volunteer organization seeking to promote community development through urban design and streetscape with public art, enriching the quality of life for residents and visitors. They continue to meet monthly,

-Information obtained from the Normal Heights Urban Arts Facebook Page

Representation at P&R Group: Kim Emmerson and Dennis Reiter

Meetings:

Chair:

Contact: [normalheightsua@gmail.com](mailto:normalheightsua@gmail.com)

### Normal Heights Community Association

Their “purpose is to promote a community where neighbors help neighbors and foster an environment that promotes community involvement for the betterment of all those who live, work, learn, and play here.”

“They produce a variety of fun events, including Summer Movies in the Park, the Holiday Decorating Contest& Party, monthly mixers at local restaurants, bars and pubs and ore. “

-Information obtained from the Normal Heights Community Association Website.

Representation at P&R Group: Ally

Meetings:

Chair:

Contact: [normalheights.ca](http://normalheights.ca)

### Normal Heights Planning Group

The community planning groups are a formal mechanism for community input in the land use decision-making processes in San Diego. The NHCPG meets on the first Tuesday of every month at the normal Height Community Center. They post updates about activities monthly meetings and minutes, and pertinent neighborhood updates on their Facebook page.

-Information obtained from NHPG Facebook Page

Representation at P&R Group: Jim Baross

Meetings: This group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 and via zoom (during pandemic). Physical location: 4649 Hawley Blvd. agendas can be requested via

[sdplanninggroups@sandiego.gov](mailto:sdplanninggroups@sandiego.gov)

Contact: 619-282-7329 \*via Facebook, [www.adamsavenuebusiness.com/NHCPG.html](http://www.adamsavenuebusiness.com/NHCPG.html),

[nhcpgchair@gmail.com](mailto:nhcpgchair@gmail.com)

### Adams Avenue Business Association

The AABA is a nonprofit corporation that formed in the early 80's. It was worked to improve the neighborhood's economic conditions through its own activities and in partnership with local businesses and property owner, private companies and public or government agencies. The mission of the Adams Avenue Business Association is to promote and increase commercial activity within the Business Improvement District.

-Information obtained from the AABA website

Representation at P & R Group: currently not represented

President: Mikey Knab, Executive Director: Scott Kessler –

[scott@adamsavenuebusiness.com](mailto:scott@adamsavenuebusiness.com)

Contact: [www.adamsavenuebusiness.com](http://www.adamsavenuebusiness.com), 4649 Hawley Blvd., 619-282-7329

### Normal Heights Ward Canyon Waggers

The Normal Heights Ward Canyon Waggers is a group of dog lovers advocating for a solution to the closures and challenges that face the two dog parks at Ward Canyon Park. They also support the completion of the GDP as a permanent solution to a permanent dog park in Ward Canyon Park.

Representation at P & R Group: Connie Terwilliger

Organizer: Connie Terwilliger

Contact: [wcwaggers@gmail.com](mailto:wcwaggers@gmail.com), Facebook page: Ward Canyon Dog Park

### **Mid-City Little League**

\*This community group that rents space at field

Mid-City Little League is singularly committed to the development of character and sportsmanship. By providing the area's youth with a safe, healthy, and accepting environment in which to learn the fundamentals of baseball, Mid-City Little League instills values that promote citizenship and community responsibility. The League competes in 2 seasons per year. Spring runs from February through May and Fall Ball runs from mid-September through mid-November.

-Description obtained from [midcitylittleleague.com](http://midcitylittleleague.com)

Junionrs are located at Adams and 35<sup>th</sup> field

Representation at P&R Group: Jojo Turner

Contact: [www.midcitylittleleague.com](http://www.midcitylittleleague.com), Russ Havens, 858-472-3245, [crhavens@gmail.com](mailto:crhavens@gmail.com)

\*contact from website

### **Volo (previously Vavi)**

\*This community group rents space at the field

A social sport leagues. Volo brings together fun-loving San Deegan's through San Diego sports leagues, events and 5k runs. Volo Sports and Social Club is the largest organizers of coed adult sports leagues, social events, races and tournaments in the country. Volo runs more than 25 different types of adult sports with over 650 leagues across San Diego.

-Information obtained via Facebook and yelp

Representation at P&R Group: Varies depending on participation on the field.

Owner:

Contact: [www.volosports.com](http://www.volosports.com), 858-273-3485, [sandiego@volosports.com](mailto:sandiego@volosports.com)

## **Adams CRG Quick Fact Sheet**

### **Workshop Item:**

Ward Canyon Park - Dog Park Concerns/Issues

### **History of Ward Canyon Temporary Dog Park:**

Ward Canyon Park, with the help of generous community involvement, created a temporary Dog Park in the south east corner of Ward Canyon Park. The dog park consisted of two fenced areas. One enclosure was intended for large dogs. The second enclosure was intended for small dogs.

The dog park did not follow typical easement rules other dog parks across the country have followed. This resulted in the large dog park becoming a nuisance to local home owners. The barking, after hours attendance and large plums of dirt and dust created an uninhabitable situation for property owners. Additionally, the dog parks were challenged with maintenance issues. Most of these issues stemmed from inadequate ground cover and construction debris, which was causing injuries to dogs and distress to dog owners.

As a result, many community meetings and options for alternative temporary placement and ground coverings have been discussed and proposed over the course of several years.

The formation of a local group, called the Ward Canyon Waggers, has been created to advocate for dogs and their humans in the creation of an appropriate alternate temporary dog park, until such time the Ward Canyon Park GDP can be realized.

### **Current State of the (existing) Temporary Dog Park**

The temporary Dog Park closest to private property, known as the Large Dog Park, has been closed permanently. The Temporary Dog Park, to the north of the larger enclosure, known as the Small Dog Park, remains open to both large and small dogs.



Currently there are concerns with the small dog park (which all dogs are currently using).

These concerns are as follows: large dogs and small dogs grouped together, the area is too small for the population it serves, the ground cover is inadequate, there are ongoing maintenance challenges, there is no way to control the dust (no water hook ups nearby), there is no landscaping (bushes etc.) which is also a result of no water hook ups, weeds and general maintenance are a reoccurring issue, signage is poor and rules are unclear, the gates are not locked consistently

### **Solutions (Two Phases):**

#### **Current (temporary) Proposal by the City:**

There is currently a proposal (known as "Option C") to open an additional temporary dog park within Ward Canyon Park. This temporary dog park has been approved and funded, however there is no fencing in this location. The City of San Diego currently does not have a fencing contractor. The City is in negotiations with a contractor. These negotiations have lasted several months. When such an agreement is finalized, the fence will be installed.



### Option C – interim off leash dog area Orange area 7,600 SF Blue area 13,000 SF



**Final Goal:**

All parties involved agree, the ultimate goal is Ward Canyon Park GDP completion. With the completion of the GDP for Ward Canyon Park, the permanent dog park will be realized on the east side of the property (closest to the freeway). The dog park will extend onto an existing road and be converted into park space. This property currently belongs to Caltrans. The City is in negotiations to obtain this land.



**Quick Fact Sheet: Ward Canyon Dog Park(s)**  
**Adams CRG: 3491 Adams Ave, 619-235-1149**  
**Updated: 1/26/22**