

La Jolla Community Recreation Group
La Jolla Recreation Center, 615 Prospect Street, La Jolla, CA 92037

MINUTES
January 26, 2022

Call to Order: 5:03 p.m., Coakley Munk

Present: Jan Harris, Jon Wiggins, Karen Wiggins, Mary Coakley Munk, Jill Peters, Gail Forbes, Alan Dulgeroff

Absent: Pat Miller, Alexis McCandless

Staff: Nicholas Volpe, Rosalia Castruita

Guests: Vito Formica, Elisabeth Frausto, Trace Wilson

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve November 17 minutes: Moved J. Wiggins, 2nd K. Wiggins. Unanimous approval with 1 abstention.

Non-Agenda Public Comment: None.

Requests for Items to be Placed on Consent Agenda: Motion to place an action item on the agenda regarding the bocce ball court. Moved Harris, 2nd Peters. This motion requires unanimous approval to pass, and there was one “no” vote, so the motion failed.

Requests for Continuance: None.

Committee Reports:

- **Council District One Report:** Steve Hadley was absent, so there was no report.
- **Chairperson’s Report:** Mary Coakley Munk
 - Bocce Ball Court: There was a lengthy discussion about physical problems with the court, and scheduling procedures. Formica, a major driving force behind getting the court built and encouraging people to play, told us that he has taught well over 100 people to play since the court opened in 2021. He held 2 teaching sessions in January 2022, and they filled almost immediately after they were announced. Groups play regularly from Chateau La Jolla, the White Sands, and the La Jolla Newcomers Club. Members of the Newcomers Club filled 12 of 32 available spots for February 2022 within a few days of the schedule

announcement. It is clear that bocce ball is becoming a very popular activity at the Rec Center. Eight people usually play at one time, and they play 2-3 games in about 2 hours. Numerous members of the CRG thanked Formica publicly for his successful efforts to make bocce ball a viable reality at LJ Rec Center.

However, there are physical problems with the court, and concerns about scheduling. There are two main physical problems: (a) The court surface has developed holes, so balls don't roll along in a "true path" on the uneven surface; and (b) the west end of the bocce ball court area is low, and the ground needs to be built higher for safety reasons. There is ongoing investigation into the reasons for the physical issues, and how best to address them. The issue of who will pay for the repairs must also be resolved. As bocce ball gains in popularity, the procedures for scheduling time to play on the court need to be clarified. Numerous opinions were expressed about the factors to consider in developing scheduling procedures, and we will return to this topic at a later meeting. Formica suggested that someone should look into how they schedule the courts in Encinitas, Poway, and 4-S Ranch. Forbes reminded us that regulations in the City of San Diego should be considered.

Group Member Comments: None.

Parks & Recreation Staff Reports:

- **Rosalia Castruita:** She thanked Formica for his work with bocce ball at La Jolla Recreation Center, and noted that he has greatly increased the popularity of this activity. She also thanked the entire CRG for our good conversations today. She also thanked Volpe (the new LJ Recreation Center Director), for his vision to create a more presentable and efficient weight room. In response to a question from Forbes, Castruita said that she doesn't know where things stand regarding plans for revision of the structure of community advisory groups.
- **Nicholas Volpe:** He thanked members of the CRG for providing inflatables and other decorations for the holidays. Movie Night in December drew about 200 participants. In general, he wants to bring more vitality back to LJ Recreation Center. He has embarked on a major project to update worn-out equipment and clean the facility. This includes: getting a new refrigerator and stove; moving stored items out of the art room, so that it can once again be used for art; cleaning out the storage room so that it is more usable; and getting new lockers for the weight room. He believes that if the facility is in better physical condition, more people will want to use it. Wilson commented that if Volpe finds items of historical significance during his cleaning, he should save them and take them across the street to La Jolla Historical Society for proper archiving.

As part of his cleaning and updating, Volpe wants to replace the floor matting in the weight room. Currently, at least 15 people use the weight room daily. The new matting will cost about \$8500, for the type that comes in small squares that fit together like a jig-saw puzzle. He is wondering if someone can help with this expense. Peters commented that whatever we do now would be very short-term (maybe 5 years) because we are planning a major renovation of the playground and Rec Center building. Wilson presented a brief synopsis of the plans for this, especially since Volpe is new in his position. Wilson commented that we need to be careful to not overspend now, in light of these plans for the future. Nevertheless, the current weight room matting is falling apart. The “jig-saw puzzle matting” could be re-configured later to fit in the fitness space in the renovated building. Peters will explain to Volpe how he should go about asking for money from the Friends of La Jolla Recreation Center. Harris commented that as of our meeting on October 27, 2021 Jesse DeLille (the former LJ Recreation Center director) reported that they had a little over \$37,000 cash on hand, and Harris wonders if they can use some of this money to pay for the new matting.

Information Items: None.

Action Items: None.

Adjournment: 6:49 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 @ 5:00 p.m.