

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

MINUTES
April 27, 2022

Call to Order: 5:06pm, Coakley Munk

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

Absent: None

Staff: Nicholas Volpe, Rosalia Castruita

Guests: Elisabeth Frausto, Steve Hadley

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve February 23 minutes: Moved J. Wiggins, 2nd Peters. Unanimous approval with 2 abstentions.

Non-Agenda Public Comment: None.

Request for Items to be Placed on Consent Agenda: None.

Request for Continuance: None.

Committee Reports:

- **Council District One Report:** Hadley reported that there are currently 95 budgeted positions in the Department of Parks and Recreation that are open. These encompass a wide range of types of jobs. Hadley thinks that Andrew Fields is also trying to put together money for overtime for existing staff. Regarding the City's new vending ordinance, it is hoped that it will be heard soon by the Coastal Commission. Regarding the new restrooms at Scripps Park, people are trying to address the various issues there as quickly as possible.
- **Chairperson's Report:** Coakley Munk didn't have anything to report beyond what we will hear from Volpe and Castruita.

Group Member Comments:

- Peters gave a Visioning Committee update: (a) The website was live as of last

Sunday morning (friendsofljrc.org); (b) the “donate button” for this website is not “live” yet; (c) several members of Friends of La Jolla Recreation Center had a table at the “Enhance La Jolla” event last Saturday in front of the Museum of Contemporary Art, and they talked to people who stopped by about La Jolla Recreation Center and the upcoming large renovation project.

- McCandless said that Friends of La Jolla Recreation Center postcards and brochures are now available. If you want some, please ask her.

Parks and Recreation Staff Reports:

- **Rosalia Castuita:** Both the La Jolla and the Pacific Beach recreation centers had high attendance for their respective egg hunts. This was a welcome change, since for the past 2 years these events have either been cancelled or altered. Nick Volpe has been instrumental in getting the asbestos removed from the weight room, and the space has been tested and found to be safe. At the Via del Norte Park, a new trash can has been installed. The 5 staff who provide the maintenance in the area Castruita supervises have 19 parks to maintain. Although the 5 staff members are the full complement of workers currently assigned to this area, they cover a lot of acreage, and it is very challenging for them to get all the maintenance done.
- **Nickolas Volpe:** There were 753 people at the La Jolla Rec Center spring egg hunt, where \$250 was collected from photos with the bunny. There were also other events and prizes, including arts and crafts. In August there will be a Movie in the Park. Regarding the weight room: the asbestos was removed; currently there is ongoing construction including painting; and the Friends of LJ Rec Center donated \$8272.58 for the new flooring (includes installation). A T-ball class for 3-4-year-olds was started last week. Two multi-sports classes (Tiny Tots, Pee Wees) are also underway. Some kilns (for firing ceramics) have been acquired from another recreation center, and hopefully there will be “clay creation” classes at the La Jolla Rec Center in the future. More updated equipment is still needed for the weight room; what is there now is mostly very old. Anyone who wants to donate money for this (either an organization, or an individual), can donate it to the City Treasury and earmark it for our weight room. Regarding the wi-fi at La Jolla Rec Center: after some problems, it is up and running again. A 4th staff member has been added to the LJ Rec Center staff: Jesus. He worked for Volpe for many years at a different company, and at present he is working at the Rec Center on weekends. Volpe is spending a lot of time “hanging out” with teens at the Rec Center, and there is also a cooking class for teens. Hopefully, with the acquisition of the kilns, there will be a clay creation class as well. He is still working on plans for the game room.

J. Wiggins asked Volpe a broad question regarding “what is still missing” from the Rec Center. Are there groups that aren’t being served well? Volpe answered that he

gets requests for a coffee cart at the premises, and people stop by to request various types of classes, such as ballet.

Dulgeroff wondered about curbing “bad behavior” of riding electric bikes on the grass. Volpe is trying to supervise this, but it is hard with the small number of staff they have. He is still trying, and he has been able to cut out some of the problems.

J. Wiggins asked Volpe whether some of the teens would like to have a skate board park at the Rec Center. Volpe said yes, but he knows there have been issues. Several other members of the RAG commented that there had been lengthy discussions about this in the past, including major outcries from surrounding neighbors, and a decision had been made not to include a skate board facility in the renovation plans.

Information Items:

- There was a suggestion by Diane Kane that when Cuvier Street is vacated, we could try an experiment with pickle ball courts there (prior to getting underway with the renovation). Hadley said that once the City Council votes to approve the vacation of Cuvier Street, the plan will need to go before the Coastal Commission. Until the Coastal Commission approves the vacation, the only way to have pickle ball on Cuvier Street would be through the normal application process for a special event.
- Coakley Munk asked about whether additional thought has been given to striping the other basketball court for pickle ball (only one is currently striped for pickle ball). Volpe said that the basketball and pickle ball players have been very respectful of one another, and Volpe is still collecting information about pickle ball and basketball use. Dulgeroff reminded us that earlier thinking was to wait until school is out, and then monitor the courts for use by each sport during the summer.

Action Items: None.

Workshop: None.

Adjournment: 6:04pm.

NEXT MEETING: May 25, 2022, 5:00 p.m.