

CITY OF SAN DIEGO
 PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Pacific Highlands Ranch Community Recreation Group
May 2, 2023
Minutes

Meeting Location:

The regular meeting of the Pacific Highlands Ranch Community Recreation Group was held in person at Pacific Highlands Ranch Recreation Center at 6:00pm on Tuesday December 13, 2022.

Members Present:	City Staff:
Karen Dubey – Chairperson Marilee Pacelli – Secretary Todd Alcantara – SD Youth Rugby Tedd Ekeroth – Master Sports Tommy Maurer – Borussia Del Mar Kelly McDonald – DMCV Sharks Connor Stuart – Football N America Maria Videla – Member at Large Eve Yang – Member at Large Members Absent: Jen Bolger-Member at Large Manoharan Rangaswamy – Member at Large Abby Xu – Member at Large	Angel Castro - Area Manager II Lauren Tufts Mirro - Center Director III Michelle Allen – OCA Assistant Recreation Center Director Guests: Sean Harkin – Del Mar Little League Karen Billing – Del Mar Times Sarah Lawrence – Master Sports

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Karen Dubey at 7:02pm

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES December 13, 2022

The group discussed the meeting minutes.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Pacelli/Ms. Yang

A motion was made by Marilee Pacelli and seconded by Eve Yang to approve the December 13, 2022, Pacific Highlands Ranch Community Recreation Group Meeting minutes. The motion was approved 4-0-3 (Tedd Ekeroth, Kelly McDonald and Maria Videla were not present at the December 13, 2022, meeting).

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

Maria suggested to the group that we get community volunteers to assist with weeds and other landscape maintenance in the park. The possibility of monthly group volunteer maintenance projects was discussed.

REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES: None.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT:

Karen reported on the issues that have arisen at the park within 4 years of opening.

The low water landscaping takes a lot of work to maintain. Only dirt was left between the plants which is unsustainable without a large staff to weed. Some of the plants have not aged well.

The 50 palo verde trees are barely leafing, offer no shade and are not flowering. The trees do not seem to be taking well to the coastal scrub climate here. The trees were planted in decomposed granite which liquefies in wet weather causing

the trees to fall over. The small park budget keeps going towards unsuccessfully re-staking the trees. Karen stated that she would rather have no trees than the palo verde and would like to eventually see money put into planting fewer larger trees that will have leaves and offer shade.

Karen stated she would like the city to have more project oversight. The outdoor basketball court was closed after 3 years because it appears one layer of epoxy was missed creating a hazard. When the field was built it was not prepped correctly and did not have the correct drainage. It is now closed for renovation, and no one can use it.

BOARDMEMEMBER COMMENTS:

Eve mentioned that low water landscaping usually has small rocks around the plants to prevent weeds. She also suggested that boulders be added, and that inspiration be taken from the new Qualcomm campus for landscaping.

Marilee mentioned that ten years ago the city did an evaluation on the cost of maintaining artificial turf versus a regular grass field. The results came back saying that artificial turf would be more expensive. The city also argued that replacement would be difficult when there is an annual budget that does not carry over to the next year. Marilee argues that if the fields were maintained at the same level the artificial turf would be less costly and a fund could be created for eventual field replacement. Overuse is a problem at all the parks. The artificial turf would be safer than having rocks and gopher holes. The group discussed the field cost evaluation and if watering costs, and lost revenue from field closures were considered.

The group discussed how donations could be accepted for community and park projects.

7:27pm Tommy Maurer walks in.

CITY STAFF REPORTS:

Emily Lynch – Council District 1, Community Rep.:

Emily reported that Councilmember La Cava will be conducting a budget town hall on Saturday, May 6 at 10 a.m. at the La Jolla Recreation Center. The north district town hall will be rescheduled for May 20 at 10 a.m. at the Carmel Valley Library. RSVP is required for both events.

The Pacific Highlands Ranch Library is about 50% complete. It looks like completion will be in summer of 2024.

Karen mentioned that she recently reached out to the councilmember about the requested cameras for Solterra Vista Park but has not heard back.

Angel Castro - AREA MANAGER II:

Angel reported that the field has been renovated. The project was originally scheduled to start May 1, but the date was moved up. The field will be closed until at least the end of September.

Solterra Vista park plans are at 90%.

There was a supervisor meeting on security cameras with the City IT Department and they are getting cost estimates.

Lauren Tufts Mirro – RECREATION CENTER DIRECTOR III:

Lauren reported that the Winter Cookie Decorating Event was a big success with over 200 participants.

Spring Break Camp was run by our City staff members. It had 17 participants and ran from 9am to Noon. The cost per camper was \$50.

Staff will be hosting Summer Camps the weeks of July 10, July 24, and August 7. Camp will run from 9am to 1pm and the weekly cost per camper is \$65.

The Movie in the Park will be on June 10 at Solana Ranch Park. We will be showing DC League of Super Pets which will begin 10 minutes after sunset.

Dance to Evolve will be starting their contractual classes in the fall.

The Toddler Time class continues to be a success and the Little Artists class had a good number of participants. Both programs will be taking a break over the summer.

Several programs that were offered in the spring have had to be cut back due to staffing limitations.

Michelle Allen from Carmel Valley Recreation Center is on out of class assignment as the Pacific Highlands Ranch Assistant Center Director.

The group discussed class costs and the City's fee waiver program.

INFORMATION ITEMS: None.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Community Recreation Group Officer Nominations 2023

The group discussed the slate of officers.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Yang /Mr. Alcantara

A motion was made by Eve Yang and seconded by Todd Alcantara to nominate Karen Dubey - Chairperson, Manoharan Rangaswamy – Vice Chairperson, and Marilee Pacelli - Secretary. The motion was approved 8-0.

WORKSHOP ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm

Next Meeting: The next Pacific Highlands Ranch Community Recreation Group meeting will be at 7:00pm on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Lauren Tufts Mirro
Center Director III

REVIEWED BY: _____
Angel Castro
Area Manager II