

# MINUTES

## City of San Diego Municipal Golf Committee (MGC) February 15, 2018

**Meeting held at:**

Mission Bay Golf Course  
2702 N. Mission Bay Drive  
San Diego, CA 92109

**Mailing address is:**

11480 N. Torrey Pines Road  
La Jolla, CA 92037

**Attendance:**

**Members Present**

Doris Cronkhite  
Ann Dynes  
Kurt Carlson  
Paul Spiegelman  
Marc Sorensen  
Larry Barron

**Members Absent**

Megan Mahoney  
Susan Casagrande  
Chris Wahl

**Staff Present**

John Howard

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ann Dynes called meeting to order at 6:05 PM

**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 MINUTES**

A motion was made by Doris Cronkhite and seconded by Marc Sorensen.

Motion: **MOVED/SECONDED** CRONKHITE/SORENSEN

All in favor of the motion.  
The vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2017 MINUTES**

Letter to the planning committee should be included and the motion to be deferred to next meeting.

**MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Marc Sorensen and seconded by Doris Cronkhite.

Motion: **MOVED/SECONDED** SORENSEN/CRONKHITE

All in favor.  
The vote was unanimous.

### **THE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Ann Dynes shared that she had been invited by Parks and Recreation Director Herman Parker to a dinner meeting at the San Diego Zoo held by the National Recreation Park Association. And while there, she spoke to Assistant Director Andy Field about Mission Bay, and that Mr. Field asserted, "Mission Bay is not in play for the De Anza Project." The mobile homes will also be out sooner because a few have been removed, but the other issue is that Campland is in the middle of the scenic view. Ms. Dynes stated that she "Urged Mr. Field to move Campland to Fiesta Island. Mr. Field stated that there is an issue with water, sewer, and electricity. Paul Spiegelman added, "There's a larger issue with Mission Bay Park overall and [we] cannot solve the issue. With ocean water rising with the De Anza [project] (the City) is putting a lot of money and resources into the wrong target, but I think the right target is planning the whole Mission Bay Area." John Howard reminded committee that, "There's a lot of competing interest in this property." Ms. Dynes reassured that the City said the golf course "is not on the table. Every month we get a little reinforcement that this is the state of affairs and that's a good thing." Mr. Howard interjected with, "Let's wait and see what happens with the environmental review process and once that's done then there will be different considerations that come into play."

### **STAFF REPORT**

John Howard began the staff report with introducing new committee member, Larry Barron. Mr. Howard mentioned that Mr. Barron is currently on the board for the Men's Club. Mr. Howard then gave Mr. Barron a moment to speak and introduce himself. Mr. Barron has lived in San Diego his whole life and began playing golf in 1958 when Torrey Pines Golf Course was opened. He is a retired county employee and retired in 2004. He has kept himself busy at Balboa Park Golf Course with Junior Golf, has worked at Torrey Pines for five years after retirement, and a year at Balboa. Mr. Barron was a therapeutic recreational specialist for 27 years in mental health and developed programs to meet the special needs of the groups he worked with.

Mr. Howard stated that the Farmers Insurance Open had just concluded in January. The attendance for the event was 148,786. Tiger Woods played the tournament which drew crowds. Jason Day was present as well, and it turned out to be a fantastic event. Over 20 hours of TV coverage; first round coverage tied the highest rating since year 2000, likely due to Woods' appearance. On Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>, the CBS telecast rating was up 75% year-to-date, and 110% from 2016. Sunday was up 30% year-to-date, and 73% from 2016. Mr. Howard added, "The tournament is really important to the City of San Diego. The partnership with the Century Club really allows the Golf Division to do the things we do throughout the year. The

tournament got great reviews, and that golf course was in the best shape they've seen, possibly dating back to the 2008 U.S. Open. The weather has really helped us out."

Maintenance will be happening next month at Balboa Park Golf Course, starting on the 9-hole, and then on the 18. The 9-hole is scheduled for aerification, but there will be no overseeding, and it will be less invasive than in years past. Torrey Pines South and Mission Bay golf courses will be scheduled for maintenance in April, then returning to Torrey Pines North in May.

Rounds have improved due to improved weather, whereas last year it rained heavily all over San Diego. Mission Bay is up 22% year-to-date, as well as Balboa Park up 18% at both 9 and 18 holes. "The Division will have a strong year if everything holds true with the weather; life is going to be pretty good for San Diego golfers."

A Request for Proposal (RFP) at Balboa Golf Course was issued for the lease of the restaurant, but unfortunately there were no qualifying bids submitted. Since the City was unable to make a selection, the Golf Division is considering extending the lease to the Tobey Family for a few more years. The problem with the RFPs was that many of the parties who submitted bids were left with unanswered questions about the work that needed to be done to the clubhouse, which is a historical building. The current kitchen is too small for the restaurant and the area needs to expand. Over the next six months the Golf Division will be researching the estimated costs to refurbish the building. The historic building leaves a lot of challenges, such as preserving the architecture and to maintain it as a "golf-centric" structure.

There have been questions from the public regarding Mission Bay Golf Course and the work by Ortiz, a construction company, who has been working in and around the golf course and repaving the parking lot. Ortiz has been working on connecting pipelines in the surrounding areas, which the Golf Division is not involved with or paying for.

It could be early as 2019 that Mission Bay Golf Course has a restaurant, still collecting permits.

In regards to Presidio Hills Golf Course, there have been two proposals submitted, and by the end of the month a decision should be made. Mr. Howard stated, "There have been interviews with both proposers and the City is now in the process of discussing the proposals between the Real Estate's Assets Department and the Parks and Recreation Department to see exactly which one will fit the best. If neither fit, it would then go out for another RFP."

## **COMMITTEE COMMENT:**

Paul Spiegelman announced his resignation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Isabelle Kay, Manager of University of California at San Diego's Natural Reserve System expressed great concern for the conservation of wetlands around Mission Bay. She wanted reassurance after the City and the Mayor said they'd support the ReWild Mission Bay project. The university owns the upper part of the marsh, and the City owns the lower portion, and Ms. Kay expressed hope that revitalization efforts can meld restoration between the golf property and the wetlands. Ms Kay included that these efforts can coexist with considerable planning by prioritizing using natural fertilizers when maintaining the greens. Ms. Kay conveyed, "Open Space is one of the best things that can happen for this area and we should support the wetlands." Ann Dynes concurred with, "We think a golf course is an opportunity for the birds, greenery, and agriculture. We as a committee could put pressure on the Golf Division. We have looked into an organization called Audubon International which coaches golf courses on how to be environmentally better. And we think there's an opportunity do that, but until the whole project has settled down and we know we are investing in a golf course and not wetlands, it's premature. We think this could a very compatible area."

Don Gross expressed great concerns about the golf course paying for the sewer line construction, and that there are many "problems" regarding lines not being hooked up correctly.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEM 101: Golf Division Business Plan Update**

John Howard spoke about the Golf Division's business plan update and explained the division goes to the Parks and Recreation Board to do annual business plan updates, and every third year the division to City Council Committee for a three-year update. The division and the council discuss all the highlights that occur throughout the year, as well as rounds and revenue. For this upcoming year, the division hasn't been looking to implement new changes into the business plan. However, the most significant change has been raising the rates at Torrey Pines Golf Course; Mr. Howard added, "We have the authorization to raise rates up to five percent for non-residents and three percent for residents on an annual basis. Last year there were no changes to resident rates. The only rates that changed were for non-residents. One of the most difficult things is that the Golf Divisions annual expenses have been going up four percent on a regular basis." Mr. Howard justified that the division faced challenges with revenue last year when the North Course was closed at Torrey Pines and that these rate changes subsequently became a net positive. The division will face these challenges again for next couple years when it begins projects on the South Course. Mr. Howard went into detail about what will be taking place for the

South Course next year. He stated that the project will begin in March 2019, which will include redoing all bunkers and focusing on the green surrounds. Fortunately, the project will be completed in one year.

Marc Sorensen expressed concern there hasn't been a substantial business plan update, while the golf enterprise fund gains revenue and the money is spent on various "back and forth" projects with no updates and wants frequent detailed expenditure plans. Howard explained that the City is collecting the money, and that these projects are not for the U.S. Open, PGA, or the USGA, and instead is a Golf Division project. Ann Dyes set forth that Mr. Howard will have a report of an expenditure plan for next meeting.

**ACTION ITEM 201: Letter to Mission Bay Planning Committee**

John Howard stressed to the committee should be proactive with the future of Mission Bay, "With the De Anza revitalization plan, we will be entering a part of the process where there isn't a whole lot of conversation going on; there aren't going to be a lot of public meetings. I think it's important for this committee to stay aware of what's going on and take an interest in getting out there, and making sure that you are kept informed of that process." Kurt Carlson added that the committee should meet three to four times a year, and should build onto the database by displaying reports about what information they've gathered. Ann Dynes commented that the committee should receive notices from the Parks and Recreation board meetings, and Mr. Howard suggested that Robin Shiflet is the main point of contact. Ms. Dynes asked for the committee's authority to send Ms. Shiflet an e-mail, in which everyone consented to.

**Motion to notify Robin Shiflet of our continuing interest in following developments for Mission Bay planning process:**

A motion was made by Marc Sorensen and Kurt Carlson

**MOTION:    MOVED/SECONDED:    SORENSEN/CARLSON**

All in favor.  
The vote was unanimous.

John Howard put a close to the meeting by announcing that the division would come forward to the committee with a business plan in August, then go to the Parks and Recreation Board in October, and finally meet with City Council in November. Mr. Howard proposed to meet in April and later in August or September.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Marc Sorensen and seconded by Kurt Carlson.

MOTION:

**MOVED/SECONDED:**

SORENSEN/CARLSON

Meeting adjourned at 7:25PM