

Status of La Jolla Shores 2008

Issues and Recommendations

Submitted by the La Jolla Shores Association Board

- *La Jolla Shores Beach and Boardwalk*
- *Parks: Kellogg * Laureate * Cliffridge*
- *RFP and Permitting of Commercial use of Public Parks and Beaches*
 - *Kayaks*
 - *Surf Schools*
 - *Scuba Divers*
 - *Body Boarding*
- *Avenida De La Playa Business District*
- *Residential Areas*

The 2008 La Jolla Shores Association's Board Members have respectfully prepared the first annual statement of "Status of La Jolla Shores". We have identified the current issues facing our community and developed recommendations to resolve them. It is our intent to assign a Board member to each of the primary issues and to report back to the Board our progress towards resolution at each of our monthly meetings.

Based on data from the City of San Diego Lifeguards, there are on average of 45,800+ visitors to Kellogg Park/La Jolla Shores every weekend during the summer months. (June-Sept.) This establishes LJS as being among the top three beach areas in attendance in San Diego County on any given weekend during the summer. This influx of visitors has giving rise to serious traffic congestion and shortage of parking, increased criminal activity, inadequate trash collection and park maintenance, dangerous conditions at the boat launch, non-permitted commercial use of Kellogg and Laureate parks, etc.

It is our intent to review the issues facing our community annually and present our findings, recommendations and successes against the prior year annually to the Mayor of San Diego, the Council District 1 Representative to the San Diego City Council and all pertinent City Staff to discuss these issues and determine viable solutions.

GOALS 2008

- Maintain and improve the La Jolla Shores facilities and experience for all residence of San Diego County.
- Establish on-going funding for the maintenance of the public facilities resident to La Jolla Shores
- Support and provide community input to the RFP and Permit program for the commercial use of the public parks, beaches and boat ramp.
- Create a (501) (c)(3) to supplement City funding for all issues related to the security, maintenance, and improvement of Kellogg Park and surrounding areas.

Major Issues

- Heavy and increasing commercial use of public facilities without control and maintenance of these facilities including
 - Kellogg and Laureate Parks landscaping
 - Kellogg Park playground equipment and
 - The public boat ramp
 - Lighting along the boardwalk
 - Auto and pedestrian traffic from the business district to the beach facilities
- Increased crime in the parks, surrounding residential area, and business district including
 - Out of control partying and drinking in the park and on the beach
 - Auto break-ins and thefts
 - Assaults;
 - including robbery at gun point,
 - home invasion,
 - Break-ins and burglaries in the Business District

Overall solutions

- City funding for, and assignment of, Park Ranger(s) with coverage from Memorial Day thru September 30th (Seasonal coverage 22 hours per day / 7 days a week from 9 AM - 2 AM) coverage from 9am-2am) and evenings during Spring Break.
- Continued funding of the Lifeguard Ambassador Program
- Increased Police presence and enforcement of existing rules and regulations
- Funding, installation, and monitoring of security cameras
- Timely maintenance of street lights along the Boardwalk and streets in surrounding areas

Beach

Issues

- Boat Launch - SAFETY CONCERNS
 - Congestion & the number of kayaks and frequency of launches
 - Vehicles on beach without 4-wheel drive
 - Swimming hazards
- Broken concrete and washed out sand where Avenida De La Playa meets the beach
- Stench and insects caused by kelp/sand mounds left by the City of San Diego and the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club
- Traffic congestion and bottlenecks at the intersections of:
 - Avenida de la Playa / El Paso Grande / Avenida de la Ribera
 - Avenida de la Playa / Camino Del Oro
 - Vallecitos / Camino Del Oro
 - Camino Del Oro / Calle del Oro / El Paso Grande
- Outflow box at the end of Avenida De La Playa...flooding on Avenida de la Playa
- Vallecitos outflow diversion at the beach; - safety issue
- Extensive partying and drinking
- Fire Pits used long after midnight - related environmental and health issues

Short Term Solutions

- Enforcement of drinking ban, a Ranger and improved Police presence
- Boat Launch - continue funding for the San Diego Lifeguards Ambassador Program
 - Increase the width of the Boat Launch area at the water line improving safety for boats launching and returning
 - Install Buoys to clearly mark path of boat launch and return
 - Change the City Ordinance to require 4 wheel drive or tandem 2 wheel drive for all vehicles on beach
 - Dedicate Avenida de la Playa west of Camino Del Oro as a Boat Drop-off Zone with 15 minute parking between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Utilize existing parallel parking spaces. This area will be closed to other traffic from May-Sept.

- Dedicate Vallecitos terminus west of Camino Del Oro as a Beach Drop-off Zone with 15 minute parking between the hours of 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Utilize existing parallel parking spaces.
- Store commercial kayak permittees kayaks and paddles on the beach during permitted hours of operation
- Repair broken concrete and washed out sand where Avenida de la Playa meets the beach
- Require daily removal of kelp/sand mounds created the City of San Diego the LJBTC.
- Request redesign of Outflow box at Boat Launch - address flooding of Avenida De La Playa between the Sea Lodge and LJBTC (man hole cover lifts 1-2 feet off the street during storms)
- Vallecitos outflow at the beach divert the outflow and/or close south portion of beach access stairs
- Fire Pits;
 - Locate fire pits north of the Lifeguard Tower
 - Enforce time limits for use and height of flames
 - Stencil “No Pallets” and hours for usage on fire pits
 - Explore environmental and health issues

Boardwalk and Seawall

Issues

- Signage: inconsistent format, (looks like graffiti)
- Boardwalk surface is in serious disrepair
- Need for sand removal on a daily basis and immediately following wind storms
- Maintenance of lights on the Boardwalk

Short Term Solutions

- Comprehensive, aesthetically pleasing signage located at each entrance to the Park containing all rules & regulations which apply to the beach, Boardwalk and park... (Not to be stenciled on the seawall)
- Patch Boardwalk
- Replace clothes hooks in the restroom stalls

Long-term Solutions

- Renovate boardwalk
- Renovate sea wall - match the La Jolla Cove Children’s Pool wall
- Design and install aesthetically pleasing signage that provides a clear and comprehensive display of park/beach rules and regulations at each entrance to the park and beach

Parking Lot

Issues:

- the entrance gate in the evenings (10pm to 4am)
 - Consistent enforcement of parking Opening/Closing times
 - Removal of all vehicles at time of Closing

- Exit is dangerous...frequently used as an entrance...cars head in all directions when they leave the parking lot
- Storm water environmental issues and flooding after rain storms
- Buses dropping off passengers and sitting in the parking lot with their motors running
- Drag racing

Solutions:

- Institute a program that provides consistent coverage for opening/closing the entrance gate and clearing the parking lot nightly at 10 PM (SDPD, Park and Rec, or contracted out?)
- Install and maintain Drive Spikes at exit...redesign the intersection
- Meet with City to determine the status of proposed implementation of BMP's for storm water discharge and flooding, plans for installation of porous pavement, etc.
- Explore potential design to incorporate the triangle at the north end of El Paseo Grande into the parking lot to provide a safer exit and much needed drop off zone
- Explore possibility of providing an increase in the number of parking spaces by changing parallel parking on east edge of parking lot to angle parking
- Require buses to drop off passengers and leave the parking lot and local area until it is time to pick them up...no idling allowed.
- Better enforcement needed to eliminate drag racing - security cameras

Kellogg Park

Issues:

- Tents (quantities, size, types, activities that occur in enclosed areas) - lack of enforcement of existing rules/regulations - illegal camping
- Scuba divers gathering in front of residences
- Barbeques (quantities, size and areas of use) – environmental, safety and health issues
- The hot charcoal receptacles located in play area are in desperate need of maintenance
- Trash cans located right next to picnic tables - health hazard
- Trash and lack of adequate pick-up, especially on the weekends
- Playground equipment in poor condition
- Playground sand needs to be maintained
- Damaged and missing tiles at the Children's Playground

Short Term Solutions:

- Tents should be limited to canopies only (to see thru all sides) with a specified maximum size allowed. Change the Ordinance if necessary.
- Scuba divers should gather in the parking lot not in front of residences
- Explore environmental and health issues related to excessive number of barbeques
- Repair hot charcoal receptacles and move away from play areas

- Move Trash cans away from tables and locate away from play areas
- Request additional City trash pick-up on (at the very least) Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, May-Sept at 6:30 PM
- Enforce requirement for City Permits for events with more than 75 people
- Coordinate with Park & Rec for playground equipment maintenance and repairs - make sure sand stays in the playground area
- Implement a program to clean and maintain the sand in the Playground area on a regular basis
- Contact Tory Gulley to repair and replace damaged tiles

Laureate Park

Issues & Short Term Solutions: Please see the Kayak section

Cliffridge Park

Issues:

- Renovation of restrooms for Ball Fields

Short Term Solution:

- Work with City to move project forward ASAP

Permit Programs:

The commercial use of public facilities is heavy and increasing. This usage is placing a great deal of strain on these facilities requiring increase maintenance and up grading to preserve and protect.

We support these activities provide an RFP and Permit Program is implemented for all commercial activities utilizing the public facilities. We are aware there are potential legal issues involved in the collection of fees for a given permitted industry. While we have not opinion regarding the legality of the permit fees we ask that any fees, legally generated by the RFP and Permit process be specifically dedicated to the maintenance of the facilities utilized in the acts of commerce generating these fees.

The current Surf School program, while it can be improved, has been a success and should be used as the model for all such programs where applicable.

In General; LJSA would like to see

- 50-100% of the funds generated by the Permit Programs to be dedicated to the maintenance and repair of the parks, beach, boardwalk and boat ramp
- A certain percentage of any permits should be designated specifically to LJSA community based businesses.
- Limitation on number of permits so that the area is not “over-permitted”
- Demonstrated corporate citizenship, and presence in La Jolla Shores to be a substantial component in determining the permittees
- Establish a process for de-certifying a permittee including:
 - a probationary period where they are notified of warnings of violations to their permit status

Surf Schools

Issues:

- Surf School Permit program has been initiated but enforcement needs to be improved.
- Cycle of time for the current permits is established at the beginning of summer.
- Currently it is unknown where permit monies go within the City and how can it be re-directed back into Kellogg Park?

Short Term Solutions:

- Request City funding of Park Ranger (Seasonal to work 22/7 coverage from 9am-2am)
- Cycle of time for the current permits should be reissued in the Sept-Oct. time frame allowing for best business practice fall through spring.

Kayaks

Issues:

- Use of Laureate Park by kayak companies and tour groups for paddle safety instructions; currently there is not enough space to conduct these instructions on the boat launch and isn't possible on the beach during high tides due to noise, traffic and safety hazards
- kayak patrons walking with paddles to an from the beach on every rental excursion
- Litter, trash and sand on the sidewalks near Laureate Park and street
- Overall complaint that kayakers are taking over or "invading" the area
- All Kayak companies pay a permit fee to operate business on City property
 - Allocation of these fees
- Long term parking of commercial buses delivering customers/passengers from the cruise ships. This practice is a detriment to other local businesses as it consumes available parking, creates noise pollution over taxes municipal assets.

Safety concerns

- Foot traffic with paddles on the sidewalks and at the Boat launch
- Number of boats launching and returning at any given time
- Rules/regulations regarding the number of boats, persons, trips, permits issued and enforcement
- Allocation of monies created by any permit program
- Use of public property for business purposes - rules and regulations?
- Parking of commercial trucks in residential areas – rules and regulations?
- Lack of positive corporate citizenship by kayak business owners
- Gather input from residents, lifeguards, Real Estate & Assets, Park & Rec

Short Term Solutions:

- Continue Ambassador Program
- Request City funding of Park Ranger (Seasonal to work 22/7 coverage from 9am-2am)
- Allow paddle storage on Boat Launch during the permitted hours of operation

- Kayak companies responsible for frequent clean-up of the park and sand the on the sidewalks.
- Add additional trash cans to Laureate Park.
- Kayak companies to work together to make sure that their groups are quick, timely and space efficient
- Kayak permit holders create a committee to handle Neighborhood/City issues.
- Contact CD1 to report over-irrigation issues in Laureate Park
- Commercial buses delivering cruise ship patrons should drop their passengers and return at a specified time for pick up and return to the ships. They should not park in the business district, beach or residential areas.
- Conduct kayak safety instruction on the beach except when high tide does not provide sufficient area.
- Safety - LJSA to act as liaison with the City Staff and local businesses to encourage all vendors to adhere to a common set of safety guidelines and common sense practices that improve the quality of life for residents. Serve as an advisory body to the City in matters of selection of businesses to be awarded Permits for operation at the La Jolla Shores boat launch.
- Parking of commercial trucks – LJSA to act as liaison. Vendors must work together to suggest potential solutions that are satisfactory to the neighborhood.
- Positive corporate citizenship – LJSA to work with vendors to develop list of criteria.
- Implement Kayak RFP program
 - Establish limits for total usage, concentration
 - Permittees to demonstrate “best partner” vendor criteria including but not limited to:
 - Years in business within LJS as a permit holder, Community service within LJS, Demonstrated corporate citizenship, Corporate charitable acts and contributions, Safety records/procedures, Annual days of storefront presence within LJS, financial stability,
 - Monies from RFP to be redirected back to Kellogg Park

Scuba

Issues:

- No current permit program
- Commercial vehicles begin unloading as early as 4:00 AM
- Commercial vehicles consume all parking on Vallecitos west of Camino Del Oro
- How best to protect the park and landscape from increasing use

Short Term Solutions:

- Establish RFP and Permit Program for commercial business operators.
- Establish times of operations for commercial traffic in Kellogg Park
- Evaluate establishing a staging area so that trucks unload and exit the area without parking long term
- Establish 10-15 Min parking on Vallecitos west of Camino Del Oro May-Sept.
- Use of tarps to limit wear in Kellogg Park
- Establish program similar to fishing licenses for non-commercial divers

- Work with scuba divers to explore mutually acceptable solutions to Kellogg Park issues.

Avenida de la Playa Business District

Issues:

- General maintenance and improvements lacking
- Benches, trash containers are old and dilapidated
- Vagrants throughout La Jolla are increasing. (The Throat)
- Stop sign at corner of Avenida de la Playa and Calle de la Plata is not very visible.

Short Term Solutions:

- Contact Lt. Ahern and City Attorney candidates regarding the rights of the community as well as the rights of the vagrants
- Investigate how Bird Rock funded improvements
- Investigate the use of removable signs to discourage contributions to panhandlers
- Install a pop-out, consistent with the LJSA Parking Plan, at the corner of Avenida de la Playa and Calle de la Plata and use a variable substance in cross walk to make it more identifiable
- LJSA to have a permanent representative on the proposed LJS Merchant's organization

Neighborhoods

Issues:

- 30' light posts are causing light pollution, eliminating night time views;
 - La Jolla Scenic North and Spindrift/Princess, Hidden Valley and Via Capri.
- Accumulation of trash on La Jolla Parkway and La Jolla Scenic, merging onto La Jolla Parkway
- La Jolla Parkway parking issues
 - Implement plan developed and approved by all but City Council in 1998. See attachment 1 below.
- Traffic
 - Traffic calming measures implemented on Via Capri and Hidden Valley have not been successful, and other approved measures not yet implemented
 - The timing of the lights at the Throat continues to be an issue

Short Term Solutions:

- Implement shorter, lower lumen light sources that reflect neighborhood aesthetics
- Implement chokers and traffic island already approved for Via Capri
- Implement stop signs on Via Capri
- Review half lane "speed humps" on Via Capri
- Retime the signals at the Throat

Attachment 1
(of the LJSA Status of La Jolla Shores 2008)
As noted in the minutes of the LJSA on Dec. 10, 1997

LA JOLLA SHORES ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 64
La Jolla, CA 92038

December 16, 1997

Mr. Harry Mathis
Councilmember, First District
202 "C" Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Subj: La Jolla Shores Drive Parkway

Att: Proposed Law for Parkways

Dear Harry,

The La Jolla Shores Association Board (LJSA) unanimously approved the attached "Proposed Law" at our December 10th meeting. The Proposed Law was drafted by the La Jolla Shores Drive Parkway Task Force, which had been formed at the October meeting of the Board. The Task Force was chaired by John Vaughan (chair of the LJSA Traffic and Transportation Committee) and included as many representatives from the community as were interested in participating. The Task Force met several times and also obtained input from various City employees. The proposed law is similar to the one already adopted. The only questionable portion of the proposed law is in item e) and j). There are three alternative wordings, presented in order of preference with the most favored first. These were given, because the Task Force was still awaiting input from the City Attorney. Please keep us informed as to which one is acceptable. If the Board can be of further assistance, please phone me at (619) 551-0770.

Sincerely,

Sherri S. Lightner
Chairman

cc: w/att LJSA Correspondence Files
LJSA Board

Attachment I

PROPOSED LAW

It is unlawful for any person to stop, stand, or park a vehicle in or upon the extension of their driveway within any Parkway or upon any portion of a street between the sidewalk and property line unless all of the following conditions exist:

- a) The vehicle is parked perpendicular to the curb.
- b) The vehicle is parked within the extension of the driveway between the curb and sidewalk so that no part of the vehicle protrudes into the street or the sidewalk.
- c) Permission for parking on the driveway extension is address specific and therefore allowed only to the occupants of the specific address, or to those given secondary permission by the occupants.
- d) Parking in the driveway extension by others is illegal; enforcement will be only at the complaint of the occupants.
- e) Parking is permitted on 1) a permit basis, or 2) an encroachment permit basis or 3) a placard in car basis.

In order for any person to stop, stand, or park a vehicle in or upon areas of the Parkway other than driveway extensions, the following conditions must exist:

- f) The vehicle(s) are parked in an area of the Parkway that is paved or equivalently improved for bearing a vehicle (not grass or dirt) and the improved parking area must be accessible only from the driveway extension.
- g) The vehicle(s) that are parked in the improved area must be within the improved area. That is they cannot extend onto the sidewalk, street, or driveway.
- h) Permission for parking on the improved Parkway (see f)) is address specific and therefore allowed only to the occupants of the specific address, or to those given secondary permission by the occupants.
- i) Parking in these Parkway areas by others is illegal; enforcement will be only at the complaint of the occupants.
- j) Parking is permitted on 1) a permit basis, or 2) an encroachment permit basis or 3) a placard in car basis.