

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

November 20, 2008

MINUTES

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

City Administration Building
202 C Street
Committee Room, 12th Floor
San Diego, California 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Director
202 C Street, MS 37C
San Diego, California 92101

Members Present

Wilbur Smith, Chair
Ginny Barnes
Rick Bussell
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

Bruce Brown
Roz King
Dan Mazzella
Evonne Schulze

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Clay Bingham
Bennur Koksuz
Deborah Sharpe
Kimberly Davies
Joe Weber
Gina Dulay
Jo-Ann Novak

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2008

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Stepner /Mr. Bussell

A motion was made by Mr. Stepner and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the October 16, 2008 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Area Committee Community Parks I

- Ms. Barnes reported that the Committee did not meet in November and will be discussing Park and Recreation Department fee schedule during the December meeting.

Area Committee Community Parks II – No Report

Balboa Park Committee

- Ms. Granowitz reported that the first draft of Balboa Park Study was released to the public on Friday, November 14, 2008 and the Committee is working on their response.

Design Review Committee – No Report

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens’ Advisory Committee – No Report

Mission Bay Park Committee – No Report

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Greene reported that the Water Department Alvarado Treatment Ozone Facility Expansion Plant was approved by the Committee. Committee received reports from the Water Department on new tunneling and re-alignment of pipes that may cause disruptions to the park over the next 1-2 years.

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee

- Mr. Stepner reported that the Committee received three presentations based on sports and other recreational activities current in use at the park. Next meeting will be tonight.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.)

- Mr. Bob Kuczewski stated that he recommends to the Park and Recreation Board that if any members of the public is being denied access to any City-owned park that they be given a specific reason for that denial in writing, if one is requested. Ms. LoMedico will respond next week.
- Mr. William Armstrong concerned about the reduction of hang gliders denial at the Torrey Pines Glider Port of due process that has been an on going problem since 1975.
- Ms. Debra Terry concerned on the equity issues with the provision of services for individual recreation centers, and requested the budget for each center. (Ms. LoMedico stated that this information was distributed at the September 2008 Park and Recreation Board Workshop, and any other additional information will be sent to her) Ms. Barnes requested a specific example of Ms. Terry concerns. Mr. Smith requested that examples be sent to the staff representative and be brought before the Park and Recreation Board at a future meeting.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Mr. Smith attended several of the budget meetings and gave his testimony at City Council.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico provided photos of the Surfer's Memorial – Tourmaline Canyon Surfing Park.
- Announced the opening of Carmel Valley Skate Park on Saturday, November 22, 2008.
- Ms. Deborah Sharpe introduced Ms. Bennur Koksuz the new Deputy Director of the City Planning and Community Investment of Community Planning and Urban Reform Division. Ms. LoMedico is looking forward to working with Ms. Koksuz on the Park Master Plan.
- Ms. LoMedico reminded all attendees of the City Council budget hearing on November 24, 2008.

Consent At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as "Consent" items.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz /Mr. Bussell

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Bussell to move Item 101- the Chartering of the Ocean Air Recreation Council to the consent agenda. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Barnes asked why the Park and Recreation Board would charter a new recreation council when the City may not have funds to operate new recreation centers and parks. Ms. LoMedico stated that there are no policy decisions on what will and will not be funded for Fiscal Year 2010. Currently this new community facility with

a recreation center is under construction, and will be completed during Fiscal Year 2010. This action is appropriate via Council Policy 700-42.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz /Mr. Bussell

Mr. Smith called for approval of consent agenda. Ms. Granowitz made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Mr. Bussell second the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Granowitz would like to move the Consent Agenda to the front of the agenda on all future agendas in order to free up City staff and the public time. Mr. Smith concurred.

ACTION ITEM

102. Park and Recreation Department Proposed FY09 Mid-Year Budget Reductions

Ms. LoMedico presented a comprehensive overview of Park and Recreation Department Proposed FY09 Mid-Year Budget Reductions and provided the following handouts:

1. Memo dated November 5, 2008 on Fiscal Year 2009 Proposed Mid Year Reductions for Park and Recreation Department;
2. Memo dated November 11, 2008 Addendum to Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Amendment Report, #08-0166, Corrected and Additional Information addressed to Budget and Finance Committee;
3. Memo dated November 18, 2008 to Independent Budget Analyst on Fiscal Year 2009 Proposed Mid-Year Reductions Park and Recreation Responses to November 12 Council Questions;
4. Memo on Unsupervised Skate Parks dated April 30, 2008 to Honorable Mayor and City Council.
5. Memo dated June 18, 2007 to Ms. LoMedico from City Attorney on Unsupervised Skate Parks;
6. Letter dated November 18, 2008 to Mr. Anderson on Redevelopment PETCO Park Payment from Centre City Development Corporation;
7. April 29, 2008 letter to the Honorable Mayor and City Council from the Park and Recreation Chair regarding Fiscal Year 2009 Park and Recreation Department Budget;
8. Various letters to the Park and Recreation Board of support in keeping facilities open.

Public Comment:

Mr. Dave Intyre distributed to the Park and Recreation Board Members e-mail on suggestions on to help with the budget cuts to skate parks. His main concern is the possibility of no staff at skate parks.

Mr. John Shearson would like to know when the Fiscal Year 2010 process begins. Ms. LoMedico stated that the public input process begins on the day the Mayor releases his proposed budget by April 15, 2009. There are usually two public hearings on the budget.

Mr. Jay Miller, Ms. Angela Bengtsson, Daryl Sterling Jr., Mr. Stellan Bengtsson, and Mr. Jerry Harris are opposing the reduction of hours to the Balboa Park Activity Center. Ms. Barnes asked Mr. Miller if they pay a fee for all the hours they use this facility. His response was no fees are paid.

Ms. LoMedico corrected her previous statement regarding reduction at Municipal Gym. Morley Field and Balboa Park Activity Center will both be losing their Center Director causing a reduction of hours at both locations.

Ms. Susanne L. Carvalho would like to know what the Senior Women's Basketball Association can do to keep the Municipal and Presidio gym open.

Ms. Debra Terry concerned that children will not learn to swim and not be afforded the opportunities that come with knowing how to swim.

Ms. LoMedico provided clarification on a couple items: the Park and Recreation Department will look at increasing fees and well as new fees for Fiscal Year 2010. Park and Recreation Department has not had a “fee day” since Fiscal Year 2005. In addition skate parks operate at a cost of \$500,000 which does not include maintenance staff. Annual revenues are approximately \$150,000. Park and Recreation Department will be comparing user fees with other agencies fees. There is a State law which provides liability coverage for municipalities that do not have supervised skate parks. Ms. LoMedico would prefer to have skate parks supervised.

Park and Recreation Departments programs should be recreational base. The Department does not provide these high level athletic programs for other sports. The annual cost for the U.S.A. Blue Level Swim Team is approximately \$40,000 for 22 youth. Again, which is a competitive sports program. Existing participants can enroll in to other organizations by volunteering and give a reduce rates. Parents may raise money and pay for a coach and rent the pool which is completely legal.

The Park and Recreation Board discuss various problems and solution due to the mid-year budget reductions. One solution would be to do organize volunteer programs. Ms. LoMedico will do an outreach to unions for volunteers.

The Park and Recreation Board Members in concept do not support the Mayor’s Proposed FY09 Mid-Year Reductions for the Park and Recreation Department. We recommend the one-time waiver of the Mission Bay Ordinance to restore the following items proposed for reduction in the Park and Recreation Department’s budget:

- Closure of nine recreation centers, one gymnasium and the center director at Mid-City Gym
- Elimination of staff supervision at skate parks
- Elimination of fire rings in Mission Bay Park and shoreline beaches
- Reduction of the powerwashing and sweeping at the Ocean Beach Pier

The Board Members would like a re-evaluation of the Park and Recreation Department Fee Schedule for the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, and also supports looking into revenue enhancement ideas.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz /Mrs. Barnes

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Ms. Barnes. The motion was approve by a unanimous vote.

INFORMATION ITEMS - None

WORKSHOP

STANDING UPDATES

Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR) Update – Ms. LoMedico stated that a Town Hall Meeting with the Stakeholders of the BPR will take place today at Alvarado Treatment Plant at 6:00 P.M.

The Park and Recreation Department had concessions at some of the nine reservoirs. Several items on the Grand Jury Report pertained to these concessions, but the main issue was the use of Water Enterprise Funds which can not support recreational programs in the Park and Recreation Department’s budget. Water Department has run this program since 1922.

The Mayor initiated the BPR in 2006, and since this time the funds have been put into a joint BPR with the Water Department and Park and Recreation Departments. The report is complete and will docket in December 2008. The report looks at the recreational programs and also the management and organization structures. The report recommends reservoir recreation programs should continue to be operated, and maintained by the Water Department with some overall changes. The Park and Recreation Department will have no funds in the budget and will not have a role in managing these programs in the Water Department, if approved.

There will be some service levels changes, specifically a reduction of boat rentals during week days, catfish stocking and duck hunting at Sutherland Reservoir. Water Department will be eliminating telephone reservations for boat rentals making it "first come first serve" basis. Eliminate week day's boat rentals at Miramar, Lake Murray, Lake Hodges and El Captain. The Water Department closed San Vicente Reservoir in September of 2008.

The staff working on the reservoir recreation program will charge their time when they are working on Water Department issues and charge their time to the reservoir on recreation programs. Again, during those times these will not be Park and Recreation Department staff.

Fees have not increased for over ten years pursuant Mr. Joe Weber of the Water Department. The City has approval from the State Boating and Waterways to increase these fees where many of these reservoirs have State Boating and Waterways grants. The increase in fees will generate approximately \$625,000 a year, which will bring the recreation program to 90% cost recovery.

Mr. Jim Barrett, Water Department Director, Ms. LoMedico, and staff from the current program will be attending the meeting tonight. Ms. LoMedico will provide the Park and Recreation Board Members with the actual report that will go before the City Council.

Mr. Smith commented that fees are going up and service levels are going down.

Ms. Barnes asked if a distinction was made between resident and non-resident. Ms. LoMedico said no and added that an outreach to San Diego County was done requesting funds, but the County of San Diego was not interested in providing funds for these programs. She also stated that most of the reservoirs are not within the City limits. The most expensive reservoirs to maintain are Miramar and Lake Murray.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, December 18, 2008, 2:00 p.m.**

City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico,
Park and Recreation Director