

MINUTES

**City of San Diego Boards and Commissions
Parks and Recreation Department
MISSION BAY PARK COMMITTEE
November 7, 2023**

Meeting Location

Santa Clara Recreation Center
1008 Santa Clara Place
San Diego, CA 92109

Mailing Address:

Balboa Park
Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Marshall Anderson
Josh Coyne
Chuck Dunning
Jeff Johnson
Judith Munoz
Julie Roland
Darlene Walter

Members Absent

Cindy Adams - excused
Giovanni Ingolia - excused
Jim Gross - excused

Guests

Leo Caldas
Michael Beltran

City Staff Present

Mike Rodrigues
Ryan Barbrick
Jerry Abbott
Victor Nava
Maureen Hodges
Brian Clark
Carrie Munson
Karla Tirado

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson, J. Munoz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – October 3, 2023

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by D. Walter and seconded by J. Johnson to approve the October 3, 2023 Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes as written. The motion carried 5-0 with 2 abstentions (C. Dunning & M. Anderson)

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Sonia Diaz with Outdoor Outreach introduced herself as a non-profit organization looking to re-activate her programs at Mission Bay Park. She shared frustrations with the permitting process, stating that there are barriers for access

Debra Madden with FIDO thanked staff for their work on the FIDO rock memorial Right of Entry permit. The agreement should be executed by mid-December and work will begin over the holidays

Cristina Santa Maria provided a San Diego Audubon Society update on the Least Tern habitat management and Kendall Frost Reserve education. Next “Love Your Wetlands” event is 2/3/24

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – no report

CITY COUNCIL OFFICES

Karla Tirado with CD1 requested input for FY24 budget priorities. Public Safety and Public Health remain CD1 top priorities with funding for wetlands. CD1 will hold comments with Council Rep on third Fridays

Carrie Munson with C2 provided an update on the revised vendor ordinance providing an equitable balance which will go from Committee to Council in the upcoming months. She commented on recent gun violence at North Claremont Community Park with CD2 supporting additional park lighting. Street paving continues in the Claremont and Pacific Beach communities. Pickleball remains a concern with residents at Gershwin Park

STAFF REPORTS

San Diego Lifeguard Service – Marine Safety Captain, Maureen Hodges provided an overview regarding the use of the Mission Bay and Ocean Beach Pier UASI Camera System and Use Policy under the COSD Surveillance Ordinance

Brian Clark reported that boating/watercraft accidents at the bay have declined due to boating patrols and enforcement. Illegal commercial boating activities continue to be a challenge and the Mission Bay “Parade of Lights” event will be held on December 9th at 5:00 p.m. with Lifeguards staffing a LG boat

San Diego Police Department – no report

Parks and Recreation

Mission Bay Park District Manager, Mike Rodrigues reported that sand management along the shorelines continue and berms are in place for upcoming high tides. Weed management continues along medians and interchanges. 50th Annual holiday tree recycling event will take place at Sunrunner Lot from 12/21-1/4. The Fall Classic Rowing event will take place at Crown Point on 11/12 and the South Tecolote playground project continues with a new completion date expected in early December. Change in P&R management with Michael Tully moving over to Citywide Maintenance Division. Christina Chadwick is “Interim” Deputy Director for Developed Regional Parks with Victor Nava as “Acting” Assistant Deputy Director overseeing Mission Bay Park, Balboa Park and Presidio Park.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent (These items are adopted without discussion; they can be moved to adoption by any committee member)

101. Sandi Cliffs Youth Beach Soccer Tournament – Leo Caldas requested approval

to conduct a youth beach soccer tournament on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8am to 3pm at Mariner's Point sand area. Estimated attendance is 300 with no alcohol or road closures. Light amplified music, vendors and use of 13 parking spaces in dirt lot for production vehicles and equipment

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by M. Anderson and seconded by J. Johnson to approve and support this Consent Item. Carried 8-0

Adoption (Each adoption item requires individual action; they can be moved to consent by action of the committee)

201. Request approval to write a letter from Mission Bay Park Committee and submit to SANDAG regarding public safety – Jeff Johnson recommended that any pedestrian and cycle access from Clairemont Dr. to Mission Bay Park be a dedicated foot bridge and not a repainting or realignment of the Clairemont Drive vehicle bridge as was presented on 10/3/23. A draft letter was presented.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by C. Dunning and seconded by D. Walter to approve writing this letter to SANDAG. Carried 6-0 with one abstention (M. Anderson)

202. Request to write a letter from Mission Bay Park Committee and send to San Diego Planning Department. Jeff Johnson requested supporting the position that any development of South Shores require a full toxic remediation of the former landfill site prior to any development. A draft letter was presented

After brief discussion was agreed that experts should determine the course of action for the use of the old landfill and hold off until after the second South Shores GDP workshop before any action is taken on this matter

Special Events (Special Events that require road or plaza closures or will potentially impact park and/or institution operation, are brought to the Committee for a formal recommendation. They can be moved to Consent by action of the Committee.

301. Mission Bay Festival – Michael Beltran with Mission BayFest requested support/approval to expand the existing event from a two-day music festival to a three-day music festival with increased attendance. The 2024 event is proposed for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 27th - 29th from 12pm to 10pm each day at East Bonita Cove/Mariner's Point. He requested to increase attendance from 9,000 to 12,000

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by M. Anderson and seconded by J. Johnson to support and approve expanding the event from two days to three days and increase attendance from 9,000 to 12,000. Carried 7-0

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. none

WORKSHOP ITEMS (No actions taken; discussed by the committee and staff)

501. none

SUBCOMMITTEE

601. none

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – Chairperson, J. Munoz adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Notice of Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ Santa Clara Recreation Center

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Rodrigues,
District Manager, Mission Bay Park



City of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Office of Boards and Commissions
Mission Bay Park Committee

Date: October 30, 2023

San Diego Mayor and Council,

Mayor Gloria:

At the October 3, 2023 meeting of the Mission Bay Park Committee representatives of City of San Diego Planning Department made an initial presentation of a plan concept to redevelop the South Shores area of Mission Bay Park.

The Mission Bay Park Committee welcomes the effort to develop this under utilized area of Mission Bay Park into a feature rich set of resources and infrastructure that supports vibrant, healthy and active use for the benefit of residents of our region and tourists alike.

It is well documented that the South Shores area was at one time a city operated landfill site and that a significant amount of toxic waste from San Diego's defense industry is currently buried underground at the former South Shores landfill site. The presence of toxic waste is well documented. Healthy use of any redevelopment of the South Shores area must include full acknowledgement and full remediation of the toxic waste located under South Shores.

Previous attempts to redevelop this site were canceled in part because the documentation and analysis of the toxic waste under South Shores reported that the toxic waste was contained in such a manner that would not allow for safe compaction of the soil above it and that construction of any roads, lots or buildings could cause the containment to fail and leakage of the toxic chemical waste into Mission Bay, the San Diego River and other human contact vectors.

As San Diegans we frequently experience the effects of uncontrolled soil compaction where infrastructure was built on top of a former landfill. Driving across the dips on Sea World Drive or Highway 52 around Convoy Street illustrate what happens to former landfill areas when roads and structures are built on top of them. In the case of South Shores there is the added very serious risk of toxic waste leakage and public exposure.

The Mission Bay Park Committee requests that the City of San Diego create a redevelopment plan that incorporates a full and complete toxic remediation of the former landfill at South Shores as a prerequisite for any development of the plan area.

Respectfully,

Jeff Johnson
Committee Member
On behalf of Mission Bay Park Committee



City of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Office of Boards and Commissions
Mission Bay Park Committee

Date: October 30, 2023

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)

Officers and Members:

At the October 3, 2023 meeting of the Mission Bay Park Committee representatives of SANDAG made an initial presentation of a plan to redevelop the Clairemont Drive overpass bridge over Interstate 5 that connects Clairemont and Bay Park communities and the SDMTS Blue Line Clairemont Drive Trolley stop with Mission Bay Park.

The Mission Bay Park Committee and surrounding communities appreciate SANDAG's acknowledgement that the current state of the Clairemont Drive bridge is ill suited for serving the needs of safe public use and access to Mission Bay Park via the Blue Line trolley stop. That stated, the committee finds the proposed plans to be insufficient to meet the needs and safe use of an access method to Mission Bay Park from the trolley stop.

The committee and surrounding communities prefer the development of a pedestrian and bicycle connection between the trolley station, adjacent community and Mission Bay Park that is completely and physically separated from vehicular traffic that uses the Clairemont Drive overpass.

Currently trying to access Mission Bay Park via the Clairemont Drive trolley station is an arduous and dangerous journey where a pedestrian or bicycle mixes with vehicular traffic six times. Vehicular traffic that often are coming off of the freeway at higher speeds.

The plan concepts proposed by SANDAG included painting and zoning of areas on the existing overpass as well as incorporation of traffic circles. These concepts still unsafely mix pedestrian and bicycle traffic with vehicular traffic.

The Mission Bay Park Committee and surrounding communities prefer a dedicated pedestrian and bicycle access to Mission Bay Park from the Clairemont Drive trolley station. An enclosed, physically isolated pedestrian and bicycle only bridge that joins the Clairemont Drive station platform with an entry point into Mission Bay Park that ends west of West Mission Bay Drive inside of the park.

As a frequent pedestrian and bicycle user accessing Mission Bay Park via the Clairemont Drive overpass there is no amount of repainting, rezoning or reconfiguration of the on and off ramps with traffic circles that would make the existing bridge functional and safe for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Johnson
Committee Member
On behalf of Mission Bay Park Committee

Cc: Nora Vargas, Chair. Sean Elo-Rivera, Vice Chair. Leesa Heebner, 2nd Vice Chair. Melanie Burkholder, Member. Andrea Cardenas, Member. John Duncan, Member. Terry Gaasterland, Member. Bill Wells, Member. Tony Kranz, Member. Dane White, Member. Jack Fisher, Member. Jack Shu, Member. Racquel Vasquez, Member. Luz Molina, Member. Ryan Keim, Member. Steve Vaus, Member. Todd Gloria, Member. Rebecca Jones, Member. John Minto, Member. Katie Melendez, Member. Joel Anderson, Supervisor, Member.