

**City of San Diego**  
**Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2023**

*“TO PROVIDE HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE, AND ENRICHING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL”*

**Meeting Held by In Person and Teleconference:**

This meeting was held at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom and remotely using the Zoom Webinar platform and was streamed online. The public was invited to join the meeting by phone or computer, as well as invited to submit “Public Comments” in writing via a webform. The form was made available on the Parks and Recreation website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/boards>.

NOTE: Both verbal and written communication were used by Board Members, City staff, and presenters during the meeting. City staff also used the screen-share function to allow viewers to view content shared by the speaker which included PowerPoint presentations and websites.

Before the meeting was called to order, City staff read instructions to the public regarding technical procedures for making live public comment during the webinar.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>City Staff Present</b>
Nick Anastasopoulos Jon Becker Marcella Bothwell Shaina Gross Rick Gulley (virtual) Daniele Laman Dennis Otsuji Evelyn Smith (virtual) René Smith Allison Soares (virtual)	Pita Verdin	Ryan Barbrick Kathleen Brand Charlie Daniels Karen Dennison (virtual) Gina Dulay Andy Field Darren Genova John Howard Paulena Lam David Lanni Maricris Lumibao Jess Luke Francis Albert Marquez Louis Merlin Elvi Ricafort Risa Saiga Shamli Tarbell Gabriela Verendia

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcella Bothwell at 2:03 pm.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

**MOTION/SECONDED:** **Mr. Smith/Mr. Anastasopoulos**

A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Anastasopoulos to approve the remote participation of Mr. Gulley and Ms. Smith. The motion was approved 9-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dennis Otsuji, Evelyn Smith, and René Smith. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Allison Soares and Pita Verdin.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

Mr. Field requested a final change to the minutes that could not be added in time for today’s meeting as follows:

There is a correction regarding Item 102 Federal Boulevard Pocket Park General Development which was presented at the September 21 meeting, a discrepancy in the reported number of recreation value points was identified. The correct number of recreation value points that the proposed Federal Boulevard Pocket Park will achieve is 41.

**MOTION/SECONDED:** **Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Becker**

A motion was made by Mr. Anastasopoulos and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the September 21, 2023, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes with the noted correction provided by Mr. Field. The motion was approved 7-0-2 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Evelyn Smith, and René Smith. Recused: None. Abstained: Marcella Bothwell and Dennis Otsuji. Not Present: Allison Soares and Pita Verdin.

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:** One member of public provided comment:

Gary Blume from the Total Altruism Project shared updates on his project to install pick up tools and related equipment to clean trash at various community parks. On April 9, 2023, a clean-up area was set up at Lake Murray Community Park. He is working with Mesa College for a biostatistics class lab. Princess Del Cerro Park and San Carlos Recreation Center will be the next two sites for this program. He requested Board members suggest additional locations for the program. Chair Bothwell via the San Diego Parks Foundation will reach out to Mr. Blume to explore partnership opportunities.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Community Parks I Area Committee – Mr. Otsuji reported there was no meeting.

- Community Parks II Area Committee – Mr. Smith reported there was no meeting.
- Balboa Park Committee – Chair Bothwell noted there was no update.
- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens’ Advisory Committee – Mr. Gulley reported there was no meeting.
- San Diego Parks Foundation – Chair Bothwell reported on the great work of the Park Ambassadors, who are attending the LEADER Academy currently.

**CHAIR COMMENTS:**

Chair Bothwell reported that last month, the Pacific Beach Town Council held the annual PAESAN picnic in celebration of public safety professionals, including police officers, fire fighters, lifeguards, and park rangers. Christina Chadwick was celebrated for her leadership in Mission Bay Park.

Chair Bothwell also indicated that she is looking at ways to improve the efficiency of Board meetings by limiting each Board member’s comments to a maximum of five minutes, similar to how the City Council conducts its meetings. She has received feedback that the meetings take too long and go too far into the evening, since many Board members have other commitments after 5:00 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Smith noted two recently issued budget reports by the Independent Budget Analyst. The Climate Action Plan Funding Gap report noted that Parks and Recreation has an underfunded capital improvement program. However, grants are a crucial tool to address Climate Action Plan goals. The Budget Priorities report outlines current priorities from all nine Council Districts. Some park items were highlighted for funding by Councilmembers. For example, four Councilmembers prioritized Come Play Outside and Parks After Dark for funding, and Mr. Smith suggested Board members discuss park needs with their Councilmembers to ensure parks are prioritized.

Report links:

- Climate Action Plan: [https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/23-26\\_fy\\_2024\\_climate\\_action\\_plan\\_funding\\_gap.pdf](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/23-26_fy_2024_climate_action_plan_funding_gap.pdf)
- Budget Priorities: [https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/23-32\\_fy\\_2025\\_city\\_council\\_budget\\_priorities\\_complete\\_rpt.pdf](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/23-32_fy_2025_city_council_budget_priorities_complete_rpt.pdf)

**DIRECTORS REPORT:** Director Field provided the Board with the following updates:

**Board Member Vacancies**

Last month, the City Council took action to reappoint Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Richard Gulley, and Evelyn Smith to the Board, and it also took action to appoint Allison Soares to the Board. Welcome Allison!

With these appointments, Director Field noted the following information for Board member terms as follows (reference <https://onboard.sandiego.gov/board/3406>):

- Term 3/1/2023 – 3/1/2025:
  - Evelyn Smith
  - Allison Soares
- Term 3/1/2022 – 3/1/2024:
  - Nick Anastasopoulos
  - Richard Gulley
  - Marcella Bothwell
  - Daniele Laman
  - René Smith
  - Shaina Gross
- Expired Terms:
  - 3/1/2021 – 3/1/2023
    - Pita Verdin
  - 3/1/2017 – 3/1/2019
    - Jon Becker
    - Dennis Otsuji

Boards and Commissions Director Chida Warren-Darby reached out to Mr. Becker and Mr. Otsuji, both of whom are serving expired terms. While they cannot serve another term due to term limits, they can continue in their Board roles until a successor is named.

### **Unclassified Leadership Team Changes**

The following changes occurred over the past month within the Unclassified Leadership Team for the Department as follows:

- Scott Bentley retired from the City of San Diego on September 8, 2023.
- John Howard became the Interim Golf Operations Division Deputy Director in a temporary capacity effective September 9, 2023.
- Tim Graham is backfilling as the Acting Assistant Deputy Director in a temporary capacity effective September 23, 2023.
- Michael Tully transferred as a deputy director from the Developed Regional Parks Division to the Citywide Maintenance Services Division in a permanent capacity effective September 9, 2023.
- Christina Chadwick became the Interim Developed Regional Parks Deputy Director serving in a temporary capacity effective September 9, 2023.
- Victor Nava became the Acting Developed Regional Parks Assistant Deputy Director in a temporary capacity effective September 9, 2023.

A competitive process is underway to fill these unclassified leadership team vacancies (Developed Regional Parks Division Deputy Director, Golf Operations Division Deputy Director, and Get It Done Program Manager). The job announcements and application are available on the City's hiring portal at

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sandiego/jobs/4207753/program-manager-get->

[it-done-gid-parks-and-recreation-department-u2373-un](#) and <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sandiego/jobs/4207723/deputy-directors-drp-and-golf-operation-divisions-u2370-unclassified>. The application period closed on Friday, October 20, 2023.

### **Recreation Programs**

**Fall Carnival Season** is upon us! Many recreation centers will host a variety of Halloween-themed events over the next several weeks. This includes family-friendly costume contests, movies, games, and/or trick-or-treating for candy. A listing of events can be found on our Fall Festival webpage at <https://www.sandiego.gov/fallfestival>.

**Vendor Outreach Fairs** have begun so that we can increase the number of pre-qualified recreation vendors for a variety of services such as food, sports, art, cultural programs, entertainment, fitness, youth programs, event rentals, instructors, camps, etc. Two more are left:

- Serra Mesa Recreation Center – Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.
- South Clairemont Recreation Center – Thursday, November 16, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A webpage listing all recreation programs is currently under development.

### **Mobility Master Plan Updates**

The Sustainability and Mobility Department has released a draft Mobility Master Plan for public and stakeholder review. This plan will guide San Diego's continued move toward greater mobility options, as we work together to encourage and provide for new and sustainable ways of transportation. The draft plan is available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sustainability-mobility/mobility/mobility-master-plan>.

### **Consolidated Plan Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

The Consolidated Plan is prepared every five years and its planning process serves as the framework for a community-wide dialogue to identify housing, economic, and community development needs and priorities including use of federal Community Development Block Grant funding.

San Diego residents will be encouraged to share their insights through virtual and in-person community forums, and a community-wide survey. The next in-person forum will be this Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. at the Educational Cultural Complex, San Diego College of Continuing Education, 4343 Ocean View Blvd, San Diego, CA 92113.

For more information on ways to participate in this process, visit: <https://www.sandiego.gov/cdbg/general/consolidatedplanmaterials>.

### **Budget Updates**

The Fiscal Year 2024 adopted budget has been published and is posted on the City's webpage at <https://www.sandiego.gov/finance/annual>.

Earlier this month, Director Field provided Board members with links to the Fiscal Year 2023 Year-End Financial Performance Report (see <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/fy23-year-end-performance-report.pdf>) and Fiscal Year 2025 City Council Budget Priorities ([https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/23-32\\_fy\\_2025\\_city\\_council\\_budget\\_priorities\\_complete\\_rpt.pdf](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/23-32_fy_2025_city_council_budget_priorities_complete_rpt.pdf)). Both items were heard at the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee meeting of October 18, 2023, and they will be brought forward for City Council consideration on October 30, 2023.

The calendar of key dates for the monitoring of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget and the development of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/fy2022keydates.pdf>.

Some upcoming key reports to be issued include:

- November 3, 2023 – Fiscal Year 2024 CIP Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report
- November 9, 2023 –
  - Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Five-Year Financial Outlook
  - Fiscal Year 2024 First Quarter Budget Monitoring Report
- January 12, 2024 – Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Five-Year Capital Infrastructure Planning Outlook
- January 29, 2024 – Fiscal Year 2025 Updated City Council Budget Priorities
- February 2, 2024 – Fiscal Year 2024 Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report

### **General Development Plans**

A webpage listing all general development plan workshops is currently under development.

### **Other Topics for Discussion**

**Chair Bothwell** asked about the maintenance division and how it would integrate into the community parks. Mr. Field responded that since maintenance staff report to recreation staff in both Community Parks I and Community Parks II, the new division can insert maintenance expertise, mentorship, inspection, training, and related functions to assist the community parks maintenance staff to improve their service delivery.

**Mr. Smith** asked about the status of community plan updates and the next steps for the DeAnza Plan and whether it will be going to the Board before it goes to the Planning Commission. Mr. Field responded that he would follow up with the Planning Department on the status of community plan updates and stated the next stop for DeAnza would be at the Planning Commission, not the Board.

**Mr. Otsuji** asked whether technical tools and expertise will be available to the new maintenance division. Mr. Field responded yes, the Department has hired a number of landscape architects to help provide expertise to maintenance staff, and for the first time in several years, all landscape architect positions are filled.

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

**101. Balboa Park Natural History Museum Gardens Donor Acknowledgement and Interpretive Signage Program**

Presenter: Charlie Daniels, Project Officer II, Parks and Recreation Department

**MOTION/SECONDED:**

**Ms. Gross/Mr. Anastasopoulos**

Ms. Gross made a motion to approve consent item 101 and seconded by Mr. Anastasopoulos. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dennis Otsuji, Evelyn Smith, and René Smith. Recused: None. Abstained. None. Absent: Allison Soanes and Pita Verdin.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Board Comments:**

Mr. Otsuji asked how this project conforms with the Balboa Park signage program. Mr. Daniels provided an overview of the signage program and agreed to connect with Interim Deputy Director Christina Chadwick to address Mr. Otsuji's concerns about project conformance with the Balboa Park signage program.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**102. Clay Neighborhood Park Proposed General Development Plan Amendment**

Presenter: Shamli Tarbell, Landscape Architect, Parks and Recreation Department

Ms. Tarbell made the presentation outlining the proposed improvements to Clay Neighborhood Park in the Mid-City Eastern Area community.

**MOTION/SECONDED:**

**Mr. Becker/ Mr. Anastasopoulos**

Mr. Becker made a motion to approve the staff recommendation, with amendments requested by Ms. Laman as follows: Do not place an additional dog off leash area to the southwest but consider expanding the dog off leash area to the northeast, ensure there is no nook between restroom building and fencing to prevent encampments, and ensure the bio-basin is kept distant from maintenance and pedestrian gates. This motion was seconded by Mr. Anastasopoulos. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dennis Otsuji, Evelyn Smith, and René Smith. Recused: None. Abstained. None. Absent: Allison Soares and Pita Verdin.

**Public Comments:**

Kara Janowsky expressed concerns about hiding spaces created by the restroom location, tree replacements needed to increase shade, and the shade structure and set up to cool with the movement of the sun. They also noted the planned renaming of Clay Elementary School and Clay Park, a process that is not yet complete with four new names under consideration.

Sabrina Young stated that last year, the Clay Elementary community submitted a proposal to the SDUSD board to rename Clay Elementary. The board approved the proposal and convened a renaming committee. In November 2023, the Clay Elementary school community will be provided with one more opportunity to give input on the four names. The committee will review the input before putting forth a recommendation to the Board.

Susan Richardson from the Colina del Sol Community Recreation Group appreciated the efforts to gather input at the park site in addition to the Colina del Sol Recreation Center. She supports the renovations and looks forward to completion of the nearby Montezuma Neighborhood Park.

Douglas Lister president of the Rolando Community Council (RCC) expressed his and the RCC's support for the proposed Clay Park general development plan.

**Board Comments:**

Ms. Laman asked for data on sizes of dog off leash areas in nearby parks such as Children's Park, Charles L. Lewis III Memorial Park, and Montezuma Park (proposed). Mr. Daniels indicated this would require analysis and is not available today. Ms. Laman asked about whether joint use closures occur as a result of dogs running off leash and then asked if the 2018 general development plan had twice the amount of space for a dog off leash area as the one proposed today. Mr. Daniels indicated that the linear park along Solita Avenue could not serve as a dog off leash area due to close proximity to an apartment complex. Ms. Laman noted that she has been working on this matter for over ten years. She would like to see the school district-owned land be considered to expand the size of the proposed dog off leash area.

Mr. Becker appreciated seeing the recreation value points score. He asked whether there was consideration of wrapping the dog off leash area a bit further to the east into school district property. Ms. Tarbell responded that the school district will not consider it, but Ms. Brand recommends that the dog park proposed be considered when the school district begins its whole site modernization program at Clay Elementary School. Mr. Becker then asked about surfacing material for the proposed dog off leash area. Ms. Tarbell responded that synthetic turf is being proposed for Children's Park downtown, and that will be a great test of that material in a highly trafficked park. Mr. Becker asked whether nature exploration was of interest, but Ms. Tarbell indicated it was not included. Mr. Becker asked about storm water treatment, and Ms. Tarbell indicated that if needed, it could be placed near the restroom. Mr. Becker asked if the project is funded. Francis Albert Marquez responded that it is fully funded.

Mr. Otsuji asked if the park open areas would be natural grass. Ms. Tarbell responded yes.

Chair Bothwell asked whether this project was using prefabricated restrooms for this project. Ms. Tarbell stated that it is.

Ms. Laman asked about hiding spaces between the restrooms and the basketball court. Ms. Tarbell indicated that is a nook in the design.

Mr. Smith asked about prefabricated restrooms and whether that is a standard. Mr. Marquez responded yes. Mr. Smith asked who the consultant of record is. Ms. Tarbell responded that



the consultant is Spurlock. Mr. Smith asked for the design and construction cost. Mr. Marquez stated the project has a \$1 million design cost and \$4 million construction estimate.

Ms. Gross asked if the restrooms would be all gender restrooms? Staff responded yes it would be. She then asked if that is a standard to be adopted Citywide.

Ms. Laman noted that she would approve staff recommendations but with the following conditions:

- Do not place an additional dog off leash area to the southwest but consider expanding the dog off leash area to the northeast
- Ensure there is no nook between restroom building and fencing to prevent encampments
- Ensure the bio-basin is kept distant from maintenance and pedestrian gates

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

##### **201. Golf Operations Division Business Plan Update for 2023**

Mr. Lanni presented an update to the Golf Operations Business Plan.

**Public Comments:** None.

#### **Board Comments:**

Ms. Gross asked why some golf courses are not a part of the Golf Enterprise Fund. Mr. Lanni indicated that those are leased facilities and operated separately and independently.

Mr. Smith asked for a list of leased golf facilities. He asked whether golf leased facilities should be in the business plan. He then asked about the 70% resident usage as it relates to various times of day. He asked if that 70% ratio was in place throughout the day at all times of day. Mr. Lanni stated yes, it is. Mr. Smith asked whether the chair of the Municipal Golf Committee could share their successes, challenges, and concerns with the Board. Mr. Smith suggested it may be time to consider a revision to the full business plan. Mr. Smith next asked for a timeline for the Balboa Park Golf Clubhouse renovation. Mr. Lanni responded that there are challenges with funding a complete replacement. Mr. Smith asked for an update on the Golf Course Drive realignment. Mr. Lanni did not have an update to share.

Ms. Laman asked why golf use increased between 2021 and 2023. Mr. Lanni stated that was due to course enhancements and improved overall golfer experience. Ms. Laman congratulated the Golf Operations Division on its high customer satisfaction ratings.

Chair Bothwell asked about junior golf tickets and how that impacts the revenues of the Golf Division. Mr. Lanni responded that each golf complex has a different level of access, with Mission Bay offering the most consistent access daily, while Torrey Pines has less access especially on weekends when general demand is high. Therapeutic Recreation Services organizes golf for those with disabilities at Mission Bay Golf Course.

Mr. Otsuji asked about a senior resident rate. Mr. Lanni responded it was among the best deals in San Diego for golf play.

Mr. Becker asked about the reworking of the nine-hole course at Balboa Golf Course. Mr. Lanni responded that there will be changes due to the forthcoming realignment of Golf Course Drive.

## **202. Parks and Recreation Webpage Update**

Ms. Lam and Ms. Saiga presented the latest updates to the Department webpage that features story maps for various parks.

**Public Comments:** None

### **Board Comments:**

Chair Bothwell asked about partnering with the San Diego Parks Foundation to share videos and pictures for placement in the Story Maps. Ms. Lam responded yes, it can be done.

Ms. Gross asked about why some park names are capitalized and others are not. Mr. Field responded that staff wanted to have this interface go live but wants to hear about any grammatical or style issues identified in the database as staff continues to clean it up. Ms. Gross asked for labels to identify locations of the various parks shown in the videos and pictures. She then asked about the amenities filter option. Ms. Lam responded that you can select more than one amenity (such as tennis courts and playgrounds).

Ms. Laman asked which regional parks are in the database, specifically as related to Chollas Lake and North Chollas Community Park. Mr. Field responded that this is a work in progress, made difficult by Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park not having an established boundary since there is not yet an approved master plan. However, the regional park is understood to include all existing parks along Chollas Creek, including Chollas Lake and North Chollas Community Park. Ms. Laman and Chair Bothwell asked for staff to provide methods for Board members to provide feedback and to share possible edits and changes to the data behind the story map interface. Ms. Ricafort will work with Ms. Brand and Ms. Lam to create provide a feedback instrument so Board members can share updates and error corrections.

Mr. Otsuji complimented the staff and asked if they have plans to attend the Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) conference.

Mr. Becker thanked Ms. Lam and Ms. Saiga and suggested the Chamber of Commerce would be very happy with the new interface.

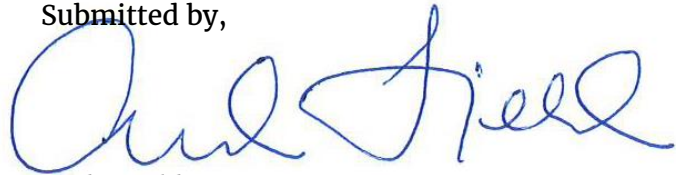
Mr. Smith is very impressed with the work creating the story maps. He suggested this effort be nominated for awards. He suggested this information be shared with Deputy Director Brian Schoenfisch in the Urban Division for his efforts to create a downtown story map. Ms. Brand agreed and indicated she would work with him.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Copies of the reports, attachments, PowerPoint presentations, and audio-video recordings can be found on the Parks and Recreation Department website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/reports>.

**Next Calendared Meeting: November 16, at 2:00 p.m.**

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Field". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andy" and the last name "Field" clearly distinguishable.

Andy Field  
Director  
Parks and Recreation Department