

**City of San Diego**  
**Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 16, 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 Rick Gulley Daniele Laman Evelyn Smith René Smith Allison Soares	Pita Verdin Shaina Gross Dennis Otsuji	Ryan Barbrick Andy Field Louis Merlin Elvi Ricafort Sarah Erazo Sameera Rao Wendy Wang Shannon Scoggins Michelle Abella-Shon Chief Michael Ruiz Karen Dennison (Virtual) Tom Tomlinson (Virtual) Christina Chadwick (Virtual) Kohta Zaiser (Virtual) Gabriela Verendia

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2023**

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**MOTION/SECONDED:**

**Mr. Gulley/Mr. Becker**

A motion was made by Mr. Gulley to approve the minutes with the addition of language about the golf facility list and seconded by Mr. Becker. The motion was approved 7-0-1 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dennis Otsuji, Evelyn Smith, and René Smith. Recused: None. Abstained: Allison Soares. Not Present: Shaina Gross, Dennis Otsuji, and Pita Verdin.

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

Steve W stated there at 1200 park users at North DeAnza Cove in Mission Bay, and the main restrooms are not yet repaired after one year being out of service. Only three or four portable toilets remain. He asked when these restrooms will be fixed. Director Field indicated he would research and report back to the Board.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Community Parks I Area Committee – Mr. Otsuji was on vacation so there was no update.
- Community Parks II Area Committee – Mr. Smith reported there was no meeting.
- Balboa Park Committee – Ms. Soares had no update.
- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – Mr. Gulley reported the committee met last Tuesday evening. They reported on the Mission Dam dredging project and the proposed 125-foot long bridge over the San Diego River.
- San Diego Parks Foundation – Chair Bothwell reported that today was a staff appreciation breakfast for work on Come Play Outside and Parks After Dark during summer 2023. It was an amazing collaboration between the City and Foundation. The Foundation is celebrating its fifth anniversary in early 2024.

**CHAIR COMMENTS:**

Chair Bothwell reminded Board members to complete training on Brown Act and Public Records Act videos. Board members must certify their completion by the end of month.

Chollas Creek Watershed Park input sessions are coming tomorrow and Saturday.

DeAnza Natural is going to the Planning Commission on December 7, 2023.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

1. Ms. Laman thanked the Mayor's staff (Kohta Zaiser) for attending today's Board meeting. She asked staff when special events will be posted on the webpage. She also

asked for an update on the special use permit update. For the general development plan process for Sunshine Berardini Field. Director Field responded that communication needs remain a challenge, as there is much information that is not centralized and not posted in a single location. He acknowledged this is a major problem but could not offer a timeline to fix this issue since there are many different entities involved. One change was to have San Diego Unified School share updates on their joint use events, groundbreaking, and ribbon cuttings with all Board members via email.

2. Ms. Erazo provided an update on special use permits. First completed were tennis agreements, followed by senior center agreements and next youth sports. This effort will go well into 2024 with a number of negotiations pending.
3. Mr. Smith noted the annual report is coming in January, with the budget coming out in early 2024. He also noted that the DeAnza Cove Plan Amendment is next going to the Planning Commission rather than the Parks and Recreation Board.

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

#### **Board Member Appointment and Vacancies**

Welcome Allison Soares, representing Balboa Park Committee residing in Council District 3. The following are the terms of each member:

- 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
    - Maria “Pita” Verdin
  - 3/1/2017 - 3/1/2019
    - Jon Becker
    - Dennis Otsuji
- Ms. Verdin has reached out to express that she cannot attend meetings going forward. Director Field will work to determine if she is resigning and to declare a vacancy in her role.

#### **Grand Openings/Groundbreaking Ceremonies**

- On October 19, 2023, Mayor Todd Gloria and Council President Pro Tem Monica Montgomery Steppe celebrated the groundbreaking of improvements at John F.

Kennedy Park in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. New amenities will include playground improvements, restroom replacement, and adult fitness equipment.

- On November 8, 2023, Director Field joined the San Diego Unified School District to break ground on a modernization of the Perry Elementary School campus, which will include a new turf, future joint use ballfield to serve the Paradise Hills community in Council District 4.
- Also on November 8, 2023, the City's Urban Forestry Program celebrated the birthday of Kate Sessions by planting trees along the perimeter of Sherman Elementary School Joint Use Area along 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Island Avenue.
- On November 14, 2023, Mayor Todd Gloria and Councilmember Stephen Whitburn celebrated the reopening of Children's Park downtown with a new playground structure, café building with restrooms, dog off leash area, adult fitness equipment, interactive walkway over the Civic Pond fountain, security services, and lawn area.
- On November 15, 2023, Director Field and San Diego Parks Foundation Chair Michel Anderson celebrated the graduation of Park Ambassadors, who are future leaders for the Department and the City. Many who have participated have become City employees. This is part of the ongoing efforts to increase recruitment to vacant jobs within the Department and the City.

### **Upcoming Events**

On November 27, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the Point Loma Hervey Library (Maria Haas Community Room), the Engineering and Capital Projects Department will provide an update on the preferred alternative for the redevelopment of the Ocean Beach Pier.

### **Balboa Park Update**

Safe Sleeping Site and O Lot Opening – Safe camping for people experiencing homelessness opened at the O Lot with a press conference on October 20, 2023. This site includes showers, restrooms, laundry services, meal services, and other services. This site has three tiers that can accommodate a total of 400 tents, each with enough space for two people and their belongings.

Grape Street Renovations – A restoration of Grape Street Dog Off-Leash Area is ongoing. This project includes adding soil and reseeding roughly 70 square feet of turf and new fencing. Project completion is slated for the end of 2023.

Pavement Work – Park Boulevard and Balboa Drive both have been undergoing paving work. Along Park Boulevard, work is focused from the Interstate 5 south ramp near San Diego High School up to the Presidents Way traffic signal. This section of road was restriped to include a new Class IV bikeway. Along Balboa Drive in the West Mesa of Balboa Park, the entire roadway is being repaired, with new striping for parking.

Funding Opportunities for Arts and Culture Programming – The City has announced two funding opportunities aimed at supporting arts and culture activities and projects in San Diego, and applications are now being accepted. The Operational Support Program (OSP) provides general operating support to nonprofit arts and culture organizations, while Creative

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Communities San Diego (CCSD) offers project-based support. These funding opportunities are designed to generate meaningful impacts for San Diegans, and to boost tourism and expand access to arts and culture in every City Council district.

Holidays in Balboa Park – Holiday decorations will start going up in the park by mid-November, and Department staff will be adding its annual poinsettia display at the Plaza de Panama and mall at the end of November. Preparation for the annual December Nights celebration for the first weekend in December is also underway.

Natural History Museum Exterior Garden Project – Department staff is in the final stages of approving permits for the NAT to begin its exterior garden project. Work is expected to commence the first part of December immediately following December Nights to limit parkwide impacts.

Bea Evenson Fountain Restoration – Through the month of November 2023, staff have been restoring and repairing Bea Evenson Fountain. Work includes draining, power washing, lighting replacements and painting.

### **City Restructuring**

On Friday, November 10, 2023, the Department of Real Estate and Airport Management began a consolidation process to merge it into the Economic Development Department. This move aims to streamline City operations and improve the efficiency of the City's real estate portfolio. The transition is expected to take several months and will be aligned with the development of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. Until the consolidation is completed, both departments will continue to operate and perform their current roles and functions. Christina Bibler, the Economic Development Director, will lead the consolidation efforts and take over both departments' leadership immediately. Penny Maus, the prior director of Real Estate, no longer works for the City of San Diego.

### **DeAnza Master Plan Update**

The City Planning Department recently completed the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) on the De Anza Natural amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan, which includes a detailed sea level rise analysis and responses to public comments on the draft PEIR that were received during the public review period. The final PEIR has been posted on the CEQA Final Environmental Documents webpage, which is available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/ceqa/final>.

This comes after staff engaged with De Anza Cove stakeholders, including the Mission Bay Park Committee and an ad hoc subcommittee formed by the Parks and Recreation Board, this summer. At ad hoc subcommittee meetings, stakeholders provided detailed and valuable presentations on desired recreational uses, visitor accommodations, and habitat restoration.

The next step is to present De Anza Natural and the final PEIR to the Planning Commission, scheduled for December 7, 2023. Planning Department invites public comment. Board members are encouraged to attend the Commission meeting.

Agendas for the Commission are posted one week prior to the meeting date and can be found on the Commission's agenda page. The Planning Commission's agendas, minutes, and meeting reports are available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning-commission>.

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The latest draft of the De Anza Natural amendment is available on the De Anza Natural website, which is available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/park-planning/de-anza>.

### **Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan Update**

The Planning Department is hosting Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan Community Workshops to discuss the master planning process. These sessions are intended for participants to share ideas and identify priorities and goals for the Chollas Creek Master Plan.

The Master Plan is a long-term guide for future health, safety, and recreation improvements in the Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park. It aims to enhance the overall well-being of local communities.

The goal is to create a Chollas Creek Master Plan that will prioritize increasing mobility options, creating recreational opportunities, protecting local habitats, and enhancing watershed ecology.

Two workshops are coming tomorrow and Saturday, both offering the same content:

Friday, November 17, 2023

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The Teen Challenge, 5450 Lea St., San Diego, CA 92105

Saturday, November 18, 2023

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

César Chávez Elementary School, 1404 S 40th St., San Diego, CA 92113

There is more information on this topic in today's information agenda.

### **Budget Updates**

On November 3, 2023, the City issued the Fiscal Year 2024 CIP Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report, and on November 9, 2023, the City issued the Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Five-Year Financial Outlook and Fiscal Year 2024 First Quarter Budget Monitoring Report. The first quarter report and financial outlook will be considered by the Budget and Governmental Efficiency Committee meeting of Friday, November 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

The Five-Year Outlook indicates the projected expenditures exceed projected revenues. Expenditures include salary increases, fixed (nondiscretionary) cost increases, and expanded programs such as homelessness strategies.

For Parks and Recreation Department, this includes 20 new park facilities and 14 new joint-use facilities as follows:

- Fiscal Year 2025
  - Boone Elementary School Joint Use Area
  - Canon Street Pocket Park
  - Dennery Ranch Neighborhood Park

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- Hidden Trails Neighborhood Park
- Naval Training Center Park Esplanade
- Pacific View Elementary School Joint Use Area
- Spreckels Elementary School Joint Use Area (expansion)
- Whitman Elementary School Joint Use Area
- Fiscal Year 2026
  - Bruce Brown (3Roots) Memorial Park
  - East Village Green
  - Eastbourne Neighborhood Park
  - Federal Boulevard Pocket Park
  - Junipers Park
  - Mira Mesa Aquatic Center
  - Mira Mesa Community Park Improvements
  - Naval Training Center Park Building 619 Community Center
  - Pacific Beach Elementary School Joint Use Area
  - Rowan Elementary School Joint Use Area
  - Solterra Vista (McGonigle Canyon) Neighborhood Park
- Fiscal Year 2027
  - Black Mountain Rancho Park Expansion
  - Grove (Southwest) Neighborhood Park
  - Jones Elementary School Joint Use Area
  - North Central Square Park
  - Old Logan Heights Library Community Center
  - Perry Elementary School Joint Use Area
  - Shoal Creek Neighborhood Park
- Fiscal Year 2028
  - Foster Elementary School Joint Use Area
  - Grant K-8 School Joint Use Area
  - Hickman Elementary School Joint Use Area
  - Lafayette Elementary School Joint Use Area
  - Toler Elementary School Joint Use Area
  - Walden Neighborhood Park
- Fiscal Year 2029
  - Florence Elementary School Joint Use Area
  - Mission Valley (Hazard Center) Neighborhood Park

Links to the documents and the meeting agenda are available at

<https://www.sandiego.gov/finance/financialrpts>:

- Five-Year Financial Outlook Report for the General Fund:  
<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/fy2025-2029-five-year-financial-outlook-and-attachments-general-fund.pdf>
- Fiscal Year 2024 First Quarter Budget Monitoring Report:  
<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/fy24-first-quarter-budget-monitoring-report.pdf>

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- Mid-Year Capital Report: <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/fy2024-cip-mid-year-budget-monitoring-report.pdf>

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:

- 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
- April 15, 2024 – Mayor’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

### **Recreation Programs**

With the arrival of the holiday season, **Winter Festival Season** will soon be upon us! December Nights in Balboa Park will be on December 1 and 2, 2023. Many recreation centers will host a variety of holiday-themed events over the month of December. This includes family-friendly meals with Santa Claus and other holiday-themed special events. A listing of winter and holiday-themed events can be found on the Department’s Winter Carnival webpage at <https://www.sandiego.gov/winterfestival/>.

### **Community Recreation Groups and Council Policy 700-42 Reform**

Staff members continue their efforts to prepare a draft council policy for interested stakeholders. This will begin with a draft that incorporates the approved Community Planning Group Council Policy 600-24 and improves upon the work of the Board from 2019 and 2020 to create a new Council Policy 700-42. Once a draft is ready for a workshop, staff will bring that forward for Board consideration.

Area Committee reform will be a part of this effort. In recent experience, the meetings have been all information sharing with few action items and difficulty securing a quorum. One option may be to create a standing, online/virtual workshop to allow Community Recreation Group members to receive information directly from Department leadership on topics of shared concern, such as budget development, recreation center funds, recreation equity, fees and charges, process improvements, and similar topics.

### **General Development Plans**

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

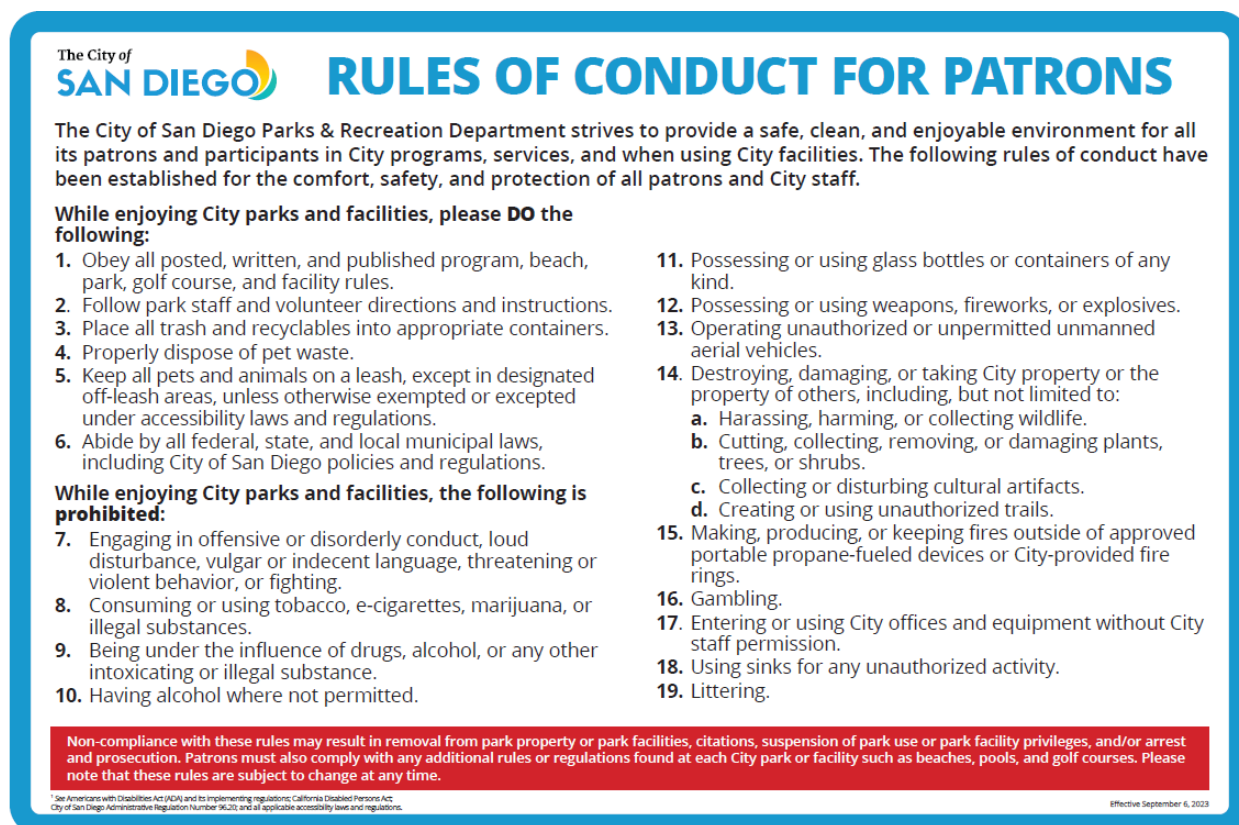
### **Rules of Conduct**


The Rules of Conduct for Park Patrons are now published online in the following links.

<https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation> - use the last button in the right column (alphabetical)



<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info> - park use rules and Regulations accordion, fifth button (alphabetical)



The City of San Diego  **RULES OF CONDUCT FOR PATRONS**

The City of San Diego Parks & Recreation Department strives to provide a safe, clean, and enjoyable environment for all its patrons and participants in City programs, services, and when using City facilities. The following rules of conduct have been established for the comfort, safety, and protection of all patrons and City staff.

**While enjoying City parks and facilities, please DO the following:**

1. Obey all posted, written, and published program, beach, park, golf course, and facility rules.
2. Follow park staff and volunteer directions and instructions.
3. Place all trash and recyclables into appropriate containers.
4. Properly dispose of pet waste.
5. Keep all pets and animals on a leash, except in designated off-leash areas, unless otherwise exempted or excepted under accessibility laws and regulations.
6. Abide by all federal, state, and local municipal laws, including City of San Diego policies and regulations.

**While enjoying City parks and facilities, the following is prohibited:**

7. Engaging in offensive or disorderly conduct, loud disturbance, vulgar or indecent language, threatening or violent behavior, or fighting.
8. Consuming or using tobacco, e-cigarettes, marijuana, or illegal substances.
9. Being under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any other intoxicating or illegal substance.
10. Having alcohol where not permitted.
11. Possessing or using glass bottles or containers of any kind.
12. Possessing or using weapons, fireworks, or explosives.
13. Operating unauthorized or unpermitted unmanned aerial vehicles.
14. Destroying, damaging, or taking City property or the property of others, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Harassing, harming, or collecting wildlife.
  - b. Cutting, collecting, removing, or damaging plants, trees, or shrubs.
  - c. Collecting or disturbing cultural artifacts.
  - d. Creating or using unauthorized trails.
15. Making, producing, or keeping fires outside of approved portable propane-fueled devices or City-provided fire rings.
16. Gambling.
17. Entering or using City offices and equipment without City staff permission.
18. Using sinks for any unauthorized activity.
19. Littering.

Non-compliance with these rules may result in removal from park property or park facilities, citations, suspension of park use or park facility privileges, and/or arrest and prosecution. Patrons must also comply with any additional rules or regulations found at each City park or facility such as beaches, pools, and golf courses. Please note that these rules are subject to change at any time.

<sup>1</sup> See Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its implementing regulations; California Disabled Persons Act; City of San Diego Administrative Regulation Number 9620; and all applicable accessibility laws and regulations. Effective September 6, 2023.

## Holidays

In this time of Thanksgiving, Director Field expressed his gratitude to each of the Board members for their continued service in support of the City's Park System.

## Other Topics for Discussion

**Mr. Gulley** asked about proposed Carmel Valley outdoor pickleball courts. Director Field indicated he would get back to the Board on this proposal, most likely in the January Director's Report.

## CONSENT ITEMS:

### **101. Calendar Year 2024 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Dates**

Presenter: Elvi Ricafort, Senior Management Analyst, Parks and Recreation Department

Mr. Anastasopoulos made a motion to approve consent item 101 and seconded by Mr. Becker. The motion was approved 8-0-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Evelyn Smith, René Smith, and Allison Soares. Recused: None. Abstained. None. Absent: Shaina Gross, and Dennis Otsuji.

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Public Comments: None.

Board Comments: None.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** None.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

### **201. Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan Project Update**

Ms. Rao and Ms. Wang presented the project update to the Board.

Public Comments:

Sally Smull with the Chollas Creek Coalition and Chollas Valley Community Planning Group stated that the process needs to slow down given the number of community organizations that need to be notified. She felt the engagement needs to increase and more information shared. Ms. Smull noted this is a large effort and should be done the right way.

Sonia Diaz with Outdoor Outreach noted that many youths who participate in their programs are from the Chollas Creek Watershed area. She grew up in the creek area but did not visit Mission Trails until she was an adult. In her neighborhood, the creek is channelized with concrete and covered in graffiti. There is an entire ecosystem below the built infrastructure that needs to be considered. She asked for more time for public input and more outreach to other organizations and stakeholders to create the best possible park outcome. Outdoor Outreach is a resource and is glad to assist in this conversation.

Richard Diaz with the Oak Park Community Council noted that City Heights does not dominate the watershed and stated that other areas in Encanto and Chollas Valley should be included. He noted that the consultant is from Los Angeles and does not know the Chollas Creek Watershed communities. Others aside from City Heights should be given prominence in this effort.

Elida Chavez from Oak Park asked whether staff have reached out to the tribes of the Kumeyaay Nation in this effort and whether an indigenous person is on the working group for this effort. She asked that the Mayor's Office to appoint someone from the Native American community be included in the Chollas Creek Watershed planning effort going forward.

Board Comments:

Chair Bothwell asked Ms. Rao to respond to Ms. Chavez's comments on Native American representation. Ms. Rao stated that her team is working to have consultation and a process in place in early 2024.

Ms. Rao also clarified that the first draft of the plan for spring 2024 is intended to be a 30% effort that focuses on existing conditions and public input received to date. It is not a timeframe for project completion, which should continue beyond that point.

Ms. Laman mentioned planning groups and recreation groups in Council Districts 3, 4, 8, and 9 should be included in the outreach efforts. Nearly half of the City is included in this effort given the size and expanse of the watershed area.

Ms. Soares thanked Ms. Rao and Ms. Wang for their presentation and response on this complex project, which has been in process for over 20 years.

Mr. Smith thanked Mayor Gloria and his team for making this effort a priority. He noted the importance of comprehensive public outreach. Some of the outreach techniques provide participants with an outsized role in providing input. Mr. Smith noted that the Parks Master Plan is the foundation of this effort and hopes the Chollas Creek Watershed Master Plan

addresses the connection as the plan is developed.

### **202. Joint Use Program with School Districts Annual Update**

Ms. Scoggins provided an update on the Department's joint use program and the status of the ongoing partnership between the City and San Diego Unified School District. Director Field thanked both Ms. Scoggins and Ms. Tincknell for their ongoing efforts to maintain the partnership between the City and San Diego Unified School District.

Public Comments: None

Board Comments:

Mr. Becker asked Ms. Scoggins about a joint use at Mission Bay High School. Ms. Scoggins responded that an agreement was reached for the tennis, but the remaining athletic facilities are fully used with little capacity for public use.

Ms. Laman asked if the joint use map is available on the City's webpage. Ms. Scoggins indicated it is not currently on the webpage. Ms. Laman noted that while there seems to be a balance between council districts, there should be more added in the future in communities of concern. She then asked about the math of how many agreements need to be updated. Ms. Scoggins provided that information.

Ms. Smith asked when Johnson Elementary School joint use will begin construction. Chair Bothwell pointed to an attachment on page 55 of the report with the construction information.

### **203. Expressive Activity Update – Coastal Areas**

Chief Park Ranger Michael Ruiz provided the Board with an update on the process to update San Diego Municipal Code as related to expressive activity.

Public Comments:

Catharine Douglass expressed concerns with expressive activity near the lifeguard tower at Children's Pool due to the likely emergency access concerns. She thanked Chief Ruiz for helping and listening to community concerns.

Bob Evans with La Jolla Parks and Beaches does not agree with any expressive activity sites in any parks and beaches as these sites are scenic, historic, and should be used for leisure and recreational use. He disagrees with commercial activity as compared to sincere free speech activity.

Marcella Teran leads the neighborhood watch for Pacific Beach. She is concerned with expressive activity locations due to the high traffic volume of the Pacific Beach Boardwalk as this may increase traffic, cause accidents, and reduce safety. Ms. Teran also expressed concerns about amplification and excessive noise from expressive activities.

Larry Webb from Mission Beach Town Council appreciated efforts by staff to gather public input. He noted that actions taken at Balboa Park may not work at beach areas. A 1987 voter approved initiative bans commercial activity in Mission Beach Park. He would like more clarification on the difference between commercial and expressive activity.

Susan Crowers with Pacific Beach Town Council thanked the City and Chief Ruiz for outreach efforts to date. She agrees with the Thomas Avenue location but is concerned with the second location near Crystal Pier. Perhaps there is a better second location in Pacific Beach.

Sonia Diaz with Outdoor Outreach asked to clarify placement of canopies and whether Outdoor Outreach activities would be impacted by the changes to the San Diego Municipal Code.

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Diane Kane with La Jolla Planning Association agreed that Children's Pool should not host expressive activities. She agrees with Mr. Evans that the additional impact on coastal zones is disruptive to the peace and enjoyment of the beach. She would like to see expressive activity removed from coastal parks.

Denny Knox from Ocean Beach Main Street Association prefers no vending in parks at all and would like no amplification unless it is within a permitted special event. She expressed concerns with enforcement by the park rangers and San Diego Police Department.

Nicole Ueno from Ocean Beach Planning Board and Community Development Corporation is concerned with Veterans Park, which was recently resodded after the grass was destroyed due to excessive vendor activity. She expressed concerns about enforcement and possible overflow from designated expressive activity areas into adjacent park areas.

Board Comments:

Chair Bothwell asked Chief Ruiz to respond to comments raised by Ms. Diaz. Chief Ruiz responded that he would need to evaluate Outdoor Outreach's planned activity and determine if a permit is needed. Chair Bothwell asked if park rangers can issue citations for sidewalk vending. Chief Ruiz responded that citations have been issued since May 2023 at the coast and in Balboa Park since June 2022. He noted that park rangers are not peace officers and do not carry weapons. Park rangers can issue certain types of citations. Park rangers use education initially, but when they observe activity not in compliance with park rules and regulations, they will move to enforcement. Chair Bothwell next asked about how park rangers can safely engage especially since they do not carry weapons. Chief Ruiz responded that safety is very important, and park rangers are trained on when to disengage.

Mr. Smith asked if the proposed San Diego Municipal Code changes will come to the Board before going to the City Council in December. Both Chief Ruiz and Director Field advised that the San Diego Municipal Code changes will not come back to the Board, and they suggested Board members provide their comment at the City Council meeting once it reaches their docket.

Mr. Becker asked about the timetable this would be enforced during the day. Is the window from sunup to sundown? Or is it even at night this would be enforced. Chief Ruiz responded by citing as an example the Gaslamp at the Little Italy Area where the public would be up and about. Any individual would potentially have the opportunity to express themselves that can potentially go till 10 pm. However, in Parks it can go potentially from 7 a.m. to sundown, similar to the sidewalk vending code. Mr. Becker also added that the enforcement is also depending on the geographical location.

Ms. Laman asked if park ranger staff meet with San Diego Police Department regularly? Chief Ruiz responded they meet regularly on a variety of issues, including expressive activity and sidewalk vending, as well as Balboa Park, bays and beaches, and community parks. Ms. Laman asked about the use of body-worn cameras for park rangers. Chief Ruiz indicated that this is a complex issue that is not currently contemplated but may be considered in the future given technology, privacy, and training considerations.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 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>.

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**Next Calendared Meeting: January 18, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

Submitted by,

Andy Field  
Director  
Parks and Recreation Department