

City of San Diego
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 15, 2024

“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.

Members Present	Members Absent	City Staff Present
Nick Anastasopoulos Jon Becker Marcella Bothwell Shaina Gross Rick Gulley Daniele Laman Dennis Otsuji Evelyn Smith René Smith Allison Soares	Pita Verdin	Michelle Abella-Shon Ryan Barbrick Kathleen Brand Karen Dennison Andy Field Ilisa Goldman (Virtual) Tim Graham John Howard Paulena Lam Myra Medel (Virtual) Louis Merlin Risa Saiga Elvi Ricafort Tom Tomlinson Gabriela Verendia Ashlie Zinn (Virtual)

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcella Bothwell at 2:07 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2024

MOTION/SECONDED:

Mr. Smith/Mr. Becker

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Becker. The motion was approved 9-0-1 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dennis Otsuji, Evelyn Smith, René Smith, and Allison Soares. Recused: None. Abstained: Shaina Gross. Not Present: Pita Verdin.

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

Gary Blume from the Total Altruism Project provided an update on distribution of litter pick up sticks in a variety of parks including Allied Gardens, Lake Murray, Princess Del Cerro, and San Carlos parks. The next site will be at Colina del Sol Park. Chair Bothwell asked if the data collected by Mesa College for this effort is planned for publication. Mr. Otsuji asked about specific trash removals, such as dog excrement. Ms. Gross noted her child enjoys the opportunity to pick up litter. Mr. Smith suggested Mr. Blume reach out to San Diego State University to bring this effort forward for sanitation justice.

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. He commented that has not done enough to support the many committed citizens who support the approximately two dozen community recreation groups in Area Committee II. He has been unable to pull together a means to conduct the required meeting in over a year.
- Balboa Park Committee – Ms. Soares noted a meeting is scheduled for this evening.
- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – Mr. Gulley reported there was no meeting.
- San Diego Parks Foundation – Chair Bothwell reported on the success of the fifth anniversary celebration of the foundation.

CHAIR COMMENTS:

Chair Bothwell had no other updates to report.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Laman reported that she is looking forward to requesting data on the Mid-City Community Plan Update. She asked for updates on the following items:

- Can Assessor Parcel Number 541-190-16-00 at 47th Street and Fairmount Avenue in the Webster neighborhood be dedicated as a park with a trailhead into Chollas Creek Open Space (Chollas Parkway)? Director Field is unfamiliar with this parcel and will need to research and respond back to the Board with an update on this site.
- Can staff provide a status update on park acquisition for the ten percent for the Citywide Park Development Impact Fee? Director Field said this effort is in its early stages. Criteria have not yet been developed to determine which parcels should be funded for acquisition first, and there is no assigned staff member to lead this effort. As this effort builds, additional updates can be provided to the Board.
- When will a presentation on special use permits take place? Director Field asked for clarification and responded that it can be brought forward as an information item or routinely made part of the Director's Report as needed.
- Does Measure H for childcare apply to day camps? Director Field responded yes, the Office of Child and Youth Success is looking at three types of childcare: licensed childcare facilities, unlicensed indoor day camps, and unlicensed outdoor nature camps.
- Who is responsible for fixing sports field lights? Director Field responded that Transportation Department is responsible. Any lights that are nonworking should be reported to onsite park staff and submitted to the Get It Done app.

Ms. Laman closed by thanking those who support the Chollas Lake drainage study.

Ms. Gross reported on the grand opening of the new dog off leash area in Allied Gardens this past weekend and requested staff have these sorts of events posted and sent to the Board members. Director Field agreed.

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

Construction is underway today at the Balboa Park Club windows, which resulted in short delays getting the meeting started this afternoon.

Responses to Questions from January Meeting

Director Field provided the following updates to questions and comments raised during the January Board meeting:

- During board member comment, Ms. Laman asked to add Jeremy Henwood Park, Clay Park, and Chollas Triangle Park to the list of eligible Citywide Development Impact Fee projects for future reports. Director Field stated that each of these three parks are in the report. Clay and Chollas Triangle are proposed to receive Citywide Park Development Impact Fees in the upcoming City Council action.
- The annual report has been updated per Board direction last month and posted in the meeting reports section of the Park Board webpage. Ms. Ricafort emailed the updated version to the Board members as well. Upon providing the approved report to the

Office of Boards and Commissions, they asked for the annual number of hours spent by staff and volunteers supporting Board operations. This was not provided in the draft approved by the Board. For the Board's information, annual staff time is calculated between 600 to 800 hours and between 550 to 990 hours for Board members assuming all eleven seats are filled/not vacant.

Weather Damage Update:

At the January meeting, Director Field outlined issues with tidal events and storms that impacted coastal infrastructure. The Monday following last month's Board meeting, on January 22, 2024, a storm unleashed significant rain on San Diego with the highest one-day total for rain in many years. These rains caused substantial damage and creating flooded areas in the Chollas Creek watershed. Floods impacted areas in the Southcrest and Mountain View neighborhoods as well as along Imperial Avenue in Encanto. This devastated homes, streets, and parks. It disrupted people's lives.

Many San Diegans were directly impacted by the floods, and our Department pivoted to assist them. Department staff efforts included mechanized debris removal from the impacted neighborhoods, sand bag distribution sites, door-to-door delivery of filled sand bags, shelter operations at Municipal Gymnasium and Balboa Park Activity Center, donation sites at four parks and libraries, and activation of a local assistance center at Mountain View Recreation Center.

Two parks, Southcrest Trails and Marie Widman, were particularly impacted. A significant area of South crest Trails Park was flooded with debris along the Chollas Creek channel, and subsequent emergency channel dredging removed some park amenities. Marie Widman Park similarly had damage along the creek channel and saw damage to the two pedestrian bridges, both of which are being evaluated currently for repair. The playground and walkways near the channel were scoured, so repairs will be needed at these locations as well.

DeAnza Master Plan Update:

The De Anza Natural and the final PEIR went to the Planning Commission on December 7, 2023. According to the Planning Department, De Anza will come to the Environment Committee this spring. Once dates become known, Director Field will notify the Board.

Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan Update:

The Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan effort continues as outlined in the City Planning presentation to the Board in November 2023, with the following goals:

- Protect and enhance the Chollas Creek Watershed's ecology
- Improve the watershed's sustainability and resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Increase recreational opportunities
- Improve walking/rolling and biking within the watershed and adjacent to neighborhoods

- Foster a sense of ownership and connection to the Creek among community members

City Planning continues to work on the master plan update, including:

- Project Website – serves as the foundational resource for project updates, document publications, surveys, and newsletter announcements.
 - Community Site Walk Audit – September 23, 2023
 - First Community Workshops – November 17 and 18, 2023
 - Winter Wonderland Southcrest – December 9, 2024
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – January 20, 2024
 - Lunar New Year in City Heights – February 10, 2024
 - Additional dates to be announced
- Chollas Creek Survey – the survey closes on March 1, 2024. Visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfAVSJUH4DAi_2YqPvICRI6DPntTj3oUfPFObhtPNmlU4occQ/viewform to participate.
- Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan Framework – available at https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/ccmp_framework_report_final.pdf, the framework provides an overview of the topics the Master Plan will address and the various engagement tactics that will be used to gather community input.
- Existing Conditions Report – the existing conditions report is not yet ready but will examine the Chollas Creek Watershed’s physical and social infrastructure to help map areas of interest, identify recreational opportunities, and better understand needed improvements.
- First Draft Master Plan – City Planning is developing the draft watershed master plan, which a goal to issue it for public review in spring/summer 2024.

Community Plan Updates:

- **Mid-City Communities Plan Update:**
 - City Planning is updating the Mid-City Communities Plan for the first time in 25 years to identify opportunities for new homes, businesses, and infrastructure to benefit everyone in Mid-City.
 - [PlanMidCity.org](https://planmidcity.org) has more information about the plan update and provides ways Board members and the public can participate and subscribe to receive updates.
 - Last month, Ms. Laman requested an update on this process including the needs assessment. Director Field indicated that the Planning Department will come to an upcoming Board meeting to present on the Mid-City Communities Plan.

- **College Area Community Plan Update:**

- City Planning is continuing to work on a discussion draft of the College Area Community Plan Update alongside the General Plan Refresh (Blueprint SD).
- A discussion draft is anticipated to be released this spring.
- [PlanCollegeArea.org](https://plancollegearea.org) has more information about the plan update and provides ways Board members and the public can participate and subscribe to receive updates.

- **Hillcrest Focused Plan Amendment:**

- Building on the Uptown Community Plan policy framework, Plan Hillcrest will address housing and development strategies intended to strengthen the business district.
- City Planning is reviewing community input received during the public comment period for the Hillcrest Focused Plan discussion draft which closed on November 17, 2023.
- A second draft based on the input received during the first comment period, along with a draft Environmental Impact Report, will be ready for further feedback later this winter.
- [PlanHillcrest.org](https://planhillcrest.org) has more information about the plan update and provides ways Board members and the public can participate and subscribe to receive updates.

- **University Community Plan Update:**

- City Planning is reviewing community input received during the public comment period for the University Community Plan discussion draft which closed on June 30, 2023.
- A second draft based on the input received during the first comment period, along with a draft Environmental Impact Report, will be ready for further feedback later this winter.
- [PlanUniversity.org](https://planuniversity.org) has more information about the plan update and provides ways Board members and the public can participate and subscribe to receive updates.

- **Clairemont Community Plan Update:**

- City Planning staff continues to work on a discussion draft of a revised draft Clairemont Community Plan, incorporating input from the wider community and the Planning Commission.
- [ClairemontPlan.org](https://clairemontplan.org) has more information about the plan update and provides ways Board members and the public can participate and subscribe to receive updates.

- **Barrio Logan Community Plan Update:**

- On November 14, 2023, the City Council approved the updated Barrio Logan Community Plan with suggested modifications from the California Coastal Commission.
- The Coastal Commission certified and signed off these modifications on December 14, 2023, and the Barrio Logan Community Plan is now in effect in the Coastal Zone.
- The City's webpage (<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community-plans/barrio-logan/planning-studies-reports>) has more information about the plan update and provides ways Board members and the public can participate and subscribe to receive updates.

Parks Master Plan Update:

- **Equity Forward:** City Planning is developing the Environmental Justice Element, which will be a new element added to the Blueprint SD refresh of the City's General Plan (<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/general-plan>) to set goals, policies, and implementation measures focused on advancing environmental justice in the City. Environmental justice topics can include access to healthy food, pollution exposure and air quality, safe and healthy homes, public facilities and infrastructure prioritization, public spaces, and more.
 - To hear from community members in areas most impacted by compounded health risks, various events were held across the City to help inform the goals, objectives and policies related to each topic.
 - The City of San Diego partnered with five community-based organizations to build awareness, gather input, and ensure community engagement is inclusive. Forty events were held throughout the fall and winter of 2023, including community pop-up events, workshops or meetings, bike rides or walks and community clean-up events. To learn more about the events, please view the engagement plan webpage at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/ej-outreach-engagement-plan.pdf>. An initial draft of the Environmental Justice Element is anticipated to be released for public review and comment this month before proceeding through the public hearing process in late spring and early summer.
 - Opportunities to provide input to inform the Environmental Justice Element will continue to occur throughout the life of the project. Visit <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/environmental-justice-element> to sign up for updates and stay updated on future participation opportunities.

Community Recreation Groups and Council Policy 700-42 Reform:

Director Field indicated no major change in this effort since last month. 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 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.

Budget Updates:

Development of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget continues. Some key City Council dates:

- On February 7, 2024, the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee heard the Fiscal Year 2025 Budgetary Priorities Report and the Fiscal Year 2024 Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report. Here is a summary of the monitoring report as it relates to Parks and Recreation:
 - Citywide General Fund revenues are projected to end the fiscal year \$28.3 million, or 1.4 percent, under the current budget.
 - Citywide General Fund personnel expenditures are projected to exceed budget by \$28.5 million, or 3.4 percent.
 - Parks and Recreation anticipates an overage of \$3.9 million due to overtime and hourly wage expenses.
 - Parks and Recreation continues to struggle with hiring, with a ratio of two staff hired and one staff leaving.
 - Citywide General Fund fringe and non-personnel expenditures are projected to be under budget by \$15.3 million, or 1.2 percent.
 - Parks and Recreation anticipates \$1.6 million overage due to increased costs in maintenance, repair, and operation supplies, which support various services, including janitorial services, lighting repairs, apparel, and safety supplies.
 - Parks and Recreation anticipates \$5.9 million overage due to the following increased costs:
 - Security services at various park locations and recreation centers to address safety and vandalism concerns

- Fencing needs
- Swimming pool repairs at the Carmel Mountain Ranch, Colina del Sol, and Vista Terrace pools
- Crystal Pier condition assessment and repairs including emergency repairs due to king tide damage from December 2023
- Coastal tidal damage and storm damage
- Electrician services to address a backlog of lighting repairs and maintenance in the interest of public safety
- Tree arborist and trimming services
- Parks and Recreation anticipates \$2.7 million savings due to a decrease in water use primarily due to the assumption that the first half of calendar year 2024 will experience wet weather similar to prior years, which results in paused irrigation and conservation efforts across various parks.
 - A funds block for the Fiscal Year 2024 will be implemented later this winter once storm emergency measures wind down. This will force the Department to make decisions on essential vs. non-essential expenditures.
 - For Fiscal Year 2025, all City departments were asked to provide two percent reduction targets, and it is likely that few additional requests for the proposed budget would be approved.
- On February 12, 2024, the City Council heard the Five-Year Capital Outlook for Fiscal Years 2025 to 2029.

Balboa Park Updates: No update this month.

Employees of the Quarter: No update this month.

Recreation Programs:

- **Come Play Outside and Parks After Dark:** Planning is underway for this summer's recreation programs in consultation with the San Diego Parks Foundation.
- **Needs Assessment:** The Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on February 15, 2024, to seek proposals from qualified professional consultants for the development of a comprehensive Department-wide Recreation Program Community Needs Assessment (Assessment). The Assessment will be used to guide the City on the immediate and future recreation and communication needs. Proposers must present their experiences in researching, communicating, organizing, and reporting on diverse child, youth, adult, and senior recreation program needs within the City as specified in this RFP. The bid opportunity is available on Planet Bids for anyone who is interested in applying: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/17950/bo/bo-detail/113891>.

Upcoming P&R Board Agenda Items:

- Mission Bay Lease Revenues Audit – March
- Semi-Annual Regional Park Improvements Fund Projects Update – March
- Animal Services Update – March
- Balboa Park-San Diego High School-Downtown Connections Update – March
- AgeWell and Therapeutic Recreation Services Update – April
- Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget – April
- Recreation Center Fund and Opportunity Fund Budgets – May
- Open Space and Canyonlands Update – TBD
- Mid-City Communities Plan Update – TBD
- Capital Project Cost Estimating Methodology – TBD
- North Chollas Community Park Project Update – TBD

The restroom condition assessment effort is suspended pending funding identification.

Other Topics for Discussion:

Mr. Otsuji noted that the park system has significant needs about maintenance practices and focused on how older parks such as Balboa Park need more funding and higher service levels for repairs and upkeep.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

101. Proposal for Bottom Scratchers Commemorative Plaque at EB Scripps Park

Volker Hoehne, Secretary of San Diego Freedivers, presented the proposal to install a commemorative plaque at EB Scripps Park for Bottom Scratchers.

Mr. Anastasopolous moved to approve item 101 and was seconded by Mr. Gulley. The motion was approved 10-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dennis Otsuji, Evelyn Smith, René Smith, and Allison Soares. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Pita Verdin.

Public Comment:

The following people registered their comments in favor of this item:

- Michael Bovee
- Robin Prodanovich
- Sally Hawkins
- Larry Asakawa

Board Comment:

Several Board Members offered feedback on the proposal and suggested that the video under development be shared and that the Board be invited for the grand unveiling of the plaque.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

201. Introduction to Design and Development of Webpage Tab

Paulena Lam and Risa Saiga introduced the new design and development webpage to the Board. It includes access to the park collections that they presented to the Board last year, offers links to various park capital improvement projects and resources, and provides dates for upcoming general development plan workshops.

Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

Board Comments:

Board members shared comments and feedback on the new webpage interface, noting the improvements in sharing information on general development plan workshops, grand openings/groundbreakings, and archival reference documents.

202. Five-Year Capital Outlook

Mr. Barbrick presented the City's five-year capital outlook and discussed the assumptions of how the Parks and Recreation Department developed its section of the report.

Public Comment:

No public comment was received on this item.

Board Comment:

Ms. Laman asked for the frequency of updating the Unfunded Needs List. Ms. Abella-Shon responded that the list is being finalized and planned for update in the next few weeks.

Mr. Smith asked for the face value for the 200 projects. Mr. Barbrick indicated that there is a large funding deficit that needs addressed to bring those projects to construction.

203. State Grants Update

Mr. Barbrick presented the Parks and Recreation Department grant portfolio and provided an update on each project included in the portfolio.

Public Comment:

None.

Board Comment:

Ms. Laman asked why were dates pushed back for Ward Canyon, Clay Park, and Chollas Electric? Director Field provided an update on the three projects as follows:

- Ward Canyon was delayed because of a requirement by Caltrans to realign the Interstate 15 off/onramps at 40th Street. That effort could cost more than \$5 million, cannot be funded by various park revenue sources, and is not a priority for the City Transportation Department. Therefore, the vacation of 40th Street is indefinitely delayed. Project managers are now focused on removing the derelict building on 39th Street, installation of a new community garden, and adjustment of the dog off leash areas.
- Clay Park was delayed due to discussions about where to place a dog off leash area. The San Diego Unified School District became very clear that it would not support any dog off leash area on instructional property including the adjacent joint use area. Efforts are now focused on a smaller dog off leash area on City property next to the ballfield, and other improvements including a restroom and new playground are under design currently.
- Chollas Electrical was delayed by an unexpected cost increase that required a City Council action to increase the available funding for the project.

Ms. Laman asked how the slides are organized? Mr. Barbrick stated it was sorted by timeframe in which the grants were issued.

Mr. Becker asked about the overhead charges for the Peñasquitos Creek Park Comfort Station project. Mr. Barbrick responded that the grant funding from the state does not allow overhead charges. The Department's CIP and Grants team moves the Engineering and Capital Projects' staff overhead charges from the grant funding twice a year into other eligible funds within the capital improvement project.

Mr. Smith asked for future grant updates to include federal grants and asked for more analytical information on how many grants have been secured as compared to the number of applications issued. Mr. Barbrick stated that most grants are earmarks from the annual State budget. This program is threatened by the State budget deficit, as the grants could help mitigate this deficit. Oftentimes, projects are more likely to be funded if the grants are for new parks as opposed to updating existing parks.

Mr. Smith then asked if there is a comparison of original project cost estimates to the current project cost estimates. Mr. Barbrick responded that this information is not collected in a spreadsheet and would be difficult to create given the nature of project cost estimates, which continually change even during the construction phase.

204. Torrey Pines Golf Course – Master Plan and Clubhouse Update

John Howard and Tim Graham provided the Board with an update on the request for proposals currently underway for updating the Torrey Pines Golf Course Master Plan and creating a new clubhouse for the golf course.

Public Comment:

None.

Board Comment:

Ms. Laman applauded the focus on electrification of the fleet but expressed concerns with the proposed expansion of the parking lot onto dedication parkland. She also asked about the proximity of public transportation. Director Field noted the 101 bus runs along North Torrey Pines Road with stops at Callan Road, not far from the golf course.

Mr. Smith asked about the driving range. Mr. Howard noted that the master plan will address not only this but also comfort station locations and a small maintenance yard on the South Course. Mr. Smith asked what level of interest has been expressed in the request for proposals. Mr. Howard responded that there has been extensive interest from prospective proposers. Mr. Smith is interested in the funding plan for the clubhouse project.

Mr. Gulley asked about the pro shop concession contract for golf course. Mr. Howard responded that the lease with Torrey Pines Club Corporation was recently renewed and continues until 2032. Percentage rent from this lease goes back to the Golf Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Anastasopoulos asked about the location of the clubhouse and how it could impact play. Mr. Howard responded the goal is not to impact playing areas.

Mr. Otsuji asked about the Coastal Commission involvement and whether they have provided any input. He then asked about whether the winning proposer would be precluded but being on the team for the design-build contract team. Ms. Abella-Shon responded that yes, they generally would not be on both the planning team and the design-build team. This may be a conflict of interest.

Chair Bothwell asked how much the percentage to the City is from the Torrey Pines Club Corporation. Mr. Howard indicated it was 10% of sales and 35% of carts.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 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: March 21, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by,



Andy Field
Director
Parks and Recreation Department