

City of San Diego
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 21, 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 Daniele Laman Dennis Otsuji Evelyn Smith René Smith Allison Soares	Rick Gulley Pita Verdin	Michelle Abella-Shon Ryan Barbrick Kathleen Brand (Virtual) Karen Dennison (Virtual) Sara Erazo (Virtual) Andy Field Ilisa Goldman (Virtual) Rod Greek Juliana Grotzinger Maricris Lumibao Salome Martinez (Virtual) Louis Merlin Steve Palle Elvi Ricafort Brian Schoenfisch Andre Smith Gabriela Verendia

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcella Bothwell at 2:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2024

MOTION/SECONDED:

Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Becker

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

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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 – Ms. Soares reported the outcome of the March 7, 2024, meeting and welcomed Jon Richards as the new Balboa Park Deputy Director. The Committee had a workshop on the Framework for the Future project prioritization and received a presentation by the Downtown Connections team.
- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – Mr. Gulley was absent, so there was no update.
- San Diego Parks Foundation – Chair Bothwell reported a new cohort from the Parks Ambassador program with an aquatics focus is underway currently.

CHAIR COMMENTS:

Chair Bothwell noted the Board members would like to have a park tour and Board meeting at Emerald Hills Park and Encanto Park. She will send out a Google calendar request, perhaps looking to have a tour meeting in August.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Otsuji asked about the status of reforms to community groups such as planning groups, recreation groups, and other advisory bodies. Director Field responded that efforts to amend policies are underway, with planning group recognition currently in front of the City Council.

Ms. Laman noted an art installation pending in the alley at City Heights Recreation Center and an underwater spring egg hunt at City Heights Swimming Pool.

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Mr. Anastasopolous congratulated Chair Bothwell on her mayoral appointment as continuing chair of the Board.

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

Responses to Questions from February Meeting

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

- During the meeting minutes item, Mr. Smith requested the Director’s Report be posted separate from the Minutes prior to each Board meeting. Due to the time taken to prepare the report and that it is not finalized until right when the meeting begins, it is not feasible to provide the report in writing in advance of the meeting.
- Ms. Laman asked the following questions:
 - 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)? This parcel is the future Fairmount Fire Station parcel and is not planned for park dedication.



- What is the status of North Chollas Community Park project L22004? The North Chollas Community Park Improvements project is planned for two phases and is expected to follow the existing General Development Plan (GDP) currently contemplated as follows:
 - Phase 1
 - New fenced sports fields with sports lighting
 - Batting cage/tunnel and cargo storage to the west of the existing ball field
 - New tot lot playground
 - New maintenance/service road and access gate for the new and existing field
 - Improvements to existing pedestrian plaza pavement
 - New accessible pedestrian pathway along the entry road

- Extension of the existing paved road and parking lot along south side of new sports fields with a paved turn around area
- New temporary dog park with new ADA parking stall to be installed at the end of the cul-de-sac at Chollas Station Rd. (with temporary restroom setup)
- New underground infrastructure for future Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) in the parking lots (conduit & stub-out only)
- Phase 2 scope includes:
 - Creek enhancements
 - Pedestrian access
 - Native plantings
 - Grading, demolition, and removal of debris to improve riparian habitat and water quality.
 - Extension of the paved road and parking with a vehicular bridge over the creek to connect the park road to the street via the west end of the park and new pedestrian bridges over the creek.
 - On the west end, new basketball courts, lawn/picnic areas, and a connection to the entry by the future Oak Park library are planned.
 - A new entry with a parking lot, an overlook area with stabilizing retaining walls, and pedestrian access to Juanita Street and the adjacent school at the park's north side.
 - Upgrades to the surrounding trails and landscape, a new open lawn, and a new parking lot on the park's east side.
 - Finalize the dog park feature and provide accessible paths of travel to new improvements and parking lots in phase 2.
- Phase 1 (underway now):
 - Consultant procurement and selection: 12 months
 - Design: 21 Months
 - Bid & Award: 6 months
 - Construction: TBD pending funding
- Phase 2 (once project is initiated):
 - Consultant procurement and selection: 12 months
 - Design: 30 Months
 - Bid & Award: 6 months
 - Construction: TBD pending funding
- Per initial scoping, the total current estimated construction costs are based on current project scope and will be refined as the design progresses. All values are preliminary in nature and are subject to change.
 - Phase 1 = \$12 million
 - Phase 2 = \$11 million

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Changes to the Parks and Recreation Department Unclassified Leadership Team:

Effective on February 3, 2024, the Department announced several promotions in the leadership team:

- John Howard is the new deputy director for Golf Operations
- Tim Graham is the new assistant deputy director for Golf Operations
- Victor Nava is the new deputy director for Citywide Park Maintenance
- Jon Richards is the new deputy director for Balboa Park Division
- Christina Chadwick is the new deputy director for Mission Bay Park and Shoreline Parks Division
- Chief Park Ranger Michael Ruiz is the new deputy director for the newly created Park Ranger Division
- Nicole McNeil is the new assistant deputy director for Community Parks II including aquatics and animal services
- Ryan Barbrick is the new program manager for grants and capital improvements program finance
- Rosa Abrego is the new assistant deputy director for Administrative Services Division overseeing human resources, volunteers, centralized payroll, and safety/training

Scott Bentley retired from his Golf Operations Deputy Director role last year, and in January, Michael Tully promoted to become Assistant Deputy Director in the Department of General Services, which oversees facilities trades staff and vehicle/fleet operations.

Director Field distributed the staff announcement and new Department organization chart last month. Notably, the former Developed Regional Parks Division was divided into three divisions: Balboa Park, Mission Bay Park/Shoreline Parks, and Park Rangers.

DeAnza Master Plan Update:

The De Anza Natural Amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan was approved by the Environment Committee of the City Council on March 14, 2024. It will next be considered by the full City Council, with a date to be determined.

Board Appointments:

On March 18, 2024, Mayor Todd Gloria renominated Marcella Bothwell as Chair of the Board. This will be considered by City Council as a reappointment in the coming month. Director Field thanked Chair Bothwell for her continued service.

Most Board member terms are expired. Staff anticipates board appointment updates in the coming months.

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Chief of Police Recruitment

Today, March 21, 2024, Mayor Todd Gloria appointed Scott Wahl, one of the San Diego Police Department’s assistant chiefs, to the new role of Police Chief. This is subject to City Council ratification. The Department has extensive working experience with Chief Wahl and are excited to work with him in this new capacity. Special thanks and gratitude to our good friend, David Nisleit, who retires as Chief of Police this year.

Citywide Park Development Impact Fees Update:

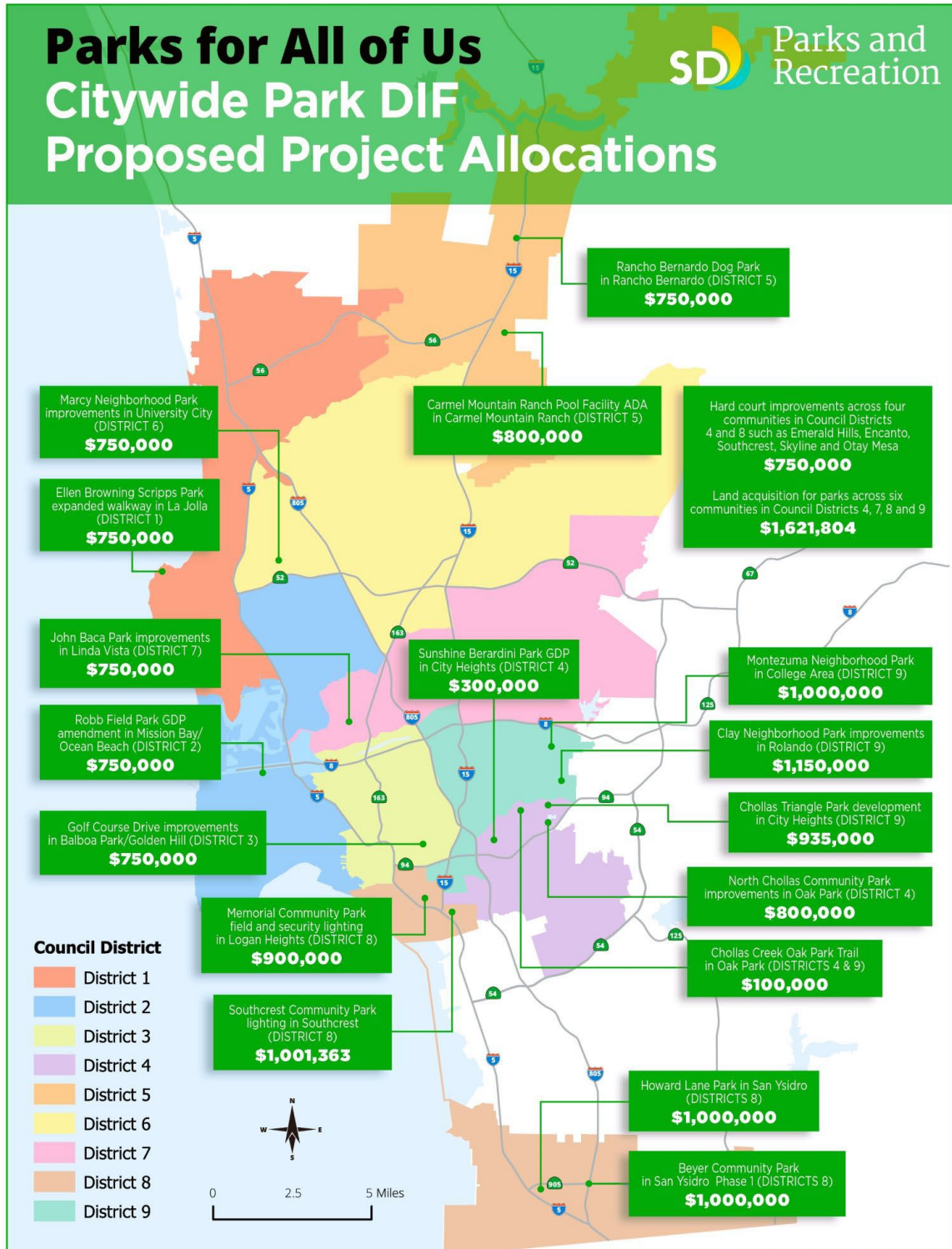
On March 11, 2023, the City Council approved allocations totaling \$15.86 million from Citywide Park Development Impact Fees to the following park projects:

- Beyer Park in San Ysidro – \$1,000,000
- Carmel Mountain Ranch Pool – \$800,000
- Chollas Creek Oak Park Branch Trail in Oak Park – \$100,000
- Chollas Triangle Park in City Heights – \$935,000
- Clay Park improvements in Rolando – \$1,150,000
- Ellen Browning Scripps Park Expanded Walkway in La Jolla – \$750,000
- Golf Course Drive improvements in Balboa Park/Golden Hill – \$750,000
- Hard court improvements in Council Districts 4 and 8 (Emerald Hills, Encanto, Southcrest, Skyline Otay Mesa) – \$750,000
- Howard Lane Park in San Ysidro – \$1,000,000
- John Baca Park in Linda Vista – \$750,000
- Land acquisition for parks in Council Districts 4, 7, 8 and 9 – \$1,621,804
- Marcy Park improvements in University City – \$750,000
- Memorial Park field/security lighting (Logan Heights) – \$900,000
- Montezuma Park in College Area – \$1,000,000
- North Chollas Park improvements in Oak Park – \$800,000
- Rancho Bernardo Dog Park – \$750,000
- Robb Field Park in Mission Bay / Ocean Beach – \$750,000
- Southcrest Park Lighting – \$1,001,363
- Sunshine Berardini Park GDP in City Heights – \$300,000

A press release outlining these allocation is posted at

<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/2024-03-11-parks-for-all-of-us-citywide-parks-dif.pdf>. A map showing the allocations is available at

<https://www.sandiego.gov/insidesd/funding-approved-19-park-projects-across-san-diego>
 and is posted below.



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

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

- 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.

Parks Master Plan Update:

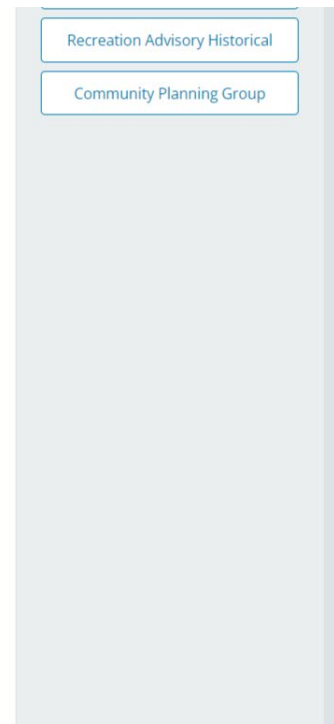
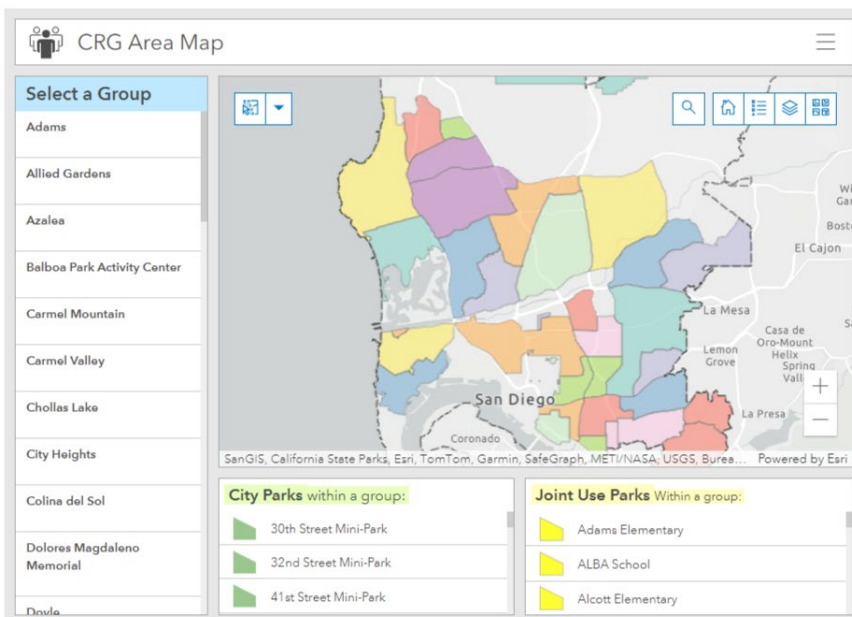
- Blueprint SD/General Plan Refresh:
 - Blueprint SD represents the City’s strategy to grow our City sustainably and equitably as we do our part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while ensuring that the growth provides new homes and good jobs for everyone.
 - In Spring 2023, City staff collected comments on the Discussion Draft of the General Plan, which were considered in the preparation of this updated Draft General Plan Refresh.
 - The updated Draft General Plan Refresh has been posted to www.sandiego.gov/blueprint-sd. Board members can review this latest draft and send new comments via e-mail to blueprintsandiego@sandiego.gov by April 29, 2024.
 - A Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) is available for review at <https://www.sandiego.gov/ceqa/draft>. Comments related to the environmental analysis in the Draft EIR will be accepted for a 45-day comment period ending on April 29, 2024. Please submit comments on the Draft EIR via e-mail to planningceqa@sandiego.gov. This document also covers the University Community Plan Update and the Hillcrest Focused Plan Amendment.

- An explainer on how the public can comment on Programmatic Environmental Impact Reports and draft plans is provided at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/comment-eir-lup>.
- **Equity Forward:** On February 27, 2024, City Planning issued the Environmental Justice Element, which will be a new element added to the Blueprint SD refresh of the City’s General Plan. The draft element is posted at https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/draft_ej_element_2021_02-23.pdf and can be accessed from <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/environmental-justice-element>. This draft includes goals that envision a more equitable future, policies that inform City decision-making, proposed activities that build on existing programs to advance environmental justice, and a description of areas of the City most impacted by environmental burdens and associated health risks – collectively known as Environmental Justice Communities (EJ Communities). Comments and suggestions for consideration by emailing the project team at publicspaces@sandiego.gov or completing the online comment form at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/04eb18fc49f64eb69047ac7fe55fd381>.

Community Recreation Groups and Council Policy 700-42 Reform:

The Community Recreation Group (CRG) boundary map is now posted on the CRG webpage (<https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation/general-info/boards/crg>). For those accessing from a mobile device, staff recommends viewing it horizontally. As Board members review the map, please provide feedback to correct any errors or omissions.

Click [here](#) for a full-extent Map. For mobile access, please rotate your device horizontally for a better view. Alternatively, a mobile-compatible map is available [here](#).



Preparations for an update to Council Policy 700-42 for Community Recreation Groups is still under development. (As with many matters, it was delayed by the January storms.) As noted at the February meeting, public input on the draft policy would include a workshop here at the Parks and Recreation Board and at the Area Committees, with the possibility of an ad-hoc committee for additional review and comment as needed.

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 Update:

- As noted at the February meeting, the Department of Finance implemented a funds block for the current Fiscal Year 2024. This block prevents expenditure of certain elements of the non-personnel expense budget including contracts, equipment, repairs, and supplies.
- In addition, non-essential hiring is also suspended. The Department will focus hiring efforts going forward on seasonal needs for pool guards, recreation aides/leaders, and other key service positions. All hiring must be approved by the Chief Operating Officer via the request to fill process.
- For Fiscal Year 2025, all City departments were asked to provide two percent reduction targets, and it is likely that few addition requests for the proposed budget would be approved. These reductions would likely impact service levels for recreation center and swimming pool operations. Mayor Gloria will issue the proposed budget on or before April 15, 2024. Director Field will present the proposed budget to the Board at the April 18, 2024, meeting.

City Council Workplan:

On March 11, 2024, under Item 200, the City Council adopted its work plan for the year. The plan contains the following goals for 2024:

- Support impacted individuals and communities in recovering from the January 22 flood disaster
- Implement a responsible and equitably impactful City Budget and strengthen City finances
- Improve infrastructure and mobility
- Expand economic opportunity and intergovernmental collaboration
- Advance environmental justice, resilience, and sustainability
- Create more homes, prevent, and reduce homelessness and displacement, and improve affordability
- Improve safety in all neighborhoods
- Deliver world-class services powered by world-class jobs

- Strengthen governance, increase public access, and advance impactful ballot measures

This includes several park initiatives, including childcare, park equity, code enforcement, Climate Action Plan implementation, natural resource management, World Design Capital 2024, and Parks Master Plan implementation. Much of this is under the purview of the Community and Neighborhood Services Committee, led by Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell.

Sidewalk Vending Ordinance (SVO):

On February 27, 2024, the City Council passed Ordinance O-21775 to amend the SVO to address expressive activity, sidewalk vending impoundment, and make technical changes to align SVO with State law and other sections of San Diego Municipal Code. Expressive activity is defined as follows:

“Pure speech” protected by the First Amendment includes:

- Speaking on a street corner or in a park about a political, ideological, or religious topic
- Distributing brochures
- Art sales and art creation, including paintings, caricatures, balloon animals, sculpture, and other visual arts sold by the artist
- Street performances/busking
- Face painting or henna tattoos
- Distribution or sale of books, music, paintings, photographs, sculpture or CDs or recordings created by the person selling the items

Examples of activities that are not considered “pure speech” include:

- Sales of handcrafts like jewelry and pottery
- Sales of personal care products, including makeup, lotion, perfume, incense, and incense burners
- Sales of mass-produced items, including clothing and hats
- Food sales
- Teaching exercise, yoga, or dog training classes
- Hair braiding, massage, application of skin care, makeup, or other products

The SVO amendments include general time, place, and manner rules that would apply to anyone engaged in protected First Amendment speech on City property, including a space limit similar to the 24 square foot limit applicable to sidewalk vendors, a prohibition from using or attaching equipment to City property, including City utilities, and display and setup provisions to ensure sidewalks and walkways are passable and safe for all people to use.

The sound level limit between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. is 65 decibels, and the sound level limit between 7:01 p.m. and 6:59 a.m. is 55 decibels.

Staff is currently working to designate expressive activity areas in parks, plazas, and high-traffic areas that are available on a first-come, first-served basis, to persons who desire to

use equipment, including a table, easel, stand, chair, umbrella, sunshade, or other furniture as part of their expressive activity. Such high-traffic parks include most shoreline and beach areas as well as Balboa Park. These locations are being developed and vetted currently.

Anyone who is not engaged in protected speech activities but is selling items on public property is a sidewalk vendor and thus must comply with the SVO. Park Ranger Chief Michael Ruiz is the lead point of contact on this matter for City Parks.

Luxury Picnics:

Earlier this month, the San Diego Union-Tribune wrote an article about permitting beach services and concerns by vendors that the on-sand restrictions are too tight. The reason for the restriction on the beach sand is because of public safety concerns and the ability of Lifeguards to provide emergency services around the picnic sites, which take up significant areas of the beach. A new section for luxury picnics has been added to the Department's permits page at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/permits>:

Luxury Picnic [Permitting Guidelines](#):

- A [park use permit](#) is required regardless of event size
- All permittees must follow all Parks and Recreation Department [rules and regulations](#)
- Provide a copy of Certificate of Liability with the endorsement page ([example](#)) with the City of San Diego named as an additional insured party
- Parks and Recreation Department [fees](#) will apply
- Two (2) hour minimum/four (4) hours maximum
- One (1) permitted picnic per day/per location
- Not allowed on City beaches (sand)
- No glass
- No alcohol
- Must not impede emergency access points

[Fees](#):

- Ground use fees will apply for all events 50 and over
- Special Equipment Fee: \$24.85/per day/per equipment
- Opportunity Fund Fee:
 - (Under 50)
 - Commercial: \$5.18/per hour
 - Non-Profit/Non-Commercial: \$1.04/per hour
 - (50 or more)
 - Commercial: \$15.53/per hour
 - Non-Profit/Non-Commercial: 10:36/per hour

Locations: Park capacity in:

- Mission Bay Park: ([Map](#))
 - Fanuel Park (50)
 - Sunset Point (150)
 - Ventura Cove (200)
 - Playa I (300)
 - Vacation Isle West (200)
- Shoreline Parks: ([Maps](#))
 - Ellen Browning South (80)
 - Saratoga Park (75)
 - Sunset Cliff-South Cuvier (10)
 - South Palisades (Will require a [Reservation of Space](#) and CEQA/NORA process)
- Balboa Park: ([Maps](#))
 - Botanical Lawn East (100) Not available until Summer 2024
 - Botanical Lawn West (100) Not available until Summer 2024
 - The Arbor (75)

If you have any questions, please contact the Permit Center at PRPermitCenter@sandiego.gov or 619-235-1169. A park-use permit will be required for all picnics regardless of the size. All picnics prohibited from setting up on City beaches (no sand).

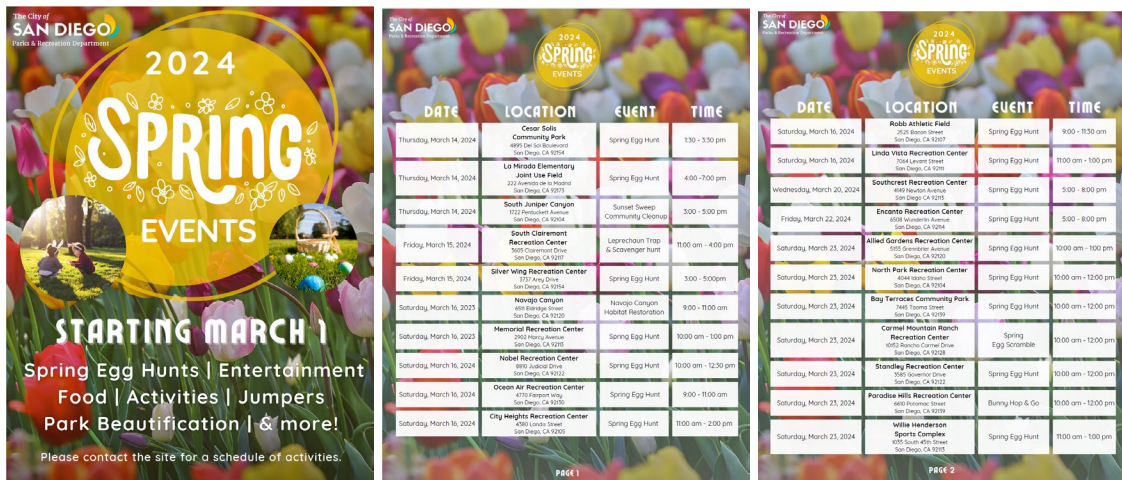
Lighting Repairs Update:

- Balboa Park West Security Lighting: The lighting system failed last month due to removal/theft of conduit components. The conduit components have been partially replaced to restore most lighting on the West Mesa. Additional repair work by Transportation Department electrician crews continues.
- Sports Field Lighting: Two sports field lighting systems, at Canyonside Park in Rancho Peñasquitos and at Torrey Hills Park in Torrey Hills, have failed. Both need extensive repairs and are beyond the ability of the Transportation Department's electrician staff to fix. The Department is triaging both systems to determine how much it will cost to fix them. Since the Department is under a funds block, staff will need to make a special request to access funds to repair these lighting systems.
- If Board members observe light failures, please route those through Get It Done, and if substantial areas of a park are unlit, please forward the Get It Done report number(s) to Director Field. Deputy Director Victor Nava is the Department's lead on all lighting issues and coordinating those repair needs with the Transportation Department for outdoor pole lighting and Department of General Service for indoor/outdoor building lighting.

City Webpage Updates:

The Department is pleased to announce the addition of a new “Event Calendar” on the Department’s main web page. This calendar will continue to be updated all year long with the great events and activities happening at City parks, pools, and recreation centers. It is live and active now with all the spring events and can be found by visiting the City’s website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation> and clicking the “Event Calendar” button, which links to <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/event-calendar>.

The Department webpage also features a “Spring Events List” button (at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/2024-spring-events-3-6-2024.pdf>) that is linked to a printable version of all the 2024 spring events. Hopefully Board members can come to one or more Spring Egg Hunts to celebrate the arrival of spring.



As noted in the February meeting, the Department has improved access to park design and project information at this link: <https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation/design-development>. Some recently conducted workshops include:

- Carmel Valley Pickleball Community Meeting – March 12, 2024
- Kelly Street Park Community Meeting – March 12, 2024
- Dennis V. Allen Park Community Meeting – pending/check site for updates

Grand Openings/Ground Breakings:

San Diego State University held a small celebration for the opening of the western half of the SDSU Mission Valley River Park on March 6, 2024. The eastern half remains under construction and is planned for a larger grand opening ceremony later this year.

Awards:

The Downtown San Diego Partnership celebrated the renovation and upgrade of Children’s Park with a Cultural Vitality Award at its March 7, 2024, Create the Future Awards. Director Field and Deputy Director Steve Palle attended along with Civic San Diego to accept the

award. Other awardees included Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Director Sarah Jarman, who was recognized as Government Partner of the Year for her efforts in creating Safe Sleeping Sites, shelters, pathways to housing, and Unsafe Camping Ordinance, all of which has impacted people experiencing homelessness in the park system.



The California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) celebrated the City's Park System with two Awards of Excellence at its recent statewide conference:

- San Diego Parks Foundation (SDPF) Community Champion Award – Five years ago in 2018, SDPF formed to help support City parks. Key work elements include:
 - San Diego Access 4 All Digital Equity Initiative – introduction of wi-fi at recreation centers and swimming pools
 - Summer for All of Us: Come Play Outside and Parks After Dark – these programs were established in partnership with the Foundation, City and County of San Diego, and Price Philanthropies in 2021. This continuous program offers free or heavily discounted programs and events at more than 20 recreation centers and aquatic centers across San Diego's most vulnerable neighborhoods. Programs include swim lessons, junior lifeguard training, nature camps, teen nite events, STEAM classes and camps, movie in the park events, I Love My Park Day event, deep sea fishing trips, and the newest program Parks After Dark. Participation for these programs and events has tripled from 17,000 participants in 2021 to 52,000 in 2023 which also included

providing thousands of children free meals, in partnership with Feeding San Diego, to lessen the impacts of hunger.

- Back to Work SD – Parks Ambassador LEADER Academy Program – the Parks Ambassador LEADER Academy, an acronym for “Leadership, Education, and Development for Employment in Recreation,” provides paid internship opportunities, with a focus on underserved youth, through a 12-week course where attendees learn about various aspects of Parks and Recreation job opportunities including: recreation programs, leagues, special events, Age Well and Therapeutic Services, park rangers, regional parks, natural resources management, City governance, food handling protocols, CPR, First Aid, and AED training. Through this new partnership with the Foundation, this program has expanded its curriculum and its reach into underserved communities.
- Champion Sustainability – Urban Forest and Greening Programs – to support the City’s Urban Tree Planting Program, the Foundation has planted over 300 trees in community and regional parks. They also have served as a vocal advocate and funder for three community and program gardens, which are the first of its kind in the Department.
- Adopt a Park – SDPF has worked to enhance parks in underserved communities that historically have had little to no funding. The Foundation’s first park under this program is Linda Vista Community Park. Some key initiatives in Linda Vista include a complete field renovation, infield laser leveling, 26 new trees, basketball and tennis court resurfacing, and a new community garden that is currently under construction. Future projects they are still working on include replacement of the playground, park security lights, and field lights.
- Water Safety Continuum Creating Community Award – This program is designed to reduce drowning in historically disadvantaged communities. Elements include:
 - Learn to Swim program offers basic water safety skills at low or no cost to the participant.
 - Schools to Pools program is conducted in partnership with the San Diego Unified School District to provide water competency education for students during school hours.
 - Bridge to Pool event is a one-hour session of water safety education in the classroom, with resources sent home with each student to elevate the importance of water safety in every household and introduce students to their community pools.
 - Bridge to the Beach program is offered to participants who have completed eight sessions of swimming lessons to access the beach and learn basics of surfing, kayaking, and paddleboarding.

- San Diego Junior Lifeguards program is offered during the summer for youth to learn and participate in the roles of beach lifeguards.

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 and Price Philanthropies. The team presented an update to Community and Neighborhood Services Committee earlier today (March 21, 2024) outlining successes from last summer’s Come Play Outside program.
- **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:

- Semi-Annual Regional Park Improvements Fund Projects Update – April
- Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget – April
- AgeWell and Therapeutic Recreation Services Update – April or May
- Animal Services Update – April or May
- World Design Capital Update – April or May
- Recreation Center Fund Budget, Opportunity Fund Budget, and Annual Recreation Equity Report – May
- Open Space and Canyonlands Update – TBD
- Mid-City Communities Plan Update – TBD
- Capital Project Cost Estimating Methodology – TBD

Other Topics for Discussion:

Ms. Laman asked if City Planning Department is considering storm water projects and their impacts on Chollas Creek in the context of the regional park proposal.

Mr. Smith commented on the importance of the City Council work plan. He asked about the governance and funding of developed regional parks.

Peter Comiskey from the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership noted the importance of the upcoming budget conversation including needs for safety and security in the park system.

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

101. Robb Field Community Park General Development Plan (GDP) Amendment

Associate Civil Engineer/Project Manager Juliana Grotzinger from the Engineering and Capital Projects Department, Jeff Justus from Schmidt Design Group, and Klaudia Gemballa from AVRPA Architect presented the proposed general development plan amendment for Robb Field, located in Mission Bay Park adjacent to the Ocean Beach community.

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

Public Comment:

Carole Farr from Peninsula Tennis Club (PTC) Board talked about being at the Parks and Recreation Board meeting 9 months ago when the proposed pickle ball at the Barnes Center were initially presented. She shared to the Board that all 19 pickle ball courts are getting lots of users and the club just went through resurfacing and lighting updates that were paid for from generous donations from club members, grants from Greater San Diego Tennis Council, San Diego District Associations, the United States Tennis Association (USTA), and from the Peninsula Tennis Club's reserve funds. She also shared to the Board that the PTC supports the current GDP amendment and hope that support from Robb Field community during the planning will incentivize the Parks and Recreation staff and other organizations to commit funding to this plan.

Board Comment:

Ms. Laman asked about the natural turf and synthetic turf distinction in the back nine and the ballfields.

Ms. Gross asked about the pinwheel design and how crowds could be controlled in the center area including a buffer area to allow for people to have chairs or walk through the area. She asked about the layout of the restrooms. She asked about the Ocean Beach Gateway link to Robb Field. Mr. Justus indicated the area would be 40 feet wide with a 12-foot-wide vehicular path. All restrooms are gender neutral with outdoor sinks. Ms. Grotzinger indicated that the Ocean Beach Gateway is a separate project that is currently at 60% design.

Chair Bothwell asked about the cost of the synthetic turf and the break-even point for the difference between natural and synthetic turf maintenance. The cost of the installation of synthetic turf is estimated at around \$7 million currently. Mr. Justus did not have maintenance cost figures to calculate a break-even point, but he noted that the maintenance regimen is different, including the types of infill. A synthetic turf field can be continuously played with no rest periods and has a life cycle of around eight to ten years.

Mr. Smith asked about drainage for the skinned infields. Mr. Justus provided some examples of how to improve infields. Mr. Smith appreciates the community engagement for the project and is in support of prefabricated restrooms and structures when possible. He asked about the phasing process. Ms. Grotzinger worked with public input to help define priorities. She noted fund availability will determine how phasing will be developed. Mr. Smith then asked about the timing of such a large project that could exceed \$70 million in cost. Ms. Grotzinger noted that playgrounds, restrooms, parking lots, and related improvements are likely to be in the first phase, and other elements may occur in later phases.

Mr. Otsuji asked whether the City is moving away from prefabricated restrooms, asked for design that addresses maintenance needs for the park, asked for pedestrian-automobile conflicts to be addressed, asked for storm water to be considered as part of the design effort, and asked if California Coastal Commission needs to review the General Development Plan. Ms. Grotzinger stated that the workshop yielded design options including those related to security concerns that could allow for custom-designed restrooms or prefabricated restrooms for the park. She noted that California Coastal Commission approval is required. Mr. Justus provided an overview of storm water and drainage concepts for Robb Field.

Mr. Becker asked about inflationary pressures on park projects and the 18% factor assumed for construction costs. Ms. Grotzinger stated that the inflationary factor is built into the presumption of the construction costs being higher in summer 2026, when construction is currently anticipated to occur. Mr. Becker asked if the community garden has a manager? Ms. Grotzinger noted there is a liaison who has attended the meetings and brought forward their vision to the meeting. Ms. Abella-Shon noted there would likely be a request for proposals to identify a nonprofit operator for the community garden. Mr. Becker asked about the paddle court and asked if it could coexist with neighboring sports.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

201. Balboa Park Botanical Building and Gardens Phase 2 Project Update

Jacqueline Higgins, Vice President of Planning from Forever Balboa Park, and Leigh Kyle, Principal from Spurlock Landscape Architects, presented plans for the gardens surrounding the Botanical Building in Balboa Park.

Public Comments:

No public comments were received on this item.

Board Comments:

Mr. Otsuji noted the importance of water use and management in the botanical gardens. He would like to see trees kept where possible. He asked whether the pond and decorative fountains are part of the restoration effort. Ms. Higgins noted the pond was restored recently and indicated duck deterrent measures are planned for the lily pond, since the ducks eat the lilies. Both decorative fountains will be restored as part of this project.

Mr. Becker asked about the irrigation system and whether it will be replaced as part of the project. Ms. Kyle noted the irrigation system will be replaced.

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Mr. Smith asked if the design drawings can be routed to the Balboa Park Committee of 100 for review. He noted efforts to create a historic landscape district for Balboa Park have not come to fruition yet but asked those involved in that effort to review the design as well.

202. Balboa Park San Diego High School/Downtown San Diego Connections Update: Report from the Working Group

Director Field provided a brief outline of efforts that led to this working group, including voter passage of an initiative to authorize a continued lease for San Diego High School on Balboa Park land as well as connections from the high school to Balboa Park and downtown. He introduced Brian Schoenfisch, Deputy Director for the Urban Division from the Development Services Department. Mr. Schoenfisch is involved in the planning of Downtown. Michael Stepner, chair of the Balboa Park, San Diego High School, and Downtown San Diego Connections Working Group, presented an update on the working group's findings and evaluation of ways to link Balboa Park with Downtown San Diego via San Diego High School and City College.

Public Comment:

No public comment was received on this item.

Board Comment:

Ms. Soares noted this was presented at the last Balboa Park Committee meeting.

Mr. Smith described the process used to date to create the presentation and story maps. He asked that everyone consider how Balboa Park can benefit and strengthen the communities of San Diego.

Ms. Laman suggested adding the international cottages and Centro Cultural de la Raza as cultural connections along Park Boulevard.

Ms. Gross asked if the Youth Commission and the students at San Diego High School could be considered as a stakeholder groups to suggest how to improve linkages to Balboa Park. Ms. Gross asked about naming of nearby streets. Mr. Stepner noted that John Nolen Parkway was not signed along Park Boulevard and would like to see the roadway given an honorary designation. Ms. Gross suggested that additional input on roadway naming should be considered with an eye toward diversity and inclusion via the community input process since many place names have historically honored older, white men. San Diego has become a much more diverse City.

Mr. Otsuji commended Mr. Schoenfisch for his good works and efforts to improve transparency. Mr. Otsuji reminded the Board that the Balboa Park Master Plan remains in effect and has numerous elements that have not been completed that should remain priorities. He noted that he served for 12 years on the design review committee before it ended.

203. Experience Plan for the Balboa Park Cultural District

Steven Snyder, Chair of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership and Executive Director of the Fleet Science Center, presented the experience plan for the Balboa Park Cultural District.

Public Comment:

No public comment was received on this item.

Board Comment:

Ms. Soares noted this was presented at the last Balboa Park Committee meeting.

Mr. Otsuji suggested funding is needed to move Balboa Park forward.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 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: April 18, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Andy Field
Director
Parks and Recreation Department