

City of San Diego
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 18, 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 Marcella Bothwell Shaina Gross Rick Gulley Daniele Laman René Smith Allison Soares	Jon Becker Dennis Otsuji Evelyn Smith Pita Verdin	Michelle Abella-Shon Martha Acosta Ryan Barbrick Kathleen Brand (Virtual) Benny Cartwright (Virtual) Ling Chan Charlie Daniels (Virtual) Karen Dennison (Virtual) Gina Dulay (Virtual) Sara Erazo (Virtual) Andy Field Jonathon Glus Christina Johnston (Virtual) Christine Jones Michele Kelley Jess Luke (Virtual) Maricris Lumibao Salome Martinez (Virtual) Mayra Medel (Virtual) Louis Merlin Mike Nguyen

		Elvi Ricafort Tara Ryan (Virtual) Gabriela Verendia Ashley Zinn (Virtual)
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CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcella Bothwell at 2:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2024

MOTION/SECONDED:

Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Becker

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

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Oliver Iskard requested help with promoting Olympic handball in San Diego and finding gymnasium space.

Ms. Sally Smull noted that the proposed budget contains reduction of equity funds and hope those funds can be restored through the budget process. Ms. Smull also noted there remains infrastructure deficiencies in Council Districts 3, 4, and 8.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Community Parks I Area Committee – Mr. Otsuji was absent.
- Community Parks II Area Committee – Mr. Smith reported there was a combined meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. Issues that emerged during the meeting included establishing a cadence and schedule for quarterly area committee meetings, asking Community Recreation Group (CRG) leaders to attend the area committee meetings, asking Board members to attend, and identifying a chairperson. Topics discussed included recreation center funds, recreation equity, and webpage updates.
- Balboa Park Committee – Ms. Soares reported that the committee met on April 11, 2024. Quorum issues remain a concern, so the meeting time will change.
- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – Mr. Gulley reported that on March 23, 2024, there was a Founders Celebration that honored Dorothy Leonard, Dick Murphy, and Michael Pent.

- San Diego Parks Foundation – Chair Bothwell noted that work continues on preparing for Come Play Outside and Parks After Dark.

CHAIR COMMENTS:

No report from the Chair Bothwell.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Smith noted that last month he commented on use of prefabricated public restrooms and recommends the Board to consider a new restroom layout standard. He noted that the Kim Duclo library archiving efforts continue with support from Parks staff.

Ms. Laman noted a Supreme Court case regarding infrastructure financing. A case between Livable San Diego v. City of San Diego is underway and could impact the Citywide Park Development Impact Fees program. Ms. Laman is very pleased with the Community Recreation Group (CRG) webpage and is glad that it is on the City's webpage. On April 27, 2024, there will be an Earth Fest at Dennis V. Allen Park.

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

Responses to Questions from March Meeting: None.

Board Appointments:

Most Board member terms are expired. Interviews are pending for several new applicants to the Board. Staff anticipates board appointment updates in the coming months.

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.
- Under Item 202, staff presented the Fiscal Year 2025 proposed budget, which was released on April 12, 2024. All City departments were asked to provide two percent reduction targets, and if approved, these reductions could impact service levels for recreation services, maintenance, and swimming pool.

Childcare Updates:

Measure H Implementation (licensed childcare):

- Current prioritized locations for licensed childcare:
 - Southcrest – use inactive Teen Center.
 - Memorial – use prefabricated modular building on park space.
 - Mountain View – use prefabricated modular building on park space.

- Encanto – use prefabricated modular building on vacant lot on south side of Wunderlin Street across from recreation center.
 - Linda Vista – use prefabricated modular building on park space.
- The Office of Child and Youth Success (OCYS) is seeking funding to upgrade facilities or purchase and install modular buildings.

STEM Pre-Kinder Programs (license-exempt)

- Parks and Recreation Department plans to issue Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) to solicit community providers to operate programs under the Citywide Recreation Services Division.
- Programs would operate in a shared space arrangement in recreation centers.
- OCYS is seeking funding to be able to provide programs at identified sites that are free/low cost to families (priority locations same as above for Measure H).

Outdoor Nature Recreation Programs for Pre-Kinder Children

- City Attorney's Office recommends a Right of Entry Permit for programs to operate.
- OCYS will work with Parks and Recreation Department to develop permit and outreach to community operators.

General Information

- OCYS will request to present to Community Recreation Groups at above prioritized sites in the few months to share general information and get feedback about childcare needs in their communities as well as preliminary planning considerations for programs.

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 Chollas Creek among community members.

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

- Public Workshops and Pop-Up Events – recently completed workshops at San Diego Lunar New Year Festival in City Heights, the 14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration in Encanto, and a youth workshop at Hoover High School. Two youth-oriented workshops at the Earth Lab are hosted on April 13 and April 27, 2024. Additional workshops are planned for May.
- Existing Conditions Report – the existing conditions report is scheduled for issuance later this month in April 2024. It 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.

Coastal Resilience Master Plan Pop Up Events

The City Planning Department is developing a Coastal Resilience Master Plan to mitigate risk from sea level rise, protect and enhance habitat and support access to the coast and recreational opportunities. The plan includes development of nature-based, design solutions for six locations along the coast. Nature-based solutions are projects or approaches that mimic or are designed after natural ecosystems and processes. These projects provide social, economic, and environmental benefits to communities. Community feedback on the preliminary designs for each of these locations will be gathered at the following pop-up events:

- April 13 – Tourmaline Beach from 9 a.m. – 12 noon.
- April 20 – EarthFest from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- April 22 – Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- April 25 – Tourmaline Beach from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- April 27 – Sunset Cliffs at Ladera Boulevard from 9 a.m. – 12 noon.
- May 11 – La Jolla Shores Park from 9 a.m. – 12 noon.
- May 25 – Belmont Park at Mission Beach from 9 a.m. – 12 noon.

Community Recreation Groups and Council Policy 700-42 Reform:

Preparations for an update to Council Policy 700-42 for Community Recreation Groups is still under development. 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.

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 on May 14, 2024.

Ocean Beach Pier Redesign

Following more than a year of community engagement and public input, the City has revealed the preferred design concept for a potential Ocean Beach Pier replacement. The concept, unveiled at a community workshop held over the weekend, captures the features that San Diegans expressed they would like to see in a new pier. While incorporating iconic elements of the existing 57-year-old Ocean Beach Pier, the preferred design concept includes aesthetic elements that offer something modern and new for future generations to enjoy. The concept showcases a pier approximately 2,000 feet long with an average deck width of 22 feet and a shape like the existing pier, with curving arms on the western end. A conceptual layout of the proposed pier is shown below. A funding strategy for construction is to be determined.





Parks Master Plan Update:

- Staff is preparing a formal update on the status of implementing all recommendations embedded in the Parks Master Plan. This update should be ready later this year.
- Blueprint SD/General Plan Refresh:
 - Blueprint SD represents the City's strategy to grow the 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 blueprintsdsd@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>. The draft Environmental Justice Element will be presented to the Planning Commission on April 24, 2024.

Recreation Programs:

- **Come Play Outside and Parks After Dark:** Planning continues underway for this summer's recreation programs in consultation with the San Diego Parks Foundation and Price Philanthropies.
- **Needs Assessment:** The Department is reviewing proposals received for the needs assessment.

Street Vendor Ordinance Expressive Activity Zones

The Street Vendor Ordinance recently approved by the City Council requires the Department to provide locations along the coast for expressive activity on parkland. There are several sites slated for Balboa Park as well as coastal parks in Ocean Beach, Mission Bay, Pacific Beach, and La Jolla. The zones are 4 feet by 8 feet with pavers in turf, which will not impact irrigation or concrete. Installation is nearing completion, with just a small handful of locations left. Staff will forward maps once they are ready to share with the Board.

Upcoming P&R Board Agenda Items:

- Recreation Center Fund Budget, Opportunity Fund Budget, and Annual Recreation Equity Report – May
- AgeWell and Therapeutic Recreation Services Update – May or June
- Animal Services Update – May or June
- Semi-Annual Regional Park Improvements Fund Projects Update – June
- Parks Master Plan Update – July or September

- Open Space and Canyonlands Update – TBD
- Mid-City Communities Plan Update – TBD
- Capital Project Cost Estimating Methodology – TBD

Other Topics for Discussion:

Ms. Gross asked about the existing café on Ocean Beach Pier and whether that operator would be going to the new pier. Director Field stated that the new café would likely go out to a competitive request for proposals.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

101. Kelly Street Neighborhood Park General Development Plan (GDP) Amendment

Park Designer Ling Chan from the Engineering and Capital Projects Department and Landscape Architect Leigh Kyle from Spurlock presented the proposed general development plan for Kelly Street Neighborhood Street Park.

Mr. Anastasopoulos moved to approve item 101 and was seconded by Mr. Gulley. The motion was approved 7-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, René Smith, and Allison Soares. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Jon Becker, Dennis Otsuji, Evelyn Smith, and Pita Verdin.

Public Comments:

No public comments were received on this item.

Board Comments:

Mr. Anastasopoulos asked about parking and lighting, including whether the lighting would be solar. He also asked about playground surfacing. Ms. Kyle indicated there would be traditional wired security lights and rubberized play surfacing.

Ms. Laman asked if on street parking will change adjacent to the park, including whether a disabled parking space would be added on the street. Ms. Chan indicated at least one on-street disabled space would be added. She also asked if any trees would be removed as part of the proposed conceptual design of the park. Ms. Kyle stated that some trees in the perimeter may be removed to accommodate the design, but they will be replaced in kind.

Mr. Smith asked for the shelf life of a general development plan. Ms. Kyle responded it can be in use for decades. For Kelly Street Park, she is hopeful the general development plan will guide development at this park for years to come.

Chair Bothwell asked about the trail system linking the canyon and the park. Ms. Chan stated that the trail linkage would be in the northwest corner of the park, and it will serve as the point of access for maintenance in Tecolote Canyon. A gate could be added at the trailhead location to limit vehicular access.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

201. World Design Capital San Diego Tijuana 2024

Executive Director Jonathon Glus from the Arts and Culture Department and Joanna Salazar Harris, Chief Operating Officer, World Design Capital San Diego Tijuana 2024, provided the Board with an update on planned activities and events related to World Design Capital San Diego Tijuana 2024.

Public Comments:

No public comments were received on this item.

Board Comments:

Ms. Laman asked how permits will be obtained for summertime use of Balboa Park given the event moratorium. Mr. Glus responded that this is a shared event sponsored by the City with a master right of entry permit including construction, maintenance, and programming. Outreach has been conducted with the cultural organizations within Balboa Park.

Mr. Smith asked when the pavilion will be placed in Balboa Park. Ms. Salazar Harris stated it would be installed in mid to late July and will remain through November.

Ms. Gross asked what activities happened in the first quarter of 2024 under the World Design Capital. Ms. Salazar Harris noted there have been almost daily activations. For example, this evening a talk is planned at the New School of Architecture. A calendar is posted on the World Design Capital webpage. Ms. Gross asked what a successful World Design Capital 2024 would look like. Ms. Salazar Harris noted that feedback is received routinely on various events, and a consultant will prepare an economic impact study to identify economic impact for both cities. After the year-long event is over, it is likely that the World Design Capital legacy will remain, with possible nonprofit foundation opportunities and continued endeavors related to design.

Ms. Soares is surprised we have not heard more about World Design Capital. Once the pavilion is built in San Diego, there should be more awareness. Mr. Glus agreed and noted that this will be especially true in July through November.

202. Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Operating Budget

Fiscal Operations Manager Michele Kelley presented an overview of proposed changes to the Fiscal Year 2025 budget for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Public Comment:

No public comment was received on this item.

Board Comment:

Ms. Laman asked about the San Diego River park rangers. Ms. Kelley indicated that the rangers serve the entire San Diego River Park including the riverbed area adjacent to the San Diego State University Mission Valley San Diego River Park. SDSU maintains the river park.

Ms. Laman asked about the restructuring and how it impacts the net full time equivalent positions.

Mr. Smith asked about Community Parks II reduction of 18 FTEs and noted Community Parks I not taking a reduction. Ms. Kelley provided an overview of the reductions taken, which include the animal services building, pool reductions, and after school program. Mr. Smith asked about the Environmental Growth Fund. Ms. Kelley outlined that the amount available in the account depends on San Diego Gas and Electric franchise fee revenue collection. Mr. Smith noted the transient occupancy tax revenue. He also noted the golf course budget now includes a consultant for a new business plan. Mr. Smith asked the Board members whether there is interest in preparing a response to the City about park needs in the budget.

Director Field noted that many services will be impacted by this budget proposal, including recreation center wireless internet (wi-fi), after school programs, maintenance, repairs to swimming pools and security/sports lights, and security services will all be impacted by the loss of funding as part of budget reductions.

203. Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Capital Improvements Program Budget

Capital Projects and Grants Manager Ryan Barbrick presented an overview of proposed changes to the Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvements program budget for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Public Comment:

No public comment was received on this item.

Board Comment:

Mr. Smith noted the General Fund can contribute to capital projects, but there are no General Fund allocations to capital projects unless that changes during the budget hearing process. Mr. Smith would like a presentation from City Engineer Rania Amen to discuss capital project process and needs.

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: May 16, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Field", is written over a horizontal line.

Andy Field
Director
Parks and Recreation Department