

**PUBLIC NOTICE AND AGENDA
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RANCHO BERNARDO COMMUNITY RECREATION GROUP**

Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

7:00pm

**Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center
18448 West Bernardo Drive San Diego CA, 92127**

CALL TO ORDER-: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Robin Kaufman. Members in attendance: Robin Kaufman, Katie Newbanks, Tiffany Coles, Mary Castin, Jared Norton, Andy Kutzner, Dani Antique. A quorum was met. Staff: Mark Moncey (Acting District Manager), Juliette Suleiman (OCA Area Manager, Oscar Gideon (OCA Area Manager) Tonya Thomas (Center Director).

President Robin Kaufman made a motion to move Information Item #201, Pickleball Presentation, to the top of the agenda. Motion was seconded by Dani Antique. Motion passed unanimously. Those giving the presentation were reminded of the 15-minute limitation as previously informed. See details of presentation under Information Item #201.

Prior to the presentation, President Robin Kaufman shared a brief background of the process. Comments are attached.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion made Dani Antique/Robin Kaufman to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT – A question was raised on book nook expenditures, line item #511014 in Period 12, FY 2024. Concerns were voiced on spending \$516 on books. This is much more compared to other centers. Community Recreation Group member Tiffany Coles asked if the center would instead accept donations of books in good shape. Center Director Tonya Thomas commented that the kids go through the books quickly, hence the financial purchase. Yes, she would accept donations of books.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATIONS: Two residents commented they appreciated our volunteerism. One inquired about the conditions of the swing sets and slides that have been in non-working condition for a long time.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – See attached report.

CITY STAFF REPORT –

Acting District Manager: Mark Moncey reported parts of the playground area is still unable to be utilized. Staff has put in tickets and obtained quotes for repairs. Unfortunately, general funds are low

due to the flooding back in January/February in the south part of the City. He also reported that center vacancies are being filled, but there are a number of vacancies throughout the department. Mark is temporarily the Acting District Manager.

Mark mentioned there were vehicles on the fields.

Mark Moncey also gave an update on the off leash dog park – the project is at \$515 million as this includes ADA upgrades and other aspects throughout the park leading to the off leash dog park area.

OCA Area Manager: Juliette Suleiman. Community Recreation Group member Andy Kutzner commented on water issues on fields 3 and 7. Juliette Suleiman commented staff is meeting with Aztec tomorrow. Andy Kutzner also commented that the field lights are being turned off prior to the end of the games. Center Director Tonya Thomas commented that they're only paid for a certain length of time. They go off when the time is up.

Recreation Center Director: Tonya Thomas reported candy will be given out on Halloween to all those who come to the center, but we'll not have an event this year. Funds for the event will be added to the funds for the snow days in the park event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – See attached report

Community Council – See attached report

Planning Board – See attached report

Ed Brown Senior Center – No report supplied

Rancho Bernardo Tennis Club- The club presently has 180 members with 98 on their waiting list

Dog Park Issues – See attached report

Youth Sports – sports are booming with over 2,000 kids registered.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Approval of Snow Days in the Park: Staff is proposing the date to be Saturday, December 7th, 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. instead of 12 p.m. through 4 p.m. We hold this event in conjunction with the Rancho Bernardo Community Council's hot cocoa with Santa event. Motion made Andy Kutzner/Dani Antique to approve the event. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

201. Pickleball presentation: Representatives from the Ed Brown Center and approximately 50 residents shared information on their proposed project which has previously been discussed at three (3) separate meetings and voted upon. The Park and Recreation Department has already indicated funding has been provided to convert the old lawn bowling area to turf for multi-recreational purposes by the residents of Rancho Bernardo. Those who spoke on the matter of the Ed Brown Center building pickleball courts included Brett Carter, Craig Brown, Lynn Wolsey, Pat Sheffler. Mr. Carter commented that they could get the project completed by the Spring which contradicts the process the city requires for leasing and building on the land. Mr. Brown and Ms. Wolsey commented that the Ed Brown Center would benefit from the courts. Mr. Sheffler commented that with 50 acres of a park, there was no more need for turf. Pickleball courts were needed for the adults. See attached comments on the background

process of the lawn bowling area.

After the presentation, Community Recreation Group Vice President Katie Newbanks inquired as to where the funding is coming from for the property conversion. Acting District Manager, Mark Moncey, responded that the San Diego Parks Foundation has a donor. The project will begin as soon as possible. Community Recreation Group member Andy Kutzer inquired if this was a voting item. Mark Moncey responded that this is an information item. The Brown Act doesn't allow it to be voted upon. Seeing that the President allowed the presentation to be longer than 15 minutes (now 7:36 pm), it was announced the meeting had to move on to the other items.

202. Beginning Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2026: Staff presented proposals/costs, with additional suggestions by the Rancho Bernardo Community Recreation Group. This will be finalized/approved at the next meeting.

203. Halloween Event: As mentioned in the Center Director's report, staff has decided not to hold an event this year. Candy will be passed out at the center and the rest of the funds will be utilized for the snow days event.

WORKSHOP – None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made Katie Newbanks/Dani Antique to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting (if there are action items):
Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 7 pm
Facility: Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center
18448 West Bernardo Drive San Diego CA, 92127

President Robin Kaufman's comments on the background process of the lawn bowling area:

There's been some misinformation and disinformation about the use of the land, what has transpired and funding for it. The goal here is to provide accurate information prior to the presentation.

The old lawn bowling area has been vacant for a number of years. The city went through the required Request for Proposal process (RFP) during that time frame. While there was some interest expressed by a few user groups, none submitted a proposal.

Since our park is very limited for practice and playing area, the park and recreation department proposed to turn the area to natural turf with irrigation, remove the fencing and offer it for multi-recreational and multi-generational programs. This topic was discussed at three (3) separate community recreation group (CRG) meetings before coming to vote – September, November and December of 2023. Kim Lang, Executive Director of the Ed Brown Center, and Brett Carter, a Director on the Ed Brown Center Board, presented information at the November and December meetings. During each meeting, the required RFP process was discussed.

It was also explained that an RFP process can take several years before determining which entity would be granted the lease, then there's the permitting process, approval of contractors, and so on

for whatever entity may be given the contract to lease the property. This whole process could take even more years, meaning the old lawn bowling area would remain locked up.

The CRG took all these factors into consideration when voting on the matter. The CRG unanimously approved moving forward in converting the old lawn bowling area to natural turf in order to serve THE MANY by offering multi-recreational and multi-generational usage. This decision is also supported by several of the user groups who have had difficulty finding practice and play time.

Since the vote, Brett Carter and other individuals promoting pickleball met with City Councilmember Marni von Wilbert's office, the mayor's office as well as several meetings with the Director and Deputy Directors of the parks and recreation department on this matter. The one thing they were informed of time and time again was the RFP process. This was relayed to them again in early August during the last meeting they had with the Director and two (2) Deputy Directors of parks and recreation department.

The individuals previously mentioned also promoted the project throughout social media, with some misinformation and disinformation. Disinformation is that the Councilwoman as well as the Director of Park and Recreation are in favor of pickleball. Another disinformation is that the property is being renovated by taxpayer's money.

A few people have mentioned they are in favor of the FREE pickleball that's being promoted. Please be aware that the pickleball proposal that has been made to the CRG and to the public would be to charge people to use the courts. No play would be free.

Information was also distributed saying this was a Community Council matter. That is an entirely different organization.

Other misinformation or disinformation is that this is a 50-acre park. We have 38 acres, which include:

- All the parking lots
- The two (2) comfort stations (bathrooms)
- The snack shack
- The gazebo
- The dog park
- The Ed Brown Center
- The Tennis Court areas
- The Recreation Center
- The two (2) outdoor basketball courts
- The tot lot
- The kid's playground
- The picnic areas
- The old lawn bowling area
- sidewalks
- the sports fields

Rancho Bernardo is deficient of 30 acres of city park land. This is the largest of any of the communities in the city of San Diego. The city determines the amount of city park space a community needs according to the population. Our neighboring communities with similar population as Rancho Bernardo have two (2) and some have three (3) community parks.

Chairperson's Report:

Thank you for attending. We ask that you respect our meeting protocol which is set forth by the city. Please do not call out or interrupt. Wait to be called upon. We have a segment on the agenda for public comment on items not on the agenda. A person will be allotted up to three (3) minutes. This may change depending on the number of comments as recreation center closes at 8 pm. As with City/County protocol, we are not to respond to public comment. Staff takes note of the concerns. However, we personally may go a step above and take a moment to respond as the community recreation group (CRG) and staff are here to support concerns.

Residents will be given up to three (3) minutes to speak on any action item prior to it being discussed by CRG members. This may change to less depending on the number of comments as the recreation center closes at 8 pm. Once CRG members begin discussing the matter, no further comments/questions will be taken from the audience. This is the same procedure utilized by the City of San Diego Council and County Board of Supervisors at all their meetings.

-We received several emails requesting information on renting anything from the gazebo to ball fields as well as details about having parties at the park.

-we had inquiries about some broken playground equipment

-we received comments about the A/C being out in the gym

-we received several inquiries about renting the tennis courts. Those were referred to Scott Davis.

-we received inquiries about Oasis. Those were referred to the Oasis website.

-we received inquiries about signing up for pop warner. Those were referred to pop warner people.

-a young man asked if it was okay to keep 2 tennis balls he found in the parking lot by the tennis courts or if he had to return them.

-we received a concern regarding the water that is draining from the Ed Brown Center's utility closet and pooling on the other side of the walkway where some of the plants are located. The concerns were the attraction of mosquitos and flies.

-we received a concern regarding rodent and bird droppings in the same area.

-I am still working on finalizing the Kiwanis grant. Their committee that oversees approval has not met for several months due to lack of quorum. I was given some 'unofficial' comments on the usage of the funds. They appreciate the need for the sound system and the various shade structures as they will be utilized all year round for a variety of events/activities that benefit the children using the park. They felt the amount of funds being asked for a new Santa chair was not called for since the chair is only used a few hours a year (\$800 quotes from Center Director Tonya Thomas). A suggestion was made to have it repainted by a student who needs community service hours.

Community Parks I Area Committee Report:

The Park and Recreation Department is in the process of changing the whole role of Community Parks I and Community Parks II. From becoming just information meetings as opposed to voting on items to only having the meetings every other month as opposed to monthly. Some reasons are because they don't have enough attendance and that they would need to have in-person meetings as opposed to virtual meetings.

- 39 people were present
- Amendments to Council policy 700-42 reform is still being reviewed by the city attorney's office. This is the standard operating procedures and responsibilities for the community recreation groups. This has been going on since 2017. The Park and Recreation Board will review it before any final inputs are given by the Community Recreation Boards.
- The park and recreation department has a 21% vacancy rate of permanent positions.
- Reviewed recreation center fund and opportunity fund budgets. Staff attended a meeting the first week of the month to review the process. All community recreation groups are to start their review process of the FY 26 budget in September and finalize it by December.
- Reviewed fall programs and events – all can be found on the department's website.
- A survey was sent to all CRG presidents/chairs as to when to hold future CP meetings, etc.

Community Council Report:

- Approved annual financial audit report
- Approved proposed bylaws revisions. A review transpires every 2 to 3 years
- Approved a letter to the city in support of the RB Alive event (the city asks this of the RBCC for any such large events that in RB that require city permits).
- Approved the date and proposed time frame for the annual hot cocoa with Santa event that takes place in conjunction with the CRG's snow days in the park (December 7).
Disappointment in having to change the time due to the center director's insistence.
- Working on a forum for the 76th Assembly. Update – one of the candidates did not respond to multiple requests, including ones from the League of Women Voters
- The annual donut fun run which took place the morning of September 15th. Another successful event.
- An update was given regarding our participation in the RB Alive event.
- Update was given on the annual safety fair taking place October 6th
- Update was given on the cancellation of the turkey trot. Permits were not submitted to the city in time. Work will begin earlier next year.

Planning Board Report:

- August meeting was cancelled due to lack of action items. It will also be going dark tomorrow, September 19, due to lack of action items.
- The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening
- In July:

- The board approved the initiation the community plan amendment pertaining to Bernardo Center Court proposed business/residential conversion
- The board approved to submit a request for corrections related to the capital improvement projects and other public projects that deviate from the environmentally sensitive lands regulations
- The board approved a list of recommended infrastructure projects for RB.

Dog park report:

Official statement from the Park and Recreation Department:

The Rancho Bernardo Dog Park scope of work includes designing and constructing new sidewalks within the park and sidewalk along West Bernardo Drive, numerous accessibility improvements throughout the park and parking spaces in the parking lot. Within the dog park, add an 8-10-foot-wide strip of synthetic turf, new drinking fountains and new site furnishings. Cost increases are related to community-requested amenities such as shade structures, improvements within the dog parks, and additional shade trees.

Currently, we are in the Final Design stage, which is expected to be completed by the fall of 2024. The advertising and awarding processes are estimated to occur from winter 2024 through spring 2025, and construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2025, contingent on funding availability.

Current funding sources are General Fund 100012 and Antenna lease funds, Impact Fees Funds 400099 and 400892, and a Grant Fund of \$157k.

Funding to Date:	\$2.8m
Total Project Cost:	\$5.15m
Funding need:	\$2.35m

The Park and Recreation department is examining all avenues to bridge the funding gap. That includes allocations of the Citywide Park DIF, local DIF, and general fund allocations. This includes looking comprehensively at the Citywide DIF and will propose shifting funds around to find a way to get this project fully funded by mid-year.