

**PUBLIC NOTICE AND AGENDA  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
RANCHO BERNARDO COMMUNITY RECREATION GROUP  
Wednesday, November 20, 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 7:00 pm with a quorum met. In attendance: Robin Kaufman, Sally Grigoriev, Trever Christensen, Andy Kutzer, Tiffany Norton, Jarod Norton, Dani Antique.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion made Dani Antique/Tiffany Norton to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT – No report was presented to us by staff.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATIONS: Resident Linda Hickman distributed handout on her attendance at the meetings.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – none.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT –

-Reminded people of the meeting protocols.

-It was agreed upon ahead of time that Center Director Tonya Thomson would bring in the large park map with all the fields on it that is in the recreation center so Robin could give an update on possible pickleball areas in the future. Unfortunately, no map was brought to the meeting. Attached is the report of what Park and Recreation Director Andy Field told me during a meeting we both had.

-we had inquiries about some broken playground equipment.

-we received comments about when the gym would open after the flooding in October.

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

-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 mosquitoes and flies as well as slipping on the sludge.

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

-a thank you letter was sent to Kiwanis in October for \$8,100 to use for the purchase of a sound system and shade structures ONLY.

CITY STAFF REPORT –

**Area Manager:** Mark Moncey reported the following:

- funding for items to be fixed in the playground was approved last week
- pest control has been ordered by the Ed Brown Center
- gym floor was damaged in October due to a sprinkler hit by a backboard. The gym is temporarily closed for pickleball, basketball and other activities. Waiting for quotes to get it fixed
- looking at the timing of rest period for all the fields in the near future
- Robin Kaufman inquired about the EV stations as she had asked staff to look into them not working a couple of months ago. Response - Center Director was asked get information on them.
- Andy Kutzner inquired about field lighting and water issues on two fields. Response – they are both in the process of being looked into.

**Recreation Center Director:** Tonya Thomson reported the following:

- Snow day in the park scheduled for December 7. Snow, train, various activities. Two signs for the event are presently missing. She said she communicated with Caltrans to be able to place an event banner on their property.
- Robin Kaufman asked for updates on the stolen monitors and ADA door issues, which she learned about on October 7. She asked if the cameras recorded who took the items. Response – the department is looking into both matters.
- Robin Kaufman inquired what is being used for as a Santa Chair as CRG and Kiwanis stated their funds could not be used for the purchase of one. Response – the chair is being borrowed from Carmel Mountain Ranch.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Community Parks I Area Committee** – met on November 6, 2024. 26 in attendance with 8 park and rec staff. No minutes are being provided any longer from these meetings as they are saying it is being changed to information meeting referencing to not being able to hold meetings virtually due to the Brown Act. Events throughout the city parks and rec areas were mentioned. Commented on input needed to better educate people utilizing the off-leash dog parks and also for those letting their dogs off leash outside of the pens. Mentioned budgets are being approved at the different CPG meetings.

**Community Council** – Robin Kaufman explained these reports are given as the Community Recreation Group, Community Council and the Planning Board are the three volunteer governing bodies in the community. They support one another and share information with one another.

- approved expenditures for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual holiday event on December 14, 12-4 pm at Webb Park;

- approved a guide form for the annual audit;

- approved an earth day ad hoc committee

### **Planning Board** –

- discussed the Cities priorities of their infrastructure planning

- The Planning Board's request to revise the Land Development Code to appropriately address how to process a Capital Improvements Project and/or a City Project that deviates from the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Regulations was submitted to the Planning Department on September 12, 2024.

- meeting tomorrow night

**Ed Brown Senior Center –**

- Lynn Wolsey, Director, reported the following:
- they are holding a 'no senior left alone event' funded by a grant
- the solar system was down a month due to some damage
- they applied for a grant to landscape the patio area

**Rancho Bernardo Tennis Club –** Scott Davis sent the following report:

- Club membership is 176. Two couples moved out of state, hence being at 180 last month and 176 this month.
- The waitlist is 75. Currently the club is fundraising to purchase a ball machine with a cost of \$3,000

**Dog Park Issues –** The report, which was given during the September meeting is at the end of this document.

**Youth Sports –**

- high registration for all sports
- staff didn't communicate the SDG&E planned outage to user groups last month. Games were unable to take place due to lack of lighting. Parents were very upset. Robin Kaufman offered to keep the staff up to date on any other such planned outage that will be taking place in the area.

**ACTION ITEMS** In following the procedures of the City, if any non-member has a comment on any agenda items, they will be afforded the opportunity to make a comment prior to each voting item. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes and are non-debatable.

**101. Discussion/Vote on Fiscal Year 2026 Budget:** Staff to present proposals/costs for CRG's to review and vote.

-Questions were asked regarding the purchase of so many new chairs for \$4,500 when they are in good condition. Response by Center Director Tonya Thomson – the chairs are dirty. Asked why they just cannot be cleaned (as well as the snowboards we had purchased), she commented it would take too long. Area Manager Mark Monsey said he would look into the matter.

-Robin Kaufman inquired why we would be purchasing a scoreboard. Robin Kaufman had met with Juliette and Tonya on October 7<sup>th</sup>. At that time, Tonya had mentioned the need for a new scoreboard. It was agreed that Tonya would send Robin several quotes. Robin would then reach out to Kiwanis to see if they would contribute funds for the scoreboard. No quotes had yet been sent.

-Questions were raised about the \$1,200 of the \$5,200 or movies in the park going towards crafts and prizes. Robin Kaufman commented that there were several issues at both movies in the parks. During the first movie, no lights were turned on afterwards and people were walking back to their vehicles in the dark. A family left before the movie started as staff would not allow them to take their young child into the recreation center to use the bathroom. It was explained to staff that their child was scared to use the comfort station. Robin attended the second one and there were no crafts or prizes – just the band and the snow cone vendor she had acquired. The event was promoted as having crafts and activities. There was a half dozen kids standing

by a table and coloring. There was also a quick sea horse race with a few kids. Nothing else. With all due respect to the staff, they were sitting around chatting or on their phones. Very little to practically no interaction. These events don't seem to justify the funds spent on them. Where are the extra items not used? We used to have a number of activities in the past from hula hoop contests, water balloon tossing, watermelon eating contest, Simon says, as well as using the carnival games that the Community Council brought over to the recreation center. -Questions were raised regarding the \$15,000 cost for a STEM program.

Motion made Dani Antique/Robin Kaufman to approve the budget with review of purchasing chairs and the scoreboard unnecessarily. Motion approved unanimously.

**102. Glassman Brown Leadership Award (GBRL):** Vote on member to take on this responsibility this year. Motion made Robin Kaufman/Trevor Christensen to once again have Andy Kutzer and Sally Grigoriev take the lead on the project. Motion passed unanimously.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS:

**201. Movies in the Park:** Be prepared to make recommendations and vote on them at the next meeting.

WORKSHOP – None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made Jarod Norton/Trevor Christensen to adjourn at 8:06 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting (if there are action items):  
Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 7 pm  
Facility: Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center  
18448 West Bernardo Drive San Diego CA, 92127

#### **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.

<b>Funding to Date:</b>	<b>\$2.8m</b>
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$5.15m</b>
<b>Funding need:</b>	<b>\$2.3m</b>

Park & Rec. 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.

### **Councilmember Marni vonWilpert's lawn bowling information:**

1. **Meeting Script or Minutes:** Unfortunately, there is no official script or recorded meeting minutes. However, Robin Kaufman was provided with the following break-down from Andy Field, Park and Recreation Department Director. The San Diego Park and Recreation Department decided to move forward with the turf project, as they had secured full funding and needed to proceed after holding off since the summer. Andy Field presented the timeline and provided an overview:

### **Rancho Bernardo Lawn Bowling Area Timeline & Summary:**

- **2015-2018:** The Lake Hodges Bowls Club's Special Use Permit was not renewed due to declining interest and maintenance issues.
- **2019:** Park staff explored proposals for croquet and futsal courts but funding issues prevented progress.
- **March 2020:** COVID-19 closures affected facility operations until Summer 2021.
- **June 2020:** Park Board approved an amendment to convert the area into multi-sport courts.
- **Summer 2022:** An RFP was initiated with DREAM.
- **September 2023:** The RFP closed with no responsive bids. Options were reevaluated, and the department decided to consider turf, as no further General Development Plan (GDP) amendment was needed.
- **May 2023:** Budget constraints and delays were communicated to the Community Recreation Group (CRG), along with renewed interest from the Ed Brown Senior Center for pickleball courts.
- **August 2024:** A \$250,000 donation was secured for the turf project.

- **September 2024:** The Ed Brown Senior Center reintroduced the pickleball proposal, but the CRG did not take action to revisit their previous decisions.

The Parks Department addressed the misinformation regarding how *this can be converted in short period of time*, the need for a General Development Plan (GDP)5 amendment and detailed the challenges of implementing pickleball, such as funding requirements, ADA compliance, and environmental regulations. Even with full funding, the process would take **3-4 years**, with no guarantee pickleball would be selected. Thus, the department opted for turf, which can be implemented quickly and benefit multiple community groups.

2. **Number of Callers:** There were 65 total callers, including staff, so approximately 50+ community members participated.
3. **Actionable Requests or Questions:** To our knowledge, all requests have been addressed or responded to.
4. **Formal Plan to Address Open Items:** Councilmember Marni von Wilpert, as part of the legislative body, does not have the authority to direct city departments. However, she did advocate for a pause to better understand community needs. It was determined that legally and logistically, implementing pickleball in the short term was not feasible. The Parks Department shared that the full process would take years, even if funded tomorrow/immediately, and a GDP amendment for pickleball would trigger extensive regulatory requirements regarding stormwater impacts on hardball courts and draining into natural habitat that surrounds the park triggering State regulations.

In the interim, the conversion to turf will provide usable space for multiple sports while continuing efforts to explore pickleball in other areas, such as repurposing outdoor basketball courts. We're working to balance all recreational needs, with over 1,000 supporters for pickleball and equally strong advocacy from soccer, softball, and Pop Warner groups.

Which is why Councilmember von Wilpert proposed that Park and Rec convert the basketball courts to multiuse, pickleball during the day.

In conclusion, we want to ensure community voices are heard and explore every possible option for meeting the demand for pickleball.

The Mayor's office has been involved to provide information, and our team remains committed to creating recreational opportunities for Rancho Bernardo families. The turf conversion provides an immediate solution, while we continue advocating for more recreational space and exploring long-term plans for pickleball.

#### **Lawn Bowling Renovation Report from the Park and Recreation Department:**

- Removal of all lawn bowling elements from the facility, including surface material and irrigation
- Removal and repair of existing damaged benches; paint benches prior to opening
- Removal of all plant material within the lawn bowling premise and replace with DG

- Removal of drinking fountain and replace with an ADA fountain with bottle filler
- Install new irrigation system and upgrade clock
- Bring both sections flush with the current walkway and convert to natural turf ballfields (turf will be a sports mix)
- Remove a small section of the fence on the south side to allow for maintenance access; this will include the removal of plant material in the area
- The areas are intended for the younger sports programs such as peewees, etc. and will be permitted as 2 separate fields; permitting will follow same process as the rest of the facility and fees will be assessed consistent with the approved fee schedule

These items were not considered as part of the project.

- Removal of the fence; the fence needs to remain to provide protection of the adjacent assets and facilities; the fencing will keep activities contained within the permitted area; removing on the south side was not an option due the proximity of the parking lot; the east facing fencing would likely be the only section we would consider removing but this would have be evaluated closer to completion of the main project if funding is still available
- The landscaping around the outside was not intended to be removed; however, this can be considered later and converted to DG; same as above in terms of funding
- There are no lighting upgrades; to add sports lighting would have needed a project assessment likely through DSD; there would have been additional evaluations including Environmental (CEQA); we are looking at the current system to ensure it is operational for security lighting purposes
- The center walkway could not be removed for ADA purposes; any removal of the path of travel would have triggered an ADA assessment and likely moved this into a CIP project

This project needed to have a limited scope or work. Any major improvements and changes to the existing premises would have turned this into a CIP project.

Staff is hopeful that the major work is completed before the end of the year. With a minimum of 90 days for plant establishment, we expect that the field will be opened to the public in the Spring.