

**City of San Diego**  
**Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 15, 2025**

*“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.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>City Staff Present</b>
Nick Anastasopoulos Marcella Bothwell (Chair) Dr. Andrea Dooley Rick Gulley (Vice Chair) Daniele Laman Evelyn Smith Agatha Wein	Dr. Judith Munoz Allison Soares	Jerry Abbott (Virtual) Michelle Abella-Shon (Virtual) Ryan Barbrick Jane Boardman (Virtual) Kathleen Brand (Virtual) Maria Carriedo (Virtual) Brice Ciabatti Sarah Erazo Andy Field Salome Martinez Mayra Medel (Virtual) Louis Merlin Justin Nguyen Emily Piatanesi Kaitlyn Porter (Virtual) Elvi Ricafort Anna Sonnenburg Gabriela Verendia

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Bothwell at 2:03 pm.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2025**

The meeting minutes were not ready for Board consideration, so approval of the minutes was deferred to the next Board meeting on June 26, 2025.

**Public Comments:** None

**Board Comments:** None

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**103. Proposed renaming of the North Clairemont Community Park to Officer Austin Machitar Memorial Park**

Item 103 was taken out of order to allow San Diego Police Department staff to return to their duties as quickly as possible. Policy Advisor Emily Piatanesi from the Office of Mayor Todd Gloria presented the proposed renaming of the North Clairemont Community Park to Officer Austin Machitar Memorial Park.

**MOVED/SECONDED**

**Ms. Laman/Mr. Gulley**

Ms. Laman moved to approve the staff recommendation and was seconded by Mr. Gulley. The motion was approved 7-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Dr. Andrea Dooley, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Evelyn Smith, and Agatha Wein. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Allison Soares and Dr. Judith Munoz.

**Public Comments:** Staff from San Diego Police Department Northern Division thanked the Board for considering of renaming the park to Officer Austin Machitar Memorial Park.

**Board Comments:** None.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Area Committee (Park Talk SD) – There is no representative for the Community Parks Committee yet, and the Area Committee is reforming into Park Talk SD.
- Balboa Park Committee –No report. Ms. Soares was absent.
- Mission Bay Park Committee – No report. Dr. Munoz was absent.
- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – Mr. Gulley reported on the Bridge for Max and water purification project that will impacts portions of MTRP for three years.

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- San Diego Parks Foundation – Chair Bothwell reported on planned summer operations (Come Play Outside, Parks After Dark), projects (Southcrest, Presidio, Golden Hill) and I Love My Park Day coming this Saturday.

**CHAIR COMMENTS:** None.

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

- Director Field provided an overview of May Revise, which made the following changes (see pages 15 and 22–23).
- The Third Quarter Budget Monitoring Report and May Revision to the Proposed Budget will be heard by City Council on Monday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.
- Mr. Merlin provided an overview of the reduction in force process and efforts to identify options for impacted staff.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None.

**Ms. Laman** invited the Board to attend Hollywood Sports Day at Hollywood Park in City Heights on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Councilmember Sean Elo–Rivera and by Department staff. It will feature numerous professional sports teams conducting clinics and sessions. She announced that the House of Czech and Slovak Republics will present a lawn program on Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> with performances by Art School Cimbalom Band Kyjov. They will have food available for purchase. The Chollas Lake Fishing Derby will be June 21<sup>st</sup> with support from the Police Officers Association and Star Pal. **(Flyers Attached)**

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE:** None

**CONSENT ITEMS:** None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**101. Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Recreation Center Fund and Opportunity Fund Budgets**

Deputy Director Sarah Erazo presented the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Recreation Center Fund and Opportunity Fund Budgets.

**MOVED/SECONDED**

**Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Gulley**

Mr. Anastasopoulos moved to approve the staff recommendation and was seconded by Mr. Gulley. The motion was approved 7–0–0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Dr. Andrea Dooley, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Evelyn Smith, and Agatha Wein. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Allison Soares and Dr. Judith Munoz.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Board Comments:**

**Ms. Laman** asked if the East Village Green recreation center fund should receive opportunity funds given East Village Green won't open until January 2026. Ms. Erazo responded that this would be a good way to start the usage of this important new park, which will host multiple

events. Ms. Laman asked if East Village Green has a recreation center fund, and Ms. Erazo said yes it has been created.

**Chair Bothwell** asked why there is a carryover balance of \$8 million and why that amount is not being spent. Ms. Erazo indicated this is due to staff turnover and vacancies, which has inhibited planning for programs and maintenance projects. Chair Bothwell asked about the carryover funds for Pacific Beach and Santa Clara recreation center funds including options for spending the reserves. Ms. Erazo stated she would provide that to Chair Bothwell after the meeting.

#### **102. Boston Avenue Linear Park General Development Plan (GDP)**

Landscape Designer Brice Ciabatti presented the Boston Avenue Linear Park GDP.

**MOVED/SECONDED**

**Ms. Laman/Mr. Gulley**

Ms. Laman moved to approve the staff recommendation and was seconded by Mr. Gulley. The motion was approved 7-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Dr. Andrea Dooley, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Evelyn Smith, and Agatha Wein. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Allison Soares and Dr. Judith Munoz

**Public Comments:** None.

#### **Board Comments:**

**Mr. Anastasopoulos** asked about funding and grant prospects to move the Boston Avenue project forward to construction. Mr. Barbrick responded that the City is seeking funding options including possibly Proposition 4 grant opportunities from the State of California.

**Ms. Wein** acknowledged the unique challenges for the park in a tightly built urban area near a major freeway corridor. She is glad the land transfer is underway between Caltrans and the City. This project will help with greening this area of the community.

**Ms. Laman** asked if the Barrio Logan Planning Group voted on this matter. Mr. Ciabatti said no, as this was an information item. Ms. Laman asked about the community recreation group. Mr. Ciabatti indicated one has not yet been formed. Ms. Laman asked whether the federal grant was removed by the government or is it on hold. Mr. Barbrick responded that the grant status doesn't currently impact the project since the project next enters the design phase. The grant funding was not impacted from the federal hold at this time.

**Chair Bothwell** asked if any structure could be created to inhibit emissions between Interstate 5 freeway and park patrons. Mr. Ciabatti noted that Caltrans built a privacy wall to help keep a portion of the emissions away from the area.

#### **104. Proposed renaming of Canyonside Recreation Center to Lois J. Mangarelli Recreation Center**

District Manager Anna Sonnenburg and Fred Mangarelli presented the proposed renaming of the Canyonside Recreation Center to Lois J. Mangarelli Recreation Center.

**MOVED/SECONDED**

**Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Gulley**

Mr. Anastasopoulos moved to approve the staff recommendation and was seconded by Mr. Gulley. The motion was approved 6-0-1 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Dr. Andrea Dooley. Rick Gulley, Evelyn Smith, and Agatha Wein. Recused: None. Abstained: Daniele Laman. Absent: Allison Soares and Dr. Judith Munoz

**Public Comments:**

**Steve Leffler**, the chair of the Canyonside Community Recreation Group and Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Group, expressed his support for the renaming of this center for Ms. Mangarelli, which is a great way to acknowledge and thank volunteers.

**Board Comments:**

**Mr. Anastasopoulos** shared that he had similar roles in Rancho Bernardo as Ms. Mangarelli had in Rancho Peñasquitos. He supports the proposal.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**201. Maintenance Assessment Districts (MADs)**

Assistant Deputy Director Michael Jones presented an overview of the Maintenance Assessment Districts.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Board Comments:**

**Mr. Gulley** asked how the assessments are collected. Mr. Jones responded that the assessments are collected through the annual property tax bill and appear as a line item on the bill. Only property owners are assessed.

**Chair Bothwell** asked how MADs are formed. Mr. Jones indicated the initial vote of property owners located within the district boundary, as weighted by the assessment amount, is required for approval. City Council must approve formation of a new district and authorize the assessment levy. While City Council approves the annual levy, a property owner ballot is not required each year to levy annual assessments.

Chair Bothwell asked about how the vote is tabulated and what threshold is needed for passage. Mr. Jones indicated that each parcel is weighed differently based on factors such as land use, geography, parcel size, street frontage, building size, number of dwelling units, etc. The engineer's report identifies the apportionment methodology.

Chair Bothwell asked to meet with Mr. Jones about the process to form a possible future MAD along Grand Avenue in Pacific Beach.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 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>.

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**Next Calendared Meeting: June 26, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.**

Submitted by,

Andy Field

Director

Parks and Recreation Department

ATTACHMENTS: **Flyers**



**ART SCHOOL CIMBALOM BAND KYJOV, "Cimbálovka",**  
coming directly to you from **Moravia, Czech Republic**  
to share **Czech and Slovak cultures and rhythm!**

**WHEN: SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025**

*Join us to connect with Czech and Slovak heritage in a lively and entertaining way.  
Everyone is welcome!*

## THE HOUSE OF CZECH AND SLOVAK REPUBLICS



## LAWN PROGRAM



### PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

- **PERFORMANCE: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm (FREE Admission)** - Program opens with USA, Czech and Slovak National Anthems, followed by Czech and Slovak songs and dances.
- **SERVING FOOD: 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm** - sausages, potato salad, bread, traditional baked goods (available for purchase while supplies last).

During last year's USA tour, they performed on stages from the illustrious **Carnegie Hall in New York** to **Illinois**, and now they are bringing their **Czech and Slovak** heritage magic to our sunny **San Diego!**

**USA  
TOUR  
2025**

of Art School  
Cimbalom Band  
Kyjov from Czech  
Republic:  
Los Angeles, San Diego,  
Arizona, Las Vegas,  
San Francisco



### LOCATION:

**HPR International Village  
Stage Balboa Park  
Pan American Plaza  
San Diego, CA 92101**



Come on out to Chollas Lake's

# FISHING DERBY

*This is a Free  
Event!*

Register today at: [www.SDRecConnect.com](http://www.SDRecConnect.com)

Activity #121075

**June 21, 2025**

**8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

6350 College Grove Drive  
San Diego, CA 92115

## **Come to the Picnic Shelter Near the Shoreline**

All equipment is provided. Come on out to grab a big catch! Instructors teach about nature, fishing, and techniques. Door prizes and lunch are provided. Register early to avoid waiting in line. Come have a blast and bring the whole family!

*Come as You Are:  
Equipment is Provided  
Ages 15 and under*

## **Learn the Basics**

- Casting
- Knot Tying
- Hooking bait
- Reeling in
- Safety

For more information, please email [LCBaker@SanDiego.gov](mailto:LCBaker@SanDiego.gov)