

MINUTES

City of San Diego Boards and Commissions Parks and Recreation Department MISSION BAY PARK COMMITTEE

August 5, 2025

Meeting Location

Paradise Point Resort
Mission Bay Room
1404 Vacation Road
San Diego, CA 92109

Mailing Address:

Balboa Park
Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Cindy Adams
Bernadette Butkiewicz
Chuck Dunning
Jim Gross
Giovanni Ingolia
Jeff Johnson
Ryan Karlsgodt
Judith Munoz
Steve Pinard

Members Absent

Cathie Jolley
Julie Roland

Guests

Matt Valerio
Kentaro Kaetsu
Jose Ortiz

City Staff Present

Andy Field
Karen Dennison
Patrick Hadley
Mike Rodrigues
Brian Clark
Tyler Sherer
Nancy Graham
James Gaboury
James Gartland
Mary Carlson
Nick Ferracone
Steve Shebloski
Jessica Dishman
Jonard Talamayan
Vicky Joes
CM Joe LaCava

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson, Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – June 3, 2025

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by J. Munoz and seconded by B. Butkiewicz to approve the June 3, 2025 Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes as written. The motion carried 8-0 with 1 abstention (S. Pinard)

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Cristina Santa Maria with SD Bird Alliance provided update on Least Tern breeding end of season totals by area. She stated that increased drone use has created negative impacts to bird nesting

Karen Zirk with Friends of Rose Creek commented about evasive non-native plants along the creek that impact the birds. She supports native vegetation and removing non-natives

Jim Royer shared that illegal fireworks have impacts on birds

Courtney Brown with SD Coastkeeper noted that SeaWorld fireworks create pollutants and SeaWorld is not following the required clean up protocol in violation of the Clean Water Act

Ernie Caso representing the Torrey Pines Glider Port shared concerns about public access, recreation rights and freedom

Andrew Meyer with SD Bird Alliance stated that fireworks have an impact on birds. Wander the Wetlands events are held the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in August with a Re-Wild field trip occurring on the 15th

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – Chairperson Johnson – no report

CITY COUNCIL OFFICES

Council District 1 – Vicky Joes introduced herself as Council President LaCava's Chief of Staff, Cambria Head is attending the Police Night Out event

Council District 2 – no report

STAFF REPORTS

San Diego Lifeguard Service – Brian Clark reported that Lifeguards are in peak summer staffing. There has been a decline in boating accidents due to enhanced enforcement

San Diego Police Department – Captain Steve Shebloski with Neighborhood Policing Division provided an overview and update regarding vehicle habitation and oversized vehicle ordinances in the coastal communities. This includes community outreach efforts and enforcement (vehicle citations & impounds). There are now safe overnight parking options for cars and RVs at H Barracks in the Midway area

Officer Jessica Dishman introduced herself as the new Community Relations Officer for coastal communities

Parks and Recreation

Mike Rodrigues provided Committee members the new Boards and Commissions Handbook and certificates of appointment and appreciation from Mayor Todd Gloria for their service on the Mission Bay Park Committee. July was recognized as Parks and Recreation Month by City Council. Several park improvement projects will resume in September. Including El Carmel, Ventura Cove, Hospitality Point and Sunset Point comfort stations. Crown Pont playground and park improvement project will begin September 2nd.

Mission Bay Park currently has several vacancies, including Grounds Maintenance Manager, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor and Equipment Operator. Now that the FY26 budget has been adopted, we will begin the process to fill the positions

ACTION ITEMS

Consent (These items are adopted without discussion; they can be moved to adoption by any committee member)

101. none

Adoption (Each adoption item requires individual action; they can be moved to consent by action of the committee)

201. Appointment of Vice Chairperson for Mission Bay Park Committee FY26

Giovanni Ingolia received the only nomination and has offered to extend his term as Vice Chair

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by R. Karlsgodt and seconded by C. Dunning to re-appoint Giovanni Ingolia as Vice Chair for the Mission Bay Park Committee for another 1-year term. The motion carried 8-0 with 1 abstention (G. Ingolia)

202. Recommendation to City Council to Declare City-Owned Real Property within Mission Bay Park as Surplus Land

Andy Field, Parks Director introduced the topic, providing background and a comprehensive overview on the Surplus Land Act and its relations to Mission Bay Park. The complete PowerPoint presentation and surplus land designation staff report has been posted to the Mission Bay Park Committee webpage under the August agenda link.

[2025 Mission Bay Park Committee | City of San Diego Official Website](#)

Mary Carlson with Economic Development Department assisted by providing clarification and answers to questions

Public Comments:

Lea Spagarino provided a letter to the Committee Members and spoke on behalf of Donna Frye who opposes declaring any portions of Mission Bay Park as surplus land

Clifford Weaver presented a lack of public trust in local government. Protect the height limits and free parking. The 3 parcels of Mission Bay are not surplus

Larry Webb with Mission Beach Town Council is against Dana Landing and Sportsman's Seafood listed as surplus land. He agrees that Marina Village is underutilized and could use some improvements

Scott Chipman opposes the Surplus Land Act for housing development in Mission Bay Park

Cathy Ives stated, “don’t trash Mission Bay Park”. She is out cleaning up trash throughout the coastal community

Christie Dunning feels more information and public input is needed in order for City Council to make a decision on this topic

Scott Andrews with Save Our Access stated, “no more hotels”. He supports dedicated parkland over development

Karen Zirk does not want to force things through. There is no rush. As lease agreements expire, renegotiate new leases and follow the Parks Master Plan

Attorney Bob Otilie referred to Measure C – Say No to Surplus Land. He recommends seeking an amendment to the State Surplus Land Act and follow the law to avoid litigation. Do it right and don’t rush. He agrees with longer lease agreements for more productive use of park land to generate revenues to remain in the park

Judith Swank referred to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan. There is no logical reasoning for surplus land in Mission Bay. Exempt Mission Bay Park from the Surplus Land Act

Cory Briggs encouraged the Committee to vote no on declaring city-owned land within Mission Bay Park as surplus land. The City is lying and wants high end housing. Keep park land for park and recreation purposes. Follow the Mission Bay Park Master Plan and allow public vote on this process

Matthew Melin opposes the surplus land in Mission Bay Park to create affordable housing

Webform submissions read by Chair Johnson:

Susan Holt opposes declaring any portion of Mission Bay Park as surplus land. This seems to be a land grab

Ben Champion Does not support the development of any housing around Mission Bay Park. Park areas need to remain as open spaces for people to enjoy

Kathleen Neil – Please do not recommend to the City Council to declare any portion of Mission Bay Park as surplus land. Park areas should remain open for the people. The land should not be developed as any type of housing

Sue Taylor – The land to be leased in Mission Bay Park should not be declared surplus. It should be declared “exempt surplus” by City Council resolution which does not trigger having to offer it up for housing

Understand how important this topic is to Mission Bay Park Committee and residents, Council President Joe LaCava went on record apologizing for not bringing this item to Mission Bay Park Committee prior to taking it to City Council. City Council voted 7-1 to continue this item with input for Mission Bay Park Committee

Committee Members:

Judith Munoz stated that this is a confusing process and questioned how it was initiated. She agrees that some leases need to be reviewed and updated to enhance revenues

Mary Carlson stated that lease agreements longer than 5 years follow the Surplus Land Act process

Chuck Dunning agrees in utilizing park land for park and recreation related purposes

Jeff Johnson appreciated staff reports and all public comment on this matter. His concern with this process is unintended consequences. If designated as surplus, this could lead to development. He commented on the State Tidelands Trust granting land to the City in trust

Bernadette Butkiewicz appreciated reports from staff and CM LaCava's comments. She supports the exemption process

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by G. Ingolia and seconded by C. Dunning recommending to **oppose** the plan as presented, declaring City-Owned Real Property within Mission Bay Park as Surplus Land. The motion carried 6-2 with 1 abstention (S. Pinard)

Special Events (Special Events that require road or plaza closures or will potentially impact park and/or institution operation, are brought to the Committee for a formal recommendation. They can be moved to Consent by action of the Committee.

301. none

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. South Mission Beach Storm Drain project staging area– Jonard Talamayan, Associate Civil Engineer with Storm Water and Transportation Division presented the plan to utilize a portion of West Bonita 72-hr lor as a construction staging area for the four year South Mission Beach storm drain improvement project

402. Alvarado Pipeline 2nd Phase, Pure water project construction staging area – OHLA USA Construction Services will utilize a portion of the Sunrunner dirt parking lot as a staging area/laydown yard for the 2nd phase of the Alvarado pipeline project

WORKSHOP ITEMS (No actions taken; discussed by the committee and staff)

501. Illegal RV/camper habitation in Mission Bay Park – no report

SUBCOMMITTEE

601. none

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – Chairperson, J. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Notice of Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Next regular meeting will be September 2, 2025 @ Paradise Point Resort

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Rodrigues

District Manager, Mission Bay Park