

City of San Diego
Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 25, 2025

“TO PROVIDE HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE, AND ENRICHING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL”

Meeting Held by In Person and Teleconference:

This meeting was held at Balboa Park Club – Santa Fe Room 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 Committee 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
Marcella Bothwell (Chair) Rick Gulley (Vice Chair) Nick Anastasopoulos Jeremy Bloom Dr. Andrea Dooley Daniele Laman Evelyn Smith Allison Soares Agatha Wein	Dr. Judith Munoz	Michelle Abella-Shon Parita Ammerlahn Ryan Barbrick Andy Field Elvi Ricafort Jon Richards Luis Schaar Gabriela Verendia

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Bothwell at 3:49 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2025: Director Field requested that this item be returned to staff as the draft minutes are not ready for Committee review.

NON-ADOPTION AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT: No non-adoption agenda public comment was submitted.

CONSENT AGENDA: No items were submitted for the consent agenda.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE: No items were requested for continuance.

COMMUNICATIONS: No communications were submitted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

101. Approval of Special Meeting of the Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee Meeting – September 25, 2025

Director Field requested the calendar for the Board be amended to reflect that the September meeting date was moved from the “regular” date of September 18, 2025, to the “special” date of September 25, 2025. He appreciated the Board’s flexibility with the changed date of the meeting.

Motion to amend the Board calendar to reflect no regular meeting on September 18, 2025, and a special meeting on September 25, 2025.

MOTION/SECONDED:

Mr. Gulley/Mr. Anastasopoulos

A motion was made by Mr. Gulley and seconded by Mr. Anastasopoulos. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Jeremy Bloom, Dr. Andrea Dooley, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Evelyn Smith, Allison Soares, and Agatha Wein. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Dr. Judith Munoz.

Public Comment: None.

Board Comment: None.

102. Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Park Improvement Fund Reallocation of Funds

Program Manager Ryan Barbrick presented a proposal to reallocate Regional Park Improvement funds between projects, with funds going toward the Air and Space Museum Roof Replacement and Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park for an accessible pathway to connect with the Mountain View Sports and Racquet Club.

Motion to approve staff recommendation to reallocate funds as outlined in the report.

MOVED/SECONDED:

Ms. Soares/Ms. Laman

Ms. Laman moved to approve the staff recommendation and was seconded by Mr. Gulley. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Jeremy Bloom, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Evelyn Smith, and Agatha Wein. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Dr. Judith Munoz.

Public Comment: None.

Board Comment:

Ms. Wein asked why the roof replacement is needed. Mr. Barbrick responded that costs increased due to high than expected construction bids.

Chair Bothwell asked if any funds from the Coastal Resiliency Master Plan could be used to cover costs at Sunset Cliffs Natural Park and other coastal locations currently within the Regional Park Improvement Fund program. Director Field responded that this master plan is designed to rethink the coastal environment and make changes to address coastal challenges

such as shoreline treatments, sea level rise, king tides, and climate change. This plan does not have a funding source yet. Each project would be funded separately and would also need to go through a typical environmental review process. He also noted that the Sunset Cliffs project to remove houses will take longer to design because one house was designated historic and will require additional planning to address this new requirement.

Ms. Laman asked how Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park is eligible for Regional park Improvement Fund and requested that information be noted in the staff report. Mr. Barbrick responded that the park is within the Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park, which makes it eligible for RPIF funding. He will ensure this information is included in future staff reports.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

201. Overview of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Delivery Process and Dashboards for Active Park Projects

Assistant Deputy Director Parita Ammerlahn and Assistant Director Luis Schaar from the Engineering and Capital Projects Department presented an overview of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) delivery process and dashboards for active park projects. This included the semi-annual report of park project status outlining scope, schedule, and costs.

Public Comment: None.

Board Comment:

Ms. Laman asked for updates on five projects: Chollas Lake Electric Service, North Chollas Park Improvements, Balboa Park International Cottages Electric Service, Chollas Lake Storm Water Study, and Bertha O. Pendleton Park Improvements (which was recently renamed from Clay Neighborhood Park and should be renamed in the project management system).

Ms. Ammerlahn indicated she would respond in writing with a status for Chollas Lake Electric Services, Balboa Park International Cottages Electric Service, and Chollas Lake Storm Water Study. Mr. Schaar noted that the staff report contains specific information including scope, schedule, and costs. Director Field responded that the North Chollas Park Improvements focuses on the new turf ballfield in the canyon. Any basketball courts near the future Oak Park Library would be a future phase.

Chair Bothwell noted that actual construction costs are a fraction of the total project cost. She is concerned the information is opaque and represents a bad use of the funds. Ms. Ammerlahn explained how to read the “project cost estimation” slide and noted that the chart only shows soft costs divided by phase of work (design vs. construction phases). Mr. Schaar noted that this information is derived from a CIP benchmarking study of the largest cities in California, including Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco. Mr. Schaar noted parks typically have higher soft costs because of the nature of how parks are traditionally designed in San Diego and in other large cities. Chair Bothwell asked Mr. Schaar to return to the Oversight Committee in a workshop setting to discuss and find additional ideas to reduce costs and find efficiencies. Director Field asked Mr. Schaar and Ms. Ammerlahn return in November to discuss the projects mentioned by Ms. Laman and discuss how to reduce project costs. Director Field also noted that park projects often

have common procurement needs for items such as playground structures, rubberized safety surfacing, asphalt or concrete hard courts for basketball/tennis/pickleball, shade structures, prefabricated restrooms, fencing, etc. One area for review is whether these items can be procured earlier in the project delivery process and provided to the prime construction contractor to install. There are plenty of other ideas that the Engineering and Capital Projects Department are considering.

Mr. Bloom asked about general development plans and whether those are typically a part of project delivery. Ms. Ammerlahn stated that they are typically included in the scope when needed, especially when a park is undergoing a proposed change in use that requires community input.

WORKSHOP ITEMS: There were no workshop items.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 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: October 16, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Field".

Andy Field
Director
Parks and Recreation Department