

MINUTES

CITY OF SAN DIEGO RANCHO BERNARDO COMMUNITY RECREATION GROUP

**Wednesday, November 19, 2025
7:00pm**

**Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center
18448 West Bernardo Drive
San Diego, CA 92127
858-538-8129**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Robin Kaufman at 7:00 pm. CRG members in attendance: Robin Kaufman, Kelly Batten, Trevor Christensen, Andy Kutzner, Michelle Castin, Sally Grigoriev, Dani Antique, Emily Batten (late), Kaylee Newbanks (late). Staff in attendance: Mark Moncey (Area Manager), Tonay Thomas (Center Director). Residents in attendance: Spanky Michaelis, Timothy Dohane, Linda Hickman, Lynn Wolsey.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: February 12, 2025: Motion made Dani Antique/Sally Grigoriev to approve minutes as presented. Motion passed by all six members who were present at that meeting - Robin Kaufman, Dani Antique, Sally Grigoriev, Michelle Castin, Trevor Christensen, Andy Kutzner.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT: This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for the public to address the Community Recreation Group (CRG) Board related items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Board. Limited to items not on the agenda and three (3) minutes maximum to speak.

Linda Hickman commented on the dog park's project and CRG not posting meeting notices. She was reminded that city staff is responsible for posting notices, not CRG members.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE: Board members may request an item on the agenda to be continued and returned to staff by indicating the item number.

Due to the number of items on the agenda, it was agreed to table information item 108. Also, due to possible time constraints, it was agreed to move information item 106 to item 101 A.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Kaylee will be a few minutes late. RBHS field hockey banquet is tonight. She is a coach and is presenting awards, etc. Emily will be a little late due to class.

Thank you for attending. A number of items have taken place since our last meeting. I will address the more recent ones. While I keep our CRG members up to date on all matters, I will give a quick review:

-The ribbon cutting ceremony for fields 9 and 10 took place July 15th. We had several families, individuals and 2 of the user groups in attendance. Mark Moncey did an awesome job overseeing the work on the fields and putting together the program for the ribbon cutting ceremony. I also want to mention Jaime Diez who oversaw all new irrigation, sod installation, etc. in upgrading the area.

-The fields can and are being used like any other part of the park – pick up games, family outings, ‘hanging out’, etc. The only time the gates may be closed is if there are any maintenance issues. User groups wanting to utilize it for organized games/practices need to go through the usual permitting process. Also, there seems to be some confusion about using pop up canopies. Again, just like any other part of the park, people can use pop up canopies for shade. However, permitting

process fees for the oversized canopies that may be used for an activity may come into play. BTW, not only do we have drinking fountain there, but also one of those things that you can fill your water bottle with.

- We had graffiti on one of the utility boxes by fields 9 and 10 that had been there for almost a year. Mark Moncey was made aware of it and had it all painted over in time for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

-We have had a few broken sprinklers, over watering, etc. which staff has addressed. This includes a large pipe that broke between the west side of field 9 and the parking lot in July.

-MarkMoncey is working on gazebo lighting issues.

- New signs at the entrances of the park were installed this summer to reflect what is at the park (Rec Center, Tennis, Dog Park, EBC, etc). The old sign still had the Joslyn lawn bowling on it. Thank you CRG members for your input on it.

-In June, Mark had a tree removed within a day it was reported to him. The tree had been dead laying on its side for over a year.

-Gym lights have been left on all night long several times. Staff has been made aware of it.

- I reported the boat and trailer across the street a couple of days after it was parked there. I received a message today that Due to limited resources, SDPD was not yet able to address your report

-a large box truck parked by the park entrance for 41 days has finally disappeared. A couple of get it done reports were made on it.

-all the parking lot lights, except for the area between the tennis courts and the recreation center building were not working. I mentioned it to Mark and by the end of the week, all the lights were working again – it was apparently some sort of timer issue.

-We received a thank you for the soap dispensers in the women's bathroom

Update on Casa de las Campanas property as of this week:

- Arbitration related to the skilled nursery facility construction defect matter has recently concluded and Casa prevailed. They are now in the process of working with the parties and the arbitrator to complete the post-arbitration procedures so that a definitive judgment may be produced. They anticipate concluding these arbitration housekeeping procedures over the next 2 months.
- Now that the arbitration is effectively concluded, they are identifying and will be engaging a developer to revisit the master planning for the existing campus.
- The existing concrete podium on the south parcel is demolished as far as they can take it. They will need to address a permit with the City, which is being deferred until such time that they have a better understanding of the future project (after the master plan is completed).
- They are working with a local land use attorney to analyze our entitlement needs and will begin preliminary discussions with the City upon having a reasonable amount of information as to what the revised project will entail.
- Concurrently, their land use counsel and environmental counsel are evaluating options for the north parcel. Given the complexity of their needs for the existing “south parcel,” it is unlikely they will have any project description for quite some time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Sally Grigoriev addressed concerns pertaining to Casa employees utilizing the park's parking lots, especially when there are games/tournaments taking place, limiting parking for park users. Eric McDonald would make Casa aware when we had large tournaments so they could encourage their employees to use LifeBridge Church parking lot.

Financial Report: \$107,577.34. Down from \$229,678.96 this time last year. Replacing the gym floor due to water damage caused when sprinklers were hit by backboards consumed more than half of our savings.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO STAFF REPORT:

Area Manager Report: Mark Moncey, RB, CMR/SS and Scripps Ranch Communities: The dog park project will be starting in the very near future; fields 2 and 4 lighting and walkway lighting is taking place; fields 3-5 renovations taking

place using chain link fencing to keep people off the fields. Ball field lights were replaced, irrigation in being addressed and clothing bin across the street was removed.

Comments from CRG members included rotating the fields so some are not overused (Sally Grigoriev), repainting parking spots as most of the paint in all the parking lots are faded, making it difficult to determine parking spaces (Robin Kaufman). Mark said he would have center staff work on it. Congratulations on finalizing Jerabeck park upgrades in Scripps Ranch (Robin Kaufman).

Center Director Report: LaTonya Thomas, Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center: Tonya commented on the movies in the park this summer, no Halloween event as there are so many competing ones in the community, but candy was handed out to anyone who stopped by; snow days in the park taking place December 6th with snow, games, activities, train; she sought input from user groups for new events to drive in revenue. Staff is obtaining quotes for a gym scoreboard.

Comments from CRG members included reminder that the Kiwanis funds of \$8,100 which was donated 13 months ago can only be utilized for a new sound system we all approved as well as shade structure by the tot lot. It cannot be utilized for anything else. Were the items ordered yet (Robin Kaufman); Little League can lend portable scoreboard until a new one is purchased (Andy Kutzner and Spanky). Question was asked as to what is being used for a Santa chair this year. We voted last year that we were not to utilize our funds to purchase one. Kiwanis also turned down their funds to purchase one since it is used only for a few hour event. During a meeting Robin Kaufman, Tonya and Juliette Suleiman (then acting area manager) had back in October of 2024, it was suggested that staff reach out to perhaps the high school woodshop class, a scout looking for an Eagle project, or even Casa de las Campanas wood club to make a Santa chair for us. Tonya informed us we are using the same Santa chair as always and that she repainted it. A question was asked as to why user groups were reached out to for input on new events to drive in revenue, but the CRG was not reached out to for input (Robin Kaufman). Tonya commented anyone can give input. It was suggested that we start up again with a user group ad hoc (Robin Kaufman, Sally Grigoriev, Spanky). We used to do this to share ideas/information with Eric McDonald (past center director). Mark Moncey suggested we have it an hour prior to our next CRG meeting.

Community Group Reports

Park Talk SD: Robin Kaufman: 1st Wednesday of every month via zoom. There were 26 attendees at the start of the September 3 and 32 at the November 5 meeting with many of them being with the Park and Recreation Department. By the end of the meeting, there were 11 present in September and 15 in November. You can find details of any meetings on the city website by googling City of San Diego Parks Talk.

-One of the presentations was on community recreation needs assessment. The city has hired a professional service to deal with this topic with the goal to provide healthy, sustainable and enriching environments. The process will involve an online survey, followed by 9 town hall meetings throughout the city. There will then be 9 virtual focus group meetings. The list of dates/locations/times of the town all meetings can be found by going to Parks Talk SD on the city's website. They are approximately 45 minutes long. The tentative completion date for this is the summer of 2026.

Another presentation was the park and recreation 2025 equity report. Goals include:

Providing access to clean, safe, well-maintained parks, open space, and landscaped areas. Access to enjoyable fulfilling recreational opportunities to all Foster employee-centric sustainable growth and development Cultivate a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for Department employees and the public Implement Climate Action Plan goals including fossil fuel use reduction, natural resource management, preservation, restoration, and tree planting. More detailed information can be found on the Parks Talk page on the city website.

Youth Sports: All Leagues in attendance: Spanky again emphasized having user group meetings for field use, etc. He and Andy Krutzner also inquired about the issues when the field lights went out during one of the Friday Night games and they were unable to contact any staff.

Rancho Bernardo Community Park Dog Park: Robin Kaufman shared the following report from the Mayor's office: the Rancho Bernardo Community Park Dog Park and ADA improvements project recently completed the bidding process and the City is prepared to award the contract; however, there is a projected budget shortfall of approximately **\$1.95M**.

Through the recent State Budget process for Fiscal Year 2025-26, **\$2.5M** was allocated to Rancho Bernardo Community Park. The specific language can be viewed on page 74 of the [Assembly Budget Committee Floor Report 2025-2026](#)

Budget June 24, 2025 This additional funding will fully fund the Dog Park and ADA Improvements project and also provide additional funding toward the sports field lighting project. This recently awarded state funding will take several months to perfect and become available for City use, which presents a timing challenge with awarding the dog park contract.”

Ed Brown Senior Center: Lynn Wolsey, Executive Director Ed Brown Senior Center: A grant received 5 years ago is being used to update furniture, and various aspects inside the building. They are replacing the outside awning with part of the funds and starting a membership drive with Giving Tuesdays. Membership is at 250.

Rancho Bernardo Tennis Club: Scott Davis: Robin Kaufman read the report on Scott’s behalf: the current membership is 181 members and 90 people on club waiting list. The club held its first annual Junior Tennis Tournament on Saturday, September 6th. 50 juniors attended from ages 10 - 16 years old. The Board is in favor of pickleball lines on the basketball courts.

Rancho Bernardo Community Council: Robin Kaufman: -the RBCC canceled their meeting in July and October due to lack of agenda items.

- The following transpired during the September and November meetings:

-the Board approved offering free educational presentations pertaining to Zone Zero defensible space. This came to play after the CA Assembly Bill 3074 passed, with many insurance companies requiring this type of landscape in the Very High Severity Zones. 98% of RB is in that zone. This will be taking place in January.

-The Board approved a letter of support of RaiseLakeHodges.org . The group is pushing to raise the water levels in Lake Hodges Dam to reduce dried acres that will quickly catch fire, etc.

-The Board approved expenses for the annual holiday carnival event. All expenses are being supported by generous event sponsors.

-The Board approved the annual financial audit

-The Board approved reimbursement for the landline which is utilized for several organizations in the community.

-The RBCC held its 15th annual safety fair in September at LifeBridge Church. This was the first time the event had not been held at the community park. Mayor Todd Gloria attended for 1.5 hours and presented a proclamation in recognition of the 15th year of this free community wide event stating September 13, 2025 was Rancho Bernardo Community Council’s Safety Fair day in the city of San Diego.

-The Board appointed an ad hoc committee for the 15th annual earth day fair.

-An update was given on the student member appointment process.

Rancho Bernardo Planning Board: Robin Kaufman: The Planning Board went dark twice since our last meeting. Its next meeting is tomorrow evening.

The following transpired last month:

- it approved a letter addressing the need for a stronger, more inclusive smoke-free multi-unit housing policy in the city of San Diego.

- The Planning Board approved the following request: Jamacha Neighborhood Council (JNC) requested that the Planning Board endorse their memo with requests for clear, accurate mapping of neighborhood boundaries in all maps used by the City of San Diego departments as well as use accurate community names that match the Community Plans, cease use of Jamacha-lomita (exp. Ridgeview- Webster), and remove Encanto signs from Jamacha and other non Encanto community boundaries, by signing and sending our memo or creating a new memo to submit to Councilmember Henry L. Foster, III.

ACTION ITEMS:

101. Ratification of the 2025 Elections for Members.

Emily Batten, Kelly Brown, Michelle Castin,

Sally Grigoriev, Andrew Kutzner and Kaylee Newbanks

Motion made Sally Grigoriev/Kelly Brown to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

101. Nominations from the floor of officers for the 2026 Board (nominations and elections by CRG

Members only).

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Announcement of the process was interrupted several times by resident Linda Hickman several times. Dani Antique offered to take the lead on the process. 2026 election ad hoc to be appointed at next meeting.

101 A. Recommendations for Recreation Center Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2027

Presented by: LaTonya Thomas, Center Director. Concerns were raised about amount of funds being utilized for events considering how little funds we have left at this time. We will vote on the matter at the next CRG meeting.

102. Recommendations for Special Events. Halloween Event, Snow Day, Movie in the Park and Free Concerts in the Parks.

Presented by: Robin Kaufman and Kelly Brown. CRG appreciates cutting back on some events until we have a healthy revenue, especially since similar events, such as Halloween, movies in the park and spring events, are offered in multiple areas throughout our community.

103. Recommendations to add Pickleball Lines to the Outdoor Basketball Courts.

Presented by: Robin Kaufman. This topic has been mentioned in the past. If feasible, it can add lines to the outdoor basketball court area when the courts are not used. To be placed as action item at next meeting.

104. Update on grant funds at the Ed Brown Senior Center

Presented by: Lynn Wolsey, Executive Director, Ed Brown Senior Center (this was reported under the Ed Brown Center report).

105. Community Recreation Needs Assessment

Presented by: Mark Moncey, Area Manager. Mark shared the following information: The City of San Diego launched its first-ever Community Recreation Needs Assessment (CRNA) in August 2025 to identify residents' needs for parks, programs, and facilities, focusing on equity and removing barriers, with input gathered via surveys (sandiego.gov/park survey), workshops, and town halls until early 2026, seeking to build a more equitable park system by improving existing resources like trails, dog parks, and pools, and addressing maintenance, staffing, and accessibility issues. People have until February to complete the online survey.

107. Discussion of the annual Glassman Brown Recreational Leadership Award (GBRLA) and ad hoc.

Presented by Andy Kutzner and Robin Kaufman. Robin thanked Andy Kutzner and Sally Grigoriev for taking the lead on the process again this year. We have the plaque for last year's recipient and will approve the ad hoc at the next meeting. Andy Kutzner and Sally Grigoriev have shown interest in teaming up again.

108. Discussion on possible revisions to the Rancho Bernardo Community Recreation Group Bylaws.

Presented by: Robin Kaufman. Tabled due to time constraints.

WORKSHOP:

None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made Sally Grigoriev/Dani Antique to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 7:00pm.

Meeting will take place at the Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center
18448 West Bernardo Drive San Diego, CA 92127