

**City of San Diego**  
**Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

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

**Meeting Held by In Person and Teleconference:**

This meeting was held at 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 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.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>City Staff Present</b>
Jeremy Bloom Marcella Bothwell (Chair) Dr. Andrea Dooley Rick Gulley (Vice-Chair) Daniele Laman Evelyn Smith Allison Soares Agatha Wein	Nick Anastasopoulos Dr. Judith Munoz	Parita Ammerlahn Michelle Abella-Shon(Virtual) Ryan Barbrick Kathleen Brand (Virtual) Benny Cartwright (Virtual) Karen Dennison (Virtual) Patrick Hadley Matthew Helm Danielle Kish Louis Merlin Justin Nguyen Nathan Otto Elvi Ricafort Luis Schaar Gabriela Verendia

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Bothwell at 3:22 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2025**

**MOTION/SECONDED**

**Mr. Gulley/Dr. Dooley**

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A motion was made by Mr. Gulley to approve the minutes and seconded by Dr. Dooley. The motion was approved 8-0-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Jeremy Bloom, Marcella Bothwell, Dr. Andrea Dooley, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Evelyn Smith, Alison Soares, and Agatha Wein. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Nick Anastasopoulos and Dr. Judith Munoz.

**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:** None.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**201. Fiscal Year 2024 Mission Bay Audit**

Assistant City Auditor Matthew Helm, Principal Performance Auditor Nathan Otto, and Senior Performance Auditor Danielle Kish made the presentation.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Board Comment:**

Vice Chair Gulley commented on carryover leases. He believes that holdover leases increase revenue to the city. What is the reason for the delay? Assistant City Auditor Helm responded that the delay was due to the personnel and resourcing issues. He believes that provision on leases to increase should be prioritized and these are in their radar.

Ms. Soares agreed with the Office of the City Auditor's (OCA) recommendations. She also asked what the committee can do to support the OCA team.

Ms. Laman stated the moratorium was in the news and that Sea World didn't pay its rent. She wanted to know if rent payment included the late fees. Principal Performance Auditor Otto responded the rent payments came in. However, they don't have the information if the payments have late fees.

Chair Bothwell commented that she understands the glitch in the City's system. She thanked the OCA for all they do and acknowledge that it is an important work.

**202. City of San Diego Capital Improvements Program (CIP) – Project Cost Development**

**Assistant Deputy Director Amita Parita Ammerlahn** made the presentation.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Board Comment:**

Chair Bothwell spoke that she does not understand the table and how the table relates to the soft costs and overall benchmark study for park projects. She inquired why the soft costs are so high for the benchmark study and does not make sense for her and lay person as well.

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Deputy Director Ammerlahn responded that the table shows soft costs during construction management. Chair Bothwell requested a better explanation of the soft costs. Deputy Director Ammerlahn responded that they will come up for better slides to explain the nuts and bolts of the soft costs.

Ms. Laman requested presentation for the future 800-14, council project scoring and prioritization. Deputy Director Ammerlahn responded that they will come back to the committee to present her request.

**WORKSHOP ITEMS:** There were no workshop items.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 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: February 19, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

Submitted by,

Louis Merlin  
Deputy Director  
Parks and Recreation Department