

MINUTES

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

January 6, 2026

Meeting Location

Santa Clara Recreation Center
1008 Santa Clara Place
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

Guests

Jillian Quint
Savannah Stallings
Critina Santa Maria
Matt Valerio

City Staff Present

Karen Dennison
Patrick Hadley
Nancy Graham
Tyler Sherer

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson, Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – November 4, 2025

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by R. Karlsgodt and seconded by C. Adams to approve the November 4, 2025 Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes with one edit to correct the year referenced in the San Diego Police Department update. The motion carried 7-0 with 1 abstentions (G. Ingolia and B. Butkiewicz).

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Jillian Quint with San Diego River Park Foundation provided information on the upcoming Kayak Clean-up in the estuary on January 17, 2026. The group also organizes monthly clean-ups and stewardship of trails. She encouraged members and the public to visit the San Diego River Park Foundation website for more information.

Savannah Stallings with San Diego Bird Alliance asked about and expressed interest in the

Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund Performance Audit conducted by the City Auditor, specifically about lease revenues and project prioritization set forth by City Charter Section 55.2.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – No Report

CITY COUNCIL OFFICES

Council District 1 – Vacant – no report

Council District 2 – Manny Reyes – Provided written report to Chair to communicate. Christmas tree recycling locations are listed on the City’s website; Provided

STAFF REPORTS

San Diego Lifeguard Service – no report

San Diego Police Department – Jessica Dishman reported out on the 1,600 citations and 300 shelters/safe parking referrals that were issued since July 2025. She provided clarity on the Police Department’s ability to tow vehicles which requires progressive approach.

Parks and Recreation – Patrick Hadley reported out the hiring of Cris Amezcua as the new District Manager in Mission Bay and provided an update on the Senior Planner recruitment who will become the Committee liaison once hired.

Patrick reported out that an initial data gathering effort to determine parking lot usage within Mission Bay Park, South Mission Beach, and Belmont Park to determine who is visiting, the purpose of their visit, and how long they plan to stay. This effort is beginning on January 8, 2026 and will capture winter and summer data to help inform decision makers on visitation. No decisions on whether to implement paid parking in Mission Bay have been made yet.

Patrick reported out that the fire ring relocation from South Mission Beach is still in process, requiring local review by Development Services Department before it can be docketed for consideration by the Coastal Commission.

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. none

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. Mission Bay Park Programmatic Environmental Impact Report - Nancy Graham and Matt Valerio

Nancy Graham delivered presentation which included an overview of the Mission Bay park Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (MB PEIR) project and history, the implementation framework, elements of the draft EIR, as well as the next steps for the overall project. The MP PEIR is currently in a 50 day public review period for comment. Once comments are addressed the MB PEIR will move to Committee and Council for consideration.

Matt Valerio with Dudek Environmental Consulting presented the MB PEIR details that included what was identified as 'no impact' or 'less than significant impact', as well as potential for 'significant impact' from projects listed in the PEIR. The impacts were organized into air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, and recreation.

J. Munoz asked if culverts can be installed at Fiesta Island when the MB PEIR is finalized or does in need to wait for De Anza Natural completion. Nancy Graham answered that the De Anza Natural project and the projects listed in the MB PEIR are not connected and that the next step for projects in the MB PEIR would be the design process.

R. Karlsgodt asked if Coastal Commission was included in the MB PEIR. Nancy answered that they are not and the reason De Anza Natural needed Coastal Commission review and approval is because it involves land use changes.

G. Ingolia asked if the Least Tern site on Fiesta Island was going to move. Nancy Graham answered that it would not move, but the shape of the Least Tern site is being modified per the 2021 Fiesta Island Amendment.

G. Ingolia asked if the EIR was going to delay the Kumeyaay Cultural site project. Nancy Graham answered no, they are separate projects.

J. Johnson asked when the 45 day comment period began and can the public comment on whether to pursue a bridge vs a culvert at Fiesta Island. Nancy answered that a bridge is currently proposed in the EIR, but the project would still need to go to design and alternate designs may be considered.

R. Karlsgodt asked if implementing a bridge would have longer construction

impacts or cause access issues at Fiesta Island. Jeff Johnson commented that bridge construction typically includes temporary access while the permanent structure is being constructed.

K. Zirk with Friends of Rose Creek stated that the presentation claims that Rose Creek is not contemplated as part of the De Anza Natural Plan, but Rose Creek overlaps with De Anza Natural and is also part of the Mission Bay Improvement Zone. She expressed concerns with removal of saltwater marsh to install biofiltration basins.

J. Johnson asked who owns the upper part and K. Zirk answered the Open Space Division of Parks & Recreation. J. Johnson also asked who owns the area around Karl Straus/In n Out Burger and K. Zirk answered various entities. J. Johnson asked if there was a group that provided oversight of that area similar to the the Mission Bay Park Committee. K. Zirk answered no.

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

501. none

SUBCOMMITTEE

601. none

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

J. Munoz asked about the letter the Committee sent to Mayor Gloria on 11/4/2025 regarding project prioritization and funding referenced in City Charter Section 55.2. P. Hadley answered that the City's response to the letter would be released in the next few weeks.

C. Dunning asked about the status of the 2024 financial audit on lease revenues. J. Johnson answered that the audit was an audit focused on process vs a financial audit.

J. Johnson reported out that he had a conversation with the Mayor's Office about the survey being conducted at various parking lots in Mission Bay as part of exploring paid parking in Mission Bay and shoreline area parking lots. No decisions on whether to proceed with implementing paid parking have been made yet. Parking in Mission Bay would be explored first, followed by other parts along the beach areas. Jeff also noted that the small section of public parking at Campland at the Bay was omitted from the study and would like it included.

J. Munoz made comments about the Balboa Park paid parking implementation and asked if Kellogg Park was part of the survey. P. Hadley answered yes. A question was also asked if and when the data from the study would be available.

ADJOURNMENT – Chairperson, J. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Notice of Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Next regular meeting will be February 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. @ Santa Clara Recreation Center

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Hadley
Deputy Director, Mission Bay and Shoreline