

**City of San Diego**  
**Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 19, 2026**

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

**Meeting Held by In Person and Teleconference:** This meeting was held at the 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>.

Both verbal and written communication were used by Board 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 Nick Anastasopoulos Marcella Bothwell (Chair) Dr. Andrea Dooley Rick Gulley (Vice Chair) Daniele Laman Allison Soares Agatha Wein	Dr. Judith Muñoz Evelyn Smith	Michelle Abella-Shon Nevien Antoun Jonathan Avila Ryan Barbrick Sheila Bose Kathleen Brand (Virtual) Mari Carriedo (Virtual) Benny Cartwright (Virtual) Karen Dennison (Virtual) Erika Ferreira Andy Field Stephanie Green (Virtual) Ana Grow (Virtual) Assistant Fire Marshal Alex Kane Maricris Lumibao Salome Martinez (Virtual) Justin Nguyen Kaitlyn Porter (Virtual) Sameera Rao Elvi Ricafort Park Ranger Chief Michael Ruiz (Virtual) Risa Saiga (Virtual) Shannon Scoggins Kelly Stanco Shamli Tarbell (Virtual)

		Fire Marshal Tony Tosca Gabriela Verendia
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**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Bothwell at 2:04 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2026**

**MOTION/SECONDED:**

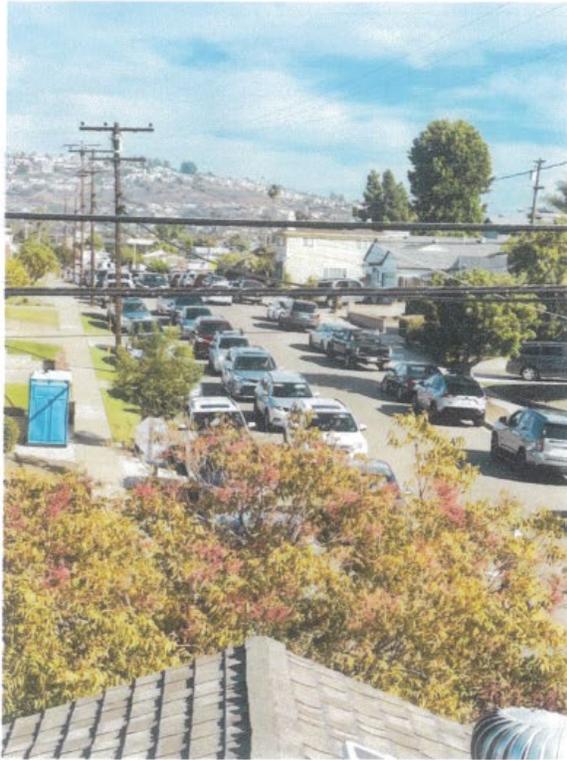
**Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Gulley**

While a motion and second were received (moved by Mr. Anastasopoulos and seconded by Vice Chair Gulley) to approve the minutes, no vote was taken due to errors in the draft minutes under board comments for Item 203 as identified by Ms. Laman and Ms. Wein. Staff will revise the minutes accordingly and ask the Board to reconsider this matter at the next meeting in March.

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Libby Day, an Allied Gardens resident, spoke about the proposed joint use area at Foster Elementary School. She is especially concerned with organized sports leagues using the turf field after school hours, which could cause additional traffic congestion and noise issues. She requested a meeting between residents and City staff to explore the issue further.
2. Meghan Foster, an Allied Gardens resident, brought images of traffic congestion and a map showing how the primary entrance to the joint use field runs through the residential neighborhood. She expressed concern about Crusaders Soccer taking over the field after school hours, creating traffic congestion and noise issues. The map and images are provided below:





**Cars on Orcutt Ave. and side streets during Magnolia Academy afternoon pickup (3pm dismissal)**



**Cars on Orcutt during 2pm Dismissal**



**Proposed entrance to JUF and the two houses on either side who already have their driveways blocked daily.**

3. Anne Fege, the former chair of the Community Forest Advisory Board, discussed [Kate Sessions' Commitment](#) and [iNaturalist project](#).
4. Ozzy Meneses from Groundwork San Diego noted several areas of concern, including Mid-City CAN's proposal to move project delivery for certain types of projects into the Parks and Recreation Department, expanded use of Sunshine Berardini Field (currently a Little League field), and the proposed Fairmount Avenue Fire Station near Chollas Open Space.
5. Deborah Sharpe, a retired park planner, expressed concerns about Ward Canyon Park, which is undergoing a significant renovation project that was brought forward to Adams Community Recreation Group. She is particularly concerned with the proposed changes to the playground layout.
6. Kevin Fitzgerald from the Southern California Golf Association and an Allied Gardens resident notified the Board about pending state legislation [Assembly Bill AB 1954](#), which would address tee time brokering. The proposed language would add new Business and Professions Code Section 22949.93.2, which is currently drafted to state: (a) An operator of a third-party golf reservation service platform shall not list, advertise, promote, or sell reservations for a golf course in the third-party reservation service platform without a written agreement between the operator of the third-party golf reservation service platform and the golf course operator that authorizes that reservation service." The California State Legislature will be considering whether to approve this bill in the future.
7. Marco Espinosa advocated for South Bay parks including Montgomery Waller Park.
8. Mike Welsh reported maintenance issues and needs for the West Mesa of Balboa Park, including needs for more power washing, trash removal, trash cans, clean benches, and related areas.
9. Sally Smull, a Chollas Valley resident, reiterated interest in expanding the use of Sunshine Berardini Field beyond the current Little League use. She noted that Community Recreation Needs Assessment sessions that she attended were poorly attended overall. Pickleball was a common theme at these sessions. She noted a need to purchase more park property, especially in Communities of Concern. She noted that the Encanto Community Recreation Group will be considering whether to add a skate plaza next to the teen center building at its next meeting on February 25, 2026.
10. Pamela Williams, a Bay Park resident, reported concerns with e-bike operation on Fiesta Island in Mission Bay Park, especially on roads and trails that cross the island.
11. Richard Diaz, an Oak Park resident, supports Sunshine Berardini Field upgrading to include other sports and recreational uses.
12. Kristen Hurst, a Webster resident, expressed concerns about the upcoming Fiscal Year 2027 proposed budget, which may include reductions to programs and activities offered by Parks and Recreation Department. She noted that Berardini Field is not currently available for public use and should become available to the Webster community, which abuts the park to the east. The gates should be unlocked, and the Little League should share this public space.

13. Robin Kaufman, a Rancho Bernardo resident, was concerned that a motion to accept the January meeting minutes was made by a Board member who was not present at the January meeting. She believes that is a violation of Roberts Rules of Order.
14. Ernie Casco, who uses the Torrey Pines Gliderport, feels threatened by the current operator of the Gliderport and believes the operator is violating his right to access the Gliderport. He would like to see the Torrey Pines advisory board be reinstated.
15. Rosy Garcia-Rivas brought several students at Foster Elementary School to advocate for a proposed natural turf field to be added to the school when it undergoes whole site modernization.
16. Frances Simpson from Mountain View Sports and Racquet Club advocated for more youth and adults to play tennis.
17. Nathan White expressed support for the Field of Dreams proposal at Morley Field in Balboa Park. He noted that lighting has been unreliable and needs to be addressed. He requested no-fee access to the Balboa Tennis Club.
18. Bob Kuczewski advocated for changes to the operator at the Torrey Pines Gliderport.
19. Susan Richardson, chair of the Colina del Sol Community Recreation Group, provided the following written comments regarding an item brought to the Board at its January Meeting to consider a letter of support to acquire a former school parcel in Talmadge:

February 16, 2026

To: Marcella Bothwell, Chair, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board  
From: Colina Del Sol Community Recreation Group

At its meeting on January 21, 2026, the Colina Del Sol Community Recreation Group voted unanimously to support the Kensington-Talmadge community's proposal to the Park and Recreation Board to make efforts to encourage the City of San Diego to acquire the .87-acre former church/school property that is currently for sale at 4481 Estrella Avenue for future development as a park and possible community center.

The Kensington-Talmadge planning area is 93% deficient in Park Points (the Talmadge neighborhood specifically has zero parks, which puts this area among the top three park deficient neighborhoods in the City.) The location of this parcel also falls within an Environmental Justice Census Tract.

The goals for park land acquisition and development set forth in the currently adopted Mid-City Communities Plan (1998), which Talmadge previously fell under, have yet to come to fruition.

It is time that the Department of Park and Recreation, working alongside District 9 Councilmember, to ensure that there is funding in the Capital budget for land acquisition in neighborhoods in planning areas that are in the 90% and above park deficiency rates, such as Kensington-Talmadge, College Area, and the Eastern Area, so that parcels can be negotiated and purchased quickly by the Real Estate Division when on the market.

The Colina Del Sol Community Recreation Group looks to your leadership to help guide the process to ensure our neighborhoods receive parks and community centers that have been promised in Community Plans for decades.

Parks Make Lives Better,  
Sue Richardson, MS

Colina De Sol Community Recreation Group, Chair  
College Area Community Planning Group, Park and Recreation Representative  
Retired Park and Recreation Director, City of La Mesa

20. Joni De Groot, a Webster resident, wrote with “fervent advocacy to implement funding that to support public green space with a multi-use field (Sunshine Berardini Fields). This would and, indeed, should provide access to parks in the Webster community where I live. I reside at 1951 47<sup>th</sup> Street 92102. This is a clearly and profoundly under-served area in San Diego City. We are, clearly, a park-deficient region, with zero park access.

“This has been a discussion since 2014, yet the entire area remains locked and available ONLY to the citywide little league youth organization. The small green space being planned for the corner of Federal Boulevard and Home Avenue is a trailhead featuring almost no recreational amenities and is currently unfunded. This, in no way, replaces the amenities planned for Berardini.

“Both of the current Berardini Park designs preserve space for any and all of the Little League’s baseball activities. Indeed, I participated in helping to generate some of the options to create green space for ALL sports activities in My/Our Webster community where I live and see many children playing on our streets. These options would provide Equal Access to the baseball league -- with options regardless of date and time of their events -- as well as to the youth and families who actually live, and who are actually starved for Park and Green space access in the Webster community.

“Please make Webster a place where residents can equitably use their own neighborhood space for their own sports and leisure activities.”

21. Kimberly Hiland Belding requested that the Department enter into a Joint Use Agreement with Del Mar Union School District, as she believes that the communities served by Del Mar Union School District have fewer parks than other areas of the City, and the schools have restricted use of their facilities to neighbors in the past and have reduced the size of the available green space. She noted that residents pay taxes for parks and need guaranteed access to park space.

22. Jerome Myers provided the following written comments regarding Foster Elementary School and the proposed joint use field: “This is a project in a section of Allied Gardens which has already had a lot of damage done by a history of very poor planning and execution by San Diego Unified, which has worsened the character and livability of the neighborhood. The potential damage to benefit ratio is huge for this tiny soccer field. It should never have gone this far, especially since NO impact studies have been done for all aspects; pedestrian, traffic, resident impact, congestion, and pollution. It will ruin what is left of a once quiet and pleasant neighborhood. Apparently, we are not seen as human beings who will have to permanently live with the collateral damage.”

The following letter was submitted for the record by Mr. Myers:

## **DAMAGING IMPACTS FROM FOSTER ELEMENTARY PLANNED SOCCER FIELD**

### **Plan lacks Impact Studies, Resident Input and there is a HUGE Conflict of Interest:**

The chance for neighborhood input was held late in the game. In spite of a **large majority of negative votes** by **residents and parents of all ages**, the Allied Gardens Recreation Advisory Group voted **unanimously** in favor of the plan. However, the **Chair of the Allied Gardens Community Recreation Group is Terry Cords**. His Crusaders Soccer organization **advocates for city funded soccer parks, making a HUGE conflict of interest.**

### **No Mitigation for serious Safety Concerns**

**No funds for security guards** during all Park hours, and **no security check prior to locking all gates**. Even with security, a park still attracts attention; bad actors will discover a new place to cause trouble, do business or set up encampment. Vandalism is always a guaranteed result. This will **further poison our area.**

Also, **NO restroom facilities** will be built because of the **secluded nature of location**, So, what are parents and children to use? **Serious risk of vagrant activity, drug sales and use.** **Many will use as Dog Park** and there will undoubtedly be **messes made** and tracked around.

### **Daily Heavy traffic via Dead-End street at 4-Way Stop; creates unsafe obstruction.**

The traffic plan is to make a virtual **Arena style Driveway** for ALL traffic at the Back Gate of Foster, via a **short (100 foot) dead-end street, with two driveways for three homes**, next to the gate. **Residents of these and surrounding homes** would, for hours, **lose quick access in and out, which compromises resident safety.** These venues usually have some degree of **vandalism**. This area will be **condemned to be an over-trafficked commercial zone, increasing exponentially the probability of auto accidents and serious pedestrian injuries.**

### **Our Neighborhood already severely compromised, will get worse:**

Foster Elementary's proposed **Public Soccer Park** would produce a **seriously negative impact** in this **already congested, noisy and polluted SMALL area of Allied Gardens**. It will **suffer the full force of this disastrous plan, and basically "Finish Off" this area.** After long, twice-daily heavy traffic periods from Foster's and Magnolia Academy's combined 1,000 students **there won't even be the evening breaks.**

**The Soccer Field** would have **Dawn-to-Dusk hours** when schools are out, **plus weekends**. **There would no longer be peace and quiet on evenings, weekends, holidays and summer.** **Property values, reduced by overbearing school construction, will be further diminished.**

### **In Conclusion:**

San Diego Unified, Crusaders Soccer, Allied Gardens Recreation and Parks Department, set this badly planned Soccer Field plan in motion, and hid it from those who would have to live with the damage done. For emotional effect, they claim, they are "doing it for the children," even though they have had 70 years since the school was built. They have manipulated and promoted this in the abstract; as though no human beings would have their lives permanently damaged by it. The have failed to "Think outside the Fence."|

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23. Morgan Justice-Black, the acting chair of the City’s Community Forest Advisory Board (CFAB), wrote to express concerns she received from Council District 9 residents related to the removal of dozens of mature (non-eucalyptus) trees from Pendleton Park (formerly Clay Park). She noted that this is the third project in the past six months in which Parks and Recreation has made necessary park upgrades without taking into account the impact to the tree canopy of removing mature trees. Ms. Justice-Black requested a representative from the Department’s park planning team join an upcoming CFAB meeting to discuss this issue in greater length. It is her hope to find ways to meet both park objectives and tree canopy goals.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Balboa Park Committee – Ms. Soares thanked staff for their recent work in Balboa Park such as the lily pond refresh, December Nights, and the temporary relocation of the Alpha Project shelter into Municipal Gymnasium due to flood damage to the shelter located at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Newton. She knows that paid parking has been challenging and appreciates everyone’s patience with that ongoing effort.
- Mission Bay Park Committee – Dr. Muñoz was absent, so there was no report.
- Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) – Vice Chair Gulley indicated there was no meeting and thus no update this month.
- San Diego Parks Foundation (SDPF) – Chair Bothwell reported the following updates for SDPF:
  - Willie Henderson Sports Complex project to repair the hard courts began yesterday February 18, 2026, and will be completed in March. A special event to clean the park (weed removal, bleacher painting, picnic table graffiti removal, sand box restoration, etc.) is scheduled on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
  - Fanuel Park at Mission Bay Park will have the right of entry (ROE) permit soon to replace the playground equipment that was removed due to safety concerns. The start date for work at this location will be sometime later this month.
  - A General Development Plan (GDP) Amendment for Encanto Community Park is proposed to add a new skate plaza at the old shuffleboard court next to the teen center. The GDP amendment will go to the Encanto Community Recreation Group for an action item on February 25, 2026. If approved, the GDP would be brought forward to the Board for consideration in the next month or two.
  - Southcrest Field is getting an LED light upgrade.
  - Memorial Senior Center is getting an installation of a pickleball court. Start date will be later this month, in February.

- This Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., the San Diego Football Club (SDFC) will be hosting a special sports court dedication at Colina del Sol Recreation Center.
- SDPF sponsored a drone soccer competition at the Neal Petties/Mountain View Recreation Center. Over 180 participants from San Ysidro and Stockton participated.
- On March 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., SDPF is supporting Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera and the Council District 9 Sports Day at Park de la Cruz in City Heights. This free event for youth ages 8 to 16 features sports clinics, skill-building stations, and opportunities to experience teamwork and play with local athletic partners. Classes will be led by professional athletic teams, offering young athletes the opportunity to learn skills, build confidence, and be inspired. A brief speaking program will begin at 11:30 a.m.
- The Undertow Golf Tournament fundraiser was completed last week and was a rousing success. Chair Bothwell also thanked Mr. Fitzgerald for helping with the successful event.
- Chair Bothwell shared that the SDPF started back in November 2018. She expressed that the SDPF is a great addition to the Department's ability to raise money and do something for the parks that were unable to do before having the private funds.

**CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS:**

Chair Bothwell had no additional report beyond the SDPF update in the previous item.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

**Ms. Laman** thanked staff for including photos of the SDPF programs and written comments in the January 15, 2026, minutes. Ms. Laman wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year, which was February 17, 2026. In celebration of the 15-day Spring Festival of the Year of the Horse, the House of China will host the Balboa Park Chinese New Year Fair on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Family-friendly and free to attend, all visitors can experience the rich heritage of Chinese culture through various performances, including dragon and lion dances, martial arts demonstrations, and classical Chinese music. The festival also features an array of food stalls offering authentic Chinese cuisine, arts and crafts booths, and educational exhibits that highlight the history and significance of the Chinese New Year.

**Ms. Laman** asked whether current the turf renovation at International Cottages will be completed in time for the Lunar New Year event. She requested next year's turf renovation be scheduled to occur immediately after December Nights so that grass area can reopen prior to the Lunar New Year event in 2027. This was referred to staff.

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**Ms. Laman** asked when the renaming of Colina del Sol Recreation Center in honor of Portia Dawson will be brought before the Board for a vote. This was referred to staff.

**Ms. Laman** asked whether Council Policy 700-42 will be updated to incorporate a procedure for acquiring new parkland. This was referred to staff.

**Mr. Anastasopoulos** stated that Ms. Kaufman’s non-agenda public comment about the meeting minutes motion was inaccurate. He stated that Roberts Rules of Order allows for members who missed a meeting to vote on approving meeting minutes at the following meeting. (Mr. Anastasopoulos showed Director Field a citation from [Section 41:11 of Roberts Rules of Order 12<sup>th</sup> Edition](#), which states in part: “It should be noted that a member’s absence from the meeting for which minutes are being approved does not prevent the member from participating in their correction or approval.”)

**Ms. Wein** asked people eligible to join the Southeastern San Diego Community Planning Group should consider applying to join. Information on the planning group is available on the [City’s webpage](#) and on the [organization webpage](#).

**Chair Bothwell** also noted there are vacancies for the Pacific Beach Community Planning Group as well. Information on the planning group is available on the [City’s webpage](#).

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Parks and Recreation Director Andy Field offered the following update on a variety of park-related topics.

**Sunshine Berardini General Development Plan:** The Park Board last considered a general development plan for this park in 2024. It was not voted upon and returned to staff as there was significant opposition and concern that adequate public outreach did not occur. Currently, the project team is working with the Sunshine Little League to determine what design elements are being requested by the league that were not included in the draft design presented to the Board. Depending on the outcome of that review, additional public input may be needed before this matter returns to the Board for consideration.

**Foster Elementary School Joint Use:** This school property in Allied Gardens is undergoing a whole site modernization that will result in new buildings to support two schools on the campus, Foster Elementary and Magnolia Science Academy. Traffic impacts will result in residential neighborhoods. This is due in part to proposed changes to the campus layout to accommodate the new buildings. Adding a natural turf joint use field creates another layer of complexity to the overall project and might add to traffic concerns depending on how the field is used. Currently, the Department is interacting with Council District 7 to determine next steps in this project and can meet with residents near the campus as part of that process. Finally, Park staff asked the Transportation Department to review concerns with traffic calming on adjacent roadways based on feedback received in recent months about this project.

**Ward Canyon Park Improvements Project:** This project began last year with the demolition of a derelict building at the corner of 39<sup>th</sup> Street and Adams Avenue. The next steps include restoration of the demolished area to park standards with natural turf and trees, development of a new community garden at the south end of the park off 40<sup>th</sup> Street in

partnership with a local nonprofit, and restoration of the playground to meet modern needs. A future project will establish a dog off-leash park on top of 40<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to Interstate 15, but this requires additional funding to realign the offramps from the freeway to 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Adams Avenue that are not currently funded.

**E-Bikes:** During non-agenda public comment, e-bikes were mentioned as a safety issue on Fiesta Island. Director Field invited Park Ranger Chief Michael Ruiz to explain E-Bike regulations and efforts to address the situation. Resources on E-Bikes can be found on the [City’s webpage](#), which includes a chart outlining the various types of e-bikes:

## What is an E-Bike?

An electric bicycle (e-bike) is a bicycle equipped with an electric motor that assists with pedaling or provides throttle power. California law classifies e-bikes into **three categories** based on speed and assist type.



	Description	Max Speed	Minimum Age	Helmet
<b>Pedal Bike</b>	Pedal only	Speed Limit	No minimum	Required under 18
<b>Class 1</b>	Pedal assist only	20 mph	No minimum	Required under 18
<b>Class 2</b>	Pedal & Throttle assist	20 mph	No minimum	Required under 18
<b>Class 3</b>	Pedal assist only	28 mph	16+	Required for all ages



**Driver’s license, registration, or insurance NOT required for e-bikes.**



**It is illegal to modify an e-bike to increase speed without updating its class label.**

E-Bikes are allowed on bike lanes, roads, and most bike paths. Class 3 may have extra restrictions on bike paths. E-Bikes may not be used on sidewalks, near businesses, or crosswalks (in pedestrian-only areas). E-Bike users must ride in the same direction as traffic and use bike lanes when available.

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Chief Ruiz indicated that additional work is needed to expand rules and regulations associated with use of E-Bikes on trails and park roads. This can be a future discussion item for the Board as additional proposals are considered for regulating E-Bike use in parks.

**Fiscal Year 2026 Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report:** Budget season is in full swing. The mid-year budget monitoring report will be heard by City Council on Monday, February 23, 2026, at the 2:00 p.m. session downtown at 202 C Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor (City Council Chambers).

The [Mid-Year Report](#) projects a \$16.8 million revenue shortfall comprised of:

- \$13.6 million in projected under budget revenues, including shortfalls in:
  - Balboa Park Parking Fee Revenue
  - Transient Occupancy Tax
  - Interest Earnings
- \$3.2 million in overbudget expenditures from all General Fund departments

As noted in [IBA Report 26-04](#), this will partially be offset by \$8 million in unanticipated insurance proceeds from flood damage at the Old Central Library, leaving a net difference of \$8.8 million.

In November 2025, the Mayor instructed departments -- including Parks and Recreation -- to implement mitigating actions, including:

- Request to Fill process for vacant positions
- Suspension of discretionary spending and nonessential overtime
- Zero-based review of external contracts

Updated projections will be provided in the Fiscal Year 2026 Third Quarter Budget Monitoring Report, which is anticipated to be released May 13, 2026.

Meanwhile, the Mayor's Office continues to develop the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027, which will be released on or before April 15, 2026. The Department submitted a seven percent (7%) reduction scenario as part of the budget development process.

**Pendleton Park:** During non-agenda public comment, Ms. Justice-Black, the chair of the Community Forest Advisory Board, expressed concern that trees are being removed as part of the redevelopment project at Pendleton Park (former Clay Park) off Solita Avenue and Seminole Drive. Both Parks and Engineering staff are very aware of the value that mature trees bring to our park system. The design team worked diligently throughout the design process to save as many of the existing trees as possible. Regrading much of the park was required to legally comply with park safety and accessibility requirements. During the public input process, new amenities -- such as a comfort station, dog off-leash area, expanded playground, and shaded picnic area -- contributed to the removal of additional existing trees. The project will remove a total of 16 trees and will be replaced with 18 new trees.

**Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines Golf Course:** The Department celebrated another successful Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines Golf Course held January 29 through February 1, 2026. As noted in [Golf Week](#) and [Times of San Diego](#), this is the 73<sup>rd</sup> year that a PGA Tour event has been held in San Diego, beginning with the San Diego Open in 1952. The

2026 tournament also marks the 59<sup>th</sup> time the event has been held at Torrey Pines. After a 16-year run, this is the final year with Farmers Insurance as the event's title sponsor, so future events will have a new sponsor and thus a new name.

**Tecolote Canyon Golf Course:** This golf course, located in Tecolote Canyon, is a 3,161-yard, 18-hole layout designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr., and Sam Snead. As reported in [Times of San Diego](#), the course closed on February 15, 2026, due to extensive sewer line work. The City's lease with the previous operator has expired, and a new Request for Proposals will be issued very soon to identify a new operator.

The site will remain a golf course after infrastructure repairs are complete and the site is restored. The reopening date for Tecolote Canyon Golf Course is to be determined depending on the timeline of the Request for Proposals for a new operator to take over the site. In the interim, Golf Operations Division staff will maintain the grounds to keep the facility ready for the next operator.

**California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) Awards of Excellence:** The CPRS Awards of Excellence program honors innovation, impact, and leadership in the field of parks and recreation. The Department won two awards, demonstrating a level of excellence that helps move our profession forward and strengthen California communities. These awards will be given at the annual statewide conference on March 12, 2026, in Long Beach.

- 2025 CPRS Award of Excellence recipient for “**Balboa Park Botanical Building**” in the **Facility Design Award of Excellence** category. Built for the 1915-16 Exposition, along with the adjacent Lily Pond and Lagoon, the historic building is one of the largest lath structures in the world. The Botanical Building plantings include more than 2,100 permanent plants, featuring fascinating collections of cycads, ferns, orchids, other tropical plants, and palms. The once deteriorating structure, with its graceful arcades, Palladian windows, and long-missing romantic pergola, now stands proudly, enhanced with modern features. For the first time in its history, the building includes interior misters, state-of-the-art lighting, and new water features, creating an immersive and dynamic space for visitors. This building, which was restored and reopened to the public in December 2024, is now fully accessible, is free to enter, and open to the public daily 10 am to 4 pm.
- 2025 CPRS Award of Excellence recipient for “**Watershed Enhancement Team**” in the **Community Impact Award of Excellence** category: The Watershed Enhancement Team is a tiny, but mighty volunteer team that meets weekly to perform cleanups, invasive species removal, trim trails, install signs, and more. Started in 2022, the Watershed Enhancement Team has allowed the San Diego River Park to function without an operational budget and has fostered community, bringing together seniors, students, and the occasional corporate group. The Department is very proud of this team and appreciates their dedication to a cleaner and healthier future for the San Diego River Park.

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**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE:** None

**CONSENT ITEMS:** None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**101. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Park General Development Plan (GDP) Amendment for the Mountain View Sports and Racquet Association (MVSRA) Tennis Learning Center**

Landscape Designer Shannon Scoggins presented the Community Park General Development Plan Amendment for the Mountain View Sports and Racquet Associations Tennis Learning Center.

Public Comments: None.

Board Comments:

Ms. Wein asked if Councilmember Henry L. Foster III made a personal donation or allocated other funding to the project. While Ms. Simpson from the MVSRA was not available to respond, Ms. Scoggins responded that each office of the City Council has funding available to invest for their community, and in this case, the Office of Council District 4 allocated funds to project.

Ms. Laman also asked Ms. Scoggins if MVSRA is a nonprofit organization. Ms. Scoggins confirmed MVSRA is a nonprofit organization. She asked if this donation was brought to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Recreation Group (CRG) for approval and what was the vote. Ms. Scoggins responded that the CRG voted to approve the GDP amendment unanimously with a vote of 5-0-0 on May 15, 2025.

**MOTION/SECONDED: Ms. Soares/Dr. Dooley**

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

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**201. Zone Zero Regulations**

Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Chief Tony Tosca from Fire and Rescue Department presented the Zone Zero regulations in very high fire hazard severity zones.

Public Comments:

1. Anne Fege, former chair of Community Forest Advisory Board, expressed concerns about trees in Zone Zero and does not want to see all trees removed from this space.
2. Sally Smull, a Chollas Valley resident, expressed a need to balance safety with trees and green space, especially in communities of concern.
3. Robin Kaufman, a Rancho Bernardo resident, stated that the Rancho Bernardo Community Council is offering Zone Zero presentations to the community. She noted that insurance companies have been contacting property owners living within [Very](#)

[High Fire Severity Zones](#) about their need to comply with new regulations even if Fire-Rescue Department staff have not reached them. Ms. Kaufman also has concerns that City properties that must comply with Zone Zero requirements will be unable to make changes and may have to be regulated.

4. Rosanna Alvarado-Martin wrote:

Zone Zero is about defensible space, not a new topic in the world of Fire Prevention. Please tell me what the City of San Diego was thinking when they approved a variance to eliminate defensible space for the rebuilt Del Mar Heights Elementary School? At the Appeal to the Planning Commission's decision of the Del Mar Heights School Rebuild project #066625, the representatives from SD Fire Rescue were not present. The City Council members had already made their decision; they didn't care to hear from the experts. They trusted Del Mar Union School District. The school district lied 30x in their MND/IS (Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study), stating that the Fire Marshal pre-approved the project.

When I contacted Fire Marshal Doug Perry, he had never heard of the project. He told me they don't pre-approve anything. The school has always been in a Very High Fire Severity Zone (VHFSZ) located at 13555 Boquita Dr., Del Mar, 92014. It's adjacent to the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve Annex. The Del Mar Union School District fought for their plan to rebuild the school closer to the Reserve with fire resistant building materials. They refused to believe that defensible space was necessary. The City and Joe LaCava refused to make a tough decision to push back for a different, safer plan. The school was built, but in June 2024, a 23-acre fire in the (Torrey Pines) Reserve threaten to burn down the school before it opened. Thankfully no children were present, no one was hurt. The construction crew grabbed water hoses to fight the fire before fire fighters arrived. Residents were evacuated. Ironically, the newly created Del Mar Heights Fire Safe Council met 2 days before the fire started.

The FSC was created by area volunteers to educate neighbors about the risk of wildfires and wildfire prevention. On July 16, 2024, the DMH Fire Council hosted a Fire Safety Workshop at Torrey Pines High School to discuss Fire Prevention, Emergency Preparedness, and debrief the community on the Fire.

This workshop was well attended by community members and City Fire Rescue, Cal Fire, San Diego Police Department, Torrey Pines State Park Rangers, and The American Red Cross. The Del Mar Union School District didn't attend the workshop and community members asked where they were.

So, I find it extraordinarily ironic that the City of San Diego is now telling homeowners that defensible space is important. Please STOP approving variances for defensible space. The Del Mar Heights School doesn't have a safe evacuation plan. The school was built to Shelter in Place. The school district has not been a good steward of this public property. They pollute and damage the TP State Natural Reserve with irrigation runoff and stormwater, regularly, they don't clear brush, and no regulatory agency has held them accountable. We've had a big rain event this week, but the irrigation is still on at the State of the Art, \$76 million school. Ask (Fire) Station 24, they run the Reserve almost daily, they see it.

Board Comments:

- Ms. Laman expressed concerns with impacts in open space areas and the urban-wildland interface. She asked if the City would comply with regulations on its own property. Director Field responded that the Department is working closely with Fire-Rescue Department to help identify ways the park system can align with the new Zone Zero requirements.
- Chair Bothwell asked how people will comply with this unfunded mandate. Chief Tosca responded that the Fire-Rescue Department would work to create more Fire Safe Councils and analyze risk, including how it relates to trees to see which ones may pose a problem. Collaboration will be crucial.
- Ms. Wein suggested that San Diego Gas and Electric could be a key partner.

## **202. Joint Use Program with School Districts: 2025 Annual Update**

Landscape Designer Shannon Scoggins presented the annual update to the City's joint use program with multiple school districts, including San Diego Unified School District.

### Public Comments:

- Anne Fege, former chair of the Community Forest Advisory Board, is concerned with the urban tree canopy and noted the opportunities that exist at joint use sites for more trees.
- Deborah Sharpe, retired park planner, is pleased with the status of the joint use program. She expressed concerns that Normal Heights Elementary School Joint Use is locked and asked for it to be reopened.

### Board Comments:

- Chair Bothwell asked Director Field to respond to Ms. Sharpe's question. Director Field indicated that joint use fields may close for any number of reasons, including field renovation, turf damage, excessive off leash dogs, construction activities, requests for long-term closure by the school district, or special events. Director Field was on site recently and noticed the closure sign was in place. He will investigate why the facility is currently closed.
- Dr. Dooley noted that the joint use program is a very good beneficial shared use program especially with San Diego Unified School District. She has been involved in the Foster Elementary School Joint Use conversation, and she looks forward to a good outcome. Marvin Elementary School Joint Use was another recently implemented joint use that has been a win for the community.
- Ms. Laman asked about whether Webster Elementary School could host a joint use site. Ms. Scoggins noted the former burn ash site at this campus that precludes it from becoming a Play All Day joint use site.
- Mr. Bloom also noted a locked gate at Kimbrough Elementary School. He asked why there is no closure sign and no contact information. Director Field indicated he would investigate why this joint use field has been closed. He speculated that the lack of signage with contact information may tie into whatever reason why the field was closed in the first place and whether the City or School District authorized the closure.

### **203. Planning for Parks and Recreational Opportunities**

City Planning Department staff -- Kelley Stanco, Sameera Rao, and Jonathan Avila -- presented the Board with an update on park planning within the San Diego City Park System. This is in response to a letter sent by Chair Bothwell to City Planning Director Heidi Vonblum requesting earlier and more frequent interaction between City Planning staff and the Board for various planning initiatives, such as community plan updates. The presentation also noted how parks can be planned in a city that is largely built out and mostly experiences infill development.

#### **Public Comments:**

1. Anne Fege, former chair of Community Forest Advisory Board, noted that the dominant feature of parks is the trees. She is concerned there is no inventory of all park trees. College Area Community Plan Update, which was recently approved by the City Council, lacks additional park space despite adding more dwelling units.
2. David Moty, chair of the Kensington-Talmadge Community Planning Group, agreed with Ms. Fege's concerns about the lack of park space within College Area under its newly adopted community plan. He suggested that more mini parks be considered for park deficient communities. One micro park in Talmadge consists only of a bench.
3. Sally Smull from Chollas Valley has a list of parcels that she would recommend acquiring to help grow the Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park. She is concerned that no plan has been created for expending the 10% of Citywide Park Development Impact Fee set aside for park land acquisition. The Encanto Neighborhoods community area needs more parks and upgrades to its existing parks.

#### **Board Comments:**

Ms. Wein asked about how land acquisition could align with the City's ongoing financial challenges and limited operations and maintenance funding resources. Director Field responded that this is a key concern going forward, as the City has extensive needs with its existing assets, let alone buying more land to expand the City's assets.

Ms. Laman asked for a status update on land acquisition using Citywide Park Development Impact Fees. She also was pleased to see City Planning Department bring this information forward to help explain the Board's role in community plan updates. Mid-City Communities Plan Update is underway, and the Board will have a role in that conversation. She also noted the role of project prioritization under Council Policy 800-14 in determining how best to use limited funds.

Chair Bothwell asked about the Citywide Park Development Impact Fee for land acquisition. Director Field responded that no funds have been expended from this funding source, which has around \$3 million accumulated thus far. While this is a large sum, it does not go very far in acquiring tracts of land when single-family houses can be in the million-dollar range each. Director Field indicated that the funds collected to date had been held for any acquisition funding needs for three priority projects: Boston Avenue, Normal Street, and Federal Boulevard. However, none of the three projects needed these funds. A fourth project, Chollas Triangle, which involves vacating a portion of Chollas Parkway, may require funds to buy the underlying land when that park is built. The Talmadge parcel, which was referenced

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in non-agenda public comment today, would likely consume the entire \$3 million in the account and would need more funds beyond this since it appraises at a higher value. Budget reductions for Fiscal Year 2026 eliminated the approved position for parkland acquisition (a Program Coordinator), so no process has been established to prioritize which parcels should be acquired first. Ms. Stanco indicated City Planning Department could help Parks and Recreation Department with identifying possible parkland acquisition opportunities in the future.

Mr. Bloom was glad to see City Planning Department provide an overview on its process for community plan updates and how the Board can be involved. He noted that special events can be especially difficult given the numerous approvals required for hosting a special event. Director Field indicated that the special event process is governed by San Diego Municipal Code and is led by Office of Special Events (OSE) Executive Director Christina Chadwick. Ms. Chadwick is a former member of the Parks and Recreation Department and is very interested in learning more about experiences people have in obtaining special events permits. Director Field offered to connect Mr. Bloom with Ms. Chadwick and OSE to discuss any special event that might have gotten stuck or have other challenges.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 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: March 19, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.**

Submitted by,

Andy Field

Director

Parks and Recreation Department