

City of San Diego
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 16, 2026

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

Meeting Held In Person and by 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.

Members Present	Members Absent	City Staff Present
Nick Anastasopoulos Jeremy Bloom Marcella Bothwell (Chair) Dr. Andrea Dooley Rick Gulley (Vice Chair) Daniele Laman Dr. Judith Muñoz Evelyn Smith Agatha Wein	Allison Soares	Michelle Abella-Shon (Virtual) Ryan Barbrick Kathleen Brand (Virtual) Maria Carriedo (Virtual) Benny Cartwright (Virtual) Alex Cross Lynn Edwards Sarah Erazo Kristi Fenick (Virtual) Andy Field Ilisa Goldman (Virtual) Stephanie Green (Virtual) Ana Grow Raghad Hashim Frank Huntlee (Virtual) Lin Kieser-Hua Roberto Marin (Virtual) Jose Mendoza Louis Merlin Donny Nguyen (Virtual) Justin Nguyen Mike Nguyen (Virtual) Danielle Nourie-Burns Marissa O’Connor (Virtual) Aparna Padmakumar (Virtual)

		Kaitlyn Porter (Virtual) Sameera Rao Jon Richards (Virtual) Carlos Rios Morgen Ruby (Virtual) Zina Rummani (Virtual) Risa Saiga (Virtual) Selena Sanchez (Virtual) Andre Smith Kelley Stanco (Virtual) Tom Tomlinson (Virtual) Gabriela Verendia Wendy Wang
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CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Bothwell at 2:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2026

MOTION/SECONDED:

Daniele Laman/Rick Gulley

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Laman and seconded by Vice Chair Gulley. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed. Ms. Soares was absent.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Susan Richardson, Chair of the Colina del Sol Community Recreation Group, reported that on March 18, 2026, the group unanimously voted to recommend establishing an overnight curfew at Colina del Sol Park. The proposed hours are 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., citing public safety, neighborhood quality of life, and consistency with City park hours. The group also requested that this item be placed on a future Parks and Recreation Board agenda for review and recommendation to the City Council.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Balboa Park Committee – Ms. Soares was not present for this meeting, thus no update this month.
- Mission Bay Park Committee – Dr. Judith Muñoz reported that at their previous meeting, the Committee voted not to support two proposed special events at the park. The Committee raised concerns about the frequency and timing of events, potential park damage, and reduced equitable access due to large for-profit events. The discussion also acknowledged the City’s budget constraints and efforts to generate revenue.
- Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) – Vice Chair Gulley indicated that there was no meeting since the last Park Board meeting, thus no update this month; however, the next meeting will be this upcoming Tuesday (April 21, 2026).

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- San Diego Parks Foundation (SDPF) – Program Director Kim Mathis reported the completion of the youth basketball season in March, with over 246 teams participating citywide, and that thirteen spring events were held with more than 3,500 participants. Ms. Mathis noted that soccer and volleyball seasons are beginning, and a new Park Ambassadors paid internship program launched on March 25, 2026, running through May 13, 2026. She mentioned upcoming events, including a regional drone competition on April 20–21, 2026, at Muni Gym with over 375 student participants and the third annual “I Love My Park” Day on May 23, 2026, at South Bay Park. Ms. Mathis provided project updates including the anticipated completion of Willie Henderson Sports Complex by the end of April 2026, the start of the Fanuel Park playground project in late April or early May, and ongoing planning for the Parks After Dark program beginning in June 2026.

CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS:

Chair Bothwell and Vice Chair Gulley had no additional reports beyond the above committee reports.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Ms. Laman asked about the subcommittees of City Council and the Environment Committee meeting at 2:00 p.m. today and why the Mission Bay Committee, a subcommittee of Park Board, did not go through Park Board prior to going to the Environmental Committee and City Council.

Director Field advised that it is not required, as it is under the Mission Bay Park Committee's jurisdiction, and the Mission Bay Park Committee was disconnected from the Park and Recreation Board about 20 years ago, so it runs on its own.

Ms. Laman asked if Mayor Gloria has appointed our new chairperson for Park Board, or if the elections for Park Board will be happening soon.

Director Field advised that Chida Warren, the Director of Boards and Commissions, is looking into that currently and it has not been completed.

Ms. Laman presented flyers to the other Board members and mentioned that the House of Czechoslovakia is going to have a lawn program at the end of this month on Sunday. Two groups from the Czech Republic will be performing and on the following weekend, the House of Pacific Relations (HPR) cottages, are going to have their 41st annual food fair, and everyone is invited.

Mr. Bloom thanked Director Field and other Parks and Recreation staff for meeting with members of the Linda Vista community about their concerns around the playground at Linda Vista Community Park. He expressed his gratitude for park staff to visit the park and speak with the community about the playground's condition.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Parks and Recreation Director, Andy Field, offered the following updates on a variety of park-related topics:

Remembering Angel Castro:



The City of San Diego lost a shining star of public service with the passing of Angel Castro, who dedicated her career to enriching the community through her work. Angel passed away unexpectedly on February 22, 2026, leaving behind a community of colleagues, friends and family who will deeply miss her energy and love for the community. July 13, 2026, is going to be Angel Castro Day with a City Council action to be taken on April 21, 2026.

Angel spent her entire City career working in the Parks and Recreation Department, beginning as a Recreation Aide in 1981. Over the years, she held a variety of roles, including Recreation Aide, Recreation Leader, Assistant Recreation Center Director, Recreation Center Director and, most recently, Area Manager.

According to her colleagues, Angel took great pride in being a City employee. Throughout her career, Angel had the opportunity to serve many communities across the City, including University City, Rancho Bernardo, Mira Mesa, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Clairemont, Ocean Beach, Ocean Air, Carmel Valley, Santa Clara, Carmel Mountain Ranch/Sabre Springs and La Jolla.

Angel believed deeply in the importance of public service and was committed to making a positive impact on the lives of others. Not only was her work appreciated by the community members she served, but Angel was a familiar and welcoming presence at Parks and Recreation Department events, known for her warmth and approachability.

Over the years, Angel mentored countless City colleagues, working to ensure each person felt valued and like part of a family.

Angel had a particular love for organizing special events and took great pride in creating memorable experiences for the communities she served. Throughout her career, she organized and supported numerous community events, including Movies and Concerts in the Park, Breakfast with Santa, Spring egg hunts, Halloween carnivals and many others.

An event that Angel was particularly proud of was an annual Skate Jam held at the Pacific Highlands Ranch Recreation Center's Pump Track, in collaboration with the San Diego Police Department. Angel worked closely with SDPD to make this a collaborative effort and added additional activities to the event so that it included all of the community, along with skating enthusiasts.



Outside of work, Angel led a full life, dedicating much of her time to making sure others around her were supported and cared for. In fact, even though Angel never had any children of her own, many people, including some colleagues, considered her to be a “second mom.” If someone needed help, Angel was there, even without being asked. She regularly made meals for people who were sick, stressed, or feeling down (she loved cooking and shopping at Costco!) and did so without hesitation.

A proud resident of Clairemont since her childhood, Angel leaves behind her loving husband, Armando, and a German Shepard, Bubba. Angel's legacy of service, leadership and compassion will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our hearts go out to Angel's family, friends and colleagues who have lost an incredible person who was a light for so many lives.

Budget: The Mayor's Office released the draft budget for Fiscal Year 2027 on April 15, 2026. The Department submitted a seven percent reduction scenario as part of the budget development process; numerous reductions are included. Today, staff will provide the Board with an overview of the draft budget.

For planning purposes, here are some key dates in the budget development process: The Mayor will present the draft budget to the City Council on Monday, April 20, 2026. Parks and Recreation Department will have its budget hearing on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in City Council Chambers at 202 C Street, 12th Floor.

Community Plan Updates: The City Planning Department offers the following updates on community plan updates occurring in the City:

- **Mid-City Communities Plan Update:** The City is updating the Mid-City Communities Plan for the first time in 25 years to identify opportunities for new homes, businesses

and infrastructure to benefit everyone in Mid-City. The City Planning Department published the Mid-City Ideas Report and the Phase 2 Public Engagement Summary. City staff are now hosting public engagement events to seek input on the Draft Planned Bicycle Network, Draft Planned Pedestrian Routes and Preliminary Concept Analysis for the ten corridors where new street concepts will be proposed. City staff recently hosted a second workshop at the Planning Commission and will host a workshop at the Park & Recreation Board on April 16. The draft community plan informed by public feedback is anticipated to be released in spring 2026. Please visit [PlanMidCity.org](https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/mid-city) to learn more and sign up for updates.

- **Otay Mesa-Nestor Community Plan Update:** This year the City will be commencing the Otay Mesa-Nestor Community Plan Update to shape a long-term vision for homes, jobs, mobility, public spaces, and neighborhood connections. This plan will have a focus on walkable areas, transit access and preserving nearby open spaces. More information is available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/otay-mesa-nestor-community-plan-update> to learn more and sign up for updates.
- **Rancho Bernardo Community Plan Update:** This year the City will be commencing the Rancho Bernardo Community Plan Update to develop a long-term vision that reflects community priorities for land use, mobility, services and future growth. More information is available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/rancho-bernardo-community-plan-update> to learn more and sign up for updates.

Events/Grand Openings:

- On Friday, April 10, 2026, Forever Balboa Park celebrated the ribbon cutting for the new **Balboa Park Pergola and Botanical Gardens** near the Botanical Building and Lily Pond. Here is an image from the Times of San Diego (<https://timesofsandiego.com/life/2026/04/10/balboa-park-pergola-botanical-weddings/>):



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- On Friday, April 10, 2026, Council President Joe LaCava celebrated the ribbon cutting of the expanded walkway along Coast Boulevard in E.B. Scripps Park near La Jolla Cove. Here is an image of the completed walkway from LaJolla.ca (<https://lajolla.ca/news/town-enhancements/scripps-park-sidewalk-widening-complete/>):



- On Friday, April 17, 2026, Councilmember Raul Campillo and the San Diego Mountain Biking Association will celebrate the grand opening of **Ruffin Canyon Trail**, which has been underway for several years and allows a path leading from Mission Valley (near Escala condominium complex) to Serra Mesa (near Taft Middle School).
- On Saturday, April 18, 2026, Councilmember Henry Foster and the Paradise Gardeners will celebrate the grand opening of the **Paradise Hills Native Garden**. Special thanks to Nancy and Wes Janssen for their tireless work in making this garden, located on an inactive landfill within Paradise Hills Community Park, a reality.
- On Friday, April 24, 2026, the Parks and Recreation and Transportation Departments will host **Arbor Day** tree planting at Gompers Park.

Golf Enterprise Fund: On March 27, 2026, Chief Financial Officer Rolando Charvel released a memorandum to the City Council outlining how the Golf Enterprise Fund operates. This memo was distributed at the Board meeting and is attached to the meeting minutes. Because the Golf Enterprise Fund was created by the City Council, the Council can terminate or modify it in the same manner in which it was created. It is also important to note that the Council can elect to do a one-time reduction from the Golf Enterprise Fund for one or two fiscal years.

Mission Bay Lease Revenues:

In January, the Oversight Committees for both Mission Bay and Regional Parks had questions related to Mission Bay lease revenues. Director Field offered the following responses to the various questions raised:

1. **How many expired leases are on the list?** 11 expired agreements were on the list. Now there are 10, as SD Parasail was terminated by the tenant.
2. **How many leases are in holdover?** How long do holdover leases remain in effect before they officially expire? 3 are leases, 5 are Permits, and 2 are Non-Revenue. Agreements placed in Holdover become month-to-month tenancy under the same lease terms. Once in Holdover an agreement may be terminated by either Party with a 30-day notification (unless a defined term is written into agreement). Agreements are placed in Holdover to protect the City's interests and Cash Flow. In each of the agreements on this list, the City has given annual rent increases where allowed (except non-revenue). Percentage Rent agreements have a mechanism to increase as well but are based on a look-back to the previous 3-year revenue of the lessee.
3. **What is EDD's approach for selecting which of the expired leases need new ones created? For example, do they go by whatever has the earliest expiration date?** EDD works directly with Parks & Rec to prioritize which agreement to extend, RFP, terminate, or let move into Holdover. EDD's goal is to bring the highest and best use to all the Mission Bay properties.
4. **Campland has a rent credit balance of \$3M. Is it being written off each year? If so, how is it being done?** Northeast MB, LLC, sister property to Campland, has the \$3 million credit. The City and the owners executed an extension of their agreement in June 2025 with City Council approval. In the agreement, Northeast MB rescinded their rights to the \$3 million rent credit in exchange for the extension.
5. **What was the terminated lease?** SD Parasail, a license agreement for water use, was terminated. The Parks and Recreation Department approved a new agreement with SD Parasail in January, and the agreement is being drafted by City Attorney's Office.
6. **What is the difference between "terminated" and "ending"?** An agreement being "terminated" refers to a lease being ended earlier than the termination date. Since a holdover no longer has a defined termination date, it must be terminated to end. An agreement "ending" means the natural expiration date of a contract at its scheduled date.
7. **What is the difference between "invoice" and "invoiced"?** "Invoiced" refers to the invoice amount.
8. **Why is only \$800k showing in the report for a penalty to SeaWorld? How much did Sea World pay in back rent? How much did Sea World pay in penalties? Of these amounts, please confirm the amounts that went to the Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund and the Regional Parks Improvement Fund. A total of \$8.5 million was paid by Sea World pursuant to the settlement with the City, out of which \$863k was recorded as penalties. The City received \$8.5 million, which was split between the MBIF and the RPIF based on the 65/35 percent split that is outlined in Charter Section 55.2, with MBPIF receiving \$5,525,000 and RPIF \$2,975,000.**

9. **For leases that have not been updated, are there updates on these, or is staff in process of checking these late rent payments?**
 - Additional FY25 revenue updates include:
 - \$77,004.30 paid by Mission Bay Aquatic Center (annual rent)
 - \$51,790 paid by Verizon Wireless, Mission Bay Athletic (annual rent)
10. **Were late fees included for the SeaWorld rent payment?** A total of \$8.5 million was paid by Sea World pursuant to the settlement with the City, out of which \$863k was recorded as penalties.

Thank you to Elvi Ricafort for her tireless efforts supporting the Parks and Recreation Board over the last few years. Director Field appreciates Elvi's role and looks forward to working with her in other roles within the Department. We're pleased to announce that going forward, Ana Grow and Andre Smith will take over as the new liaisons to the Board. During the meeting, they were both introduced to Board members.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE: None.

CONSENT ITEMS:

101. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park – Modification of park name to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park

Carlos Rios from the Parks and Recreation Department was available to respond to questions about the proposal to rename Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park.

Public Comments: None.

Board Comments: None.

MOTION/SECONDED:

Rick Gulley/Daniele Laman

A motion was made to move to the consent agenda by Vice Chair Rick Gulley and seconded by Daniele Laman. The motion was approved and passed 9-0-0. Ms. Soares was absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

102. Dennis V. Allen Neighborhood Park GDP Amendment

Lin Kieser-Hua and Raghad Hashim from the Engineering and Capital Projects Department, along with Amelia Lee from Spurlock Landscape Architects, presented the proposed changes to the Dennis V. Allen Neighborhood Park General Development Plan (GDP).

Public Comments:

Dale Huntington, Pastor of City Life Church and a Mount Hope resident, spoke about ongoing challenges in the Mount Hope community, including limited educational opportunities, lack of green space, restricted access to healthy food, and issues with drugs, alcohol, and gang violence. He noted that nearby recreation centers are not easily accessible due to barriers such as freeways and the cemetery, and reiterated his request for the development of a Mount Hope Recreation Center, along with support for fundraising efforts to benefit local youth.

Juan Cruz, resident of the Mount Hope community, shared personal experiences growing up playing sports at Dennis V. Allen Park and expressed a desire to provide similar opportunities for future generations. He urged the Board to support efforts to raise funds for community improvements, citing ongoing challenges such as gang violence, crime, and the prevalence of liquor stores.

Board Comments:

Ms. Laman asked about the estimated cost of construction drawings/blueprints and overall construction, and asked whether any portion of Mount Hope falls within Council District 4 or is entirely within Council District 9. She expressed her commitment to the Mount Hope community speakers to assist with fundraising efforts. She also asked if the project is located within the Chollas Creek Watershed, relating to the possibility of RPIF funding eligibility.

Ms. Kieser-Hua advised that they do not have a number for how much design would cost, but the estimated construction cost for everything included in the GDP amendment is close to \$30 million.

Ms. Wein thanked the speakers from the community of Mount Hope and asked the speakers if the Mount Hope elementary students go to Chollas Creek. The speakers affirmed this. Elementary school students would have to cross the freeway and that the only green space is the cemetery. Ms. Wein also expressed her deep support for this proposal.

Mr. Barbrick confirmed that the RPIF funds would be a potential for available funding.

MOTION/SECONDED:

Daniele Laman/Rick Gulley

A motion to approve was made by Daniele Laman and seconded by Vice Chair Rick Gulley. The motion was approved and passed 9-0-0. Ms. Soares was absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

201. Draft Mid-City Ideas Report Parks and Trails

Wendy Wang, Sameera Rao, and Alex Cross from City Planning Department presented the Mid-City Ideas Report Parks and Trails with report and provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Public Comments:

David Moty, Chair of the Kensington-Talmage Planning Group, spoke about the communities of Kensington and Talmage and the deficiency of park space, with a PowerPoint presentation as a visual aid (Attachment# 1). Mr. Moty reminded the board that per the Parks' Master Plan, park points are assigned by community planning area and there are four planning areas in Mid-City, not just one. He went through the City's proposal and provided four other options/ideas for flat, usable land for potential park space.

Susan Richardson, Chair of the Colina del Sol Community Recreation Group and Retired City of La Mesa Park and Recreation Director, submitted written comments and also spoke during public comment, as quoted below.

“during process of planning, no outreach on Parks and Facilities was made to the Colina Del Sol Community Recreation Group.

Urge Planning to be sure to include the College-Rolando Library in the Eastern Area portion of the Plan, since the Library serves both communities at the corner of Montezuma and El Cajon Blvd. Look for solutions to create a park adjacent to the Library site to serve both the College Area and Rolando neighborhoods with shared parking with the library.

The northern and eastern portions of the Planning Area are park deserts.

There are no parks within a 10- minute walk, in addition, the bordering City of La Mesa has no parks on their western edge. Joint use facilities have limited amenities to provide quality recreation such as playgrounds or courts and are only available outside of school use hours.

Like other plans we've seen lately, there is a vast deficit in existing park facilities for existing residents. This Plan does not address gaps in current facilities and does not provide enough new solutions to meet the park and facility standards for the current or the proposed future population.

The goals to offer parks with meaningful recreation amenities within a 10-minute walk needs to be looked at closer, especially before increasing population density, including the addition of recreation centers and aquatic centers as park standards dictate.

The proposed Plan for the Mid-City does not meet the goals of the Parks, Facilities, and Open Space for the City as is does not provide enough usable park space options, especially in the northern/eastern portion of the planning area, where no new parks or facilities were proposed.

Comments on the draft Mid-City's ideas report:

- a. EC Blvd & College concept study area - recommend the High Level Concept, with a need to keep shopping options for grocery stores for the Eastern and College Areas. However, the proposed park should be on the interior of the project on a less busy street, NOT along busy College Ave.
- b. For the EC Blvd (Montezuma to 73rd) study area - recommend the Open Space & Street Scape Improvement Option. Contrary to proximity on the 2-dimensional map, travel to 70th St. trolley from EC Blvd is NOT pedestrian friendly due to a steep hill, regardless of shade. Add pocket parks in neighborhoods and transitions to lower building heights from major arteries to single family homes.
- c. On University - recommend the Open Space concept and ensure the Chollas Triangle Park project continue as designed. Include greening along College Ave with mixed use/higher density along University east and west of College Ave on major transit corridors only. Ensure that infrastructure and parks are added at same pace as density, prioritizing the provision of the back log of facilities that are nonexistent for current residents.”

Deborah Sharpe, a resident of Kensington and former employee of Parks and Recreation and City Planning, submitted written comments and also spoke during public comment, as quoted below.

“In general, I feel that the Draft Ideas Report does not go far enough to identify the appropriate quantity and quality of park and recreation infrastructure to support the anticipated increase in population within the MidCity Community. Specifically, the

Kensington-Talmadge neighborhoods are severely deficient in park and recreation amenities to support the existing population. Therefore, in addition to the Monroe Avenue Pocket Park identified under the Potential New Park Opportunities in the Draft Report, the Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group has identified and approved three additional sites for City analysis as potential pocket parks, including: 1) the eastern terminus of Adams Avenue between 4697 and 4703 51st Street; 2) the west side of street at the terminus of Miracle Drive, north of 4600 Miracle Drive; and 3) the northwest corner of Meade Avenue and southbound lanes of Fairmount Avenue. I strongly urge the City to study these sites for inclusion in the MidCity Community Plan Update as Potential New Park Opportunities.

Also, the design and construction of a NEW recreation center at Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park in Normal Heights should be listed under Key Policies suggested in the Draft Ideas Report for further exploration, consistent with the approved General Development Plan (GDP). The Ward Canyon Park GDP includes a much-needed recreation center which until recently was unable to be implemented due to existing development, recently demolished and removed.”

Rachel Lozano Castro with the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA) submitted written comments and also spoke during public comment, as quoted below.

“Please fund the connectivity in this plan and fully fund the Chollas Triangle Park, as well as all the blue/green infrastructure, traffic slowing measures for pedestrians, cyclists and transit use. Thank you!”

For her in-person comments, she expressed her thanks for being a part of the Community Plan Update (CPU) process. Ms. Lozano Castro mentioned that PANA is a community-led and based organization that is excited about the Mid-City plan, especially the parks and trails. She expressed her and PANA’s interest in partnering with the City to ensure that the Chollas Triangle Park is fully funded and built soon.

Lynn Edwards, Chair of the Chollas Lake Community Recreation Group and member of the Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee, reported that Chollas Lake accounts for 2,719 of the 3,742 park points (73%) serving the six eastern area communities. She encouraged exploring additional park space outside of Chollas Lake and noted that joint-use parks are often rented to outside sports groups, limiting equitable access for local residents.

Board Comments:

Ms. Laman clarified that Mid-City consists of four separate planning groups. She asked City Planning staff to address the slide that shows the proposed fire station on 47th Street. She noted that the City Operations Yard must be relocated from South Chollas before developing an aquatic center adjacent to the landfill site. She asked for cost estimates. She stated that adding disc golf to North Chollas Park would require an amendment to the Chollas Park General Development Plan (GDP).

202. Fiscal Year 2025 Donations Received from the San Diego Parks Foundation

Sarah Erazo from Parks and Recreation and Kim Mathis from the San Diego Parks Foundation presented the Fiscal Year 2025 Donations Received from the San Diego Parks Foundation with report and provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Public Comments: None.

Board Comments:

Ms. Laman asked the presenters about the process of how projects get picked and prioritized.

Dr. Muñoz asked the presenters if funding goes to the City and the City does the project, if the Parks Foundation do the project directly and pay for it directly, or does all the money go through the city.

Ms. Mathis clarified that the projects come to the Parks Foundation. From there, the Parks Foundation determines if the project is something that they can take on, depending on if there is a funding source and if the City wants the project done. They try to do as many as possible. She also clarified that a combination of money comes through the Parks Foundation, so it is all three funding pathways. It depends on where the project falls and where the money lies.

203. Fiscal Year 2027 Draft Budget

Jose Mendoza from Parks and Recreation Department presented the Fiscal Year 2027 Draft Budget with a PowerPoint presentation.

Public Comments: None.

Board Comments:

Dr. Muñoz asked for clarification on language pertaining to the reduction of use of porta-potties on Fiesta Island and bathroom closures in Mission Bay Park and what the closures or reduction of use.

Ms. Laman asked questions about paid parking in Balboa Park and asked for a follow-up presentation for the section involving the revisions in the May Revise.

Dr. Dooley acknowledged the difficulty in making large budget reductions and thanked everyone for the efforts that went into the budget.

Chair Bothwell inquired about the reduction of recreation center hours with the Fiscal Year 2027 budget and what specific positions are being laid off.

Vice Chair Gulley mentioned that he was on the task force at the San Diego Zoo that passed the most recent lease amendment, and it is his understanding that the revenue given to the City from the zoo's paid parking is not going to Balboa Park, but directly to the general fund.

Mr. Bloom inquired about how many of the 94 full-time employees will be furloughs, layoffs, or not filling open positions. He understands that there is a tentative labor agreement between the Municipal Employees Association (MEA) Union and the City where there is a pay increase that is offset by mandatory 40-hour furloughs.

Mr. Mendoza clarified that the restroom closures are year-round. He also confirmed that he is able to bring back a presentation for the Balboa Park and paid parking section during the May revise. He clarified that the 55.25 reduction is probably hourly positions that support some of the recreation center locations.

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Director Field clarified that the Fiscal Year 2027 proposed budget was presented by Mayor Gloria on April 15, 2026. It is likely that additional revisions will be announced when the May Revise is released. He noted that a similar proposal for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget development process to reduce recreation center funding was ultimately rejected by the City Council. Director Field encouraged public participation at the May 5 budget discussion. Director Field also clarified the two types of paid parking—kiosk-based parking within parks and the San Diego Zoo's paid parking under its lease—explaining that zoo parking revenue helps offset General Fund obligations for Balboa Park. He added that labor negotiations with various recognized employee organizations are ongoing, with further updates expected through the budget process as tentative labor agreements are reached.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 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: May 21, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Andy Field

Director

Parks and Recreation Department

Attachments:

1. Attachment# 1 (David Moty's Presentation)

Kensington & Talmadge
Mid City Communities Plan
P&R Workshop

April 16, 2026

A Reminder:

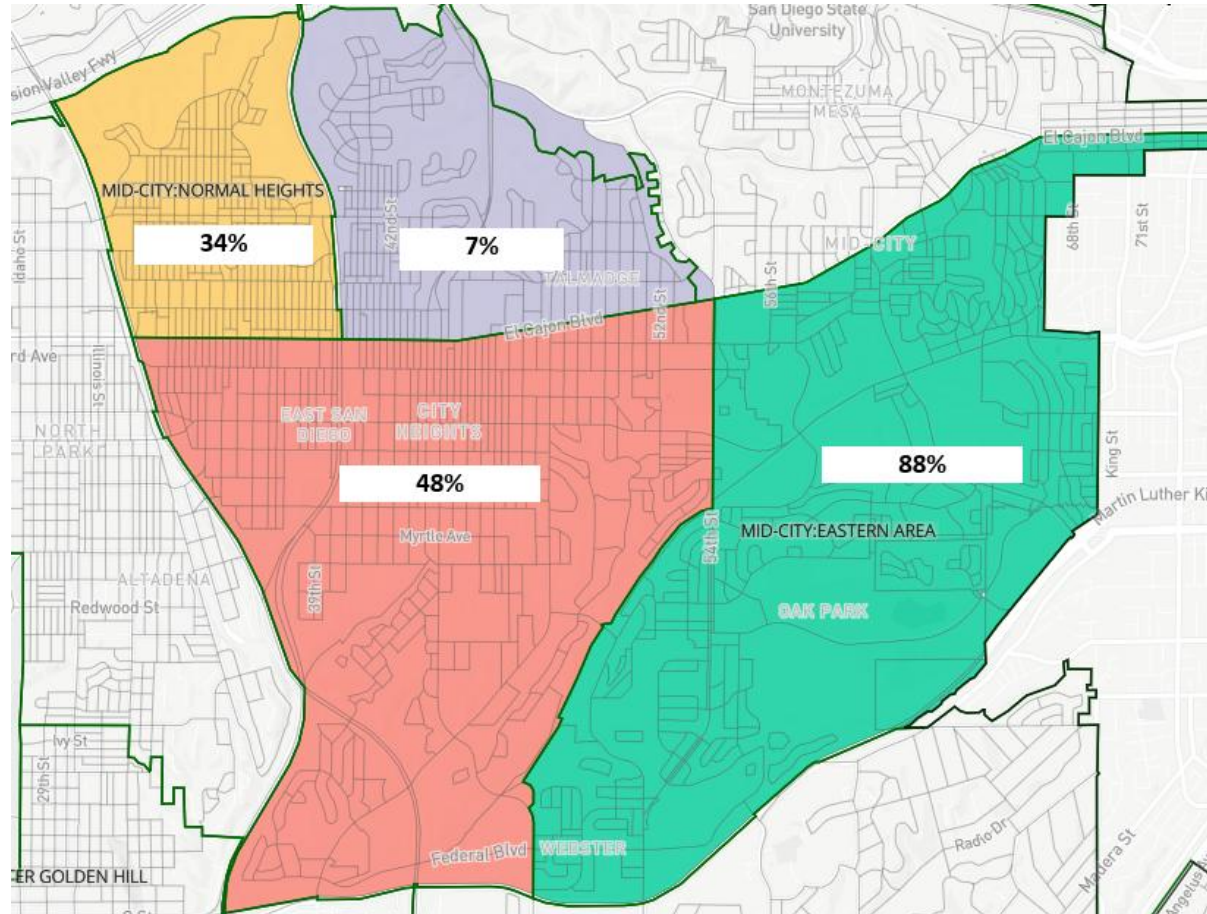
From Parks Master Plan and my November 2024 Letter to P&R Board:

Park Points are to be evaluated “within a given community plan area”

Cumulative Recreational Value for a Community Planning Area	The score of local parks and local-serving portions of Regional Developed Parks + points for proximity to Regional Developed Parks, Regional Resource-Based Parks, trails, and shorelines. The cumulative score represents the total recreational value within a given community plan area (CPA). This score will only be calculated and used during the community plan update process. See Appendix E. Park Scoring for Sample Community Plan Areas for CPA scores. At least 20 percent (or 20 points per 1,000 residents) of a community’s parks standard shall be satisfied through increased land acquisition.
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4 Community Planning Areas

4 Park Point Scores

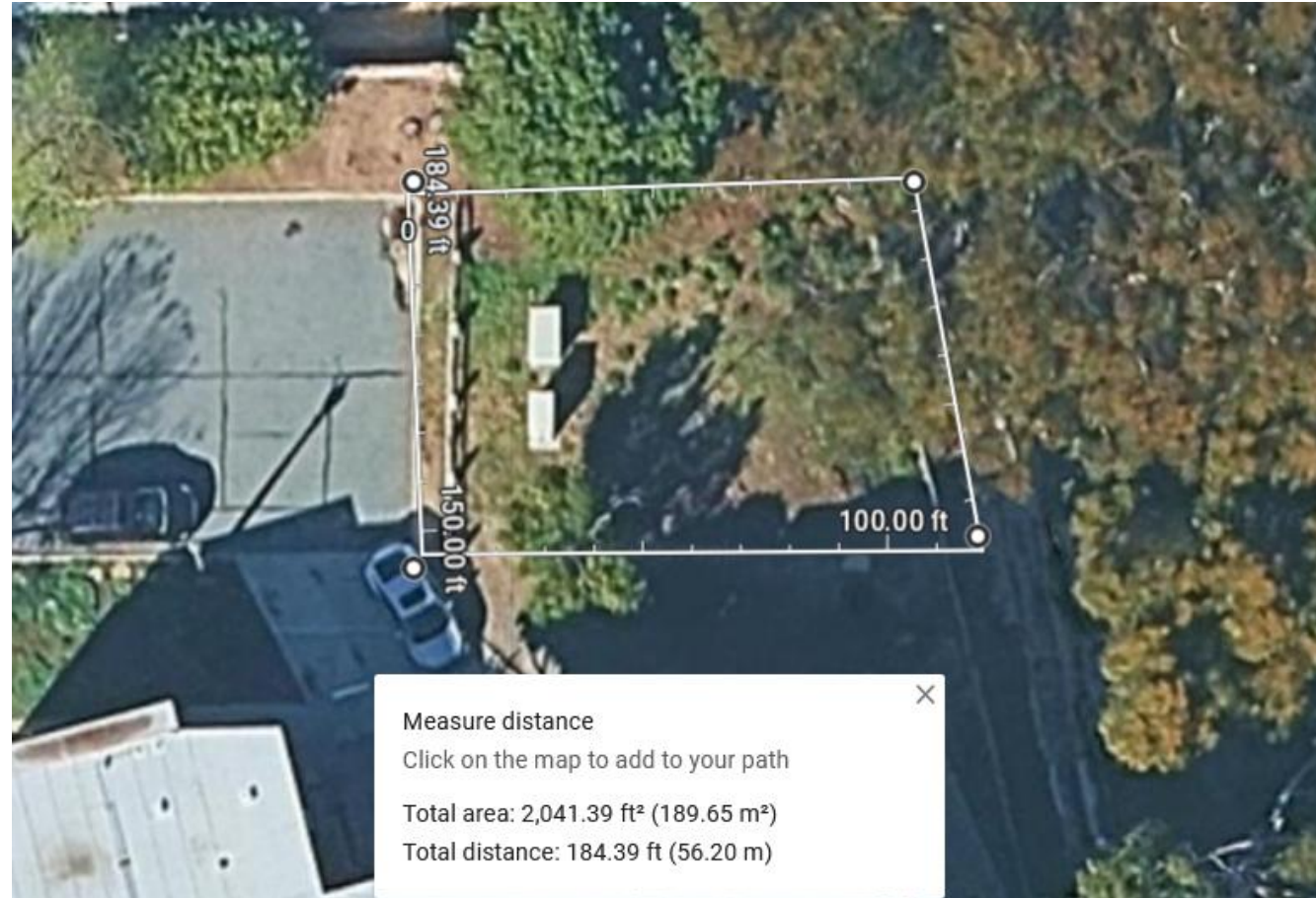


City's Proposal

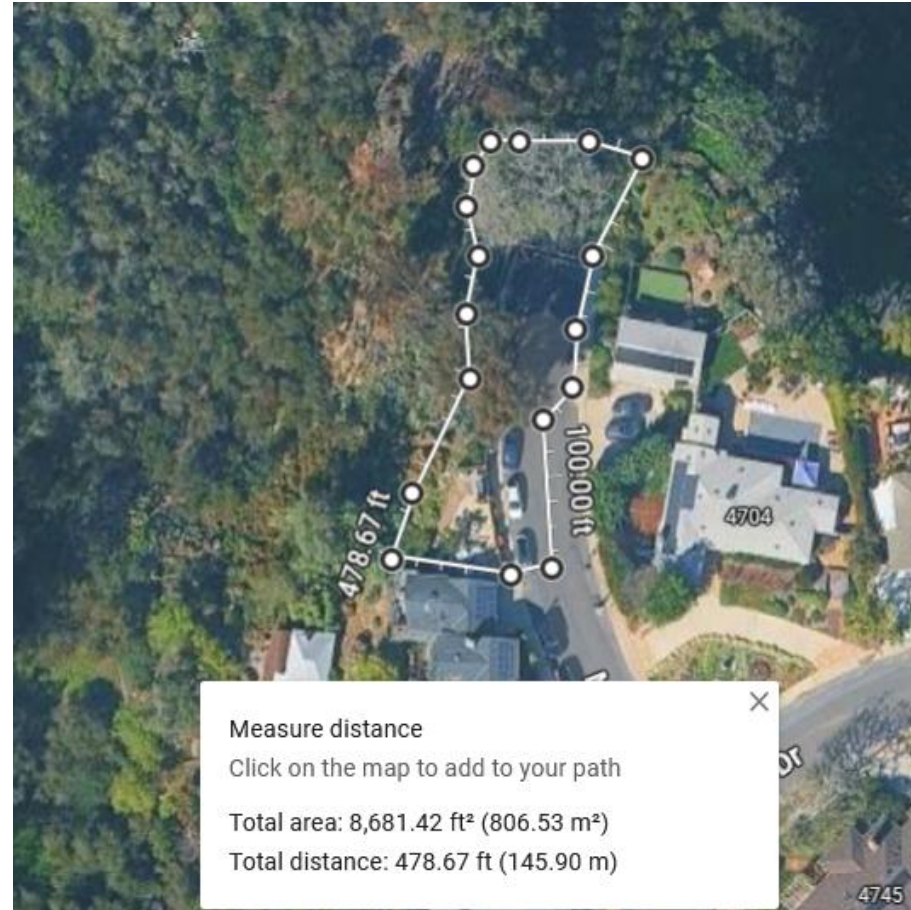
Max & Monroe – 1900 sf of flat space



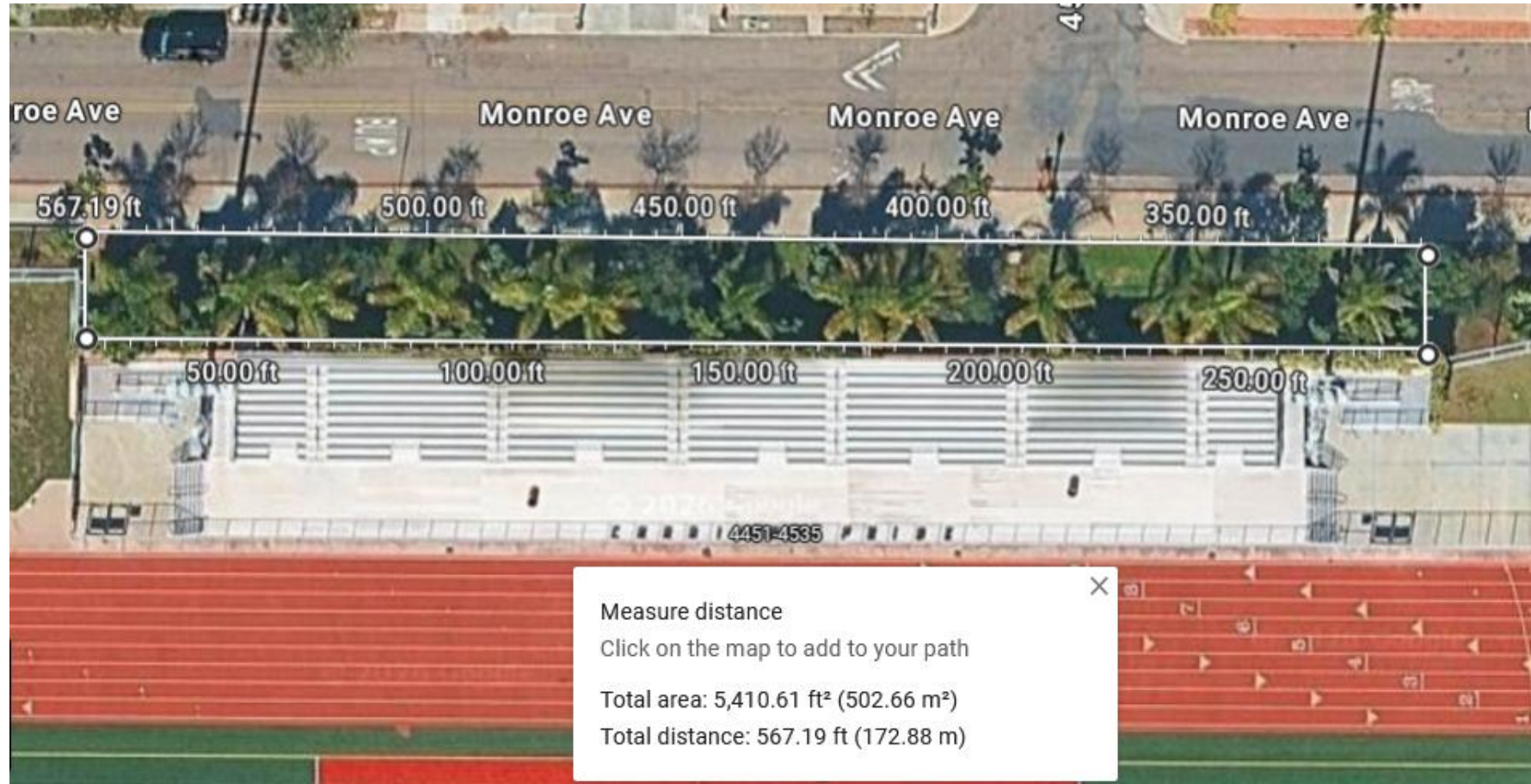
Other Ideas A:
Adams & 51st – 2000 sf of flat, usable space



Other Ideas B: Miracle & Jean – 8600 sf of flat, usable space



Other Ideas C: Hoover Bleachers – 5400 sf of flat, usable land



Other Ideas D: Estrella Avenue 4400 Block



30,500 sf of flat, usable land