

MINUTES

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

February 3, 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
Chuck Dunning
Giovanni Ingolia
Jeff Johnson
Ryan Karlsgodt
Steve Pinard

Members Absent

Cathie Jolley
Judith Munoz
Bernadette Butkiewicz
Jim Gross

City Staff Present

Karen Dennison
Patrick Hadley
Ryan Barbrick
Frank Huntlee
Brian Clark
Matt Helm
Danielle Kish

Guests

Kevin Waldick
Jillian Quint
Savannah Stallings
Nicki Zimmerman
Mikey Beats
Christina Santa Maria

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson, Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 6, 2026

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by C. Dunning and seconded by G. Ingolia to approve the January 6, 2026 Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried 6-0 with 4 abstentions (C. Jolley, J. Munoz, J. Gross, and B. Butkiewicz).

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Christina Santa Maria commented to set aside funding for California Least Tern preserve to improve fencing and sand amendment to ensure adequate nesting site.

Mikey Beats commented on the Bayfest special event held in October 2025 and reminded the Committee the event would be back next year. He also commented and apologized about the noise and traffic complaints and he would work to mitigate with the next event.

Nicki Zimmerman commented on special events in the community. She commented that residents have a difficult time getting out of the area when large special events come to Mission Bay. She asked for those considering special events to consider how it effects local residents. She also commented on the street lights out on West Mission Bay Drive on the bridge from Dana Landing to Belmont Park.

Jilian Quint commented about the estuary enhancement plan at the San Diego River entrance and the desire to get the project funded.

Savannah Stalling commented on Love Your Wetlands Day on February 7, 2026. There will be kayak tours launching from Crown Point as well as speakers and various information booths. A bird festival will also be held in Marina Village and will include live birds and arts & crafts.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – J. Johnson provided an update from City Clerk on the listening sessions to help community members learn how to participate in City Council meetings and to share feedback on how to engage with City government. The next session is Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Council District 1 – V. Joes commented that Cambria Head has moved on from her position in District 1 and Savannah Stallings would be starting next week. She also provided an update on the Oversized Vehicle Ordinance and the neighborhood policing effort to enforce. She also updated the committee that a carve out of the Surplus Land Act for Marina Village is being proposed at the State level.

Council District 2 – M. Reyes provided an update on the SD River Park Foundation Point in Time Count. 125 individuals were counted in the river area representing a 50% decrease from prior year and the lowest since 2019. He also commented on the Community Recreation Needs Assessment and encourage participation through February 28, 2026. He also commented that Snapdragon stadium will host Olympic soccer in 2028.

STAFF REPORTS

San Diego Lifeguard Service – B. Clark gave committee an update that the community will see more lifeguard boats in the water as lifeguards train and prepare for the summer months.

San Diego Police Department – No Report

Parks and Recreation – Patrick Hadley reported that item 401. Mission Bay Park Improvement Signage & Wayfinding on the agenda will be postponed to next month. P. Hadley also introduced J. Arnhart as the new liaison for the Committee. P. Hadley also commented that he would get C. Dunning an update on the Crown Point project and El Carmel comfort station.

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. 8k San Diego – Anton Villatoro, Townbull Sports – Absent

STAFF RECOMENDATION: Approve the request as presented with the caveat to provide a parking and shuttle plan to alleviate foreseeable traffic issues. Race marshalls should be placed along the route as the Bayside Walk portion of the course is heavily used by the community by pedestrians, cyclists, and other users.

302. Sharon’s Ride.Run.Walk - Dayna Bondurant, Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County – Dayna provided an update to the scheduled event that they are adding food trucks and is switching from a DJ to a live band. The event was expected to have 800 attendees.

STAFF RECOMENDATION: Approve the request as presented.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by R. Karlsgodt and seconded by S. Pinard. The motion carried 5-0 with 1 abstention from C. Dunning.

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. Mission Bay Park Improvement Signage & Wayfinding – Nicholas Ferracone, Engineering & Capital Projects – Not presented

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

501. Mission Bay Traffic Islands Beautification Design Guidelines – Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols, Engineering & Capital Projects

Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols and the Schmidt Design Group presented on the

Mission Bay Traffic Beautification Guidelines with an overview of the project and general timeline with completion in Spring 2026.

Mission Bay Districts were identified with each having various plant palettes and hardscape designs based on the District they are in. The team developed these designs utilizing existing features within the Park such as eel grass, sand dunes, and rippling ocean waves. Each district was presented in more detail showing existing conditions and the conceptual designs for each. The presenters opened the floor to comments and feedback from the committee.

R. Karlsgodt asked why Fiesta Island was not included. J. Johnson answered that Fiesta Island stands on its own and wouldn't necessarily benefit from this type of work.

G. Ingolia asked if any sort of design features could be added to mitigate or prevent oversized vehicles/recreational vehicles from parking in the park. N. Zimmerman commented that Encinitas uses large planters to mitigate this issue. C. Dunning asked a question if the Native Plant Society was consulted when developing these guidelines. The consultant team answered that they were not consulted as part of this project, but have engaged with the entity before on other projects. They also answered that in certain areas native plants may work well, however, some natives often die out or go dormant at certain parts of the year. These design guidelines were to bring a better aesthetic to the park year-round.

J. Johnson asked if this was just a planning document. B. Salguero answered that yes, and it can be used as a tool for future implementation. C. Daniels commented that the goal would be to use it for design going forward.

C. Dunning commented that the Mission Bay Improvement Fund will fund design.

K. Zirk of the Friends of Rose Creek expressed her disappointment with the guidelines as it doesn't honor the history of Mission Bay. She commented that the plan was short-sided and only looking at the last 60 years, not the 10,000 years of its existence. She asked if the plan considered joggers, bikers, pedestrians, and how to make it safer for non-vehicle access.

S. Stallings expressed her support for native plants to be incorporated into the plan. She mentioned the Parks Master Plan calls for native plants and adding natives would increase biodiversity and help accomplish the intent of the Master Plan.

SUBCOMMITTEE

601. none

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS - NONE

ADJOURNMENT – Chairperson, J. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Hadley
Deputy Director, Mission Bay and Shoreline