

**MINUTES**

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

**April 7, 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  
Steve Pinard  
Judith Munoz  
Cathie Jolley

**Members Absent**

Jeff Gross  
Bernadette Butkiewicz  
Ryan Karlsgodt

**City Staff Present**

Patrick Hadley  
James Arnhart  
Nancy Graham  
Tyler Sherer  
Nick Ferracone

**Guests**

Manuel Reyes  
Matthew Valerio  
Jillian Quint  
Andrew Meyer  
Kristyn Evans  
Xavier Garcia  
Gary Katz  
Derek Framinan  
Steve Kovalcheck  
Karen Zirk  
Kevin Waldick  
Antoun Villatoro  
Mike Rodrigues  
Denise Friedman  
Charlie Nieto

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson, Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – February 3, 2026

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED**

A motion was made by G. Ingolia and seconded by C. Adams to approve the February 3, 2026 Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried 5-0-2 with two abstentions (C. Jolley, J. Munoz).

## **NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS**

Andrew Meyer from the San Diego Bird Alliance commented the least tern season is almost here, and they are working with City Park Rangers to establish 20% vegetation cover at least tern sites. The season will recommence on April 15<sup>th</sup>. He also commented a Letter of Intent (LOI) was submitted to the Ocean Council for a grant due in early June for the purposes of planning for sea-level rise. They also submitted a LOI for a \$2.4M grant for DeAnza to use for habitat projects. The LOI was approved and the grant is currently pending.

Denise Friedman commented on getting a San Diego Police Report and how to do that with regards to impacts at Mariner's Point for response times and first aid. J. Johnson commented that she can contact Jessica Dishman who is the Community Operations Officer.

**CHAIRPERSONS REPORT** – J. Johnson commented and apologized for the delay with the release of the agenda this month and it will be improved in the future.

Council District 2 – M. Reyes provided an update that the letter Councilmember Ward prepared in response to AB2525 went to Community and Neighborhood Services Committee and passed unanimously and is going to City Council on consent next Tuesday. It ensures protection of Mission Bay dedicated park space and no homes on parkland.

M. Reyes also commented their office has been receiving feedback from District 2 residents in regard to their priorities for the upcoming budget cycle. They have heard from over 150 residents and so far, infrastructure improvements and public safety are the top priorities. They are requesting community members to fill out the survey so they can continue collecting this important information as they start the budget process later this month. The link can be viewed at:

<https://sandiego.seamlessdocs.com/ng/fa/cd2budgetsurvey>.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**San Diego Lifeguard Service** – No Report

**San Diego Police Department** – No Report

**Parks and Recreation** – Patrick Hadley reported that James Arnhart is a new employee who will be assisting with the meetings and apologized for the timeline with the agenda this month.

C. Dunning commented on 150 vacant positions within Parks and Recreation and asked if the department could tap the reserve from the golf division to fill those positions. P. Hadley commented that seven to eight positions need to be filled for Ground Maintenance Workers (GMW) 1 and still have a hiring freeze for GMW 2, and that the committee could advocate if there is a potential for using golf division funds to hire other positions within

the department. Regardless of filling vacant positions to be fully staffed, the department is still short on employees.

### **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. Mission Bay Programmatic Environmental Impact Report – Nancy Graham, Program Manager, Engineering and Capital Projects, and Matthew Valerio, Dudek consultant team

Nancy Graham and Matthew Valerio presented a PowerPoint presentation of this item to the committee once more to discuss the framework of the Mission Bay Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) noting the final implementation framework is available on the project's city website. She also commented that the priority projects will still require individual permitting and environmental review, and that additional mitigation can be added as necessary during each project's final design. Purpose of the EIR is to streamline the review process of the priority projects as they move forward in the future and will provide alternatives.

M. Valerio commented the temporal impact component is yet to be determined. Construction of the projects will have temporal impacts to be mitigated. The draft EIR will address protecting bees as part of the city's commitment to bee protection. There will be more detailed studies and evaluation with each project noting the De Anza efforts are a separate project and not covered under the Mission Bay Programmatic EIR.

N. Graham informed the committee the final EIR is docketed for the city's Environment Committee in April and the city is targeting City Council hearing for May or June at the latest before the end of the fiscal year.

Karen Zirk requested the committee not approve the project unless the committee has read the EIR. She stated that the EIR does not include any CEQA analysis if Rose Creek nor did the De Anza Plan or the Balboa Area Station Plan.

Andrew Meyer commented that the San Diego Bird Alliance supports much of the EIR and emphasized on the importance of the prioritization of the priority projects noting the city completed Priority 1 (i.e., Mission Bay Dredging) but skipped Priorities 2-4 before spending 91% of the available Mission Bay Park

funds on Priority 5 (i.e., deferred maintenance). The EIR should talk about the priorities.

Jillian Quint from the San Diego River Park Foundation commented she was pleased with the inclusion of the Estuary Trail Plan in the EIR noting it enhances safety and accessibility. She requested the San Diego River Park's estuary trail be fully integrated in the EIR's Estuary Trail Plan.

C. Dunning asked city staff how they address the Rose Creek comments from K. Zirk. N. Graham responded they cannot do a full analysis at this time for Rose Creek noting that an EIR is being prepared due to significant and unavoidable impacts and that when the city gets to 60% design they will analyze the impacts and mitigation to ensure impacts have been mitigated. If there is not enough mitigation already described within the EIR during the course of full design then a supplemental environmental document would be prepared to prevent mitigation shortages.

J. Johnson asked the city staff if the structure of the EIR precludes work on Rose Creek. N. Graham commented the city could prepare an Addendum to address projects that fall within the context of the EIR and can use mitigation excess to address other projects and/or additional voluntary mitigation if needed.

G. Ingolia commented that he had not read the EIR.

J. Munoz commented that the committee should not slow down the EIR and should support the programmatic EIR and address individual projects later.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED**

A motion was made by J. Munoz and seconded by S. Pinard to recommend support of the EIR. The motion carried a 6-0-1 vote of approval with one abstention (G. Ingolia).

202. Mission Bay Traffic Islands Beautification Design Guidelines item was postponed to a later date. No action taken by the committee.

203. Shall the Mission Bay Park Committee approve the draft letter of support for Assembly member Chris Ward's AB 2525 exempting Mission Bay Park from the California Surplus Lands Act – J. Johnson, Committee Chairperson

J. Johnson read the draft letter to the committee and public.

C. Dunning requested to add the following language to the end of the third paragraph, "The park also supports many rare and endangered plants, animal and bird species."

Karen Zirk commented it took 30 years and \$30 million to remove the homes on De Anza Cove and thanked the committee for their support to keep homes out of parkland within Mission Bay Park.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED**

A motion was made by G. Ingolia and seconded by S. Pinard to approve the letter of support as presented with the additional language requested by C. Dunning. The motion carried 7-0 as a unanimous vote of approval.

**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. Annual San Diego VisionWalk– Xavier Garcia, Foundation Fighting Blindness

Xavier Garcia commented that the event is a non-competitive 5K walk to occur on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. that provides fundraising for vision efforts. There will be no road closures (pedestrian pathways only), no shuttles or transportation services or food trucks/vendors. They will provide pre-packaged food, use open canopies, event will include a DJ and mascots, portable restrooms, trash bins and security.

J. Munoz asked if the event had been held in the park before and for how many years? X. Garcia stated the event has been going on in various locations in Southern California for the past 21 years and was more recently held in the City of Chula Vista.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED**

A motion was made by C. Jolley and seconded by J. Johnson to approve the event. The motion carried 7-0 as a unanimous vote of approval.

Anton Villatoro, Townbull Sports – Absent

302. Bike MS Bay to Bay – Kristyn Evans, National MS Society

Kristyn Evans presented the item noting this is the 43<sup>rd</sup> year of the two-day event. They are anticipating 800 participants, and the event will include a beer garden, food and music. Setup would occur the day prior. The event would clear the area by 6 p.m. on the last day of the event which is to be held at Crown Point.

C. Dunning asked where the event was held before and why Crown Point. K. Evans commented that the finish line had been held at Ingraham Plaza in prior years.

J. Johnson asked about the number of riders. K. Evans stated that there would be 1,000 riders the first day and 600 riders the second day. The event will come down through La Jolla and will terminate at Crown Point.

C. Dunning commented Crown Point is under construction and the event would shut down that are of the park.

J. Johnson commented there is another event the same day at Mariner's Point (Bayfest) but if riders were approaching from La Jolla then there should not be an issue.

C. Adams asked where do they shuttle people in from for Bayfest. A member of the public commented they shuttle from Hospitality Point.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED**

A motion was made by C. Adams and seconded by S. Pinard to approve the event. The motion carried 6-1 with C. Dunning in opposition.

303. 2026 Susan G. Komen San Diego 3-Day item was postponed to a later date. No action taken by the committee.

304. 8K San Diego – Anton Villatoro, President

Anton Villatoro presented this item. He headed the Rock n' Roll event in San Diego in the past. A. Villatoro commented the event would occur along two miles of roadway and impact six intersections noting this was not a competitive but to promote health. Shuttles would run from Ski Beach to the event location, they would have course marshals and real estate signs, and the impact of the event to the public would be 45 minutes. The event would include yoga, cold plunge baths, health class/teachings, and would not result in any full road closures.

J. Munoz asked if the company hosting was called Agon and if this was the first time for this event which A. Villatoro affirmed it was a new event (1<sup>st</sup> time). He further replied it was five miles (10,000 steps) and the Dana hotel was onboard.

J. Johnson commented that staff recommended approval with a parking and shuttle plan and asked what the special events and police department have to say commenting there would be beer at the event. A. Villatoro commented he had not discussed the event yet with special events or the police department as this approval from the committee was the first step in the process and commented about ridesharing by attendees.

S. Pinard asked about stopping runners to let cars through. A. Villatoro's response was that they could stop runners if needed for car access, and only stopping traffic for the safety of the runners.

C. Dunning asked how long is the run? A. Villatoro's response was a maximum of one hour and forty minutes.

J. Munoz asked about the cost per person. A. Villatoro's response was \$50-60 dollars.

J. Johnson commented the police department would address safety.

MOTION: DENIED

The application from 8K San Diego failed for lack of a motion or a second.

305. Surf Lounge Fest, Derek Framinan, Owner of Surf Lounge

Derek Framinan commented the local would host local musicians and vendors with free shuttles and providing maps for ride share for this event to occur at Mariner's Point. The event would also include private security and parking enforcement and a beach cleanup the next day.

Item was opened for public comment and Mike Rodrigues commented Mission Bay Park is impacted with 100/1,000 events per year and opposes the event as it was not properly noticed/posted and the event occurs one week before the three-day event at the same location (i.e., Bayfest) noting that it rained the year prior and was logistics issue for maintenance. He suggested looking at an alternative date and location for the event.

Gary Katz of the Mission Beach Town Council commented on traffic congestion for these events and the impact to residents in Mission Beach and the public communities also noting closure off public access to beaches inadequate public parking which is a requirement by the California Coastal Commission to maintain availability of these resources. He suggested moving the event to Fiesta Island and that he was opposed to events but to consider a more appropriate location. D. Framinan commented the location at Mariner's Point was selected because it was more in line with the surf community rather than Fiesta Island.

J. Munoz commented to take the event to the city, and as they do not seem to know the impact on the community.

C. Adams commented that it is difficult to know what to do given Bayfest.

MOTION: DENIED

Motion was made by C. Dunning and seconded by G. Ingolia to deny approval of the event. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of 7-0.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

401. Mission Bay Park Improvement Signage & Wayfinding was postponed to a later date. No action taken by the committee.

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

501. None

**SUBCOMMITTEE**

601. None

**COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS**

C. Dunning commented SeaWorld is applying to the California Coastal Commission (CCC) to permit a drone show that would allow a maximum of 1,000 drones per show and it is set to be heard by the CCC on April 15<sup>th</sup>. SeaWorld is allowed a minimum of 78 shows and a maximum of 110 shows that can be used interchangeably between the fireworks show and the drone show but both shows cannot both be held on the same day. He commented to the committee he did not know the follow-up.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Chairperson, J. Johnson, adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

**Notice of Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** Next regular meeting will be May 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. @ the Santa Clara Recreation Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Hadley  
Deputy Director, Mission Bay and Shoreline