

MINUTES

**City of San Diego Boards and Commissions
Parks and Recreation Department
MISSION BAY PARK COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
May 12, 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
Jeff Johnson
Ryan Karlsgodt
Steve Pinard
Bill Tippetts
Cathie Jolley
Jim Gross

Members Absent

Judith Munoz
Bernadette Butkiewicz
Chuck Dunning

Guests

Karen Zirk
Jean Spengel
Stephanie Saathoff
L. Barnes Chapman
James Royer
Debra Madden
Ethan Packer
Lyndsay Boyd

City Staff Present

Andrew Field
Karen Dennison
Patrick Hadley
Ryan Barbrick
Nick Ferracone
James Arnhart
Sara McMullen
Savannah Stallings
Manuel Reyes

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson, Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and announced the new committee member, Bill Tibbets.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – April 7, 2026

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by C. Adams and seconded by R. Karlsgodt to approve the April 7, 2026 Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried 4-0 with three abstentions.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Jean Spengel spoke to the issues of mobility on Fiesta Island.

Debra Madden spoke to the concerns to bulldoze the western berm on Fiesta Island and

brush clearing and was in opposition.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – J. Johnson discussed the Ski and Boat Club and requesting support for their efforts and noted Mayor Todd Gloria is making changes to the budget to benefit Mission Bay Park.

Council District 1 – S. Stallings commented the city is fighting for bathrooms and libraries, and there will be a ribbon cutting at Fanuel Street playground in two weeks.

Council District 2 – M. Reyes updated the committee that Mayor Todd Gloria will release updated economic feedback noting a 6.6% decrease in homelessness.

STAFF REPORTS

San Diego Lifeguard Service – B. Clark informed the committee there will be a staffing decrease on Mission Bay. Seasonal staffing will be working on the weekends, and there will be public education at boating ramps for public safety.

San Diego Police Department – Not present.

Parks and Recreation – J. Arnhart provided an update response to the Mission Bay Lease Revenue questions requested by the committee.

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 Traffic Islands Beautification Design Guidelines – City of San Diego Engineering and Capital Projects and Schmidt Design Consultants

Discussion by city staff included identifying lighting, planting (also within pedestrian areas), signage, capturing historical elements, following the City of San Diego Design Guidelines, and recommending 15-20% of the use of California native plants. There would be a vehicular versus pedestrian experience and would represent the cultural history of indigenous communities.

City staff commented that the project would have to go through the California Coastal Commission for cursory review.

Schmidt Design commented they would use the guidelines as a launching point.

J. Gross asked for clarification on how many people look at their website and get

comments.

City responded there has been no response.

P. Hadley further stated the landscape design guidelines inform the design.

J. Gross asked if you could make changes.

Schmidt Design commented they could but there is an issue of incongruity.

During public comment, K. Zirk mentioned concerns with habitat restoration for Cudahy and Fiesta Island and asked they discuss culture issues with the Kumeyaay.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by C. Jolley and seconded by S. Pinard. The motion carried 6-0-1 with 1 abstention.

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. 2026 Susan G. Komen San Diego 3-Day – Ethan Packer, Event Organizer

Event proposed to occur at Crown Point as the Hyatt and Sunset Point have issues with flooding. Three-day event with portable toilets. The route for walkers will come south from La Jolla.

J. Johnson asked how many people would be attending.

E. Packer stated 2,000 people with 100 camping on-site.

J. Johnson confirmed the route would not propose any impact to the Bayfest event.

STAFF RECOMENDATION: Approve the request as presented.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by C. Adams and seconded by S. Pinard. The motion carried 7-0-0.

302. Run Through USA Mission Bay Running Festival – Kieran Morris, Event Coordinator

Presenter did not attend. No action taken.

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. 2026 SeaWorld Drone Show – Lyndsay Boyd, SeaWorld San Diego

L. Boyd informed the committee the drone show was approved by the California Coastal Commission in April and the first show would be May 22nd. There was coordination both the CA Coastal Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The show would be 12-13 minutes long, and 75 drone shows had been contracted.

402. Mission Bay Park Improvement Signage & Wayfinding – Nicholas Ferracone, Engineering & Capital Projects

N. Ferracone represented the signage and way finding project to the committee noting color-coated areas of the bay for signage, six signage types, filling absent signage, replacement of signs and additional signage, walkway signage, eight large information panels, seven small informational panels, 150 signs all together, largest sign proposed at 11 feet wide by 12 feet tall (entry monuments), and overall timing of implementation was uncertain.

STAFF RECOMENDATION: Approve the request as presented.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by C. Adams and seconded by S. Pinard. The motion carried 7-0-0.

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

501. None.

SUBCOMMITTEE

601. None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS - NONE

ADJOURNMENT – Chairperson, J. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Notice of Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Next regular meeting will be on June 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. @ Santa Clara Recreation Center

Respectfully Submitted,
Patrick Hadley
Deputy Director, Mission Bay and Shoreline