

MINUTES

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

August 4, 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

Chuck Dunning
Giovanni Ingolia
Jeff Johnson
Judith Munoz
Cathie Jolley
Ryan Karlsgodt
Bernadette Butkiewicz
Jim Gross
Bill Tippetts
Cindy Adams

Members Absent

Steve Pinard

Guests

Savannah Stallings
Brian Clark
Nicki Zimmerman
Ian Corcoran
Andrew Meyer
Carlos Callado
Karin Zirk
Jaime Munroe

City Staff Present

Patrick Hadley
James Arnhart

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson, Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – June 9, 2026

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by G. Ingolia and seconded by to approve J.Gross to approve the June 9, 2026 Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried 8-0-2 with two abstentions (B. Tippetts and C. Adams).

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Karen Zirk discussed the issue of motorized golf carts using the pedestrian walk/bike path across the Mike Gotch bridge.

B. Tippetts discussed the issue of consistency with signage. He mentioned the potential use of bollards.

Nicki Zimmerman discussed parking and safety issues associated with Bayfest in addition to impact to resident parking during the event.

Andrew Meyer informed the committee that Carlos Callado is their new Conservation Advocacy Coordinator. De Anza Natural amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan is at the Coastal Commission this Friday, August 14th. Second bad year for California Least Terns at the City's preserves in Mission Bay with a handful of nests and less fledglings that are practicing flying and about to take off from the preserves. They were banded this year for the first time. A green band on a California Least Tern is one of theirs grown right here in the bay. Expect to see juveniles come back to try nesting after about 3 years.

Carlos Callado, from The San Diego Bird Alliance, partnered with the City of San Diego, and a Kumeyaay-led nonprofit called Renascence, to apply for a \$2.5M grant through the Ocean Protection Council's Sea Level Rise Planning Grant with funds from the Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund for work on De Anza as a match. Funding to be used to finish the planning for De Anza Natural and include habitat management planning, outreach, placemaking, and Native American outreach.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – None

STAFF REPORTS

City Council Office (District 1) – S. Stallings reported on the closure of various public bathrooms within Mission Bay Park in addition to discussion of parking fees. Committee expressed concern over bathroom closures and being a public safety issue, and asked what would be the future outcome and if the City was looking to open closed bathrooms? Response from S. Stallings was the City was open-minded to doing so.

B. Butkiewicz inquired about vandalism and graffiti of the bathrooms.

P. Hadley responded that it depends more specifically on the issue of the vandalism/graffiti at the location.

C. Adams mentioned complaints regarding Vacation Isle West and homelessness at this location.

J. Johnson stated regarding the closure of bathrooms that it was a difference between staffing vs. labor charges, and the purpose of the closures was to reduce costs.

C. Adams identified North Cove and Hospitality Point bathroom closures.

City Council Office (District 2) – No Report

San Diego Lifeguard Service – B. Clark reported issues with the public jumping off the cliffs at Mission Beach and Sunset Cliffs Park.

San Diego Police Department – No Report

Parks and Recreation – P. Hadley discussed beach bars within Mission Bay Park, and the need to establish new fees for beach bars.

J. Johson asked about beach bars as it relates to Capital Improvement Projects versus public projects.

P. Hadley responded requirements would be built into permits to address beach bars.

C. Dunning asked if parking restrictions require permit approval.

P. Hadley responded “no”.

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. The 2026 Syty Half Marathon–Ian Corcoran, Event Coordinator

Ian Corcoran presented the event noting it is an easy way to exercise. It’s a half marathon consisting of three laps around Fiesta Island starting at 6 a.m. and ending at 9 a.m.

C. Dunning questioned the use of seven port-a-potties for 200 people.

J. Munoz questioned what the event would charge. Response was that it would vary depending on the number of people who will be attending the event.

C. Adams indicated concerns regarding the actual number of attendees and signage.

J. Johnson inquired about whether they are paying for square footage of the roadway or the square footage of the entire island.

B. Tippetts requested an updated application.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by B. Butkiewicz and seconded by B. Tippetts to approve the event. The motion carried 9-1-0 with J. Munoz in opposition to approval of the event.

302. Kaiser Permanente Thrive San Diego Half Marathon and 5K – Jaime Monroe, Event Coordinator

Jaime Monroe presented the request for approval and support of the location change for the event scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2026 from Ski Beach to Vacation Isle to help alleviate the traffic issues from the previous year. City staff recommended approval of the request with the requirement to ensure additional traffic control, and have shuttle drop off participants at South Ski Beach Lot encouraging them to walk under the bridge over to Vacation Isle. They would head to Crown Point/Rivera. There would be partial lane closures during the event, and traffic would remain open.

J. Johnson asked if the request to change the location was the City's Police Department. The response was "no".

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by G. Ingolia and seconded by J. Gross to approve the event. The motion carried 10-0-0.

303. Exercise Your Faith – Jude Jean-Marie, Founder

MOTION: None

The applicant/applicant's representative were not present to discuss this item, and it will be rescheduled for a later committee date.

304. Letter to SeaWorld Supportive of the Drone Shows and Reduction of Frequent Firework Shows – Jeff Johnson

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by J. Munoz and seconded by B. Tippetts. The motion carried with unanimous approval (10-0-0).

305. Letter to Mayor and City Council requesting reopening of closed comfort stations within Mission Bay Park – Jeff Johnson

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Munoz and seconded by C. Dunning. The motion carried with unanimous approval (10-0-0).

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. None

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

501. None

SUBCOMMITTEE

601. None

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

J. Munoz discussed dog hours within Mission Bay Park.

B. Butkiewicz inquired whether there was signage posted about restricting jumping off the cliffs, bridges, et cetera. She also stated there were issues with bathroom closures at playgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT – Chairperson, J. Johnson, adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

James Arnhart
Senior Planner

Mission Bay and Shoreline Parks Division, City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department