MINUTES

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

September 1, 2026

Meeting Location
Paradise Point Resort
Main Conference Center, Pacific Room
1404 Vacation Road
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
Jim Gross
Bill Tippets
Steve Pinard

Members Absent
Bernadette Butkiewicz
Cindy Adams

Guests
Savannah Stallings
Manuel Reyes
Jacquelyn Ortegon
Karin Zirk
Kevin Waldick
Carlos Callado

City Staff Present
James Arnhart
Parita Ammerlahn

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson, Jeff Johnson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – August 4, 2026

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by G. Ingolia and seconded by B. Tippets to approve August 4, 2026, Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes to accept the minutes with recollection that G. Ingolia motioned and J. Gross seconded approval of the June 9, 2026 Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried 6-0-2 with two abstentions (R. Karlsgodt and Steve Pinard).

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Carlos Callado, Conservation Advocacy Coordinator for the San Diego Bird Alliance, informed the committee the OPC grant was not approved and they are still looking for other funding sources for DeAnza. The De Anza Natural Plan was passed by the CCC with changes made to it by commission staff. Due to the changes, the plan will return to the City Council for another vote in the near future possibly mid-October. The plan now more

closely resembles the ReWild's 'wildest' plan acreage.

C. Dunning asked if they could reapply for the grant? Why was it not accepted?

C. Callado did not provide a specific response as to why their application was not accepted. He commented the grant would have required the City to match the amount of the grant.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – J. Johnson informed the committee of an unpermitted event in September referred to as 'Burning Man on the Bay' noting that Parks and Recreation and the San Diego Police Department were working with them to meet noise requirements and other city regulations.

G. Ingolia asked about jeeps invading Fiesta Island and J. Johnson confirmed they had done so noting that the owner/event planner will need to permit the jeep event in 2027, and it will have to come to committee.

R. Karlsgodt asked if the jeeps can go anywhere on Fiesta Island with their jeeps and baja vehicles.

J. Johnson confirmed they may do so but they cannot go over the berm and have to be safe (e.g., no drag racing)

STAFF REPORTS

City Council Office (District 1) – S. Stallings reported free parking at beaches and bays passed unanimously on August 26th. Parking is never charged to residents, and there is no longer a sunset clause. Question asked about the ordinance for free parking for residents, and how is the city going to determine who is a resident?

S. Stallings stated there is no need for operational need at this time.

G. Ingolia asked if the ordinance came before committee and if there was a formal vote.

S. Stallings informed the committee they can end a letter regarding the ordinance.

J. Munoz asked about the ordinance and not requiring parking fees.

S. Stallings discussed the upcoming El Nino season and rains and likely flood events. Can get up to 10 free sandbags. Sand needs to come from a store and not removed from beach/bay areas (illegal). They will be working with emergency services.

S. Stallings stated that City Councilmember, Kent Lee, moved the ordinance forward as to not repeat what happened at Balboa Park with paid parking and the loss of revenue with paid parking.

City Council Office (District 2) – M. Reyes reported that Friars Road from SeaWorld

Drive to Napa Street has been reopened. Thirteen public restrooms have been reopened. The city is also sending flood preparedness information to 7,000+ residents for El Nino.

San Diego Lifeguard Service – No report.

San Diego Police Department – No report.

Parks and Recreation Department – No report.

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. Bike Path Sign "Prohibited Motorized Vehicles, Scooters, Bicycles, Devices" – Jeff Johnson, Chairperson

J. Johnson read the content of the letter voicing the committee's concern about motorized vehicles, scooters, bicycles, devices and providing recommendations to address illegal motorized vehicles on the Mission Bay Park bike path, in particular, on the Mike Gotch Bridge. The letter is posted on the committee's webpage.

G. Ingolia requested an edit to the letter that would keep reference to contact Campland and add "and any other vendors" that rent motorized equipment in and around Mission Bay Park.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by R. Karlsgodt and seconded by J. Munoz to approve the letter with edited language included. The motion carried unanimously (9-0-0).

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. Exercise Your Faith – Jacquelyn Ortegon, Event Representative

Event is to be carried out in the Mission Bay area, including DeAnza Cove, and would occur from 6 am – 2 pm with a 9 am check-in and end of event occurring

at 1 pm. Run would occur from 250-490 people with an average of 250-300 people. To be rescheduled for a future committee meeting. J. Ortegon asked if they could have a cold plunge, how many port-a-potties are required, do they provide security, and will the vendors have room at the end of the run at De Anza Cove. Confirmed they have two vendors.

J. Johnson directed her to contact Parks and Recreation's permit office or citywide events, and to go back to the permit office for clarification on these questions and who to contact. Currently two food trucks and two generators. J. Johson a few typical requirements noting the committee cannot tell them what to do and to go back to the city and come back to committee with a full plan for recommendation.

B. Tippets asked to clarify the event and how loud the music will be at the event.

MOTION: No motion.

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. None

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

501. None

SUBCOMMITTEE

601. None

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Committee revisited issue of parking.

C. Dunning asked what if the city wants to charge for parking later and how they would address with the California Coastal Commission. He is strongly opposed to charging the public for parking noting that Balboa Park's revenues dropped by 35% when paid parking instituted in January 2026.

S. Pinard asked why handcuff yourself with a long time period for unpaid parking.

J. Munoz asked if special events will be at the next meeting.

J. Johnson confirmed they would be attending next month.

ADJOURNMENT – Chairperson, J. Johnson, adjourned the meeting at 6:42 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
City of San Diego
Mission Bay and Shoreline Parks Division
Parks and Recreation Department