The City of SAN DIEGO
Parks & Recreation Department

MINUTES PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE
Balboa Park/Morley Field Community Recreation Group

Wednesday, August 12, 2026
6:00pm
Balboa Park Activity Center
2145 Park Blvd. San Diego, CA 92101

Attendance

Board Members: Patty Riddle – Chairperson
Chhem Young-Pen – Vice Chair
Secretary – Vacant

Organization Members:
Balboa Park Committee – Patty Riddle
North Park Little League – Greg Spielman Absent
SD Table Tennis Association – Ruben Guilloty Absent
SD Badminton Club – Patty Riddle
The Thursday Club – Christine Khouri Absent
Balboa Park Pétanque – Michael Bratton
Soccer Kids America – Karleen Driggs
North Park AYSO – Rachel Oechel
Balboa Tennis club – Colleen Ferrell
FC Balboa – Chhem Young-Pen

City Staff

Luis Ignacio	Recreation Center Director III, Balboa Park Activity Center
Adriana Magdaleno	Recreation Center Director III, Municipal Gym and Morley Field Sports Complex.
Alysandra Perez	Balboa Park Recreation & Facilities Area Manager II
Anthony Harrington	Balboa Park Recreation & Facilities District Manager

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS
Patty Riddle (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion: It was moved/Seconded (K. Driggs/A. Santamaria) to approve the minutes of May 13, 2026, meeting. Motion carried 7/0/0

FINANCIAL REPORT
Note: Budget to Actuals report is available at-

https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation/general-info/budget

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES: None

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: P. Riddle reported that the Balboa Park Committee was talking about fundraisers. P. Riddle also reported that paid parking at Balboa Park will end starting January 2027, but until then it continues. Ms. Riddle also stated that she has noticed a lot of confusion by people using the parking kiosks and people not knowing how to get into Balboa Park from the parking lot at Inspiration. She recommends that better signage is needed for the public on ways to get into the park. P. Riddle also mentioned that the restrooms at the beach will be reopened.

ORGANIZATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Balboa Park Committee: P. Riddle reported that if there is anything you want reported in the Balboa Park Committee meeting, to please let her know and she will present the information at the next meeting. P. Riddle also asked the CRG members if they have any problems with the unhoused, to please let her know so she can report it to the Balboa Park Committee.

North Park Little League: Absent

SD Table Tennis Association: Absent

SD Badminton Club: P. Riddle reported that Summer is over and kids are back in school and the badminton Summer program is over, and pickleball is back in session. She mentioned that courts 1-5 are open for members of San Diego Badminton club, 6-10 is for open play badminton and courts 11-15 are for Table Tennis and Pickleball. P. Riddle also reported that the Dave Freeman Badminton tournament will be in April of 2027.

The Thursday Club Foundation: Absent

Balboa Park Pétanque: A. Santamaria reported that at the end of August, they will be hosting the West Coast cup, with teams from Sonoma, Fresno, LA and 2 teams from Ensenada, Mexico will be participating. A. Santamaria mentioned that the club asked the City if they could have an extra court for Sunday and Monday. He mentioned that if anyone is interested in learning more about Pétanque, to stop by. The tournament will be on Saturday and Sunday, the 29th and 30th of August. A. Santamaria said that this will be a club tournament with teams of 6 players. He also mentioned that they are expecting around 50 people, not including family and friends. P. Riddle asked where do people park when they come to Pétanque? A. Santamaria said they park in the parking lot in front of the Tennis center and the parking lot near the Little League fields. C.

Ferrell asked how they like the new lighting that was put up and he responded that he loves the new lighting. A. Harrington mentioned that the sports lighting was redone inside the fields, parking lots were all LED retrofit.

Soccer Kids America: K. Driggs reported that they had a very successful World Cup themed soccer camp, with a mini tournament and were live streaming the World Cup matches. She also reported that they had their first class of the school year at Bernie Elementary. K. Driggs asked the question, since Bernie Elementary is a joint use sight, who would be responsible for mowing the grass because it had not been mowed the entire summer. A. Harrington responded that it depends on if the mowers can get access to the field. K. Driggs mentioned that they had been at Bernie for over 15 years and they have kids that have graduated that have come back to help. She reported that every Friday they are in Balboa Park and it has been amazing. K. Driggs reported that they are halfway through their current season for the fall and they will do another shorter season in the fall since we run into Halloween, Thanksgiving and December Nights. K. Driggs said this year she would like to do a Kicker Treat event and a Turkey shoot for Thanksgiving. P. Riddle asked the question, what do you tell your students about all the grabbing that is going on? K. Driggs responded, it is a contact sport. K. Driggs mentioned that she focused more on the inspiring stories that came out of World Cup.

North Park AYSO: R. Oechel reported that they have great numbers this season, with over 75 teams, 15 more than last season. The 1st games were on August 29th, and they are working on the practice schedule and trying to figure out space. Where everyone will practice, and more coaches because we are getting more kids on the waitlist. P. Riddle asked the question, where are the other teams that you play from? R. Oechel responded that they play teams in their region and there are other regions around the area like Tierrasanta and Kearney. She also mentioned that they are the largest region in that area. R. Oechel also mentioned that they have the biggest volunteer group. She also mentioned that they are starting a new leadership program and they had a ref training with 10 youth referees. C. Ferrell asked what is the difference between AYSO and Futsal? K. Driggs summed it up by saying, AYSO is outdoor soccer and Futsal is indoor soccer. R. Oechel also mentioned that her and their safety director walked the fields and were pleased with the condition they were in. She also mentioned that they had paint delivered and they were going to start painting the fields soon.

Balboa Tennis Club: C. Ferrell reported that they had just finished up the 16-18yo girls National which took place 5 days in a row with the big matches at the Barnes Tennis Club, with the top 16–18-year-olds in the nation. The finals took place at the Barnes Tennis Center, and they were hoping to fill the stands for the final day of play. C. Ferrell mentioned that the girl that won this event 3 years ago is now in the top 20 in the world. She also mentioned that Balboa Tennis Club, along with USD were also host sites for the tournament. C. Ferrell also reported that the Balboa Open just finished, which lasted over a couple of weekends, and had a great turnout. She also reported that

tournament season has started with the San Diego County Association Championship (formerly San Diego District Association Championships). Upcoming tournaments include the Metropolitan Tournament, which includes their San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame induction. Every 2 years they induct 5 people that have made an indelible impression on tennis and San Diego. This year's inductees will be Coco Vandeweghe along with 4 other deserving inductees. She also mentioned that there are challenges at Balboa Tennis Club, with flooding issues. C. Ferrell asked a question regarding landscaping and asked about the mowing service and if there was a cutback on that service. A. Harrington mentioned that services have been reduced.

FC Balboa: C. Young-Penn first mentioned that one of the things they focus on is the competitive side of soccer and against other clubs like Albion and one of the reasons why they exist is to keep competitive kids within our neighborhoods. C. Young-Penn mentioned that when kids outgrow a certain level, they leave the neighborhood. Instead of going to a team in Point Loma or Del Mar, they can stay at home and play competitive soccer. He also mentioned that the club is receiving a lot of requests from new parents asking to join. C. Young-Penn reported that they are outside of their tryout window, with tryouts happening back in December and February and April. C. Young-Penn also mentioned that if they can't join this season, they should join AYSO, just to keep playing. He also reported that the program grew from 17 to 21 teams this year with the focus around the players being at the level that we need to be to play on that level. He mentioned that FC Balboa is a non-profit volunteer organization and they serve families from Balboa Park, South Park and surrounding areas. C. Young-Penn said their big focus areas are player development and coaches' education. He stated that they certify their coaches through the US Soccer federation along with internal coaching education. C. Young-Penn also mentioned that they have expanded their development opportunities, adding some goalkeeper training, and some summer camps. He reported that a few weeks ago, the Croation National goalkeeper came out to provide a weeklong goalkeeping and player development camp. C. Young-Penn also mentioned the passing of John Anderson, a long-time City employee and volunteer with both AYSO and FC Balboa.

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORTS

District Manager-Anthony Harrington: A Harrington reported that they are moving forward with our recreation programs, facility maintenance and dealing with budget cuts, mentioning that there may be some impacts down-the-line. He mentioned that there are already some maintenance cutbacks, but if there are issues to let him know.
A. Harrington also mentioned that our General Services department is going to try to fix some of the leaks that are happening in BPAC. He mentioned the roof of BPAC is a metal dome that are interlocking and some of the caulking has split and when the water runs down the roof, it finds that seam and leaks into the gym. A. Harrington said that hopefully resealing and fixing those joints will stop the leaks.
A. Harrington also mentioned that they are working on lighting the entire walkway at Morley Field up to Bird Park. They are trying to change out all of the orange glow to the

daylight that you see with the hopes of preventing vandalism. He mentioned that the nice surprise was the parking lot lights both in front of the pool and the Tennis Center, with all LED lights. A. Harrington mentioned as a reminder that the next meeting is when we will be presenting and hopefully approving our budget. The next meeting falls on Veteran's Date and they will be emailing everyone about a date change.
A. Harrington also mentioned that they did some soil testing at Morley Field to help them determine what to do during the cold season closures. Whether it is adding more sand, or leveling out the topsoil seeding, when the results come back, they will know what needs to be done. He also mentioned that when we put the topsoil and the detaching, it's also going to level some soil out, so we're trying to level it out while filling gopher holes and just improving the health of the grass. A. Harrington also mentioned that they are using the Gopher X machine and we should have someone on contract to treat the gopher issue. He mentioned that staff will do what they can for now and then a contractor will come into add-on top of what we're doing. C. Young-Penn asked the question, what are the exact dates of the closure to Morley Field in December"? A. Harrington said he will double-check with Adriana regarding the exact dates. C. Young-Penn also asked if the soil sample was being contracted out or will the city test the sample? A. Harrington said that the samples are sent to an outside company. A. Harrington stated that we will be presenting the budget at the next meeting. We are going to budget for our programming and general maintenance, in addition to improving the clubhouse, putting more money into the fields, and lighting are tops on the list. He mentioned that if any of the CRG members have projects that are attainable. He mentioned that the RCF funds must be used towards programming and enhanced maintenance. It can't be used for staff time or anything like that.
R. Oechel asked the question, what is the CRG's role regarding the budget? A. Harrington responded that the role is they can approve the budget but can't make any changes. The vote is a simple yes or no vote. The CRG can provide feedback but no changes to the budget can be made when voting. He also mentioned, if the budget is not approved, then they will have to call a special meeting to approve the budget. R. Oechel also asked if there was an update on the bathrooms at Morley Field? A. Harrington responded with there is a project number and the engineering department is moving forward with that project. There should be public input soon. A. Harrington mentioned that the plans show there will be 8 single use stalls with 4 outside sinks, 2 on each side and a water station. A. Harrington reported that there has been some restructuring due to the budget cuts and that most service reporting will go through the improved Get It Done App. Things like a fallen tree should be reported through the app. He mentioned that you can put anything in the app from encampments to street lighting issues. R. Oechel mentioned that last season there was a big pile of dirt they had access to, so they can fill holes before games and she wanted to know if that is something that the City will provide. A. Harrington said he will look into it.

- **Area Manager-Alysandra Perez:** A. Perez reported that she was proud of their efforts for their work this summer. She mentioned that Muni gym ran a free summer lunch program for multiple weeks. They provided 35 lunches, 20 for the campers and an

additional 15 for the public. The program was through San Diego Unified School District. A. Perez mentioned there were 6 weeks of summer camps and Balboa Park Activity Center hosted 17 programs.
She also mentioned that both sites have some upcoming maintenance projects coming up. At BPAC they are working on getting the curtains replaced and all new gym lighting. A. Perez mentioned at Muni Gym they just got the field lights, and they are working on the height adjusters for the basketball rims, so they can raise and lower the baskets, as well as replacing the gym lighting at Muni. The Clubhouse at Morley field they hope to have the door replaced by the end of the week. They are also in talks again about the abatement both inside and outside the building.

- **Balboa Park Activity Center, Center Director III-Luis Ignacio:** L. Ignacio reported that the Balboa Park Activity Center just finished their summer programming. The rec center offered 2 summer camps for badminton with 45 kids in each camp. We had 3 onsite staff working at the camp along with 4 volunteers. L. Ignacio also reported that the Activity Center also offered 8 badminton classes and 1 youth badminton class, for kids ages 6 to 12. He also reported that they will be starting their first volleyball team ever at the Activity Center. This year's team will be a coed 14U team. L. Ignacio also mentioned that they are working on getting new gym divider curtains and working on getting the lights replaced for the gym.
- **Municipal Gymnasium, Center Director III-Adriana Magdaleno**: A. Magdaleno reported that they just completed their first summer camp sessions at Morley Field. She reported that they used the gym on Tuesday and Thursdays and were at Morley Field the rest of the day. R. Oechel mentioned that the camp was fantastic and that her kids loved it and getting to go to different places throughout the park. A. Magdaleno also reported that the camp ran for 6 weeks, 20 kids in each session and they received good feedback.
  She also mentioned that they had a 10u basketball league with an all-girls 12u team playing in the league. She mentioned that was the first all-girls team at Muni Gym. A. Magdaleno also mentioned that they hosted a pee wee league this summer. The league had 5 teams with kids ages 5 to 7 years old. R. Oechel mentioned that with the all-girls team, no one quit, all the girls showed up every week and how fun it was to watch. She also mentioned that the girls showed improvement every week and the team was such a confidence builder for the girls and she was thankful that they created a team for the girls. A. Magdaleno also reported that they are currently in Futsal season with 2 10u teams participating and both teams advancing to city-wide. She mentioned Muni Gym is hosting the league and there are 6 teams participating. She also mentioned that registration for the fall starts the upcoming Saturday. A. Magdaleno reported that they will offer a basketball fundamentals class, 10u flag football and a futsal class on Fridays. She also mentioned that they are going to offer a fall camp the week of Thanksgiving, November 23rd-25th.
  A. Magdaleno also reported that the last Movie's in the park is the upcoming Saturday. They will be showing Bad Guys 2. She mentioned the last Movie's in the Park, over 250 people showed up and the first Movie's in the Park had well over 300 people.

CONSENT AGENDA: None

INFORMATION ITEMS: None

ACTION ITEMS: None

WORKSHOP ITEMS: None

1.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Motion: It was moved/seconded (A. Driggs/C. Ferrell) to adjourn meeting. The motion carried 7/0/0 (Unanimously).

Next Regular Meeting: **Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 6:00pm.**
Balboa Park Activity Center
2145 Park blvd. San Diego, CA. 92101 (619) 235-5997