City of San Diego

La Jolla Community Recreation Group

Emergency Meeting

Minutes for May 4, 2026

Call to Order: 5:02 pm - Alan Dulgeroff

Board Members Present: Alan Dulgeroff, Pat Miller, Mary Munk, Jill Peters, Amy Spielman, Anne Wiklund

Board Members Absent: Jan Harris, John Wiggins, Karen Wiggins

Staff: Nicholas Volpe - Recreation Center Director II, Joaquin Quintero - Community Representative

Guests: Elisabeth Frausto (Media), Ashley Mackin-Solomon (Media), Chuck Spielman, Mary Soriano, Brenda Sacks, Mona Sonnenstern, Finola Kenny, Nic Schneider, Chelsey Truxton, Chase Dye, Gail Forbes, Kim McBride, Zaher Hidni

Approval of the Minutes: Motion was made by Amy Spielman, Second Anne Wiklund to approve the January 28, 2026 Minutes: (for: Pat Miller, Jill Peters, Amy Spielman, Anne Wiklund; against: none; abstain: Alan Dulgeroff, Mary Munk) 4-0-2. Motion passed.

Non-Agenda Public Comments: Mary Soriano commented that a La Jolla parent group is engaging City leadership to replace missing playground equipment. She also stated that they are organizing volunteers to paint some needed areas.

Requests for Items to be Placed on Consent Agenda: none

Committee Reports: none

Council District One Report (Joaquin Quintero): Joaquin Quintero mentioned two opportunities - May 4th at 6pm and May 5th - for the community to provide input to the City Council on the proposed budget and potential La Jolla Recreation Center closure.

Chairperson's Report:

- Alan Dulgeroff called the community to action and appreciated everyone's efforts to attend this emergency meeting. He highlighted how important the Recreation Center is to our community and more broadly to the greater San Diego region.

He expressed that the City of San Diego's assessment was wrong, and that we needed to take action – including providing verbal and/or written feedback at City Council meetings and to individual councilmembers - to keep the center open. He provided the following public statement:

"The La Jolla Recreation Center is over 100 years old, dedicated by one of the founders of the region, Ellen Browning-Scripps, with a vision to set aside a place for future generations of the local community and all of San Diego County to gather and thrive in perpetuity. That vision and support by all of San Diego County is the reason why it has endured to be one of the oldest and most cherished recreation centers and essential to the City and region.

It is a center for all of San Diego, the City and County. People come to the coast to enjoy the beauty and recreation, and the center is in the heart of it all, just one block away from one of the most visited areas in all of San Diego County.

The area is urban, densely populated with all ages and demographics in need, such as families with children and seniors, with very little open space. There are no nearby recreation centers, and the roadways are already congested getting in and out of La Jolla. Seniors and families driving miles to other recreation centers would further exacerbate traffic, wear on roadways and vehicles, and emissions, resulting in both local and regional societal and financial impacts.

The leadership and staff facilitate a tremendous number of programs that generate revenue and have economically self-sustaining aspects.

As the President of the park and recreation board, I urge the Mayor and City Council to sustain the vision and legacy of Ellen Browning Scripps and keep this vital resource for the entire San Diego region open and vibrant."

Group Member Comments: none

Parks and Recreation Staff Reports:

Nicholas Volpe - Recreation Center Director II: Nick confirmed the uncertainties of the LJRC future and commented that more voices against full closure may help in preventing it.

Information Items:

Action Items:

101. City of San Diego Library and Recreation Facility Analysis and Reduction Options memorandum

Alan Dulgeroff asked each attendee if they would like to speak at this meeting. Many community members were present and appreciated the opportunity to voice their opposition to the City's proposed recreation center closing. Some suggested other areas of the budget could be alternatively reduced, including roadway repairs. Others expressed concerns regarding potential lack of maintenance and supervision of the

space, if the center was closed, that could lead to attracting unhoused people which could create a need for more police response. One attendee inquired about the financial gain for the City from closure, estimated to be $231,975, and many voiced their concern that the value to the community is so much greater than such a small price tag for the City. The LJRC was noted by many as a place where connections are established through extensive regular programming, birthday parties, ping pong, plays, and countless other activities. Some mentioned the potential of reduced hours in a revised budget, rather than full closure. Several stressed the historical significance of the center. One community member commented that a full closure might trigger an Ellen Browning Scripps dedication stipulation that could require the City to return the center to her foundation.

Alan Dulgeroff made the following motion "In consideration of the City of San Diego Budget Review, the La Jolla Community Recreation Center Board hereby urges the Major and City Council of San Diego to keep the La Jolla and all other recreation centers in San Diego fully open, with no reductions to existing staff, services, and programs. This is in the interest of all ages and demographics, children and families to seniors, who use these recreation centers throughout San Diego on a regular basis." 5-0-1. Motion passed.

Workshops: none

Adjournment:

- Motion was made by Amy Spielman, Second Jill Peters to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm: (for: Pat Miller, Mary Munk, Jill Peters, Amy Spielman, Anne Wiklund; against: none; abstain: Alan Dulgeroff) 5-0-1. Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 27, 2026 (tentative), in-person at the Rec Center (615 Prospect Street, La Jolla, CA 92037)

Prepared by *Anne Wiklund*

Anne Wiklund, LJCRG VP, Secretary

THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATE FORMATS UPON REQUEST. CONTACT Nicholas Volpe, CENTER DIRECTOR II, AT (858) 552-1658.