MINUTES

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

October 6, 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
Giovanni Ingolia
Jeff Johnson
Judith Munoz
Bill Tippets
Steve Pinard
Cindy Adams

Members Absent
Bernadette Butkiewicz
Jim Gross
Ryan Karlsgodt
Chuck Dunning
Cathie Jolley

City Staff Present
James Arnhart

Guests
Savannah Stallings
Jacquelyn Ortegon
Carlos Callado
Coral Weaver
Scott Chipman
Viviann Benitez
Michael Gelfand

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson, Jeff Johnson, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – September 1, 2026

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by B. Tippets and seconded by G. Ingolia to approve the September 1, 2026, Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried 5-0-1 with one abstention (C. Adams).

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Carlos Callado, Conservation Advocacy Coordinator for the San Diego Bird Alliance, gave a summary on the De Anza Natural/ReWild Mission Bay Wetland Restoration Project Roadmap noting the restoration work would be contracted and provided a timeline as

shown on page 4 of the handout.

Scott Chipman noted concerns over stability for De Anza and the roadmap prepared by only one stakeholder (i.e., SD Bird Alliance). He stated there are over 200,000 active users in Mission Bay Park and provided a handout and discussed with committee members an alternative Misson Bay Gateway Project referred to as "The Balanced Plan". S. Chipman asked that no endorsements, recommendations, et cetera, by made towards the De Anza Rewild Plan suggested in their roadmap handout at this time without additional input and alternatives being provided by the various stakeholders for consideration.

Michael Gelfand spoke in opposition of the De Anza Natural/ReWild Mission Bay Wetland Restoration Project Roadmap noting the substantial cost to implement the roadmap, timing of implementation (phased project approach), and that it may not happen. He referred to a public poll and stated that 45% of those that took the poll were in favor of recreational improvements and 19% in favor of wetland improvements. J. Johnson provided a few remarks regarding the poll being referenced by M. Gelfand.

J. Johnson commented on future improvements to Mission Bay Park as described in the Mission Bay Park Master Plan and implementation of priority projects as codified in City of San Diego City Charter Section 55.2, which includes improvements for expansion of wetlands throughout Mission Bay Park including De Anza Cove.

M. Gelfand stated the roadmap is different from the original City Charter plans and can implement both wetlands and recreation activities.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – J. Johnson informed the committee of a letter, map and information received from the City's Transportation Department notifying the committee and communities about upcoming speed limit changes to help spread community awareness and provide an opportunity for feedback. In early 2026, the City Council adopted the Speed Management Plan (Resolution Number R-316675) setting San Diego speed limits and identifying Safety Corridors, Pedestrian/Bicycle Corridors, and Business Activity District Corridors eligible for speed limit reductions. The accompanying map shows the corridors within the Mission Bay Park Area eligible for the 5-mph speed limit reduction.

J. Johnson reported that he took a tour of the aquatic center. He discussed how the infrastructure was crumbling and is a public safety issue (e.g., termites within the handrail) and noted the deck area is outside the lease area. J. Johnson mentioned using a pilot program in which Parks and Recreation would do the work in-house, which would be funded using the Mission Bay Park Improvement Funds.

B. Tippets asked if this would go on a spreadsheet for Capital Improvement Program projects in the Planning phase.

J. Johnson replied that they would likely hire a contractor to move more quickly on the safety issue.

STAFF REPORTS

City Council Office (District 1) – S. Stallings reported to the committee the 2020 SeaWorld Master Plan Update is scheduled to be heard at City Council on Tuesday, October 13th. The parking ordinance to preserve free parking for residents at City beaches and Mission Bay parking lots is expected to be heard at City Council in November, and the De Anza Natural Plan conditionally certified by the Coastal Commission in August is docketed for approval by the City Council on November 17th. She also informed the committee that Mayor Todd Gloria held a webinar about El Nino, and the informed the public the City is accepting information for any type of community outreach which could provide support to residents during El Nino.

City Council Office (District 2) – No report.

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. 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. Exercise Your Faith – Jacquelyn Ortegon, Event Representative

Ms. Ortegon gave a presentation to the committee on October 6th and returned with a more detailed presentation for the Exercise Your Faith event. They have contacted and been coordinating with the SDPD and SFPD and confirmed there is no stage and no music will exceed 65 decibels.

J. Johnson expressed support for the event noting that it checked all the boxes.

B. Tippets asked to make sure there is a way to measure sound levels during the event so as to ensure it does not exceed 65 decibels.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by S. Pinard and seconded by G. Ingolia. The motion passed unanimously (6-0-0).

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. San Diego River Mouth Habitat Restoration and Improvements – Coral Weaver and Carlos Callado, San Diego Bird Alliance

C. Weaver discussed the types of bird species and habitats located at the mouth of the San Diego River and public access improvements which have resulted in a reduction of impacts to birds by off-leash dogs. The SD Bird Alliance provided a chart of changes to percentages of leashed and off-leash dogs in the preserve noting that presence of off-leash dogs has reduced by 30% from 75% to 45%. They also discussed the off-lease dog park/beach located to the west of the preserve and general need for more signage to prevent intrusion into sensitive habitat and reduce disruptions to wildlife.

B. Tippets stated they needed a clearer idea of the limits of the dog park, improved signage that's effective, and asked the SD Alliance presenters to provide the locations of the proposed signage using a map(s).

J. Johnson asked the presenters if there was a codified legal determination that the area was protected and asked if they would be enhancing signage where there is some existing signage. It was clarified that the area for protected resources is located east and north of the dune area. The SD Bird Alliance was not sure if the area was formally codified.

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

501. None

SUBCOMMITTEE

601. None

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

J. Munoz asked about the status of the standardization of docks in Mission Bay. J. Johnson stated that Patrick Hadley (City's Parks and Recreation Department) needs to get back to committee with an update.

J. Johnson reminded the committee members that the next regularly scheduled committee meeting to be held on November 3rd occurs on Election Day and suggested the committee consider meeting on alternative date such as November 4th. Those committee members present were in support of rescheduling the

regular meeting. The original meeting will be cancelled/adjourned and a special meeting will be held in November on a date to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT – Chairperson J. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Notice of Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Next regular meeting will be held on November 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.@ the Santa Clara Recreation Center.

Respectfully Submitted,
James Arnhart

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