

CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ADAMS RECREATION ADVISORY GROUP
MINUTES/PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, October 22, 2020
6:00 p.m.

MEETING HELD AT

Virtually on ZOOM

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ted Ewing, Chairperson
Elizabeth Chennamchetty, Vice Chairperson
Estevan Negrete, Member
John Hartley, Member
Mark Lawler, Member
Nancy Lawler, Treasurer
Kim Emerson, NHUA
Victoria Everich, Ward Canyon Wagers

STAFF

Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager II - Absent
Ashley Balingit, Center Director I
Kemii Soundara, (ACD) - Absent
Jenny Hall, SD Police Department
Brett Weise, SD Council District 3 - Absent
Normal Heights Public Library - Absent

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vavi Representative

COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS

Dennis Reiter
Debby Hartman
Jim Baross
Connie Terwilliger
Jerrica Romero

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Ted Ewing, Chairperson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A few typos were noted by Elizabeth Chennamchetty. Motion for approval: It was moved/seconded (Elizabeth Chennamchetty/Kim Emerson) to approve minutes from September 22, 2020 meeting. MOTION CARRIED (6-0-1 abstention).

COMMUNICATIONS *(limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to five (5) minutes and is not debatable).*

1. Clarification regarding the addition of Vicki as a new member
2. Ted asked Jim for clarification of the barrier removal request. The Planning Group requested that the barrier be modified, not removed. They would like the barrier to remain in place, but to be modified to allow pedestrian and bicycle traffic to pass through. We re-visited the fact that we do not know who oversees that modification but will follow up with Michele, as it is not P&R. A suggestion for Get It Done app was made, however it is not a "broken" issue, it is a modification. Estevan let the group know that the neighbors requested the barrier be replaced when the construction equipment was moved after being stored there during construction projects. The barrier was taken down to facilitate construction needs. He requests that the opening is wide enough for bikes and people, but not enough for motorcycles. Perhaps a right angle bend would solve this concern. John stated that this is also a community concern due to through traffic and car diversion, causing traffic to go to the next

street over. John stated that neighbors do not like the barrier. Ted stated that the GDP will also take care of this issue (from a long-term perspective). Reiterated that pushing for the GDP completion is important and that (most) people agree with this.

3. Ted asked who the Planning Group rep. will be. Jim stated that another community group meets at the same time, so he has a conflict between meetings but is attending both remotely. Jim said he can be present in the meantime but does not know if someone else can attend. Also, we need a representative to attend the Planning Group meetings from our group. Nancy and Mark are our unofficial reps since Bob resigned and they attend the meetings every month. John said he'd like to nominate Mark and Nancy.
4. John asked Ashley for the date of the planning meeting for the GDP design for the park.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ted reported this will be his last meeting. He will chair the November meeting and the elections. Welcomed Ted and introduced the Ward Canyon Wagers (new community group represented by Vicki). Thanked Jim and the Planning Group for attending. The new Planning Group Chairperson has set up an email for contact, (was e-mail provided in the chat?). Expressed appreciation for Urban Arts for all they are doing in Normal Heights. Ted requested information regarding the Marque. Ashley reported that the desktop had been updated and city IT will need to install the software to be able to use the marque. Since no one is there, it has been hard to coordinate. Asked for a timeline for the marque fix. Curfew recap: Ted asked John for an update regarding the curfew. Elizabeth stated that due to COVID we cannot go door to door to request signatures. She stated that we will need to wait until social distancing is not in place to continue with this goal if we want to proceed. Library update – Lynn retired, and we are waiting for a replacement.

ORGANIZATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **San Diego Police/Community Relations Officer** – Officer Jenny Hall was present – Jenny expressed that she was in the last meeting but was unable to connect with audio/video. Jenny thanked Ted for all his years of work and dedication to the community. Criminal Report: Commercial burglaries: A property near Vons on Adams that is under construction had two separate people steal tools from the property on the same day. There is video on both thefts. Residential burglaries: Three residential burglaries with known suspects. In Normal Heights area 6 vehicle break-ins. 4 vehicles stolen/ 2 recovered. If there are any issues in the area, please contact Officer Hall jmason@pd.sandiego.gov.
2. **City Council District 3 Representative** – absent
3. **San Diego Library** – absent
4. **Park & Neighborhood Safety Committee** – John reported Safe Neighborhoods painted the north side of the 'store front'. They painted the whole front of the building and has extra paint in case more graffiti shows up.
5. **Mid-City Little League** – absent. Ashley stated they have a permit to practice on the Adams joint use field, but they are not allowed to do any games at this point due to COVID.
6. **VAVI** – absent.
7. **Normal Heights Community Association** – absent. Kim stated she will reach out to them for participation.
8. **Normal Heights Urban Arts** – Kim shared the Urban Arts group has painted three butterfly boxes at Adams and 35th. They received a lot of enthusiasm from community members passing as they worked. Kim stated it was amazing to experience all the enthusiasm. It was a community effort (3-year-old to 90-year-old people helped with the project). Everyone put their signature on the box and the Urban Arts Groups new QR code. Also, Normal Heights Urban Arts has a Facebook page. Kim requested

we check out the page. All the butterflies on the boxes are local butterflies that you can find in Normal Heights. As for the west wall, Kim does not have any updates yet.

9. Planning Group

- a. Jim reported at Adams Elementary the blacktop area remains closed. At Normal Heights there is still tape on playground equipment and gates are locked. He feels making joint use available is the reasonable response and it is an ongoing issue. Elizabeth response: A response to the planning group letter was sent from the SDUSD facility director regarding the request. The main campus of NHE continues to be locked. That response was sent to Normal Heights Planning Group. The upper field is open to joint use. Jim – Even when they do rentals? We are talking about outside of school hours. Do we need to pay public access? Elizabeth – There is a security and sanitation contract signed with a rental. It is a contract with the school district. She cannot speak for the school district, but people who rent the facility and have a contract with the district have rules they have to follow. Jim – Stated that it seems like it would be a P&R interest to get their money back. Elizabeth responded that the school was built with bond money to build a school and joint use is a split use cost of expenses for the joint use area. Jim stated – The community and school district agreed to develop the school site. Kim – asked for clarification regarding a compromise. Vandalism, sanitation, drug use, seems to happen at night and then open dawn to dusk. Elizabeth – issue comes down to money. Security and money to lock and unlock gates. The city and district, everyone recognizes that dusk to dawn locking would be the reasonable compromise. Currently, the compromise is to open the upper field and close the main campus. Adams is a separate campus and a separate situation. Elizabeth does not have a child there and does not know what all the stakeholders want to say about their situation. They need their voices heard. She understands the Planning Groups concerns. From a P&R perspective we have not heard from all the stakeholders for Adams. Kim: How do we get money to fix this? Petition? The issue just keeps going on and on. If it's a money issue – it seems like it should be solved. Elizabeth – stated she has been working on this issue since her children joined the school and became aware of it. Vicki – her understanding is that all gates need to be locked during all school activities. Summer months and winter months the actual access would vary, which would leave a short window in the winter. Elizabeth – This conversation is a workshop item. Jim – P&R advisory group needs to work out an agreement between the two that will allow public access and shared responsibility. This has been a 15-year issue. When the park and school space was designed, we got it built the way we wanted. There was a 5-year period public access was denied until irrigation issues were resolved. The bias of P&R and SDUSD thinking is that it is easier to keep the gates locked. Ward Canyon is open 24/7. Elizabeth – I agree an agreement needs to be signed. I do disagree with the image you paint. There are children who are at school. Their reason for being there is to learn. This issue is more complicated than that. That is not what is happening. Ted – how much of that issue was resolved with meetings with Lee D. Elizabeth – NHE joint use agreements and Adams are two different agreements. They need to be discussed separately. The Planning group sent a letter and the district responded. The school site is locking the lower field and opening the upper field to the community as was discussed and voted on last year. That is where it stands. Adams Elementary is a separate conversation. Ted – thanks for bringing this up again.
- b. There is a goal for park access at Mountain View and Adams Ave. He reported there is a fence with gate there. He cautioned us not to do anything illegal but stated there is a big section of space back there. There is some evidence of people being there. The Planning Group is trying to work with Caltrans and the City to make that a space a park space.

- c. He also stated the playground at ward canyon park the playground is open.
- 10. **Ward Canyon Wagers** - Vicki reported the wagers are a group of over 100 people on FB and a mailing list. Their interest is focused on having a large and small dog park in Normal Heights. They would like to open the current large dog park and take the necessary steps to finding a reasonable compromise. Ted asked about the name. Connie responded that she came up with the Ward Canyon Wagers and it stuck.
- 11. **Adams Elementary** – Elizabeth communicated that SDUSD stated in-person learning could possibly begin phase 2 in January (if possible). Distance Learning will continue.
- 12. **Normal Heights Elementary** – See Adams.

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORTS

- 1. **Ashley Balingit, Center Director I** –
 - a. Rec Center is still closed. Ashley is on the virtual rec programming committee. Guidelines have been approved so now she is working on training staff to be able to do virtual programing. Question: Were there any pictures from events? Ashley: Some pictures have been submitted for the on-line contest.
 - b. P&R will be doing a drive by Halloween. Councilmember Ward will be there Friday 2:30-3:30 pm.
 - c. Toys for Tots – outside/in person sign-up registration will take place Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 11:00 am - 1:30 pm (open in person for registration until November 3rd).
 - d. Ted asked if building is open at all. Ashley confirmed the building is closed except for the outdoor Toys for Tots registration.
- 2. **Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager II** – absent

ACTION ITEMS Consent (Items are adopted without discussion)

- 1. Welcome to new member Vicki – Discussion whether Vicki was going to join as a member or the representative for Ward Canyon Wagers. Elizabeth – Asked Vicki her intent. Vicki stated that she would like to be an individual member who has a special interest. Connie: Questioned if they are officially a community group. Ultimately it was decided Vicki will join as an individual community member. The Ward Canyon Wagers will decide if they will become a more official “group with bi-laws” and report back to us.
 - a. Vote to add Vicki as a member: (John motion / Nancy second) All in favor (7-0-0). Motion passed.
 - b. Ted: Welcome to Vicki. John – stated that he believes the Wagers are a group and should be recognized as a group. He doesn’t think they should need to be “official”. Ted asked Ashley for the rules. Ashley said she thought that they could join as a group. The wagers will discuss it and ask Ashley to add it to the agenda, if so desired.

ACTION ITEMS Adoption (Each item requires individual action)

- 1. Discussion for a change in dates for future meetings as they fall on holiday weeks. Ted asked if anyone wanted to change the date. No one wanted to. We left the dates as they are.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

- 1. **Park Maintenance** – No maintenance issues noticed at the park. Kim asked Ashley how to report concern regarding the community park on Adams – asked how to go about fixing minor things. Ashley suggested using the Get it Done App. She stated it can be helpful to fix (even minor) projects to the correct departments (for example,

streets, the park, etc.). The report will go directly to the person responsible. Kim stated there is a big hole in the ground where everyone walks next to the sidewalk. Ashley stated they have been working on fixing the playground/tot lot and adding new wood chips. Ted asked more about the hole. Kim stated it is next to the sidewalk at the corner of the building. There used to be a cone there and now there is a piece of plywood. She is wondering what the status of it is. She will report it on Get It Done. The site was shared on the chat feature. John wanted to bring up the bathroom at Ward Canyon Park. He stated that the bathroom is not in good shape. It is very dirty and needs to be freshened up. He suggested painting the inside. He mentioned with COVID there are not many public restrooms available to use. He suggested paint might help inspire better care of the restroom.

2. **GDP – Ward Canyon Park** – Ted asked how much money is available. Elizabeth asked Ted what he meant by available money. Ted said he wanted to know the amount approved. Whether the amount is \$240,000 or \$400,000. Jim stated it is an estimate. Elizabeth said there is money allocated that has been approved and budgeted to make Ward Canyon park dirt ready.
3. **Adams Park Plaque** – Ted renewed his request for a seal around the dedication plaque at Adams Park to prevent theft. The plaque cost \$2,400, protection is key.
4. **Park Curfew** – was discussed earlier.
5. **Dog Park Concerns/Issues** – (We moved the Dog Park up to the second item on the list to discuss as one of the members was leaving). Connie wanted to re-iterate that the large dog park was closed temporarily, but due to COVID the dog park closure was extended. Also, a curfew was implemented. Connie would like to include a temporary large opening of the dog park area now that there is a curfew. Also, now that the large dog park has remained untouched for many months, it would need to be prepared. They would like a motion to make that happen. Vicki is prepared to make a motion and there is a second in the group. Ted: To do what? Connie: Questioned if this is an action item or procedure. Elizabeth stated that they can ask to add an item to the agenda to have a discussion and a vote on the next agenda. (Someone asked): what are the steps we need to take? As well as questioned if Michele took this to her director? Ashley stated she hasn't received information from Michele. Connie said okay and let the group know the wagers had prepared a motion: 'whereas the large dog park was closed temporarily and scheduled to reopen in March 2020 and whereas there is currently a curfew from dawn to dusk in the small dog area we would like the large dog park area to be open and prepared for 6 months to get an understanding of how the new hours will affect the property owners.' That was the prepared text to bring to the committee. If seconded, then discussion and vote. If need to wait until next meeting, then we need to know what to do to discuss and vote on it. Ted: Let me interject something. There are two sides of this issue. Connie: That's why we want to open this to discussion. Ted: your reasoning suggests that our vote will be a dominate factor in closing or opening it. Our communication from senior staff (Andy Field) is that there are no plans to open this up during COVID and due to lack of funds. Connie: I understand but we have never made a motion or had a vote to make a statement. We have never taken the next step. Ted: I feel your pain. We need to keep in mind, all the things that are wrong with the dog park. We have had band aide, temporary suggestions. I don't know if we want to go 6 months. Connie: We need to open it for discussion. Ted: Let's put it on the agenda to make it more formal. Ashley, it would be an action item to vote to open the discussion Ted: I am relying on your insight. Ashley, it would be a discussion. They are asking that we vote on our opinion for the meeting. John: This is an advisory group. The city has its own thing. We are an advisory group that can come up with solutions. We've never had a chance to meet and come up with a consensus. We have never done that. If we have consensus, we can have a vote. Jim: There should be an action item. A recommendation to the city. If the city wants to decide, we will have provided a recommendation. Ashley: Jim made a good point. We are opening it up for discussion. Jim: Not a discussion. Connie is asking for a position. They aren't asking for a discussion; she is wanting a decision.

You need to get notice out. Ashley: Thank you Jim. Ted: Two objectives will be met. The thoughts of the advisory group as well as the reaction of the city. Connie: They said the reason was that the city closed it based on our group. And now we are saying the city decided to close. Ted: Our recommendation was to close for three months. Vicki: Whose decision was it to close it for longer than 3 months? Ted: If there is nothing more, let's move on. Kim (husband) – How are we going to deal with social distancing? Elizabeth: For children at the park – occupancy is 5, you must wait your turn. Maybe we would put something in about social distancing for humans at the dog park. Ashley: We are making new signage for the park and dog park. The dog park during COVID will have maximum occupancy.

6. **Joint Use Agreements** – Discussed earlier.
7. **Adams Community Park** – No report
8. **Interface with Normal Heights Community Organizations** -Ted stated we are doing a better job of interfacing. We are continuing with this goal.

INFORMATION ITEMS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elections are next month.

ADJOURNMENT

Ted Ewing – Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next Adams Recreation Advisory Group meeting will be:
November 24, 2020 at 6:00 PM on ZOOM

Submitted by: *Ashley Balingit*
Ashley Balingit, Center Director I

Reviewed by: *M. Chicarelli*
Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager II

THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATE FORMATS UPON REQUEST.
CONTACT ASHLEY BALINGIT, CENTER DIRECTOR I AT (619) 235-1149.