

CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ADAMS COMMUNITY RECREATION GROUP
MINUTES/PUBLIC MEETING
Virtually on Zoom
Tuesday, July 26, 2022
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Estevan Negrete, Chairperson
Kim Emerson, Secretary
Dennis Reiter, Member
Connie Terwilliger, Ward Canyon Waggers
Mark Lawler, Member
Jane Bird – VOLO/VAVI Representative
Nancy Lawler, Member
Mark Lawler, Member

STAFF

Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager II
Rafael Padilla, Recreation Center Director I
Jenny Hall, SD Police Department
Jennifer Cyphers, Librarian, Kensington-Normal Heights Library
Kelly V, San Diego Library
Jessica NHCA
John NHCA

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Baross, NHCPG
Ally Welborn, NHCA
Jojo Turner, Mid-City Little League
Michael Nichols, VAVI Representative
Emily Rose-Weber, Member
Pete Evangelisto, Member

Elizabeth Chennamchetty, Vice Chairperson
Vickie Everich
Gary Weber

COMMUNITY GUESTS

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Estevan Negrete, Chairperson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval: It was moved/seconded (Connie Terwilliger/ Kim Emerson) to approve minutes from July 26, 2022, meeting. MOTION APPROVED (5-0-0).

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

Kim Emerson mentioned that the recreation center has had a table at the street fair. Any interest to have one this year? Separate table to promote Recreation programs. Possibility to discuss at next months meeting. Last time this was done in 2019 in front of the big butterfly in the shade area. As both Kim and Dennis Reiter are involved with The Normal Heights Urban Arts Group. Estevan Negrete moved topic to workshop item.

Connie Terwilliger wanted to reiterate the request that Parks and Rec considered adding a picnic table with wheelchair access. That has now been cut off. With the fencing of the new dog park. To the opposite side as it is flatter area. Adding a pad that's accessible from the sidewalk for people in wheelchair.

Jon Tolhoek NHCA – wasn't sure if this fell under communications or NHCA report but wanted clarity on working with Movies in The Park at Ward Canyon. Is NHCA playing a part with Movies in the Park in August? Estevan Negrete stated this would be reported during NHCA report.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT –**Estevan Negrete**, Chairperson reported that Elizabeth Chennamchetty had to resign as Vice Chairperson. Which opens a position and possibly do an election next month. That way it is added to the Agenda. Kim and Estevan Negrete are going to release the check from the NonProfit to Parks and Rec. Estevan has a check from CITI

Bank made out to the proper name. Michele stated that the check can be given to Rafael at any time.

ORGANIZATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. San Diego Police/Community Relations Officer – Jenny Hall, reported that she investigated the radio calls that they have been receiving from the parks. Nothing at Adams Park, however at Ward Canyon they did receive a couple of different calls last month. Various calls: one of the calls was a woman screaming and officers showed up unfortunately officers couldn't find anyone. Another call was on the 30th of June a male and female fighting. Officers showed up could not find anyone. Officers talked to some people around the park and were never able to find the male and female involved. Another incident that happened date was not recorded. A juvenile with a possible gun, possible fake gun. Pointing the gun at another juvenile. Officers showed up again, could not find anyone. Another incident was a disturbance call. Someone called in about encampments and encroachments of people hanging out. Possibly dealing narcotics in the vehicle. Nobody was in the vehicle when officers arrived. A notice was left of 72 hours on the vehicle. Another incident someone called in for some mental health issues. Unfortunately, the officers couldn't find anyone there either. They attempted call backs, but they couldn't locate that person. **Jenny Hall** also reported, around the area throughout Normal Heights. In the past month one residential break in reported. Four vehicle break ins that were reported, and three stolen vehicles. Jenny asked Estevan (Chairperson) if he's seen anything? **Estevan** replied that he has not seen anything other than encampments. Estevan did note that his mom takes the kids out to the park. Notices trash, lot of beer bottles and alcohol bottles. **Connie Terwilliger** asked what the new national number for mental health calls was. Connie asked officer Jenny if she has seen any change at all with that number? Officer Jenny replied, "not that I know of, she would have to look at Mental health calls."

2. City Council District 3 Representative –No report.

3. San Diego Library – Kelly reported, they are still doing Summer Reading. They are encouraging people to sign up. Read this summer and earn prizes like passes to museums and a free book at the end. This program is for adults too. Program runs until the end of August. You can register online or pick up a passport at the library. **Kelly** also reported that they are having a corner bookstore this Saturday, July 30th, 9am-1pm. Everything is twenty-five cents. Tons of books. Please come and support the library. All money raised goes right back into library programs. **Kelly** also noted that the library has a successful program in the tiny Kensington park. Encourage everyone to stop by and check out what's going on at the library.

4. Mid-City Little League – No report.

5. VOLO – Jane reported, they are about to start up another round of Summer Kickball and Softball league. League always sells out every season. Participants are happy with the area. Jane reported a decent size hole next to home plate. Probably getting worn out from all the kickball, softball and little league. They have their week one of kickball tomorrow Wednesday, July 27th. That's the sport that gets heavily affected by the hole at home plate. **Jane** was planning on coming out to Adams field to move the sand and water the area. To level out the hole. **Jane** also, suggested of a permanent solution. **VOLO** is looking at costs for **Permanent Foundation Boxes** put beneath the ground it's a rubber mat that can do well in all weather conditions. **Rafael** (city staff) stated that he went and did some maintenance to fill in hole with water and filled hole with sand then finished by applying another coat of water to harden the affected home plate area.

6. Normal Heights Community Association (NHCA) –John reported that years in the past NHCA has partnered with The City of San Diego. There have been fees that they have paid but have been offset by the City. This year 2022 John has taken on the responsibility for NHCA. **John** asked, where their involvement is? **Michele**, asked John what movie was he asking about, the one at Ward Canyon or at North Park? **John** replied it would be the one being played at Ward Canyon in August, Sing 2. **Michele** stated, Parks and Recreation are putting the movie on this year. **Michele** also stated in the past The City of San Diego had a relationship with NHCA to sponsor the movie. This year the communication wasn't working. The City of San Diego has time limit as far as when The City must turn in our information.

Michele stated that The City of San Diego is absorbing the cost this year. Next summer if the association is interested in, we could send out information earlier. **John** asked who would he connect to for next year? **Michele** replied yes you can connect with me. Right now, Rafael is filling in at Adams not sure where they will be sending Rafael next year. John apologized for lack of communication. **John** asked if they could come to the movie and give out popcorn? **Michele** replied yes popcorn must be prepackaged.

7. Normal Heights Urban Arts (NHUA) – Kim Emerson reported that it's the same report from last months minutes for the mural. They are moving forward with the engineer and permits. However, they are not quite at permits yet. **NHUA** is looking ahead to the Street Fair. They will have a presence there. **Kim** would like to ask the Community Association; we should reach out in regard to sharing a booth and the planning group. **Kim** asked would that be Jessica or John who are with us tonight? **Kim** stated they can only be present on Saturday. **John (NHCA)** asked Kim when would they need answer for that? **Kim** replied before probably within the next couple of weeks. **John** replied will send an email to the board to get the consensus on how **NHCA** wants to approach that. **John** stated he will get back to Kim directly. **Dennis Reiter** reported that another member of the **NHUA** and himself went out with their posters for fundraising. They took it to every business along Adams Ave. Dennis couldn't believe the response. **Dennis** stated we have an amazing group of business owners. **Dennis** also reported that the boxes, there are three boxes. One is almost completed, the other one is in the process of being painted, the one at 7 Eleven will be finished tomorrow (July 27th). There will be two on Cherokee.

8. Normal Heights Planning Group – No report.

9. Ward Canyon Waggers – Connie Terwilliger reported that Ward Canyon Waggers second Saturday sweep is on Saturday August 13th, 9am-10am. Last month they had 10 volunteer pickers. Gregory has been great with recruiting people to come. Ward Canyon Waggers uploaded a nice picture on the Waggers Facebook page. **Connie** noted that she did get response from the permanent plan. Connie is wondering as she is not familiar with the history of Permanent Plan. Thankful for new interim new dog park. Wondering of the new proposed location. **Connie** asked Michele, if she can describe what kind of landscaping and shade might be being provided for the new permanent dog park? **Michele** replied that she does not know. **Michele** also stated that she has the same current information as Connie. **Michele** has not heard from the park planners.

10. Adams Elementary – No report.

11. Normal Heights Elementary- No report.

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORTS

- 1. Rafael Padilla, Center Director I** – Reported the summer programs, summer camps started with 10 and opened class to 15 kids. Lunch programs have been going great. Rafael shared his screen to display week one of Summer Camp.
- 2. Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager** – **Michele** stated no report to make, but wanted thank Rafael for the summer camp going smoothly. **Michele** stated that she's happy to see that its full. **Michele** noted that we are continuing our maintenance throughout the day at Ward Canyon. **Michele** noted that we haven't had any major issues out in the Parks. We have the Adams Street Fair coming up will be using Adams Field. Michele encourages everyone to come out now and enjoy the grass now. **Michele** asked if there were any questions for her? **Nancy Lawler** had a question for her. Noticed that the soccer field had three lose dogs, are they allowed to have loose dogs in there? **Michele** replied no. Michele, also stated that unfortunately it still does happen in our joint use areas. Hoping that with new dog parks being open people will continue to bring their dogs to Dog Parks. Michele also noted that it should be open to kids to play. **Estevan** had a question for Michele, line of sight for the DG over at the Small Dog Park. **Michele** stated that its still under consideration. The City of San Diego is trying to find someone to perform the work.

ACTION ITEMS Consent (Items are adopted without discussion)

ACTION ITEMS Adoption (Each item requires individual action)

WORKSHOP ITEMS

- **Fact sheet-** Estevan reviewed the GDP fact sheet dated February 21, 2021. Estevan asked Rafael to send out Fact Sheet.

INFORMATION ITEMS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Michele** stated that the information about Verizon, **Michele** does not have all the information. Michele was hoping that a Park Planner was going to attend the meeting. Just to update us and the community. Verizon is looking at the vacant building at Ward Canyon on the corner. The one that is deemed to be demolished. Verizon has two thoughts. They were going to use south of the building. Attach a small building to put in a tower. Verizon has been informed that the building was going to be demolished. Verizon second proposal that they are looking at to do demolish the building and put landscaping. **Michele** noted that we are going to place this **Information Item** again on next months agenda. As we are still receiving new information coming in. With proposals being exchanged.

ADJOURNMENT

Estevan Negrete - Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next Adams Community Group meeting will be Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Submitted by: *Rafael Padilla*

Reviewed by: *MChicarelli*

Rafael Padilla, Recreation Center Director I

Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager II

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

Adams CRG Quick Fact Sheet

Workshop Item:

Interface with Normal Heights Community Organizations

Normal Heights Urban Arts

The Normal Heights Urban Arts Group is a volunteer organization seeking to promote community development through urban design and streetscape with public art, enriching the quality of life for residents and visitors. They continue to meet monthly,

-Information obtained from the Normal Heights Urban Arts Facebook Page

Representation at P&R Group: Kim Emmerson and Dennis Reiter

Meetings:

Chair:

Contact: normalheightsua@gmail.com

Normal Heights Community Association

Their “purpose is to promote a community where neighbors help neighbors and foster an environment that promotes community involvement for the betterment of all those who live, work, learn, and play here.”

“They produce a variety of fun events, including Summer Movies in the Park, the Holiday Decorating Contest& Party, monthly mixers at local restaurants, bars and pubs and ore. “

-Information obtained from the Normal Heights Community Association Website.

Representation at P&R Group: Ally

Meetings:

Chair:

Contact: normalheights.ca

Normal Heights Planning Group

The community planning groups are a formal mechanism for community input in the land use decision-making processes in San Diego. The NHCPG meets on the first Tuesday of every month at the normal Height Community Center. They post updates about activities monthly meetings and minutes, and pertinent neighborhood updates on their Facebook page.

-Information obtained from NHPG Facebook Page

Representation at P&R Group: Jim Baross

Meetings: This group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 and via zoom (during pandemic). Physical location: 4649 Hawley Blvd. agendas can be requested via

sdplanninggroups@sandiego.gov

Contact: 619-282-7329 *via Facebook, www.adamsavenuebusiness.com/NHCPG.html,
nhcpgchair@gmail.com

Adams Avenue Business Association

The AABA is a nonprofit corporation that formed in the early 80's. It was worked to improve the neighborhood's economic conditions through its own activities and in partnership with local businesses and property owner, private companies and public or government agencies. The mission of the Adams Avenue Business Association is to promote and increase commercial activity within the Business Improvement District.

-Information obtained from the AABA website

Representation at P & R Group: currently not represented

President: Mikey Knab, Executive Director: Scott Kessler –

scott@adamsavenuebusiness.com

Contact: www.adamsavenuebusiness.com, 4649 Hawley Blvd., 619-282-7329

Normal Heights Ward Canyon Waggers

The Normal Heights Ward Canyon Waggers is a group of dog lovers advocating for a solution to the closures and challenges that face the two dog parks at Ward Canyon Park. They also support the completion of the GDP as a permanent solution to a permanent dog park in Ward Canyon Park.

Representation at P & R Group: Connie Terwilliger

Organizer: Connie Terwilliger

Contact: [wcvaggers@gmail.com](mailto:wcwaggers@gmail.com), Facebook page: Ward Canyon Dog Park

Mid-City Little League

*This community group that rents space at field

Mid-City Little League is singularly committed to the development of character and sportsmanship. By providing the area's youth with a safe, healthy, and accepting environment in which to learn the fundamentals of baseball, Mid-City Little League instills values that promote citizenship and community responsibility. The League competes in 2 seasons per year. Spring runs from February through May and Fall Ball runs from mid-September through mid-November.

-Description obtained from midcitylittleleague.com

Junionrs are located at Adams and 35th field

Representation at P&R Group: Jojo Turner

Contact: www.midcitylittleleague.com, Russ Havens, 858-472-3245, crhavens@gmail.com

*contact from website

Volo (previously Vavi)

*This community group rents space at the field

A social sport leagues. Volo brings together fun-loving San Deegan's through San Diego sports leagues, events and 5k runs. Volo Sports and Social Club is the largest organizers of coed adult sports leagues, social events, races and tournaments in the country. Volo runs more than 25 different types of adult sports with over 650 leagues across San Diego.

-Information obtained via Facebook and yelp

Representation at P&R Group: Varies depending on participation on the field.

Owner:

Contact: www.volosports.com, 858-273-3485, sandiego@volosports.com

Adams CRG Quick Fact Sheet

Workshop Item:

Ward Canyon Park - Dog Park Concerns/Issues

History of Ward Canyon Temporary Dog Park:

Ward Canyon Park, with the help of generous community involvement, created a temporary Dog Park in the south east corner of Ward Canyon Park. The dog park consisted of two fenced areas. One enclosure was intended for large dogs. The second enclosure was intended for small dogs.

The dog park did not follow typical easement rules other dog parks across the country have followed. This resulted in the large dog park becoming a nuisance to local home owners. The barking, after hours attendance and large plums of dirt and dust created an uninhabitable situation for property owners. Additionally, the dog parks were challenged with maintenance issues. Most of these issues stemmed from inadequate ground cover and construction debris, which was causing injuries to dogs and distress to dog owners.

As a result, many community meetings and options for alternative temporary placement and ground coverings have been discussed and proposed over the course of several years.

The formation of a local group, called the Ward Canyon Waggers, has been created to advocate for dogs and their humans in the creation of an appropriate alternate temporary dog park, until such time the Ward Canyon Park GDP can be realized.

Current State of the (existing) Temporary Dog Park

The temporary Dog Park closest to private property, known as the Large Dog Park, has been closed permanently. The Temporary Dog Park, to the north of the larger enclosure, known as the Small Dog Park, remains open to both large and small dogs.



Currently there are concerns with the small dog park (which all dogs are currently using).

These concerns are as follows: large dogs and small dogs grouped together, the area is too small for the population it serves, the ground cover is inadequate, there are ongoing maintenance challenges, there is no way to control the dust (no water hook ups nearby), there is no landscaping (bushes etc.) which is also a result of no water hook ups, weeds and general maintenance are a reoccurring issue, signage is poor and rules are unclear, the gates are not locked consistently

Solutions (Two Phases):

Current (temporary) Proposal by the City:

There is currently a proposal (known as "Option C") to open an additional temporary dog park within Ward Canyon Park. This temporary dog park has been approved and funded, however there is no fencing in this location. The City of San Diego currently does not have a fencing contractor. The City is in negotiations with a contractor. These negotiations have lasted several months. When such an agreement is finalized, the fence will be installed.



Option C – interim off leash dog area

Orange area 7,600 SF Blue area 13,000 SF



Final Goal:

All parties involved agree, the ultimate goal is Ward Canyon Park GDP completion. With the completion of the GDP for Ward Canyon Park, the permanent dog park will be realized on the east side of the property (closest to the freeway). The dog park will extend onto an existing road and be converted into park space. This property currently belongs to Caltrans. The City is in negotiations to obtain this land.



Quick Fact Sheet: Ward Canyon Dog Park(s)
Adams CRG: 3491 Adams Ave, 619-235-1149
Updated: 1/26/22