

La Jolla Recreation Community Group  
La Jolla Recreation Center, 615 Prospect Street, La Jolla, CA 92037  
(Meeting held remotely via Zoom)

## **MINUTES**

### **June 24, 2020**

**Call to Order:** 5:05 P.M., Mary Munk

**Present:** Mary Munk, Alexis McCandless, Dan Mc Candless, Jill Peters, Pat Miller, Gail Forbes, Lizzette Fitzcluster, Jan Harris,

**Staff Present:** Rosalia Castruita, Shane Maesek

**Guests:** Elisabeth Frausto, Rick Dagon, Steve Hadley Council District 1, Diane Kane, Trace Wilson, Claudia Baranowski (tech facilitator, also member of Parks & Beaches)

**Absent:** Don Goertz, Alan Dulgeroff

**Requests for Continuances:** Gail Forbes asked if the timeline from the Visioning Committee might more properly be considered by the La Jolla Parks & Recreation, Inc. since that organization directed its task. The Chair opined that the Visioning Committee report should be filtered by the LJ Community Recreation Group.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes (distributed online). Approved with one abstention.

### **Communications:**

\*\*\*\* Ashley Mackin-Solomon introduced her daughter Declan and expressed thanks to the Board for the recognition and congratulations expressed to her family. Pretty cute kid!

\*\*\*\* Mary Munk described The Map in Kellogg Park as approaching the finish line with detailed work in progress. There is no set date for an opening ceremony; a soft opening will probably emerge in conformance with COVID guidelines. Hopefully, a formal ceremony will be held in October near the birthday of the late Walter Munk.

### **Information Items:**

\*\*\*\* **Rec Center Clean-Up.** Gail Forbes reported that as a part of the Beach to Bay clean-up on Saturday, June 20, volunteers weeded, cleaned and swept the Prospect front of the Rec Center. Volunteers included the Peters family (Camille, Celeste, Jill); the Fitzcluster family (Lizette and Brooke); Gail Forbes and Don Goertz. It was obvious that the COVID quarantine had interfered with maintenance at the Rec Center. There was evidence that some people may have been sleeping overnight or camping out at the Rec Center while supervision was lacking. Jill Peters described weeds overgrowing the established landscaping, dead weeds (poisoned with a herbicide--what kind? Is it safe?), paper, bottles, and a heavy, stashed backpack pulled from bushes. A woman was camped on the porch while volunteers worked. What is the state of maintenance during the quarantine and in the future?

Rosalia responded that much of the Parks & Recreation programming staff and maintenance staff have been transferred by the City to perform other tasks. Progress towards regular work is slow. Dario, who is the regular maintenance person, has not been able to perform routine clean-up. Weeds on the playground are a result of the disuse and the restrictions for work during the repair/paving period, and then the quarantine. The chemicals used for weed control are not "Round Up" but a safe, approved, mild herbicide. She will get the brand name for reassurance.

Steve Hadley (Council District 1 community rep) told the board that the disruptive nature of the virus has affected all levels of city staff. Park & Rec personnel were drafted to help other departments during the emergency. Re-establishing normalcy is a work in progress as the environment and guidelines permit.

\*\*\*\* **San Diego Park Master Plan.** Gail Forbes reported that the lead agency in La Jolla has been Parks & Beaches. The community letter from P & B was distributed by e-mail to the LJ Recreation Community Group. The Master plan is a lengthy document that is being subsumed under a planning process called "Complete Communities." Complete Communities includes three other elements: Housing, Transportation, Finances (and Parks). The planning document has not been well promulgated, flying under the radar even though it will be a change in the Municipal Ordinance (30 pages of new zoning and FAR regulations). The Master Plan used four other cities as benchmarks. One of these (Seattle) provided the idea of FIX IT First within a Park District that was contiguous with the city's boundaries but stood on its own in regard to functions, funds, and repairs. The Master Plan seeks equity between and among the various park & rec centers in the City. It will create and implement a point system. Points will be allocated to park & rec centers based on amenities and progress toward the goals and mission of the Parks and Recreation Department. The point system values "interconnectedness": These could be purely geographic (bike trails, signage, infrastructure, bus route alignment--and very expensive), or they could be financial and electronic (sharing information, programs, and funds). The vision of this system needs to be more detailed regarding the allocation of points.

Claudia Baranowski (Parks & Beaches) suggested that coastline parks currently under "streets and storm water" should be absorbed into Park & Rec. But they should retain their iconic nature and not be treated as "community developed" parks with expected amenities such as swings and sports courts that do not suit the linear and iconic nature of shoreline. She echoed Steve Hadley that the Park Master Plan is a work in progress due to restrictions on City hearings during the quarantine. P & B was glad to provide feedback to the City. They are hopeful about influencing the process.

Diane Kane attended a Land Use and Housing meeting where Complete Communities was mentioned. This planning policy has not had exposure at most of the land use committees such as LJCPA or Community Planners. It will receive a hearing in July at La Jolla Community Planning Association.

### **Council District 1 Report: Steve Hadley**

\*\*\*\*Thank you to the clean-up crew. The covid virus and quarantine guidelines have created a three-month dislocation in City processes. City personnel cannot be compelled to work in dangerous situations, so many of the workers have been relieved of usual responsibilities. Park & Rec employees have performed in other City roles,

such as working at the City Convention Center while it currently houses homeless individuals.

\*\*\*\*The restroom port-a-potty installed at the Prospect Street ADA ramp took a month to get permission. The hope is to retain it in use and upgrade cleanliness as the restrictions of the virus evolve. Please continue to have patience. The playground is closed. City of San Diego awaits guidelines from the County of San Diego regarding what is healthy and permitted. The Park & Rec Department and the City requested clarification from Supervisor Nathan Fletcher as to what standards will permit reopening, noting that Oceanside has opened various facilities.

Lizette FitzCluster asked that a port-a-potty be moved to, or added to, Draper street—the Draper Street area has been serving as a toilet—people publicly urinating and defecating there, unaware of the port-a-potty on Prospect Street.

Rosalia will be working with United Port-a-Potties on cleanliness (2 times a week upgrade), and hopefully move the port-a-potty to where it is more obvious to people at the Draper entrances.

### **Chairperson's Report:**

\*\*\*\***Bocce Ball:** Mary Munk reported that we now have the final plans for the Bocce Ball Court. She hopes that since Bocce Ball is a sport where social distancing is easy to accomplish and wearing a mask is not totally inconvenient, the City can continue to make progress towards installation of the court

### **Projects:**

\*\*\*\***Maintenance:** This is covered in other reports in this meeting. No further information is needed here.

### **City Staff Reports:**

#### \*\*\*\***Rosalia Castruita (Area Manager II):**

Marilyn Stern retired on May 8. Carlos Rios is her temporary replacement. He is using Marilyn's phone number.

Shane Masek is the temporary LJ Rec Center director ([smasek@sandiego.gov](mailto:smasek@sandiego.gov); 858-552-1658). (Luke, the previous temporary director, has left the City.)

Jesse DeLille is still in temporary status at Doyle Recreation Center.

Shane has been helping with details connected to the basketball court "re-do" (the City did not approve the work after inspecting the results of the earlier renovation). There will be another layer of asphalt added, and then basketball and pickle ball lines added. The temporary fencing on the playground will be there until the job is approved by the City.

It is not possible to open the Rec Center for adult sports yet, because there are no Covid-19 guidelines for adult sports. There ARE Covid-19 guidelines for youth sports.

There is still no firm date for re-opening the Rec Center.

Every organization that offers programming at the Rec Center (after it re-opens) will be required to post near their activity a sign that says they are adhering to the SD County re-opening guidelines.

**\*\*\*\*\*Shane Masek (Temporary Director, LJ Rec Center)**

Mary Munk commented that Shane has a wonderful history of work at the LJ Rec Center.

Shane said that the Rec Center is still closed so the work going on is in preparation for eventual re-opening.

**Action Items:** None.

**Workshop Items:**

**\*\*\*\*\*Visioning Committee:** Jill Peters reported that the Visioning Committee made a presentation to the Coastal Development Permit Review Committee on June 18. It was positively received, and there were positive comments about it in the LJ LIGHT. They are planning to make a number of future presentations to other community groups such as Parks & Beaches and LJ Community Planning Association. They will keep the LJ Recreation Community Group in the loop regarding these future presentations.

They need to develop an infrastructure for finances, including an appropriate way to receive donations.

They are in the beginning stages of producing specific design plans for the project.

They will need to move through the City process for street closure of the small section of Cuvier between the Rec Center and Bishops School. Bishops and various other close-by Rec Center neighbors are all in agreement that this street should be closed to expand the Rec Center space. Steve Hadley offered the help of the District I office to get this process expedited. This closure also dovetails with City of San Diego Parks planning that seeks to expand park space throughout the City.

**Adjournment:** At 6:23 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** July 22, 2020—5:00 p.m.