



KTU+A Landscape Architecture & Planning
3916 Normal Street
San Diego, CA 92103

FIESTA ISLAND PARK PRECISE PLAN
FIESTA ISLAND DOG OWNERS
MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2010

DISTRIBUTION:

Mike Singleton	KTU+A	619 294-4477, Ext. 134	mike@ktua.com
Cheri Blatner	KTU+A	619 294-4477, Ext. 119	cheri@ktua.com
Scott Reese	P&R	408 482-8290	sreese@sandiego.gov
PJ Patel	FIDO	619 272-0271	pjpatel@jamboreepetcare.com
Jean Spengel	FIDO	858 454-2205	ridgebks@aol.com
Debra Madden	FIDO	858 454-2205	mrsломadden@aol.com
Alise Shatoff	FIDO	619 291-2106	alise@caninegenius.com
Denise Wells	FIDO	619 917-8725	denise@denisewells.com
Carolyn Chase	FIDO		cdchase@sdearthtimes.net

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mike gave a recap of the project process and next steps; he mentioned that the design team was holding a series of user meetings to get each group's design input on the latest master plan alternate 5c. These meetings will result in further refinement of the plan, before it goes back to the Mission Bay Park Committee on Sept. 7. The meeting will be open to the public and public comments are likely to be allowed.

SPECIFIC INPUT:

1. Carolyn Chase questioned the purpose of the dock and where the original request came from. Mike explained that a few years ago, Craig Haverstick and Mark Stuart approached KTU+A to work a dock jumping facility into the plan. There was also a request from the paddlers to have a dock that was ADA accessible from the parking lot to the water in order to support various programs for the disabled that they support. Also, rowing clubs might be able to utilize a dock for stopping at the island and utilizing the public restrooms. However, none of these requirements are critical and the cost savings and removal of a beach facility may outweigh the needs for this facility. FIDO committee members felt that this accessible floating dock creates a barrier that makes it difficult to walk along the shoreline. FIDO prefers to eliminate the dock as it was not wanted on their behalf. They were open to the ADA accessibility provisions from the parking lot to the water for beach access.
2. Jean expressed her concern about the width of the road that branches off the island's main road and connects to the parking lot @ South Beach Park. Mike explained the road needs to maintain the width it is shown to meet the emergency vehicle requirements (22' wide with an additional 8' shoulder on each side for parallel parking). Jean was also concerned the meandering fence on both sides of the road, took away too much from the off leash dog area. It was explained that the location of the fences were designed to reduce the feeling they are driving through a "tunnel" and to allow for planting, variable widths and on-street parking along the road.
3. Carolyn requested ample recycle/trash receptacles, signage, and plastic bags for dog waste clean up throughout the off leash dog area. Presently receptacles are overflowing.

4. Carolyn discussed the possibility of having Webcams throughout the park to catch people who are not cleaning up after their dogs. This is something that FIDO may be able to provide at a later date.
5. Discussed the Dog Arena and equipment. FIDO felt it is not a high priority. They feel the equipment is expensive and question how much the dogs will really use it. Scott Reese mentioned that this is something that could be considered in the future and there may be some groups that would like this. He felt this amenity should be included as a provision in the GDP and determine the need or desire for it once ready to go into the construction document phase. It is much better and easier to have more in the plan than may actually be implemented instead of less. It will be hard to add this facility later, since it is a specific single use that is in a general purpose area.
6. Mike asked FIDO if they wanted to incorporate the benches, picnic tables and shade shelters shown on the plan. The group does like these amenities and the spacing and quantity shown seems to be acceptable to FIDO.
7. Lighting was discussed. FIDO realizes that the Audobon Society wants to keep lights out of sensitive areas. Mike mentioned lighting as a consideration in the parking lots for safety and security. Scott discussed a "hierarchical lighting" system where there is a level of security lighting (1 foot candle average light) area lighting around parking lots and perhaps by the tunnel (.5 foot candle) and minor (.25 foot candle) trailhead lighting. However, the priority should be to get people out of the park once it gets dark and not to encourage night use.
8. Reviewed proposed overlook areas on top of the berm along the shore. Carolyn asked if there would be trash receptacles in these areas and questioned how they would be collected. Scott said that there have actually been a lot of studies done regarding the placement of trash receptacles and indicated that the conclusions reveal "if garbage cans are available, people will use them but if there are no cans, then people will hopefully carry their trash out. He called this the "pack it in and pack it out" theory. PJ mentioned that there is already a problem on the island of overflowing cans with dog waste. She requested ample trash receptacles. Discussed other ways of addressing the dog waste. There have been sites where waste is composted and used on site as replacement for soil conditioning rather than dumping in our landfills. Suggest that trash receptacles be included in and around the parking lots and plaza / restroom areas, but that all other areas peoples should be expected to pack out trash and dog waste to these locations.
9. Mike presented the new Concept 5d which shows circulation through the parking lot and play area so that dog walkers have a choice to circulate around the entire point or cut off the corner. FIDO group was asked for their input on the two concepts. Scott indicated that he felt both options are acceptable but wanted to share some concerns of 5d. He feels there are too many gates for people to have to pass through and history dictates that people don't always close the gates and this could be something that could be problematic. Mike indicated that since the route around the point is now completely open for beach walking in the leash free environment, the need for this cut through is somewhat questionable. If an individual wants to cut-off the corner route, then going directly north at the existing north south running, berm, would make more sense. This would allow the dog walker to either head back along the west side of the roadway or cut through across the roadway at its narrowest point north of the parking lot and then connecting with the beach walks that head down the slope.
10. Mike reiterated the willingness of the team to continue to improve the plan and decrease both the costs and intensity of the plan. Though there has been the appearance of lack of cooperation and compromise between the consultants and FIDO, the plan has become better over the past few years for both FIDO and all other potential users. The resistance from the design team has always been the requested elimination of the public road, park and beach as well as limiting other essential aquatic uses in this area. A compromise that accommodates leash free uses, along with the public park, beach and paddling facilities is one that has a much better chance of receiving final approval from the Coastal Commission. If these uses are not allowed and in fact are prevented by the exclusive use of dog walkers, then this would be contrary to not only the adopted Mission Bay Park Master Plan and the Local Coastal Program, but would also be contrary to the Coastal Act that requires that public lands next to coastal resources, be reserved for aquatic uses. For the best interests of FIDO, the City and its public, a compromise that accommodates several uses in this area is preferred.

ACTION ITEMS

1. KTU+A will research the source of the request for a dog dock jumping facility.
2. KTU+A will review the location of the fences and make adjustments to address FIDO's comments. The road will go from a minimum width of two-12 foot lanes, with two-4 foot shoulders and an additional 4 feet for buffer to the fence (a minimum total of 40' from fence to fence). The maximum area will be the two 12 foot lanes, one 8 foot parking shoulder for parallel parking, one 4 foot shoulder with a 4' buffer to the fence and on the other side, 20' for planting areas (a maximum total of 60' from fence to fence). The plan should consider alternating parallel parking between sides in order to get the meandering affect desired without taking too much space from the leash free area.
3. Carolyn requested an exhibit that incorporates the entire SW corner of the island, including the off-leash dog area, proposed roadway, parking lot, park area and shoreline. They also want to see the 5d concept incorporated into the exhibit as well. FIDO will take this information and present to their board for input. Mike said he will send PDF's of the requested exhibits by early Wednesday. KTU+A indicated that they need suggestions from FIDO by Thursday morning, August 26th to prepare for the next meeting and to provide materials to the Mission Bay Park Committee at least one week in advance of the meeting. (Note: KTU+A suggested that instead of modifying 5c and 5d, it may be more appropriate to provide a new alternative 5e. A new 5e will have the pier removed, the berm with the trail improved and the road thinned and leash free maximized. At the same time, we will be adjusting some island wide elements such as the multi-use trail and above road and at road grade crossings. All of these changes are significant enough that it would be best for us to send a 5e to MBPC along with a 5d for them to review).

Prepared by: Mike Singleton and Tim Henderson

All parties are requested to review these meeting minutes and report any discrepancies to the author prior to the next meeting.