

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

MINUTES - REVISED

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

January 18, 2007

Meeting Held at:

City Administration Building
Committee Closed Session Room, 12th Floor
202 “C” Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
Neighborhood and Customer Services
Office of Park and Recreation Director
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1300, MS 56C
San Diego, California 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Ginny Barnes, Acting Chair
Darlene Gould Davies
Norman Greene
Dan Mazzella
Robert L. Robinson
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Wilbur Smith

Members Absent

Bob Otilie

City Staff Present

Jim Madaffer	Elyse Lowe
Ted Martinez, Jr.	Mike Morrow
Ted Medina	Jo-Ann Novak
Andy Field	Alex Sachs
April Penera	Marilyn Stern
Gary Stromberg	Jim Winter
Lane MacKenzie	Jane Witzke
Samir Mahmalji	Carol Wood
JoEllen Jacoby	Tom Wood
Patty Jencks	

Mr. Otilie gave notice that he would be unable to attend today.

CALL TO ORDER - Acting Chair Ms. Barnes called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of November 30, 2006

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Greene/Ms. Davies

A motion was made by Mr. Greene and seconded by Ms. Davies to approve the Minutes of November 30, 2006. Mr. Robinson and Ms. Puentes-Reynolds abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS - None.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT - None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mr. Medina, Park and Recreation Director, reported on the following:

- Welcome Ms. Novak as new Executive Secretary.
- December Nights occurred on December 1st and 2nd, and more than 300,000 people attended. Mr. Medina is proud of the park and staff and is grateful to the event organizers who put on a wonderful civic celebration. It was an enjoyable experience during the holiday for the citizens of San Diego. Once again thanks to all.
- On December 12th, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the Tweet Street Park which is located in the Cortez Hill area of downtown. This park should be completed by July 2007.
- Office of the Park and Recreation Director has changed: Civic Center Plaza Building, 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1300, San Diego 92101. Phone and fax numbers remains the same.
- Mr. Otilie had previously asked Mr. Medina to attend the last Mission Bay Park Committee to report out on the status of Mission Bay Park ordinance. Mr. Medina presented at the January 9th meeting and shared a lot of information. Unfortunately, Mr. Otilie was unable to attend.

ACTION ITEMS

Acting Chair Barnes requested that workshop item be moved to after the Informational Item.

104. Placement of Bum and Bobby Statuary William Heath Davis House

Presenter: Mr. Wood, District Manager

105. Naming of the Lower Northwest Baseball Diamond at Montgomery-Waller Community Park as the Val Guerra Memorial Field

Presenter: Ms. Stern, District Manager

Consent A motion by Mr. Green and second by Mr. Mazzella to move Action Items 104 and 105 to the consent agenda. Mr. Smith abstained from Item 104 and Item 105 passed with a unanimous vote.

101. Update on Fox Canyon Continued from November 30, 2006

Mr. Sachs advised the Park and Recreation Board that it was not appropriate to take public testimony on Item 101 because a motion was put on the floor by Mr. Otilie and Mr. Sachs had second the motion.

Status Update from Ms. Penera, Deputy Director of Park Planning and Development:

- Fox Canyon site is on hold
- City withdrew offer of \$450,000 for the land after it was rejected by owner

- The City certified appraisal of \$52,000 had a difference of \$943,000 from the owner's non-certified appraisal of \$995,000. At this time Mr. Sachs advised Ms. Penera to interrupt her report and field questions from the Park and Recreation Board. To date, no discussion has occurred on third party appraisal between City and seller. Real Estate Asset Department (READ) due to property restrictions is confident with the certified \$52,000 appraisal.

Ms. Penera provided an update: The Mayor's Office committed to find an alternate source of funds to replace the \$165,000. READ received savings on the hydrology and demolitions. No need to use special parks fees. Demolition should be completed in the near future.

Mr. Mazzella pointed out in the November 30, 2006, meeting minutes:

"and given concerns that have been legitimately raised concerning the handling of the Fox Canyon matter by the Real Estate Assets Department that a new appraisal be obtained on the Fox Canyon site so that the City Council will have the benefit of that when determining what to do with Wightman and that a new appraiser be selected mutually by the landowner, Mr. Zajonc, and the City of San Diego acting through its attorney,"

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Puentes-Reynolds/Mr. Mazzella

A motion was made by Ms. Puentes-Reynolds and seconded by Mr. Mazzella to table Item 101 for sixty days with a commitment from staff to provide monthly updates on the routing of the \$165,000 for City Council action to find an alternate funding source with a goal of 60 days completion date. The vote was unanimous with Mr. Otilie being absent.

Public Integrity unit within the City Attorneys Office will monitor funds restoration. City Attorney's goal to help instruct to see where processes and process broke down and where processors' can be fixed more global and broadly.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Jose Lopez introduced members of Fox Canyon Neighborhood Association.

102. Wightman Street Park Proposal

Status of hydrology study and acquisition/development cost:

Status of appraisal on Fox Canyon Park

STAFF REPORT

READ has agreed to perform a hydrology study and Park and Recreation Department will provide the consultant. In the process of determining the scope will make sure it is comprehensive in developing the park and maintaining storm drains issues within the park and surrounding areas. Park and Recreation Department has ownership of the land. READ is in the process of commissioning and funding the demolition, so no Mid-City Special Park Fees will be used.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- Councilmember Madaffer provided a presentation on Whitman Street Park and Fox Canyon Park. Residents and Councilmember want a system of parks in City Heights. Euclid Revitalization Action Plan is a community produced document public notice meetings put on by the Planning Department that actually calls for the connection of Ontario to Winona. The City staff should not have depicted the park as covering the road, it was always an easement. The Park and Recreation Department corrected that mistake with the state by reapplying for the grant with proper schematic placement of the road. Mr. Madaffer continues to support the road going through and the park system going forward. When Wightman parcel was in closed session Mr. Madaffer had Councilmembers agree to transfer land directly to Park and Recreation Department. The park was no where near the road. The negativity that surrounds this project needs to stop. Mr. Madaffer applauded the Mayor for his decisive action of returning the money. Instead of concentrating on resolution, whereas, and investigations get back to building parks for communities that desperately needs them.

John Stump of City Heights handed out an aerial photo of Auburn Creek showing the spine of “String of Pearls.” Mr. Stump encouraged the City to obtain the land and have money for parks.

Kathleen Evans-Calderwood - Fox Canyon is misnamed, it should be known as Auburn Creek Park. Ms. Evans-Calderwood urged the Park and Recreation Board not to switch grant to another park. Park should be named in honor of the child who drowned due to flooding of the area.

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Robertson recalled a deal that the late Councilmember Charles Lewis made using park land for the Police Department, who was supposed to develop the land but to date nothing has been done. Mr. Stump’s “String of Pearls” is a similar situation where land was swapped for a park to be built. No discussion has come up on the entry way to this park. The Park and Recreation Board needs to start with a comprehensive plan; from Home Avenue (borders District 3 and 4) all the way up. The City owns this land and needs to listen to this Park and Recreation Board: how can the whole thing be done not one piece at a time.

Mr. Mazzella was under the impression that the Park and Recreation Board agreed to the park back in March or April of 2006. Then the Park and Recreation Board discussed the entanglement with the road and park. Mr. Madaffer stated a park would have been under construction if not for the lawsuit filed. The offer was removed from the table where Mr. Zajonc changed the price on the property. City Staff has done an outstanding job. If not for the lawsuit, a park would be under construction. State grant has specific guidelines on what can be used. The quickest way to get a park is through construction of Wightman Park.

Ms. Barnes stated we are here today to provide support of the transfer of state grant to Wightman and secure funds before doing the hydrology study. City staff have secured funds for hydrology study so no need to transfer state grant first and then realize not feasible to build a park on this flood plan area.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Greene/Ms. Davies

A motion was made by Mr. Greene and seconded by Ms. Davies

Mr. Greene moved to support in principal the proposal on Wightman Street to transfer the grant based on the contingency of the hydrology report. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Otilie being absent.

Mr. Greene would like to amend motion to [Continue to pursue the Fox Canyon Park when it becomes feasible.] Ms. Barnes suggested to make it a separate motion to make it more of a statement. No motion was made.

Comment for the record by Ms. Puentes-Reynolds: Park and Recreation Board has worked diligently to provide parks and is frustrated with obstacles. It hurts. Second comment: If Councilmember have a plan the Park and Recreation Board members need to work on this plan also.

The General Master Plan is still in draft form. Ms. Barnes elicited support of the Park Master Plan from Mr. Madaffer. This is a primary goal and objective of the Park and Recreation Board to have a City wide comprehensive master plan under the recreation element when the General Plan is adopted.

Ms. Lowe of Mr. Madaffer's office will be inviting each Park and Recreation Board member to the Land Use and Housing Committee meeting on February 7, 2007.

Prop 1 B and especially 1C has a lot of potential for park opportunities especially for affordable housing. Mr. Madaffer will talk to Mr. Young and Ms. Atkins and meet with the Park and Recreation Board to pursue Home Avenue Park and others. In a couple of months, City Council will be adopting the Progress Guide and General Plan that will be going before the Planning Commission soon. Mr. Madaffer encouraged the Park and Recreation Board to go before the Planning Commission. Mr. Madaffer totally supports this plan.

Staff : If there is no willing seller we will lose the grant. Staff has had conversation with State funding source and the State supports a new application to move the grant to a new site. Nothing in writing where they want to see the application first. As long as the new site meets all the criteria and requirements as the initial sight meet, they are opened to moving the funding. Paperwork has been started an is awaiting City Council approval.

Ms. Davies stated how important it is to have Councilmember attend Park and Recreation Board meetings. She thanked Mr. Madaffer for his time.

Ms. Barnes asked Mr. Madaffer to encourage the Mayor to make appointments to the Park and Recreation Board.

103. Naval Training Center (NTC) Liberty Station Park-Basketball Court

Follow-up report to request from residents made at the October 19, 2006 meeting to consider removing or relocation basketball court

Presenter: Jim Winter, Park Planning and Development

Mr. Winter brought information to the meeting from Dennis Otsuji and Kathy Riser of McMillan and Companies.

Alternate 1 - to remove the basketball stanchions from the multi-purpose court and leave the court where it is.

Alternate 2 - was to remove the existing multi-purpose court and reconstruct it to the north still within the active area of the park. Showed two possible locations.

Alternate 3 - was to remove the existing multi-purpose court and reconstruct it during phase II of the park's development within the passive portion of the park.

Presentation was followed by comments from Lynne Johnston and Greg Finley.

Ms. Barnes asked for clarification from homeowner Ms. Johnston on what would be the minimum action she would like taken. Ms. Johnston would prefer that the whole thing be removed but at minimum the stanchions removed.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Greene/Ms. Davies

A motion was made by Mr. Greene and seconded by Ms. Davies. The motion passed unanimous with Mr. Otilie absent.

I move that we side with the homeowners in this issue and that we respectfully request the City Councilmember's Office act in concert with the Mayor to contact Corky McMillin to remedy the situation, at no cost to the City and at very least to remove the stanchions.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Business Process Reengineering of Park and Recreation Department

Review the way we are conducting business to see where we can improve or become more efficient.

Presenter: Andrew Field, Assistant to the Park and Recreation Director

UPDATE: PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT BPR AND REORGANIZATION

Several concepts under study may impact the Park and Recreation Department Business Process Reengineering (BPR) and department structure as a result of the findings of other departmental BPRs (General Services and Engineering) and proposed reorganization due to budgetary constraints. This document identifies our understanding of what has happened thus far to the best of our knowledge and provides milestones for the future of the Park and Recreation Department.

Key Points:

- Our understanding is that Neighborhood and Customer Services Business Center (of which Park and Recreation Department is a part) would cease to exist at the end of FY 2007:
 - The Deputy Chief Operating Officer position for the business center would not exist in the budget effective FY 2008.
 - Park and Recreation Department would transfer into the Business Office, with maintenance functions transferring to the Public Works Business Center, General Services Department, Facilities Maintenance Division.
 - Other departments/programs (Library, Arts and Culture, Customer Services, Community Services, etc.) currently within Neighborhood and Customer Services Business Center would be transferred to other business centers through the rest of FY 2007.
 - A revised organization chart reflecting this change is expected to be released by the Mayor's Office.

- Capital Improvements Program BPR (Lead Dept: Public Works Business Center):
 - Park Planning and Development Division would be reorganized, with staff and responsibilities transitioning to the Planning and Community Investment Department and the Engineering and Capital Projects Department.
 - Details on where certain specific programs (such as Grants Administration, Asset Management, etc.) would go are still to be determined.

- Facilities Maintenance BPR (Lead Dept: General Services):
 - Maintenance functions would be transferred from various departments Citywide to the Facilities Maintenance Division in General Services Department.
 - Grounds Maintenance functions in Park and Recreation Department would be transferred to Facilities Maintenance Division.
 - This transfer would alter the recommendations of the ongoing Park and Recreation BPR, which has largely focused on Grounds Maintenance.
 - Building Maintenance functions are also expected to be transferred to Facilities Maintenance Division, with scope to be determined.
 - Park and Recreation Department would retain recreational programming and public interaction, while maintenance obligations would be handled by Facilities Maintenance.

- Grounds Maintenance BPR (Lead Dept: Park and Recreation Department):
 - BPR is “on hold” pending resolution of the transfer of grounds maintenance to Facilities Maintenance in accordance with the Facilities Maintenance BPR.
 - A new steering committee is being formed for the Grounds Maintenance BPR that would involve General Services Department.
 - All work completed by the Reengineering Team and Subcommittee would be used in the continuation of this BPR.

- Reservoir Recreation BPR (Lead Dept: Park and Recreation Department):
 - Efforts continue to prepare a final report for the Reservoir Recreation program.
 - City Council will hear an item associated with the future of the Reservoir Recreation program on Monday, January 22.
 - It is expected that the earliest completion of this BPR would be in February.
 - It is unclear what the impact of the Grounds Maintenance transfer to Facilities Maintenance would have on the Reservoir Recreation BPR.

Decisions Pending:

Several areas have not yet been decided or fully discussed. The reconstituted BPR for Grounds Maintenance (which is planned to resume in late January) may determine the answers to the following concerns:

- Exact timeline of transition to General Services is unknown (except for completion of budgetary reorganization by May 1 and completion of functional reorganization by June 30).
- The impact on administrative staff is unknown.
- It is to be decided whether or how this reorganization would impact the job duties of staff who perform maintenance functions but who are not in maintenance classifications (such as aquatics, recreation, and ranger staff).
- It is to be decided how the reorganization would impact supervisory responsibilities in the recreation districts and whether it could impact the number of supervisors in recreation.
- The future of Maintenance Assessment Districts has been discussed at a high level, but it is not yet clear exactly where these programs would reside after the reorganization is concluded.

Key Dates:

- January – create new steering committee under General Services BPR.
- March – budget submission due to Financial Management; reflects existing structure.
- April 13 – Mayor’s proposed budget released to the City Council.
- May – budget submission for Mayor’s May Revised Budget due to Financial Management; reflects transfer of grounds maintenance to General Services and transfer of Park Planning and Development Division functions to Engineering and Capital Projects and Planning and Community Investment.
- June 30 – functional transfer of staff and responsibilities from Park and Recreation Department to General Services and transfer of Park Planning and Development Division functions to Engineering and Capital Projects and Planning and Community Investment. Complete.

Mr. Medina reminded all attendees that these are discussions items only.

No one from the Park and Recreation Board was on the steering committee or were asked their opinion. The Park and Recreation Board would like to schedule a special meeting to discuss this very important agenda item.

WORKSHOP

Ms. Barnes distributed committee assignment form for Park and Recreation Board members to sign up to serve on various committees.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting:

Thursday, February 15, 2:00 P.M.

City Administration Building
Committee Closed Session Room, 12th Floor
202 “C” Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,

Andrew Field
Assistant to the Park and Recreation Director