

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

MINUTES

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

May 17, 2007

Meeting Held at:

City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
202 "C" Street
San Diego, California 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
Office of Park and Recreation Director
202 "C" Street, MS 37C
San Diego, California 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Ginny Barnes, Acting Chair
Darlene Gould Davies
Norman Greene
Dan Mazzella
Bob Otilie
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Wilbur Smith

Members Absent

Robert L. Robinson

City Staff Present

Rick Reynolds
Stacey LoMedico
Andy Field
Mauro Garcia
Garry Papers
Alex Garcia
Nancy Bragado
Kim Davies
Jim Winter
Jo-Ann Novak

CALL TO ORDER – Acting Chair Ms. Barnes called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.
Mr. Mazzella arrived at 2:50 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2007 AND APRIL 26, 2007

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Greene/Mr. Smith

A motion was made by Mr. Greene and seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the March 15, 2007 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous, with Mr. Otilie abstaining and Mr. Robinson and Mr. Mazzella absent.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Greene/Mr. Smith

A motion was made by Mr. Greene and seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the April 26, 2007 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous, with Ms. Gould Davies abstaining and Mr. Robinson and Mr. Mazzella absent.

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Moved to the end of the agenda.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Director reported on the following:

- Skyline Hills Library roof was replaced with a new roof, not the Skyline Recreation Center as reported at the April 26, 2007 Special Park and Recreation Board meeting.
- Park and Recreation Board Members received cost to restore Recreation Center Directors information via e-mail.
- Park fees may be a future Park and Recreation Board informational item.
- At the City Heights and Golden Hills youth soccer clinic, over 250 attendees ranging in age from 6 to 14 attended.
- Improvements to Mission Bay and the mulching for the Visitor Center at Tecolote should be completed by Memorial Day.
- Tree planting event at Kate Sessions Park was held in junction with Arbor Day.
- In keeping with the Mayor's pack for Climate Protection Agreement Pact, Park and Recreation Department has planted over 350 trees this year.
- Board Members received information regarding appointments and re-appointments for Mission Bay Committee, Balboa Park Committee, and Park and Recreation Board via e-mail. It is anticipated that Park and Recreation Board re-appointments will be before the City Council soon.
- Board Members received links of completed Business Processing Re-Engineering reports for various City Departments to review via e-mail.
- Mauro Garcia, Developed Regional Parks Deputy Director, will have his last day with the City will be Friday, May 25, 2007. He will be going to the City of Santee and Ms. LoMedico expects that the announcement for his replacement will be within the next two days.
- Park and Recreation Board Members were presented with a certificate of appreciation and a small gift to recognize their volunteerism in the Park and Recreation Department.
- Park and Recreation Department Budget Web-Page has been updated with latest information.
- Discussion of Golf budget will take place on Wednesday, May 23, 2007.
- Park and Recreation Board Members will receive a notice canceling the June Park and Recreation Board meeting. The July meeting will start one hour earlier to provide the newly appointed Board Members with an overview. All attendees will join the Planning Commission in Council Chambers at 2:00 for a joint meeting regarding Park Equivalencies in the General Plan.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 101. Parking Lot Expansion at Allen Field at La Jolla and Item 102. Carmel Valley Skate Facility were moved to consent agenda.

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

Mr. Greene made a motion to move Item 101 and Item 102 to consent agenda with Ms. Gould Davies seconding the motion. Vote was unanimous, with Mr. Robinson and Mr. Mazzella absent.

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

Mr. Greene made a motion to approve the consent agenda with Ms. Puentes-Reynolds seconding the motion. Vote was unanimous, with Mr. Robinson and Mr. Mazzella absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Update on the Recreation Element of the General Plan by Mr. Garry Papers, Deputy Director of Urban Form and Ms. Nancy Bragado, Program Manager of City Planning and Community Investment. Mr. Bill Anderson, City Planning and Community Investment Director was unable to attend.

- Status of development of Council Policy on Equivalencies. This plan will replace the 1979 Progress Guide and General Plan.
- Since the City of San Diego is down to less than 4% of developable land, there is a shift from new development to infill/redevelopment. The challenge is to maintain what we like about San Diego: respectable neighborhoods, open space, and smart growth.
- Final Public Review draft was released in October, 2006.
- Public comments will be taken until June 11, 2007, on the draft Environmental Impact Report for the General Plan Update.
- City to present draft of the General Plan to the public on Wednesday evenings of May 23, May 30, and on Saturday, June 9, 2007.
- The Recreation Element is one of ten elements of the General Plan.
- The standard ratio of 2.8 acres per thousand population is in the proposed plan.
- Equivalencies will be explored separate from the General Plan Update and will include measurements on how to apply, this will be developed through Council Policy. Ultimate goal is to develop a Park Master Plan.
- On July 19, 2007, Park and Recreation Board will have a detailed workshop on how to develop and deal with equivalencies.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds asked how other cities plan and pay for parks. Ms. Bragado stated it was difficult to compare where other cities don't separate population from parks like the City of San Diego separates Balboa Park, Mission Trails, Open Space and habitat protection areas and excludes them from the overall count. Overall San Diego is considered a "park rich City."

Mr. Greene stated we are not "park rich City" south of Interstate 8.

Mr. Smith asked if Park and Recreation Department will be at a disadvantage if the General Plan proceeds without a recreation element being adapted? Ms. Bragado stated that the recreation

element will be included minus the equivalencies. The Council Policy will supplement the General Plan.

Ms. Barnes asked what is the plan for the three public meetings? Ms. Bragado stated they will go through the ten elements of the General Plan. Ms. Barnes asked about the joint Planning Commission Park and Recreation Board workshop in July and if it will go into detail on the development impact fees. Ms. Bragado stated that the developer impact fees will be part of the discussion. Reports will be released a week prior to workshop. Ms. Bragado will see if reports can be released earlier.

Item 202. Update on the Wightman Park and Fox Canyon Park

(Reference: City Council Action 3/27/07)

City Council took twelve different actions that included repayment of Special Park Fees of \$165,000, closed out Fox Canyon Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and transferred the fund balance to the Wightman project. The Park and Recreation Department prepared a revised grant application and submitted it to the State of California at the end of April. Ms. LoMedico will notify Board once the State provides the City with something in writing.

Public testimony was taken from two people:

Teresa Quiroz – Encouraged the Park and Recreation Board to ensure that it is appropriate to set aside Mid-City Parks fees for litigation for creek. She also asked to ensure that Chollas Creek community can participate in creating this park.

Mr. Stump – Expressed concerns about the park acreage deficiency in City Heights and the cost of the project.

Mr. Otilie – Thanked Ms. Quiroz and Mr. Stump for caring about the community and protecting the parks. They ensured that \$165,000 Special Park Fees were recouped due to their efforts.

Mr. Otilie asked why the Board may not discuss this park. Ms. LoMedico stated that the time line per Council Policy 600-33 for community input is underway. Park and Recreation Board may request an update on this item at future meetings.

The Park and Recreation Board may track any funds for Wightman Street Neighborhood Park by tracking CIP 29-925.0. Special Park Fees are under Fund Number 39094.

The Park and Recreation Department Staff are working closely with the Project Manager and City Attorney's Office to ensure that funds are appropriately spent.

Mr. Otilie requested a joint report from the Auditors, City Attorneys and Park and Recreation Department on accounting issues.

Mr. Otilie requested a report from the Attorney's Office, Park and Recreation Department, and Risk Management regarding additional liabilities due to flood hazards by raising the level of the ground and building levies at the Wightman Street Neighborhood Park.

Ms. LoMedico expects a response on the grant transfer from the Office of Grants and Local Services on Wightman Street Neighborhood Park in approximately two to three weeks. Letters in support of the grant should be sent to their office at 1416 Ninth Street, Room 918, Sacramento, CA 95814.

The Colina del Sol Recreation Council will take the leadership position on community input and provide the timeline and the date that this item will be calendar.

Mr. Smith would like to know what additional costs are involved when building on a flood plain.

Mr. Mazzella stated that we should look at Presidio Little League Ballpark and compare these two flood plain areas.

203. Parking Valet - Mauro Garcia, Developed Regional Parks Deputy Director discussed the need and desire for valet parking in Balboa Park. The calendar of events impacts the park traffic circulation and causes gridlock at certain times of the day. For example: Thursday evening (tonight) there are three events with 2,100 people attending, eight events tomorrow – 4,100 people in attendance and ten events on Saturday with 5,500 people attending. These do not include the private events that take place. Valet Permit is modeled after the right of way permit approved by the City Council. Concerns include number of spaces (70 valet parking spots in Alcazar Parking Lot), fire lanes violations, and roping off parking spaces. Currently Park and Recreation Developed Regional Parks Division is in the process of developing a Request For Qualifications for the continuation of this service.

Ms. Darlene Davies would like a reading from City Attorney's Office on what the regulations or laws are on what access the public has on park spaces.

Public testimony was taken from three people:

Mr. Dave Henson, Marketing Director of the Old Globe – Stated that valet parking provides an opportunity for people to attend who would not otherwise attend.

Mr. David Kinney, Director of the House of Hospitality, Appointee to the Balboa Park Committee and representing Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Interested in valet parking at night; valet management; and event coordination via on-line to minimize impact to parking.

Mr. Al Strohlein - Concerned with lapsed leases; using public land for private use; and increased return to City.

Mr. Mazzella went on record stating he was never against valet parking and his understanding is that it was experimental and would continue coming back to the Balboa Park Committee to see how it would work. Valet companies were "stacking" cars and were getting ticketed costing the

valet companies to pay out more than what they were bringing in. Mr. Mazzella feels the valet parking spots were to accommodate the valet companies thus causing a loss of public parking.

Park and Recreation Board Members Comments on Item 203:

- Valet Parking should go through the process via Balboa Park Committee evening meetings.
- Concerned that the lost of free and open space to the public to private entity with no discussion on fixed parking spaces.
- Valet parking demand jumped dramatically recently.
- Close off parking lots for special events (this has been a normal practice for years.)
- Some buildings have private parking included in the institutions footprint.
- For “private events” what is legal in closing a parking lot via application?
- Concerned that leases and valet fees are not equitable.
- Parking should be first come first serve.
- Valet fees to the City do not seem equitable.
- Review the conflict of public versus private use of park.
- Provide kiosk with parking map of available parking spots or other technology to notify park users of events.
- Designate that any revenues received for parking goes back into Balboa Park parking solutions and not into maintenance.
- Pull permits of valet companies that do not adhere to the designated parking spots.
- Set up a funding improvement plan timeline for several hundred million to resolve Balboa Park traffic and parking concerns. Ms. Vicki Granowitz will take on this issue as the new chair of Balboa Park Committee.
- Review parking circulation study.
- Increase the font size to parking signage so park users will be able to see parking hours.
- Review leases annually.
- Require that private events be placed on a master calendar.

204. Fiesta Island General Development Plan

This plan is a refinement of Mission Bay Master Plan and will be an action item for Mission Bay Park Committee in July.

Park and Recreation Board Members Comments on Item 204:

- Designated \$155 million for low intensity uses: 70-acres for dog park, over line terminate and environmental areas. Does not seem to be an appropriate usage for prime piece of real estate.
- What is the public benefit for this 200 to 300 million expenditure per newspaper Ms. Barnes circulated among the Park and Recreation Board members?
- Existing low intensity users dominate meeting and were offensive.
- Dog owners concerned about 93-acres reduced to 64-acres of non-continuous fence area.
- Very few dogs are off leash due to the hazard of being hit by a vehicle.
- Consultant does not exercise his professional design capabilities and take leadership for a good plan for a park.

- Consultant exhibits more of a concern about dogs than children.
- Need to accommodate the dog people, but not to the extent of detriment to the park.

STANDING UPDATES

1. Park Maintenance Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) Update – Mr. Andy Field, Assistant to the Park and Recreation Director, reported that the BPR was expanded to include staff from General Services Department, members from the Park and Recreation Board, and Labor Unions (Municipal Employees Association and Local 127). See Project Charter handout of BPR for more information.
2. City Planning and Community Investment (CPCI) Update – Ms. Nancy Bragado, Program Manager and Mr. Garry Papers, Deputy Director of Urban Form, of City Planning and Community Investment. No update – see Item 201
3. Public Integrity Unit Investigation (City Attorney’s Office) Update – No Report. Ms. Kim Davies, Deputy City Attorney will check with Attorney’s office to determine if the Public Integrity Unit Investigation has concluded their investigation on this civil matter. This standing update may be changed to an informational depending on the response from Ms. Kim Davies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Area Committee Community Parks I – Mr. Mazzella reported that if Grounds Maintenance Worker go to General Services no one will open the doors to facilities for activities; Special Events hours have declined and there is no volunteer coordinator; it is inappropriate to compare programs to last year since they’ve been declining for the past five years. Mr. Mazzella will send a letter to the Mayor that addresses budget concerns of Area Committee Community Parks I members before June 11, 2007.
- Area Committee Community Parks II – Last month’s meeting was cancelled.
- Balboa Park Committee – Ms. Gould Davies stated that the Berlitz Gardens in Germany are commercial free except for the gondola rides, making it a ad-free healthy environment. Mr. Mazzella reminded all that the Dead Sea Scrolls will start June 30th for six months. This multi-national event coordinated by Russia, Sierra, Israel and Jordan will only be exhibited at one West Coast city: San Diego. You may access information about lectures series, parking and scrolls via the internet.
- Design Review Committee – No Report
- Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens’ Advisory Committee – Meeting to take place tonight.
- Mission Bay Park Committee – Mr. Otilie reported that the Mission Bay Park Ordinance can be waived by City Council and was waived for the first two years due to the “budget crises.” This year Mission Bay Park and Developed Regional Parks Infrastructure Funds each received \$2.5 million. The ordinance requires 50% of all Mission Bay Lease money over \$20 million be directed to the parks, with a maximum of \$5 million per fiscal year. This ordinance sunsets in 2012. Secondly, Donna Frye sponsored a Council Action to

make a distinction between water and land (currently 25% can be devoted to commercial leases.) This item has not been heard by Council yet.

- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – Mr. Greene reported that the meetings consist of reviewing procedural things with no decision making. All issues go before the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation. Discussion on Water Department Alvarado Plant report; replacing trails on Cowles Mountain; a presentation on Business Processing Re-Engineering by Mr. Field, Assistant to the Director; Mission Trails Day on Saturday, May 19, 2007 and Mission Trails Regional Parks delay in developer turning over park. Mr. Greene will research and determine if this is a designated or dedicated park and will request the developer to pay fees if it is a dedicated park per SB 373.
- Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

Ms. Barnes thanked Mr. Otilie for his service to the Park and Recreation Board.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds requested that on the next agenda to include a discussion on a letter to the Mayor and City Council on equity issues within the park system, in regards to money for new development, decreasing of General Fund for Park and Recreation needs. Would like to write an advisory letter to the Mayor and City Council to take action on and find solutions. Ms. Barnes supported adding this topic to the August meeting.

WORKSHOP

Mr. Otilie requested that the next agenda include a written report why the Park and Recreation Board meetings are not televised.

Ms. Barnes requested staff discuss this with Information Technology and Communication regarding televising Park and Recreation Board meetings. Ms. LoMedico indicated staff would respond in writing at the August meeting.

ADJORNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Thursday, July 19, 2007 1:00 p.m.**

1:00 p.m. – Park and Recreation Board Orientation

2:00 p.m. - Joint Meeting with Planning Commission regarding Park Equivalencies in the General Plan

City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
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Submitted by,



Stacey LoMedico
Park and Recreation Director