

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

MINUTES

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

July 19, 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 TO JOINT MEETING REGARDING PARK EQUIVALENCIES IN THE GENERAL PLAN.

Planning Commission:

Members Present

Kathleen Garcia, Acting Chair
Eric Naslund
Gil Ontai
Dennis Otsuji
Michael Smiley

Members Absent

Barry Schultz, Chair
Robert Griswold

City Staff Present

Bill Anderson
Garry Papers
Andrea Dixon
Deborah Sharpe
Howard Greenstein
Sabrina Curtin

Park and Recreation Board:

Members Present

Ginny Barnes, Chair
Bruce Brown
Rick Bussell
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
Roz King
Dan Mazzella
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Evonne Schulze
Wilbur Smith
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

None

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Andy Field
Kim Davies
Jo-Ann Novak

INFORMATION ITEM

Joint Workshop of Park and Recreation Board and Planning Commission regarding Park Equivalencies in the General Plan. Meeting called to order at 2:10 p.m.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss methodologies and approaches for implementation of the draft Park Equivalencies policies that are proposed in the draft General Plan Update Recreation Element. No action was taken as part of this workshop.

The presentation was done by Bill Anderson, City Planning and Community Investment Director; Garry Papers, AIA Deputy Director of Urban Form, City Planning and Community Investment; Deborah Sharpe, Project Officer II, City Planning and Community Investment; and Howard Greenstein, Park Designer, City Planning and Community Investment.

The following members of the public spoke regarding the information item:

Fred Zuckerman is concerned that Joint Use Parks will be counted twice; Joint Use equivalencies may not be equal in park use (due to reduced availability, no alcohol use, and different rules for dogs); and concerned with military population using City parks.

Scott Molloy is a supporter of park equivalencies; Mr. Molloy mentioned that the City is not collecting enough money in fees. Land is highly constrained. We should seek new ways to optimize recreation in older communities.

Jose Lopez discussed the Fox Canyon master plan and the Chollas Creek master plan. Mr. Lopez mentioned that more pocket parks could be built, vacant lots could become future parks, affordable housing can be built in Auburn Park, and tot lots should remain within parks.

John Stump is concerned about park deficiencies in certain census tract areas.

Doug Beckham asked for an explanation of equivalencies policies. Mr. Beckham is concerned about expense of security camera purchases and upgrades for parks north of Interstate 8 and park hour reductions and loss of personnel staff.

Joan Fitz Simons discussed Cherokee Point Park adjacent to YMCA in Kensington and the lack of walkable corridors.

Sherri Lightner discussed equivalencies and the role of regional parks.

Paula Forbis discussed park needs in Barrio Logan and concern that equivalencies will allow the continuation of under-served communities.

Roger Utt discussed park deficiency in City of San Diego and how equivalencies could benefit City.

Teresa Quiroz expressed concerns that facilities should be for all. Ms. Quiroz discussed acreage credit, need of joint use space, and liability concerns.

Jewell Hooper requested clarification on equivalencies policies, asked whether vacant lots would be counted as pocket parks, and asked for definitions of recreation and parks.

Ellee Igoe asked that equivalencies be equal for public and private partnerships and asked that equal access is guaranteed.

Karen Bocey asked that joint use fields are open to public; add amenities; and remove or reduce fencing to three feet.

Russ Connelly is concerned that joint use not consistent with each school. Mr. Connelly mentioned that children need to have parks close to residence and asked that the City consider using its own land for parks.

David Moty discussed passive space in the parks and equivalences and suggested that vacated streets turn into parks, because this is the only land available in Mid City.

Park and Recreation Board Discussion:

The Planning Commission and the Park and Recreation Board provided feedback to the City Planning and Community Investment Department staff regarding equivalences and the General Plan Recreation Element.

Some of the themes discussed by the Planning Commission and Park and Recreation Board included:

- Include equivalencies as a secondary option only when parkland cannot be obtained to meet General Plan standards
- Ensure the general public can access parkland
- Develop equity between various communities, perhaps through equivalencies but also through traditional means
- Look for additional park land in areas currently underserved, including street vacations, empty lots owned by the City, and other tracts of land not previously considered
- Review joint use areas for adequate access, examine how joint use process works, and consider adding amenities such as restrooms and tot lots to joint use areas
- Examine any public-private partnerships closely to ensure public has access and City does not lose legal liability
- Keep decisions made on parks and equivalencies at the community level

City Planning and Community Investment will return to the Park and Recreation Board with further General Plan Recreation Element concepts at the August meeting.

ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next Park and Recreation Board Meeting: **Thursday, August 16, 2007 2:00 p.m.**

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Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico
Park and Recreation Director