

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
April 17, 2008

MINUTES

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

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

Mailing Address is:

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

Members Present

Ginny Barnes, Acting Chair
Rick Bussell
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

Bruce Brown
Roz King
Dan Mazzella
Evonne Schulze
Wilbur Smith

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Gary Stromberg
Clay Bingham
Chris Zirkle
Andy Field
Patty Jencks
Gina Dulay
Jo-Ann Novak

CALL TO ORDER – Acting Chair Ms. Barnes called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.) – None

Consent At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as “Consent” items. – None

ACTION ITEMS

Approval

Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Director, distributed two Mayor press releases dated April 11 and April 14, 2008 along with the Mayor’s Fiscal Year 2009 Community Budget Forum meeting schedule. Handouts also included a print out of the Park and Recreation Department webpage link <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/budget.shtml> for general information on budget updates and a copy of the PowerPoint presentation for item 101 on the proposed Fiscal Year 2009 Budget. The total City Fiscal Year 2009 proposed budget is \$3.29 billion and addresses eight core areas that have been historically under-funded or neglected.

- The Mayor continues to streamline City operations with the elimination of 127 positions for an approximate total of 800 over a three year period. Specifically for the Park and Recreation Department there is a net reduction of 32.77 positions.

- The Department will receive funding for 5 new facilities and 13 annualizations. The Mayor is also proposing full funding the Brush Management Program with 13 new positions.
- There is proposed reduction of 5 District Managers, 10 Area Managers and 3 Grounds Maintenance Supervisors for a total of 18 supervisor positions.
- The proposal also includes a reduction of staff all 4 skate parks. The skate parks will continue to be open to the public, but without staff.
- A reduction of 4 ranger positions (positions frozen from FY 2004.)
- The closure of 12 of 13 pools for 3.5 months on a staggered schedule. All pools will be open during the summer.
- Reduction of 5 Ground Maintenance Worker II's
- The reduction of staff associated with the elimination of overnight camping at the Kumeyaay Campground.
- Reduction of 1 Park Designer and elimination of 1 Supervising Public Information Officer
- Non-General expenses include a one-time expense removal in the amount of \$155,450 for Golf. Funds were associated with the U.S. Open, which will conclude this year.

Public Comment

Dixie Wilson concerned about recreation centers limited hours. Kids need a safe place with developed programs.

Doug Bechham concerns include the amount of time it takes to replace staff when they leave position. City relies on volunteers to make up for limited staff hours; \$100,000 spent on security cameras but no one available to monitor cameras; when parks are closed then undesirables appear; a reduction in Park and Recreation hours of operation causes the Police Department budget to go up.

Ms. LoMedico provided clarification to the rationale on how reductions are made. There were core philosophies as the budget was reviewed. The key was to minimize impacts to the customers and the service we provide to our customers. There are no proposed reductions to recreation centers hours.

Mr. Stepner would like to thank the Park and Recreation Staff for all the work they do in going above the call of duty. The budget does not address the needs of the community in terms of park and recreation. The City needs to aggressively pursue other revenue resources for all departments. The Board should draft a letter to Mayor and City about the Board's concerns per the attached excerpts list.

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

Mr. Greene made a motion for Mr. Stepner to draft a letter to the Mayor and City Council as it relates to the budget with Ms. Puentes-Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed with Mr. Brown, Ms. King, Mr. Mazzella, Ms. Schulze and Mr. Smith absent.

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

Accept Park and Recreation Department component of the Mayor's proposed budget with reluctance. Motion passed with Mr. Bussell opposing and Mr. Brown, Ms. King, Mr. Mazzella, Ms. Schulze, Mr. Smith absent and Ms. Barnes abstaining.

Discussion of motion: Ms. Barnes as Acting Chair will sign the letter that will include a list of the Park and Recreation Board concerns, public speaker comments and vote count with comment (s) on why opposed due to being inadequate for what it is suppose to cover. Draft letter will be sent to Ms. Barnes and Ms. LoMedico. Ms. Barnes will send draft letter to Park and Recreation Board Members and City staff for verification of concerns. Letter should be ready prior to Park and Recreation Department Budget Hearing meeting on April 30, 2008.

Ms. Barnes and Mr. Mazzella are termed off the Park and Recreation Board and will continue until the Mayor appoints their replacements. Mr. Smith is the new Chair and his first Park and Recreation meeting to chair will be May 15, 2008. Ms. Barnes congratulated the Park and Recreation Board Members who were re-appointment. Ms. Schulze chose not to be re-appointed due to other commitments.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds would like to continue with the Centre City discussion as an update or continuation.

Mr. Greene will not be attending the May Park and Recreation Board meeting. Mr. Greene thanked Ms. Barnes for being a very good Chair and helping the Park and Recreation Board.

Mr. Bussell requested an update from Ms. LoMedico on Mission Bay Park leases. He would like a report from Real Estate Assets Department on the holdover leases.

Ms. Barnes thanked all attendees and urged all to attend City Council Budget Hearing on **April 30, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** to 9:00 p.m. at City Administration Building, 202 C Street, City Council Chambers, 12 Floor, San Diego.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, May 15, 2008, 2:00 p.m.**

**City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101**

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico
Park and Recreation Director

Excerpts from the April 17, 2008 Park and Recreation Board Meeting

Park and Recreation Board Members Concerns Regarding Fiscal Year 2009 Proposed Budget:

1. Where are the funds being spent?
2. Due to personnel changes need knowledgeable staff in key positions
3. Satisfaction Survey rating
4. Programs should not be cost recoverable because we provide a service for all. Should figure out what programs provide a benefit for the greatest number of people
5. Expect police/fire protection, water/waste management and parks
6. New facilities approved by policy that do not include operation and maintenance funding
7. Developed Regional Parks staff are working on their own time and are stretched to the limit...please no staff deductions
8. Outreach via Union Tribune to solicit philanthropy donations
9. Gratitude for not reducing recreation centers hours
10. Initiate a full cost recovery and/or a moratorium on special events
11. Low income communities unable to purchase additional hours of operation for centers
12. Lack of supervision what does it do to the quality of services
13. Liability of City when skate parks are lock and trespassers enter
14. Reduced revenue budget but leasees have increased
15. Reduction of park users due to cut in maintenance
16. Funds revenue going to General Fund instead of directly to Park and Recreation
17. Building new parks and not maintaining the current ones we have
18. Need for clear information on budget report in order to make decisions example: show that these are new facilities
19. Public safety on deferred maintenance list - La Jolla Shores
20. City not addressing 800-900 million in deferred maintenance
21. No funding in the Park and Recreation budget for developing a master plan
22. Confused as to why services are being cut when Mission Bay Park generates 20 million in revenue after operating costs
23. Volunteers clean beaches and parks, but don't volunteer to clean restrooms
24. Unhappy about the past four years of cuts reducing hours 70 to 40 a week
25. More and more people are using parks and less maintenance
26. Recreation Centers, Open Spaces and parks in general are in a sense child care providers providing safe places for all. With the reduction of staff and only 40 hours a week that centers are opened where will the children go
27. Discretion funds available from Council Districts?
28. Need additional funds for the upkeep of parks/ graffiti/maintenance and safety in the park system
29. All departments are being hit with reductions
30. City has limited funds to spread around
31. Why cutting services to Mission Bay Park when Mission Bay Park generates more revenue then expense (3% cut and is a policy decision)
32. Park and Recreation Board to facilitate the involvement of community members to volunteer (Park and Recreation Department has a Volunteer Coordinator in Community Parks II recently vacant)
33. No increase of funds to Park and Recreation Department
34. Accept the Department component of the Mayor's budget - with reluctance
35. Budget is inadequate
36. Business Processing Re-Engineering (BPR) cuts are separate from budget cuts