

City of San Diego  
Park and Recreation Board

January 15, 2009

**MINUTES**

***“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”***

**Meeting Held at:**

City Administration Building  
202 C Street  
Committee Room, 12<sup>th</sup> 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**

Wilbur Smith, Chair  
Ginny Barnes  
Rick Bussell  
William Diehl  
Vicki Granowitz  
Norman Greene  
Roz King  
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds (arrived at 2:00 p.m.)  
Michael Stepner

**Members Absent**

Bruce Brown  
Evonne Schulze

**City Staff Present**

Stacey LoMedico  
Clay Bingham  
Charles Daniels  
Kimberly Davies  
Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
Jo-Ann Novak  
Jim Winter

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz /Mr. Bussell**

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the November 20, 2008 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous.

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE** – None

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Consent** At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as “Consent” items.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Bussell/Ms. Granowitz**

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell and seconded by Ms. Granowitz to move the 3 action items to the Consent Agenda. Item 101. Requesting Recommendation on Two Proposed Memorials for Naval Training Center Park; Item 102. Rename Mission Bay Park’s South Shores in Honor of Rose Marie Starns; and Item 103. Canyonside Community Park General Development Plan Revisions.

Ms. Barnes did not vote approval to move Item 103 to the Consent Agenda. Item 101 and 102 unanimously passed to be added to the Consent Agenda.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Barnes /Mr. Bussell**

Mr. Smith called for approval of Consent Agenda. Ms. Barnes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Mr. Bussell second the motion. Motion passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Area Committee Community Parks I

- Ms. Barnes reported that the Committee discussed Park and Recreation Department fees, and will have a joint meeting in March with Area Committee Community Parks II on the subject.

#### Area Committee Community Parks II

- Ms. King distributed a handout of her report to the Park and Recreation Board.
- The Committee is concerned about issues at Bill and Maxine Memorial Skate Park regarding the use of bikers and skateboarders, as well as increased usage.
- Committee received a presentation on the Sunshine Berardini Fields General Development Plan and has continued the item pending availability of more information on future operating cost and impacts on existing projects and the budget.

#### Balboa Park Committee

- Ms. Granowitz reported that the Committee denied a special event to take place around the Lily Pond during the summer moratorium. This denial brought up an interesting topic in consideration of the economy the Balboa Park Committee should be more open to having special events.

#### Design Review Committee

- Mr. Smith reported that at the December Design and Review Committee meeting the Committee approved the NTC Park Memorials, Canyonside Community Park General Development Plan Amendment, and Uniti on the Hill Park General Development Plan.

#### Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

#### Mission Bay Park Committee

- At the December meeting the Committee approved the Everingham Brothers Bait Company lease renewal.
- Mr. Bussell recommended a workshop to review the permit process. (Ms. LoMedico suggested having a Special Event Permit and Park Permit overview as an Informational Item at a future Park and Recreation Board meeting.)

#### Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Greene reported that an emergency generator was requested by Verizon Wireless to be installed to allow the system to work when power is out.
- The Committee opposed a Conditional Use Permit renewal request for Crown Castle. Installation by AT&T does not meet the design, criteria, and the local community doesn't want it.
- The County Water Authority is delaying one of the three water pipeline projects, water project #2, which will take an additional 3 years. The Committee requested additional mitigation for each

- year the project is delayed over and above the first three years.
- Committee received a report on the failure of pipeline #4 that washed out under the San Diego River.
- The San Diego Mountain Biking Association provided a presentation to the Committee. They would like to provide a bicycle progressive skills park in an abandon quarry within Mission Trails Park. The Committee is concerned about the liability issue. This matter has been turned over to the City Attorney's Office and Park and Recreation Department.
- Jay Wilson formerly of Council Member Madaffer's Office was appointed as the Mission Trails Foundation Executive Director.
- Currently, Mission Trails Regional Park does not have any policies or guidelines on permits and outside events. Mr. Greene recommended Committee review Balboa Park and Mission Bay Park permits.

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee

- Mr. Stepner reported that the Committee was provided a presentation in November on the history of the Glider Port and the activities from the start to the present.

Barrio Logan

- Ms. Granowitz reported that community members of Barrio Logan requested more lighting, maintenance, bathroom upgrades, and soccer fields in their parks so they may utilize them.
- Community members are concerned about children crossing railroad tracks and Harbor Drive to access the Port of San Diego Park, and homeless people sleeping in the green belts and businesses landscaped areas.
- Business member is interested providing roof top parks in their community.
- Ms. Granowitz reported that Mayor Jerry Sanders and Council President Ben Hueso will be attending the Charrette this Saturday, January 17, 2009.

Ms. Barnes requested an update on the relationship between the Port of San Diego, the City of San Diego, and the State of California at a future Park and Recreation Board meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.)

- Mr. Bob Kuczewski provided an update on Torrey Pines Gliderport.
- Ms. Alexis Munoz provided an update on obesity prevention and controls in Park and Recreation Department community recreation centers from the MOVE me/Muevo Project.
- Mr. Jeff Perwin recommended expanding the use of facilities like the City of Los Angeles does by providing classes at Park and Recreation Department facilities to help with the budgetary situation. (Ms. LoMedico will contact Mr. Perwin to discuss this item further.)
- Mr. Doug Beckham notified the Board of an item coming before them in the near future regarding naming of a park in Linda Vista (Uniti on the Hill Park.)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mr. Smith welcomed Mr. William (Bill) Diehl to the Park and Recreation Board who replaces Mr. Dan Mazzella.

- Mr. Smith goal for 2009 is to limit the number budget/service reductions in the Park and Recreation Department.
- The Fiesta Island Master Plan and the Balboa Park Study should come to the Board in 2009.
- Discussion on water conservation will continue in 2009 due to some of the parks may be “brown out.”
- Mr. Norman Greene will serve as Vice Chair to the Park and Recreation Board.
- Mr. Smith and Mr. Greene will be out of town for the February Park and Recreation Board meeting, and Mr. Stepher will serve as Acting Chair.

#### DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico distributed the following items to the Park and Recreation Board Members:
  - An article on beach grooming from Coastal Services magazine.
  - A letter commending Park and Recreation Department staff member Denise Abell-Hove, Recreation Center Director, for her support to the Foster Youth Mentor Program at her site.
  - An invitation to Youth Symphony on February 15, 2009 to honor the City of San Diego, the Commission for Arts and Culture, and the Park and Recreation Department.
  - Appointments and Reappointment to the Balboa Park Committee that are scheduled to be finalized by City Council at the end of January.
  - Statistically data from Park and Recreation Board Retreat in 2004 that was requested at the November 2008 Park and Recreation Board meeting.
- Ms. LoMedico reported that we had a successful December Nights (more than 320,000 attended) with a 20% increase from 2007. Increase could be due to rain at the 2007 December Nights.
- A report to the City Council regarding a comprehensive fee policy will be issued in mid February. The Park and Recreation Department is reviewing current fees for possible increases. Ms. LoMedico encourages the Park and Recreation Board to meet in February on this subject.
- Mid-year reductions are in place as of December 31, 2008 with 17 employees being impacted. All 17 employees have been placed within the City.
- Ms. Jennifer Wolff the Corporate Partnership and Development Director will present the amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Ordinance to Reinstate the Fire Pit Program to the City Council on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.
- The Competitive Blue Swim Team at Memorial Pool has been funded to the end of June 30, 2009 by Council President Hueso. City Heights Competitive Blue Team was eliminated as part of the mid year reductions, but swimmers have been encouraged to join the Memorial Swim Team.
- Skate Parks are un-supervised as of January 1, 2009. The Park and Recreation staff are working with the community, and Police Department on a responsive plan if individuals do not follow the rules. (Ms. Barnes went on record stating that bikes are not allowed at skateparks, because of the steel pegs causes’ damage to the bowl and staff should ensure that only aluminum apparatuses should be used in skate parks that allow bikes.)
- The Park and Recreation Department has submitted their proposed 15% reduction for Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. The Mayor’s budget will be released in mid April. The City Council will kick-off their budget meetings at the end of April, 2009. Usually, the Park and Recreation Department goes first for public comment regarding their budget, because of this time line and need to have a Board meeting. Ms. LoMedico will send out an e-mail to the Park and Recreation Board Members to poll them, as to an evening meeting on April 21st or April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. LoMedico provided Park and Recreation Board with updates to their Operational Manual.

- The Department currently has 50 vacancies and recently received approval to fill several key vacancies.
- Due to the recent storms some fields were closed due to water saturation, and some facilities incurred leaking roofs. No significant impacts incurred except the potential of elimination of a program thanks to General Services Department staff who quickly made the necessary repairs.
- Due to Federal Legislation, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Safety Act, that requires additional safety measures on all public pools, including HOAs, cities, school districts, hotels, and private clubs. New drain grates need to be installed at all City pools. Park and Recreation Department staff have found enough grates for pools currently opened during the winter schedule, except for Bud Kearns Memorial Pool. Bud Kearns Memorial Pool was built in the 1920's and requires additional work on the bottom of the pool in order to conform the drains to the grates (to be replaced before winter opening).
- Ms. Davies will continue to be the Park and Recreation Department's Deputy City Attorney.
- All of the Parks and Recreation Department computers are now on Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) which allows the Department to access On-Line Registration. Ms. LoMedico thanked Mr. Bingham, Deputy Director of Community Parks I, and others for researching this technology that will free staff's time in registering participants. The Department is actively researching funds for the On-Line Registration and if they have not secured funds within 60 days Ms. LoMedico will give approval for Carmel Valley Recreation Center to use their funds to pay for the approved On-Line Registration System. Ms. Barnes went on record stating it was never her intention that the Department pays for On-Line Registration, and that the funds should come from the Recreation Councils. Ms. LoMedico stated that some Recreation Councils do not have money for On-Line Recreation. Ms. Barnes went on record to thank Mr. Bingham for all his work on this project.
- The Buick Invitational will take place at Torrey Pines Golf Course February 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>. No formal word has been received on Tiger Woods attending this event.
- Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) staff will present their parks plan to the Park and Recreation Board in the Spring of 2009 after they have presented the plan to their Board.
- State park bonds have been frozen. The Department will continue to analyze cash flow, and is looking at projects that are funded by these bonds.
- The Balboa Park Committee recommended that the permit for a private dinner for approximately 500 people to be held at the Balboa Park Lily Pond not be approved. Ms. LoMedico has approved the permit and will have a formal letter sent to the Balboa Park Committee.
- Mr. Bussell requested a status report on how we operate under Proposition C and requested an update to the Board. Ms. LoMedico will follow-up on this item.)
- Ms. Barnes requested clarification on the City's Managed Competition Program. (Ms. LoMedico is waiting on the final review of a letter that may go out on Monday, January 19, 2009.)

Continued discussion of Action Item 103, Canyonside Community Park General Development Plan Revisions:

Ms. Barnes has no concerns regarding design and construction of the courts, but would like the Park and Recreation Department staff to review all Preferential Non-Exclusive Use Agreements to ensure that various non-profit organizations provide a nominal fee towards utilities and maintenance of facilities. Ms. LoMedico stated that one of her goals is to clean-up the outdated and non-consistency in Special Use Permits, Preferential Non-Exclusive Use Agreements, and the leases located in the Real Estate Assets Department. Once these permits are consistent Ms. LoMedico will begin working on making the tennis agreements uniformed. Ms. LoMedico went on record stating that some recreation centers have separate

utility meters and each agreement is different.

Ms. Barnes requested a current agreement, but received an old copy of the agreement. Ms. Barnes went on record stating she is comfortable in accepting this plan, and would like a sign copy of the agreement with the attachments included.

Mr. James LaGrone a member of Rancho Peñasquitos Council stated the General Development Plan needs to be updated as well. Ms. LoMedico went on record stating the revised General Development Plan report reflects the current agreement, and the issue is that a Board Member requested an agreement, and the Board Member did not receive the current agreement. Ms. LoMedico feels this item should be continued until the Board Member has the current documentation.

Mr. Jacob, Associated Civil Engineer, Park and Recreation Department, clarified that the action is to approve the revisions to the General Development Plan and not requesting approval of any agreements with the operator. Mr. Jacob recommends approval of Item 103 with conditions and proposed the conditions would be additional documentation or another presentation to the Park and Recreation Board prior to any issuance of Right of Entry Permit or Construction Permit.

**MOTION:    MOVED/SECONDED        Ms. Barnes /Ms. Granowitz**

A motion was made by Ms. Barnes to recommend approval of the revised General Development Plan for Canyonside Community Park with addition of two new tennis courts with conditions. The conditions are all and any documentation that is tied to this Non-Exclusive Use and Occupancy Permit are provided to any requesting Board Members.

Mr. Diehl could not approve the plan where the plan is flawed, due to the multiple purpose courts to the west have three baseball fields that are not represented on the plan.

Ms. Barnes withdrew her motion.

Ms. LoMedico made a point of clarification that the approved General Development Plans are located in the Department’s Management Assets file and they include all of the park approvals. Until the Park and Recreation staff can make a formal document (hard copy), the actual General Development Plan schematics are placed in the Management Assets file.

Mr. Jacob provided clarification that the General Development Plan is a planning document, and is not meant to represent the “as-builts” condition of the park. It represents elements of the park that have been previously approved by the Recreation Council and the Park and Recreation Board.

Ms. Barnes moved her original motion back for a vote.        **MOTION:    APPROVED**

At the last Park and Recreation Board Workshop the Park and Recreation Board requested to have two subcommittees to review the tree policy and Park and Recreation Board Policies. All Board Members interested on being on one of these Committees should contact Mr. Smith. Unfortunately, Ms. LoMedico is unable to personally staff these subcommittees, but will appoint the appropriate staff person to serve as staff representative.

ACTION ITEMS – All approved

Ms. LoMedico commended Ms. Granowitz on chairing this Committee and the extraordinary amount of work in answering the three questions in detailed, and that she deserves an enormous amount of credit.

INFORMATION ITEM - Ms. Granowitz, Park and Recreation Board Member, provided an update on Item 201. A Report adopted by the Balboa Park Committee (BPC) on December 18, 2008 regarding the Future of Balboa Park: Funding, Management and Governance that was submitted to the Mayor and City Council of San Diego. The Balboa Park Committee was tasked in answering the following questions:

- (1.) What is the City's ability to provide the necessary financial support for Balboa Park in the future?
- (2.) Even if the City can tackle the challenge on its own, should it?
- (3.) Should management and governance be expanded and, if so, how?

As a result of its deliberations, the Balboa Park Committee recommends that the City of San Diego further study, and consider formation of, a new public benefit non-profit entity to assist the City with governance, fund-raising and management of Balboa Park through a contractual agreement with the City.

The next steps:

- Create a task force to figure out the details, and create a list of individuals who should have a background in the subject area and representation. This list will ultimately be set-up by the Mayor.
- Council Member Todd Gloria of Council District 3 supports a second phase.
- The report and all the documentation should be placed on the City website and on CDs.
- The San Diego County should be invited to participate in the process.
- Recommend the Labor Councils monitor the next phase.
- The Retired Employees Association should be included in the next phase.

Park and Recreation Board Members questions:

- As it stands now are we waiting for the Mayor's response? (The Mayor is waiting for Ms. Granowitz to provide more detailed information based on the Balboa Park Committee Report Next Steps.)
- Did you tackle any of the issues related to relationships between the institution that are currently there and the requirement for ongoing maintenance and operation of the facilities in which they are housed? (No, each institution has a lease and they are not all cultural institutions. The Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts and Campfire groups have lease agreements or Right of Entry Permits and all vary.)
- Did you get a list of inventory all the buildings, structures, and fields? (The Committee knew what was in Balboa Park, but did not have a conditions report of these structures. There is no conditions report available at this time.)
- Once the list is completed will this go back to the Mayor and City Council? (One or two members of the Balboa Park Committee will present the report to the City Council, and request they accept the report. The Committee will also request support of a Phase II in order to provide the City Council with more detail data so the Council may take action on this item. The task force will have to locate funds for the next phase that will also be a community driven process.)
- At this point would it be a benefit for the Park and Recreation Board to state they are please with the status? (Yes, when this item has been docketed, it would be beneficial to go before the City Council to provide support to the Balboa Park Committee recommendations.)

- Is there a balance sheet that shows income and expense? (No, there is no over-arching management of all the groups that raise funds. The Committee is unable to pull out from the City budget, what it cost to run Balboa Park.)
- Any consideration given to the future of the Balboa Park Committee, and how it would interact with this new entity form as a fund raiser or over all management? How it would relate to the Park and Recreation Department? (These would be details that would be up to the next group to research and make those recommendations from their findings.)
- Did you envision that one group would raise funds for the park? (No)

Mr. Smith stated the success or failure of any large urban park basically depends on the political will of elected officials, vision of civic leaders, and generosity of civic leaders. San Diego has had a City Manager form of government for a number of years, and they look at parks and libraries to cut first. That is the problem with Mission Bay Park and Balboa Park, San Diego lacks the political will.

### WORKSHOP

### STANDING UPDATES

Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR) Update – No Update

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, February, 19, 2009 2:00 p.m.**

City Administration Building  
Committee Room, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico,  
Park and Recreation Director