

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

May 21, 2009

MINUTES

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

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

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
202 C Street, MS 37C
San Diego, California 92101

Members Present

Wilbur Smith, Chair
Michael Stepner
Ginny Barnes
Bruce Brown
Rick Bussell
William Diehl
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
Roz King
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds

Members Absent

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Stephen Heverly, CD1
Jon Maddern
Mike Bresnahan, Public Utilities Dept.
Kim Davies
Alex Bragado
Jo-Ann Novak

CALL TO ORDER – The Chair Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2009

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Bussell/Mr. Brown

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the revised April 16, 2009 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – None

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

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – Mr. Heverly, Council Representative for Council Member Sherri Lightner, stated that Council Member Lightner has been contacted by members of the community who expressed concerns regarding the noticing of Item 101, and unavailability of relative information materials regarding this item. Council Member Lightner request the item be continued to the next Park and Recreation Board meeting so the interested community members can be effectively informed and participate in discussion of the provisions for the senior and low-

income golf fees. Ms. LoMedico went on record that the Park and Recreation Department staff did receive comments and added that several of the clubs and interested groups were notified by e-mail about the item on the agenda today. Because of this confusion regarding the seniors and low-income fees, the Department agrees to postpone the item to the June meeting. In addition, staff in their best efforts will post all future reports. Ms. LoMedico stated the Department does not post Board reports, and not posting Item 101 report was not intentional.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Barnes and was seconded by Mr. Greene to continue Item 101 Municipal Golf Course Low-Income Fee Waiver Program to the June 18, 2009 Park and Recreation Board agenda. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. LoMedico will present the Municipal Golf Course Low-Income Fee Waiver Program report where Mr. Maddern will be out of town on business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Area Committee Community Parks I

- Ms. Barnes reported the Committee had a joint meeting with Area Committee Community Parks II which included a presentation on the on-line registration software. Carmel Valley Recreation Council and Tierrasanta Recreation Council along with the adjacent pools were selected for this pilot program of the program.
- The Area Committee also had a discussion on the miscommunications in the removal of shade structures.

Area Committee Community Parks II

- Ms. King reported the Committee discussed process and miscommunications.
- Recreation Council has not been notified of proposed rotation of staff. The Recreation Council was concerned they were not involved in the process of new staff, and that they will have all new staff with less experience. (Ms. LoMedico will address the rotation of staff in today's Director's Report.)

Balboa Park Committee

- Ms. Granowitz reported the Committee took action to reform the West Side Committee under the Balboa Park Committee to provide a vehicle for residents to be actively involved in the park due to the increase of special events in this area of the park. The first meeting will be held tonight.
- The Committee supported in concept Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) as management and operation of Marston house and grounds.
- The Committee reviewed the fee schedule as it pertains to the Balboa Park budget.
- The Committee heard a report on proposed changes to Pershing Redwood intersection improvements. Approximately five years ago the community did a round about. The community has some planning money, and will decide if they would like the round about to stay or to modify it.
- The Committee heard a feasible study on the Arizona Land Fill Test Plots. Ms. Granowitz stated it would be nice to have something else instead of a parking lot.
- Ms. Granowitz provided the Committee with an update of Balboa Park Governance

Phase II. She reported the Mayor and Council Member Gloria are opened to a transparent process. Ms. Granowitz provided clarification on several misinformation items regarding the Balboa Park Governance process.

- Change to the Municipal Code regarding the Balboa Park alcohol ordinance is pending action from Ms. Davies on placing a map in the Municipal Code designating specific areas within Balboa Park.
- Special Events have spiraled out of control with one event expecting 15,000 ended up to be 55,000 in attendance. Healing Art event set up two un-permitted Rock-N-Roll stages. Earth Fair shut down the park and adjacent freeways due to traffic congestion. Some events have been exceeding the sound decimal levels. Ms. Granowitz recommended all to be on the watch of special events.

Design Review Committee

- Mr. Smith reported that Department staff provided a presentation regarding water issues, and the Committee felt fountains should not be turned off.
- The Committee made several recommendations to the enhancement of the House of Charm General Development Plan.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee – No report, meeting to take place tonight at 7:00 p.m.

Mission Bay Park Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported on the May 5, 2009 meeting that included a discussion on the two and half million stimulus fund money for dredging and jetty revetment to Mission Bay.
- Stacy McKenzie, Committee Staff Representative, provided a report on the De Anza issues, and the Stay Classy event complaints.
- Police Captain Shelly Zimmerman provided statistics on the “Spring Break” event that included 16% decrease in crime, 140% increases in tickets issued, and 1,800 more citations given out as compared to the previous year.
- Mr. Bussell reported that the public is concerned about the Open Carry Law that allows people to walk with guns in their holsters. Accordingly, to State Law this is legal. The San Diego Police are assuming these guns are loaded. Mr. Bussell advised all to use caution when they come in contact with someone carrying a real gun.
- The Committee approved the recommendations to the policy and procedures regarding the permit process.
- The Committee received a report on an action item regarding telecom right-of-way which was approved.
- The Committee was presented with an informational item on Mission Bay Sewer Inceptor System and the Committee is expecting more information in the future on this subject.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Greene reported on the May 5, 2009 Committee meeting. It was reported that the State Inspector has given high praise in the efforts for removing invasion plants from Kumeyaay Lake.
- Mission Trails Park has been listed by the County of San Diego as a mosquito area and that the mosquitoes may carry the West Nile Virus. Lake Kumeyaay water level was altered to detour the mosquito breeding area. Mission Trails Park is no longer listed as a high-alert mosquito area by the County of San Diego.

- Lake Murray is part of the City's Water Department budget and there will be a firework display this year for the Fourth of July.
- An update on the Old Mission Dam maintenance project was given. For many years this area has been dredged, but one dredging does not last long. Mission Trails Regional Park staff has been trying to get an on-going multi-year permit for dredging to control the silt build up. Delays in the permit process has been attributed to the San Diego Regional Water Authority, Army Core of Engineers, and San Diego City Attorney's Office (Ms. Davis will have a Attorney Opinion ready by the next Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting.)
- It was reported that the Water Department re-aligning of pipe line #3 is expected to be completed in June of 2009. The original completion date was for December 2009. It is expected that two other pipelines projects will be completed within the next three years.
- The Jackson Drive parking area was re-opened on May 15, 2009 due to the completion of the re-alignment of pipeline #3 in that area.
- It was reported that there has been no proposed service cuts at Mission Trails Regional Park. Two Park Rangers have been added to Open Space Division with one being assigned to Mission Trails Regional Park.
- Money was added to the budget to pump Lake Kumeyaay due to the increase threat of West Nile Virus transmitted by mosquitoes.
- The economy is taking a toll on Mission Trails Foundation fund which is down by \$20,000 this year.
- A recommendation was made to transfer \$1,200 from the Foundation to an unspecified capital investment somewhere in the park.
- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee would like a status report on the Regional Parks Fund for Capital Improvement Projects. (Ms. LoMedico will provide this information in the Director's Report today.)

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee – No report - next meeting in July.

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee

- Mr. Stepner reported the Committee met for a site visit in April and was introduced to the consultant who will be working on the plan for Torrey Pines Park. The consultant has been donating his time for this project, while the agreement is authorized by City Council.
- Ms. Barnes reported Land Use and Housing Committee moved the consultant contract forward to the City Council, and will be at City Council on June 2, 2009.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mr. Smith commented that Park and Recreation Department was fortunate not to have any cuts this year, but is concerned about next year even bigger challenges. How will Park and Recreation Department be affective in the future? Will parks be smaller? Will the Business Processing Re-engineering increase pressure on staff to provide more with less? The water rates are going up and the amount of water available is going down. Mr. Smith is considering having a workshop on park design. Mr. Smith requested an update on the George L. Stevens Senior Center and the Memorial Park Girl's Club issues.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico requested that Mr. Bresnahan go before the Director's Report. Ms. LoMedico shared a few "Good News" items, one being Torrey Pines North Course (ranked 13th) and South Course (ranked 3rd) were listed under Golf Week magazine best Municipal Courses (2008-09).
- Invited Board Members to National Trails Day event at Otay Valley Regional Park on Saturday, June 6, 2009. Ms. LoMedico encouraged all Board Members to visit the amazing Otay Valley Regional Park Open Space trails.
- Ms. LoMedico attended the 39th Chicano Park Day Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, April 25, 2009. (Brochure available to view along with a thank you letter to staff for helping with this event.)
- Several events took place recently: Allied Gardens Spring Feast was held a couple weeks ago; this past week end San Ysidro Community Days, and San Diego River Park Foundation had an event in Mission Valley on Sunday.
- Ms. LoMedico reminded Board Members that we are still in Fiscal Year 2010 budget process and Board Members should have received the Mayor's May Revise Budget via e-mail which will be heard at Budget and Finance Committee on June 3, 2009. After Budget and Finance Committee hearing then this item will move forward with the Council adoption prior to July 1, 2009.
- Update on Skate Parks will be heard this Wednesday at Natural Resources and Culture Committee (NR&C) that starts at **1:00 p.m.** Depending on what action the Committee takes, it should move forward to the full City Council.
- Lewis Higgins Department Recreation Specialist was given a special Congressional recognition award by Congressman Filner for his efforts in working with seniors.
- Otay Valley Regional Park volunteer John Willet was one of two recipients of the Cox Communication award. Cox Communications donated \$5,000 on his behalf to Otay Valley Regional Park.
- Ms. Puentes-Reynolds asked at a previous meeting if the City employee reductions for Fiscal Year 2010 would still be in compliance with the City's Living Wage Ordinance. The City Wage Ordinance does not apply to the City employee only outside the City. The City Wage Ordinance is calculated on hourly bases on how much money is allocated to other benefits such as health care. The answer would be yes.
- Ms. LoMedico requested that the Board Members pass the following information to community members. The City is moving forward to OneSD a new financial and human service software system. The financial systems will go live on July 1, 2009. This means all computer systems will be merged into one system. City employees will be going through City training for the next 30 days, during the time staff is also gearing up for the busy summer season. Ms. LoMedico requested that Board Members be patient with City staff in general while the new system is being implemented. The human services software of OneSD will go live in the fall.
- Ms. LoMedico hopes to have a memorandum to the Recreation Councils this Tuesday regarding staff rotations. Several of the mid-level manager positions are vacant. Seven of 21 Area Managers positions are currently vacant. Once it was determined the Department would not have service levels reductions the Department starting doing interviews. These interviews were completed a month ago. Most of these people will come from the ranks of Center Directors. The Department currently has several vacant Center Directors positions: Center Director I (small center), Center Director II (medium center), and Center Director III (large center). Now there will be additional vacancies in Center

Directors I, II, and III. This will be a major change to the Department and may take place in early July.

- A dead bird that tested positive for West Nile was found at Torrey Pines Golf Course. Park and Recreation Department staff continues to receive training on how to handle these types of situations.
- Children's Pool rope came down on May 15, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. Ms. LoMedico and Ms. Davies will go back to court next Wednesday on this issue.
- The Audit Department's Pool Audit was sent to the Park and Recreation Board Members via e-mail, and was posted on the Audit Department's webpage yesterday.
- Regarding the Mission Bay Regional Parks Improvement Fund via last fall's Proposition C adds the oversight function to the Mission Bay Park Committee. The Mission Bay Park Committee will be the oversight committee for Mission Bay funding and the Park and Recreation Board will act as the oversight for the Regional Parks funding. Because, of these two significant changes there will be structure changes to these two Committees. July 1, 2009 will be the date the City Charter change goes into effect.

A notice was given to the Girl's Club lessee approximately 30 days ago to vacate the building. The lessee has refused to vacate. The Park and Recreation Department staff is working with Real Estate Assets Department and the City Attorney's Office staff, and will file in court to have the lessee removed legally.

Ms. LoMedico provided the Board Members with an audit report approximately 30 days ago on the Fourth District Senior Resource Center non-profit. The Department staff is working with group, to provide them with a temporary use permit for 3 to 4 months to allow them time to get their books in order and to build their Board. Park and Recreation Department staff will assess how they are doing during this time to determine next steps.

Ms. LoMedico reminded the Park and Recreation Board Members per their previous request of the following items to be presented to them:

Request on capital improvements process - how does that work and how is it funded?

A workshop on park design.

A workshop on donation and fundraising.

Request for an informational item on Storm Water Permit and particularly how the Park and Recreation Department is complying with the storm water permit. The showing of a film by John Nolen "A Comprehensive Plan for Its Improvement".

Ms. LoMedico reported that Parks and Recreation Department staff has been working with the Water Department staff for approximately the past eight months to get as many parks on the reclaimed system.

Park and Recreation Department uses 70% of all the City Department's water. The ordinance relating to water use restrictions and drought response program includes Park and Recreation Department input. The Department is working hard with the Water Department to ensure that nothing dies and continues to work on the variance system such as; renovation, over-seeding for golf courses in the fall, special events, and broken irrigation systems. Currently, the Department

is dealing with the fact - does it make sense to keep turf alive in dog parks. The Department does not have a Public Information Officer and there is not a day that goes by where staff receives a call or e-mail about watering twice a day (new seed.) The Department has a crew on stand-by for complaints during off-duty hours. Nine out of ten complaint calls for wasteful watering in the off-hours are for non City properties (e.g. homeowners associations) and other private property owners. The Department staff continues to work on the fountain issue. The Department staff is working on memorandum and posters that will be going out to all recreation centers in the near future. The Department staff is working on the issue where the Department pays for the water for lessees (Ms. LoMedico is currently working with Real Estate Assets/General Development and Water Department on this issue.) The Department is in the process on how to deal with complaints. The final comment is the Department has more concerns with the winter months schedule then the summer schedule due to the reduction of days.

Ms. LoMedico will have Marsi Steirer group on Water Conservation provide a presentation on reclaim water per the Board's request.

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

Mr. Stepner requested the showing of the John Nolan film to the Park and Recreation Board. Once Mr. Stepner finds out the date and time the Nolan film airs on PBS he will forward this information to Ms. Novak to send to the Park and Recreation Board. Mr. Smith agreed that he would like to view the Nolan film if time permits.

ACTION ITEM – Item 101 Municipal Golf Course Low-Income Fee Waiver Program was moved June 18, 2009 Park and Recreation Board meeting.

INFORMATION ITEM

202. Emergency Water Regulations – Level 2 Drought Alert

Mr. Bresnahan, Deputy Director, Public Utilities Department presented a PowerPoint presentation on: a plan to reduce water use, water waste prohibitions, water use restrictions in effect at drought response level 1 and 2, resources allocated to response effort, water waste complaint process, public communication, and recommended actions. Mr. Bresnahan provided the Board Members with an ordinance relating to water use restrictions and drought response program. Mr. Bresnahan provided the following restrictions in his presentation:

Nine water waste prohibitions that are in effect at all times:

1. Restaurants and other food establishments may serve and refill water only upon request.
2. Optional laundering of towels and sheets must be offered in hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments.
3. Runoff due to excessive irrigation and/or uncorrected leaks.
4. Failure to repair or stop a water leak.
5. Using a hose to wash down paved areas (except to alleviate safety or sanitation hazards) unless connected to a water efficient device such as a commercial water broom.
6. Overfilling swimming pools and spas.

7. Use of non-recirculating decorative water fountains.
8. Vehicle washing is permitted only in a commercial car wash or when using a hose with a positive shutoff nozzle or hand held container.
9. Single pass-through cooling systems are prohibited for new water service connections.

The following restrictions become mandatory at Level 2:

1. Irrigate only in the hours between 6 p.m. – 10 a.m.
2. Trees and shrubs not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system must be watered by a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle, hand held container, or a garden hose sprinkler system on a timer.
3. Irrigation of nursery and commercial growers' products is permitted in the hours between 6 p.m. – 10 a.m. or at any time when using a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle, a hand-held container, or drip/micro-irrigation.
4. Irrigation of nursery propagation beds is permitted at any time.
5. Vehicle washing is permitted only in the hours between 6 p.m. – 10 a.m. with a hand-held container or a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle for quick rinses, or at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash. Vehicle washing required for public health and safety (e.g. garbage trucks) is exempt.
6. Water use by commercial car washes which do not use partially recirculated water will be reduced in volume by an amount determined by the City Council
7. Water leaks must be stopped or repaired within five (5) days upon discovery or of notification by the City of San Diego.
8. Use of recycled or non-potable water is required for construction purposes when available.
9. Water use from fire hydrants is limited to fire fighting City meter installation as part of the Fire Hydrant Meter Program, and for public health and safety reasons.
10. Construction operations will not use water obtained by a fire hydrant meter for uses other than normal construction activity.

Recommend Level 2 Drought Alert Condition become effective June 1, 2009:

1. Landscape irrigation is limited to no more than three (3) assigned days per week on a schedule established by the Public Utilities Director and subject to hardship variance process.
 - > Odd number addresses irrigate Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.
 - > Even number addresses irrigate Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.
2. Lawn watering and landscape irrigation using sprinklers is limited to no more than ten (10) minutes maximum per watering station per assigned day.
3. Trees and shrubs not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system may be watered no more than three assigned days per week by using a hand-held container, hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, or low-volume non-spray irrigation (soaker hose).
4. All leaks must be stopped or repaired upon discovery or within seventy-two (72) hours of notification by the City of San Diego.
5. Ornamental fountains may be operated for maintenance purposes.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Dennis Otsuji speaking as a private citizen expressed concern about the impact of Level 2 Drought process on one of the best park systems in the world. Concerned that if we don't preserve parks they will be lost. Mr. Otsuji request Park and Recreation Board to send a positive message to the City Council to make parks exempt from the Level 2 drought restrictions.

Mr. Smith requested that Mr. Bresnahan return to his supervisor and convey the Park and Recreation Board concerns on preserving the park system.

WORKSHOP – None

STANDING UPDATES – None

1. Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR)

Mr. Greene is unable to attend the June 18, 2009 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, June 18, 2009**

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

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico,
Park and Recreation Director