

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

July 16, 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
Ginny Barnes
Bruce Brown
William Diehl
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
Roz King
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds

Members Absent

Michael Stepner

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Jon Maddern
Kris McFadden
Michelle Abella-Shon
Alex Bragado
Jennifer Casamassima
Kim Davies
Drew Kleis
Dave Long
Tom Gibson
Jo-Ann Novak

CALL TO ORDER – The Chair Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2009

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

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Barnes to approve the June 18, 2009 meeting minutes to include the report to the Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee per Ms. Barnes request. Ayes have it.

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 – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Area Committee Community Parks I – No report

Area Committee Community Parks II

- Ms. King reported that approximately 12 members attended the July 8, 2009 Committee meeting.
- Ms. King thanked Jim Winter, Project Officer II of Park and Recreation Department, Darren Greenhalgh, Deputy Director of Architectural Engineering and Contracts Public Buildings and Parks, and Todd Schmit, Park Designer of City Planning and Community Investment, for their informative presentation.
- Ms. King reported that the agenda subject was Capital Improvements Projects. A “Needs List” is in the process of being updated by Mr. Winter, and should be completed in several months.
- The Committee had a discussion on project funding addressing; cost of planning stages, determination of funding and priorities, and selection of projects.
- Committee has several concerns regarding land declared as park space. Request that the Park and Recreation Department not accept open space land without some funding source for upkeep.
- Mrs. Puente-Reynolds requested that Recreation Councils be alert and aware of the City’s Community Plan updates in their communities so they may have a voice on how it impacts parks.
- The Committee requested an update on policy for skateboard safety equipment.
- The Committee requested follow-up of funds for two specific recreation council projects.

Balboa Park Committee

- Ms. Granowitz reported that the Committee did not meet, but the Sub-committees met.
- Ms. Granowitz shared a photo of a piece of unapproved art displayed at the San Diego Museum of Art.
- Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) has been issued a 7 month Right-of-Entry permit to operate the Marston House.
- Land Use and Policy Committee and West Mesa Committee are working on mitigating some of the problems involving special events. Both Committees will create a report and both reports will be combined for a full hearing at the Balboa Park Committee meeting.
- Last year at the San Diego Pride event there were several problems with parking and traffic issues due to change of staffing in the City of San Diego Police Department. Members of the Committee met prior to this year’s event with the Police Department and were able to resolve these issues for this year event.

Design Review Committee – No report

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens’ Advisory Committee – Committee will meet tonight and to date Mr. Brown has not received meeting minutes from the last meeting.

Mission Bay Park Committee – No report

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens’ Advisory Committee

- Mr. Greene reported the Committee received a presentation from the San Diego State University River Net Project which was approved to go before the Mission Trails Foundation for their approval.
- The Committee reluctantly approved planting of two oaks and eight cotton woods for

Arbor Day in December due to the claim of no water for irrigation. (Mr. Greene requested that Ms. LoMedico follow-up on this item.)

- Report was provided on the proposed Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station project. City Council Action pending approval of plan.
- Citizens' groups requesting the off road bike camps in the park at the site of the old quarry. City Attorney's Office is reviewing question on liability.
- The Committee paid tribute to Mr. Pete Cuthbert who retired from the Citizens' Advisory Committee after 25 years of service on the board. Mr. Cuthbert was representing the City of La Mesa.
- Water Department provided a water report on various projects going on throughout the park and Lake Murray area.

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee – No report

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee

- Ms. Barnes provided an update on the Committee which has been meeting since September. She reported the consultant is formerly on board and the Committee now has a link from the Park and Recreation Department web page.
- Ms. Barnes is looking forward to working with Department's Golf Division and how these two sites may partner for future use.
- Ms. Barnes is aware that the golf course has access to reclaimed water and currently there are no water lines to this site.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mr. Smith mentioned that several retirements within the Park and Recreation Department included: Calvin Tani, Area Manager II; Steve Pond, Center Director III; Helen Phillips, Center Director III; and Greg Zatarain, Ground Maintenance Worker II. The Department is losing a lot of experience staff. These four people represent over 100 years of experience. They will be sorely missed and difficult to replace.
- Mr. Smith stated we are starting a new fiscal year with many challenges for the department, city, state and country. Mr. Smith stated we will continue to look for funds in order to continue serving our citizens.
- Mr. Smith requested that Ms. LoMedico provide an update on Villa Montezuma on who will be taking over this site and a settlement of a sexual harassment case.
- Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Bussell for his service to the Park and Recreation Board and the Mission Bay Committee.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico thanked Mr. David Monroe for covering for her during the June 2009 Park and Recreation Board meeting.
- Mr. Stepner requested an update on the Marston House and Villa Montezuma based on the San Diego Historical Society (SDHS) letter terminating their lease with the City on the Marston House and the Villa Montezuma. Board Members received an electronic copy of this letter. The City entered into a Special Use Permit with Save Our Heritage Organisation.
- The City will continue to manage the Villa Montezuma as far as security and general maintenance until the structure can be repaired and opened to the public. The City has been looking for money since last year and will continue looking for funds.

- Ms. LoMedico distributed Council Policy 600-33 Community Notification and Input for City-Wide Park Development Projects to be placed in the Park and Recreation Board binder.
- Ms. LoMedico distributed a picture of the Pergola at Balboa Park. Council Member Gloria requested to improve it physically and not spend all the money on the Pergola.
- Ms. LoMedico provided an article from Coastal Living, a national magazine, on the top ten best secret beaches, which included Windansea Beach (La Jolla) as number ten.
- Fourth of July was another success in terms of the public coming to the parks and beaches. San Diego Police and Fire-Rescue Lifeguard Departments staff estimated that 1.6 million visited the beaches and shoreline parks during the holiday period. Department staff will provide cost and the calculation of tonnage on trash in August.
- Ms. LoMedico distributed a thank you email from a gentleman regarding his pleasant experience on at the Bay the date after the Fourth, and thanked the Park and Recreation staff for the clean-up after the Fourth of July.
- Ms. LoMedico distributed a memo that was issued to all Park and Recreation employees regarding the adoption of Fiscal Year 2010 Park and Recreation Department Budget.
- The Department has requested 12 water variances of which 11 have been approved. Nine variances were approved for renovation of active turf fields. Golf has two variances to water golf holes Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday and greens on alternating days. This will be the same amount of water, but need a variance to water on different days. There is one outstanding variance request for Open Space parks.
- Park and Recreation Board Members requested that a letter be sent to Bill Anderson, City Planning and Community Investment Director regarding their support of the general plan implementation plan, this was sent and the implementation plan was approved by City Council on July 7, 2009.
- Ms. LoMedico received a notice from the Rancho Peñasquitos Tennis Center President. Indicating they have received a national award from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) for the 2009 Outstanding Facility.
- Chairperson Smith requested information on the settlement agreement with a park employee that is on docket for Tuesday for Council consideration. It was brought to Council in Closed Session in May and they approved the settlement of this action to fund the \$450,000 out of the Public Liability Fund. These funds are not out of the Park and Recreation Department's operating budget. The allegations covered a period from 2004 to 2006.
- The San Diego Museum of Art was informed that they were placing a statue within their lease hold. Park and Recreation and Real Estate Assets Departments staff are working with the San Diego Museum of Art staff because of this incident, and another instance where a museum was having a clothing sale which is inconsistent with the guidelines of the lease. Jim Barwick, Real Estate Asset Director and Ms. LoMedico will send a letter to the institutions and Special Use Permit holders reminding them of their obligations via their leases and Special Use Permits that dictate all leases and permits prohibit alterations or changes to the leasehold or permit area without prior review and written approval of the City of San Diego.
- Ms. Barnes requested information on the issue of changing how Facilities Benefit Assessment (FBA) Fees and Developer Impact Fees (DIF) would be paid by developers and the Ordinance that is before the Land Use and Housing Committee. (Ms. LoMedico will follow-up on this item.)
- Ms. LoMedico introduced Mr. Tom Gibson the new Park and Recreation Department

Safety and Training Manager. Mr. Gibson has been with the Department for a month and comes from the Public Utilities Department. As Safety and Training manager Mr. Gibson oversees all training, mostly required training such as: CPR, First Aide, West Nile, and Playground Safety.

- Ms. LoMedico introduced Dave Long, District Manager for Citywide maintenance who has the responsibility of all the Citywide Maintenance crews which includes all playgrounds, aquatic maintenance, irrigation and mowing/sweeping.
- Ms. LoMedico thanked Mr. Kris McFadden, Deputy Director of Storm Water Department for all his help in a variety of Storm Water issues during the past several months.

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

ACTION ITEMS

101. Golf Operations Five-Year Business Plan regarding Low-Income Golf Fees and Senior Golf Fees

Jon Maddern, Deputy Director, and Alex Bragado, Supervising Management Analyst of Golf Operations, Park and Recreation Department provided a comprehensive report and a PowerPoint presentation on the Low-Income Golf Fees and Senior Golf Fees. Conclusion of presentation included Park and Recreation staff not recommending eliminating the discounted Senior Golf Fee and establishing a new discounted Low-Income Golf Fee. Elimination of the discounted Senior Golf Fee and implementation of a new discounted Low-Income Golf Fee would adversely affect resident senior golfers with annual incomes that do not meet the low-income poverty thresholds or any other income threshold that might be established. Current municipal golf fees are discounted for resident seniors (age 62 or older) and resident juniors (age 17 or younger). The golf industry standard is to provide a senior discount rate at golf courses.

A Five-Year Business Plan for Fiscal Year 2007 to Fiscal Year 2011 ends June 30, 2011. Park and Recreation staff plans to bring forth a new Business Plan in early 2011. Development of the next Five-Year Business Plan will include a comprehensive review of all existing fees, new fee ideas, and golf fees best practices.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Early does not agree with having either/or senior golf fee or the low-income golf fee. (Ms. LoMedico provided clarification that this report was written as an alternate to low income fee that was requested by the City Council. Public has the opportunity to make any proposal they would like regarding rates.) Mr. Early has many other concerns regarding this report.

Mr. Paul Spiegelman recommends that staff relook at this matter and determine if there is a way to provide both; a senior golf fee and the low-income waver. Mr. Spiegelman stated this is a good report in explaining the issues and is in favor of keeping the senior rate. He is concerned

that the whole fee structure is design to building a club house that the public is in opposition of.

Mr. Dale Peterson representing Torrey Pines Golf Club with 1,050 members is in support of the golf operations suggestions here today. Mr. Peterson would like to participate in the new three/ five year plan discussions.

M. C. Eastmen supports the senior golf fees and not interested in the low-income golf fees.

Park and Recreation Board Comments and Questions:

- Why can't the Department offer a low-income fee? (Fees would have to come from somewhere per the Golf Five Year Business Plan. The current fees are not meeting the current fee structure.)
- The City Council is requesting both the senior golf fee and the low-income golf fee (Ms. LoMedico stated that staff is working with the City Attorney's Office staff and will review the tape to verify the City Council request. The public has the opportunity to make other recommendations. Ms. LoMedico will notify Park and Recreation Board when this item is before the Natural Resources and Culture (NR&C) Committee.)
- How can a decision be made when the Park and Recreation Board does not know the amount of fees. (Ms. LoMedico recommended requesting various information such as the number of seniors at age 62 or 65 to be used in revising the next Business Plan. Public hearings will start after January 2010 for the next plan.)
- Board is concerned that by requesting a reasonable a low-income fee with a cap, and if it is implemented now there would be less money for the infrastructure for the next plan.
- Golf courses are parks and should be accessible to all and should be maintained.
- Questioned where the standard retirement age of 62 came from where the national standard is 65. (Mr. Maddern stated that the golf industry has the lower age.)
- A Board Member requested a new club house be designed and constructed for the Balboa Golf Course.
- Concerned that the public is under the assumption that seniors are poor which is false. Should have a low-income fee level with a cap of playing only one or twice a month.
- Concerned that there is no standardization form to determine low-income level at Park and Recreation facilities.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Barnes and seconded by Ms. Granowitz to support the Park and Recreation Department staff recommendations. Ayes have it.

Ms. LoMedico requested to have Item 102 moved to the end of the agenda and Mr. Smith agreed.

102. Municipal Code 26.30 Park and Recreation Board

Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Department Director provided background information on the changes to the Municipal Code 26.30, Park and Recreation Board. This Item was brought forward from City Attorney's Office along with Park and Recreation Department and went before the Natural

Resources and Cultural (NR&C) Committee and City Council to change some of the items in Municipal Code 26.30 as it refers to the Mission Bay Park Committee and the Park and Recreation Board to designate the Mission Bay Park Committee and the Park and Recreation Board as the oversight advisory Committees for the Mission Bay Park and Regional Parks Improvement Funds via City Charter 55.2. Council Member Lightner, requested during the Council meeting, to look at potentially changing the composition of the Board per Municipal Code 26.30 specifically to the lack of community member from the coastal community on the Board, and that there be specific council district appointments.

Council Member Frye made a motion on the floor to accept the changes as it relates to the City Charter requested staff bring back the Municipal Code 26.30 back to Park and Recreation Board and NR&C and finally to City Council, if necessary. Ms. LoMedico indicated to Council Member Frye the Park and Recreation Department staff would return to NR&C by September. Ms. LoMedico distributed the Park and Recreation Board Report 102, San Diego Municipal Code 26.30, Ordinance 0-19776, Council Policy 000-13, and the City of San Diego City Charter Section 43. Before the Park and Recreation Board today is a recommendation from staff that the Municipal Code composition should not be changed because it works well in terms of representatives from various council district communities. Council Members can nominate potential appointees from the coastal communities if applicable, the Mayor makes the appointments, and the City Council approves them.

Comments from the Park and Recreation Board:

A wide variety of members have been on the Board

Board Members are not required to have expertise

The Park and Recreation Board has been comprised of a wide diversity of members and has worked well

Concerned that there are currently two vacancies on the Board

Board Members felt it was good that Council Policy included the following text:

The Council shall comply with the charge contained in Charter Section 42 to “take into consideration sex, race, and geographical area so that the membership of such commissions, boards, committees or panels shall reflect the entire community.” which should address the concern brought forward.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Greene to endorse staff recommendation and leave the language as it is currently stated. Ayes have it.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Recycled Water Program Update

Ms. Jennifer Casamassima, Recycled Water Program Manager, of the Public Utilities Department provided an overview of the City’s Water Recycling Program as well as the efforts her team has made to retrofit irrigation systems, serving parkland and maintenance assessment districts, to accept recycled water.

For the last three years the number of Park and Recreation Department recycled water meter connections have nearly doubled and several more parkland retrofit projects are planned in Fiscal Year 2010. To learn more about City's recycled water program view the Public Utilities website: www.sandiego.gov/water/recycled. Ms. Casamassima will email additional information to the Park and Recreation Director including a web link to the Water Reuse Study and an analysis by the County Water Authority that evaluated potential sites for small "water reclamation plants in a box". The report included a site evaluation for a potential facility in Balboa Park.

Mr. Greene would be more impressed with the report if more of this reclaimed water was going to central San Diego. Mr. Greene sees no indication of pipelines coming to the central part where the majority of the people go to. Mr. Greene went on record stating that citizens are required to reduce water usage, cutting down on water fountains, rationing water, starving our environment, and the City is not utilizing all the reclaim water that they have. It seems like were not any closer to getting reclaimed water to central San Diego. Mr. Greene does not see how this is good public policy.

Ms. Casamassima reported the Municipal Code requires that City prepare a Master Plan every five years. The last Master Plan was prepared in 2005 and the Utilities Department will be moving forward in 2010 on a new Master Plan. As part of the Master Plan, the Department will be conducting a market assessment to evaluate potential system expansions and the potential for smaller water reclamation facilities that would serve only adjacent customers.

Mr. Smith requested that Ms. Casamassima request her appointing authorities to pay closer attention to the areas south of Interstate 8 for additional recycled water projects.

202. City of San Diego Storm Water Report – Park and Recreation Department Responsibilities

Kris McFadden, Deputy Director, Storm Water Department introduce Mr. Drew Kleis who is a Storm Water Specialist with the newly formed Storm Water Department. Mr. Dave Long, District Manager, Park and Recreation Department was present to respond to questions.

Mr. McFadden provided a comprehensive report which included requirements for the Municipal Storm Water Permit and information on the Federal Clean Water Act requirements that include the following:

- Development Regulations
- Construction
- Municipal Activities
- Residential/Businesses
- Enforcement
- Education and Public Participation
- Water Quality Monitoring

Mr. McFadden applauded Park and Recreation Department for their Best Management Practices (BMP) manual. Storm Water has to submit an annual report to Regional Water Quality Control Board and Park and Recreation Department provided a BMP that is used as a model by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This is a new procedure and there were no other models available to refer to.

Ms. Granowitz sits on the Sewer Canyon Open Space Advisory Committee and they receive announcement on the remediation that is part of the Environmental Impact Report. Ms. Granowitz requested information on the remediation.

Mr. McFadden provided a brief background on how the City maintains storm drain channels in the past. The City has miles and miles of channels throughout the City, and historically storm drains were designed only to remove the storm water, and not address any contaminants. The storm drains main function was to move the water quickly. Due to lack of maintenance on regular basis a number of these channels have silted in. As soon as wetlands species get into the channels you have to mitigate the impacts to these species. Instead of cleaning the channels one at a time the City decided about a year and half ago to get one permit that was good for 20 years and would allow Storm Water Department staff to go into all the channels on a yearly basis and address any other mitigation. This process allows the Storm Water Department staff to efficiently clean all the channels. Mr. McFadden will notify the Park and Recreation Board when they will have the public meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Evans-Calderwood neutral on Item 202 and would like the emphases be placed on education to make the public aware of pet waste pollution, water recycling, and other forms of recycling.

WORKSHOP – None

STANDING UPDATES – None

1. Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR)

Ms. Granowitz reported that the Lewis Street Park was pulled from the University Heights Recreation Council agenda and a new agenda sent out in violation of the Brown Act. When the University Heights Recreation Council requested the original agenda be honored they were told it would create confusion and be in violation of the Brown Act. The University Recreation Council wanted to go on record that they are in agreement with the stakeholder census letter and do not need to see the project again. The appeal has been delayed until October until this can be worked out.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds requested a report or update on downtown parks. (Ms. LoMedico will contact Mr. Dean Coker to come to the September Park and Recreation Board meeting.)

Ms. Barnes asked if there is a rodent ratification policy. (Ms. LoMedico said there is a plan in place and staff uses caution on moving forward with ratification of rodents.)

Mr. Diehl would like to know where he may have access to all the Capital Improvement Projects (Ms. LoMedico stated this is usually on web in August.)

Mr. Smith asked who has the lead on settlement cases. (Ms. LoMedico stated that the City Council has the final decision.)

There is no Park and Recreation Board meeting in August.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, September 17, 2009**

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

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico
Park and Recreation Director