

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

October 21, 2010

MINUTES

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

Balboa Park Club
Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan America Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address is:

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

Members Present

Wilbur Smith, Chair
Bruce Brown
Rick Bussell
William Diehl
Claudia Dunaway
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
Roz King
David Kinney
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Paul Jacob
Jo-Ann Novak
Kevin Oliver
Shannon Thomas

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 2010

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

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Greene to approve the August 19, 2010 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous to approve the meeting minutes with Mr. Diehl abstaining (9-0-1).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

- Ms. Granowitz requested West Maple Canyon Mini Park – Approval General Development Plan be placed on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Stepner requested to see the site location.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Bussell for accepting the Chair of the Community Parks I Area Committee position.

Community Parks I Area Committee

- Staff reported on the request for proposed 24% budgets cuts.
- One Action Item was Centrum Neighborhood Park General Development Plan which was approved (9-1) with a few recommendations.

Community Parks II Area Committee

- Ms. King reported there was no meeting this month, but she toured several recreation councils and parks. She was very impressed with the recreation councils meeting attendees, City staff and the Police Department staff dedication and involvement in parks and recreation centers in particular Council Districts 3 and 4.
- Crime issues have decreased considerably in these areas, because in these recreation councils the San Diego Police Department Community Service Officer attends and they work through issues together. Ms. King is concerned with the proposed budget cuts and the direct relationship these cuts have on the increase in the crime rate.

Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney reported the Plaza de Panama, Circulation, and Parking Structure Project is moving forward. It was heard at the Planning Commission today for amendment initiate and was approved by the Committee.
- Plans are underway for the 2015 Centennial in Balboa Park. The City is working with the TMD - Tourism and Marketing District to plan the event. The cultural institutions within the park have contracted with a consulting firm from Los Angeles on creating a vision and a theme for the year-long celebration. There will be a two day workshop in early November to include people from outside the community. Ms. Puentes-Reynolds asked who the outside members were. (Mr. Kinney stated once the list is finalized he will bring to the Park and Recreation Board.)
- Balboa Park Conservancy had their first meeting.

Design Review Committee

- Mr. Smith reported the Committee discussed La Jolla Tennis Club Expansion to include three recommended changes. Vote was unanimously approved.
- The North Crown Comfort Station project was not voted on by the Mission Bay Park Committee. The Design Review Committee unanimously denied approval of this project.
- Centrum Neighborhood Park General Development Plan was approved (8-0) with recommendations.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

Mission Bay Park Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported Sea World has a number of new projects: the completion of the I-5 South ramp (starts back by Pacific Highway); Turtle Project a sea turtle preserve, and miscellaneous renovation projects.

- Mr. Bussell reported the Mission Bay camera project will bring 12 to 16 cameras throughout the park.
- Rose Creek Bikeway/Pedestrian Walkway and Bridge is expected to start in January 2011 and may be completed by November.
- The Committee did not take action on North Crown Comfort Station project where it was only at the 30% conceptual stage.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Greene reported on the September 7, 2010 Committee meeting. The Committee recommended approval to the Parks Task Force Foundation the approval of Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station drawings.
- The Committee recommended approval of the event application for the San Diego Mountain Bike Association to hold a health and wellness fair in the park on November 13, 2010.
- The Committee voted to recommend approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the McMillin Company which owns the Sycamore Canyon Estate. The MOU is to grant the San Diego Gas and Electric a bubble within that area of the construction of the Sunrise Power Link.
- The Committee is looking for funds required to preserve the Old Mission Padre Dam.

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported on the September 15, 2010 Committee meeting.
- Tracey Walker, Senior Park Ranger, in conjunction with the San Diego Mountain Bike Volunteers restored a trail system from the 1990's that was overgrown.
- Sky hiking video is being created in conjunction with the Drones a project from San Diego State.
- Baskets and Botany took place on October 15, 2010.

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee – No Report

COMMUNICATIONS – None

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mr. Smith is concerned about the possibility of facilities being closed for a good part of the week. He is concerned that we not lose any of the infrastructures, and the investment of trees and turf. He stated Park and Recreation Department is facing an extra tough budget year.

Council Member Todd Gloria of the Third District made a special presentation to Carol Wood, retired Grants Administrator, with a proclamation to celebrate “Carol Wood Day in the City of San Diego” on September 30, 2010.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- At the August Park and Recreation Board meeting Ms. King asked if the recreation centers can benefit directly from cell towers on site. (Ms. LoMedico will provide the Council Policy at a future meeting.)

- Ms. King requested the status on Fox Canyon. (Ms. LoMedico stated there was no active Capital Improvements Project or any direction to develop that project. However, per Council direction the Department is pursuing the Wightman Neighborhood Park which is currently in litigation. Ms. LoMedico anticipates a better update in early 2011.)
- Board Members should have received a copy of the memorandum sent to all Park and Recreation Department employees about identifying 24% reduction in the Department's budget. At this time the Department has identified a total of 59 individual reduction proposals totaling the \$11.4 million dollars. All General Fund Departments were asked to submit possible budget reduction plans that can be implemented as part of Fiscal Year 2012 budget process. Fiscal Year 2012 starts July 1, 2011.
- The Mayor's Office is holding their typical budget town hall meetings. Three meetings were held this week with the last one taking place on Saturday, October 30, 2010.
- Ms. Novak will be asking Board Members for their availability to attend a December 16, 2010 Park and Recreation Board meeting. Ms. LoMedico would like to have a meeting in December in case there are any mid-year reductions.
- Ms. LoMedico distributed a few "Good News" items.
- Ms. LoMedico thanked those Board Members who attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park Playground Upgrade Grand Opening.
- Kate Sessions Memorial Park alcohol ban went to the Natural Resources and Cultural (NR&C) Committee on October 20, 2010. It was voted unanimously to bring the item to the City Council Committee with the full 24 hour alcohol ban. This item is anticipated to be before the full City Council within 30 days. (Mr. Greene was somewhat offended by the presentation to the NR&C Committee.)
- At the December 7, 2010 (date revised per Paul Jacob) Mission Bay Park Committee will hear the Fiesta Island Precise Plan. Ms. LoMedico will send out the meeting notice.
- Ms. LoMedico was invited to attend Special City Council meeting to discuss possible placement of the Homeless Winter Shelter at Qualcomm or Balboa Park Inspiration Point/Municipal Gym on Friday, October 22, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Novak will send the meeting notice to the Board Members.
- Ms. LoMedico reminded Board Members the November meeting will be a joint meeting with the Planning Commission.

ACTION ITEMS

- 101. Ellen Browning Scripps Park – Approval General Development Plan (GDP)**
 Paul Jacob, Associate Civil Engineer, Parks and Recreation Department and Patrick Aheern, Management Consulting Consultant and Contractor provided a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation of the Ellen Browning Scripps Park GDP

Public Comment: Mark Brown, Secretary to Scripps Park Project, encourage Board Members to support plan so they may go forward to find funding to make it better, restore and enhance it.

Board Members recommended improving the view by adding landscaping around the comfort station or artwork to the exterior walls of the comfort station.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Greene and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the Ellen Browning Scripps Park GDP. Vote was unanimous (10-0).

102. West Maple Canyon Mini Park – Approval General Development Plan (GDP)
Kevin Oliver, Project Officer II, Ana Del Rincon, Project Manager, Engineering and Capital Projects Department, and Doug Roberts, Consultant – MW Peltz and Associates presented a PowerPoint presentation on West Maple Canyon Mini Park GDP.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Puentes-Reynolds and seconded by Mr. Greene to approve the West Maple Canyon Mini Park GDP. Vote approved (6-4) with Mr. Brown, Mr. Bussell, Mr. Greene, and Mr. Stepner opposed.

Board Members recommendation:

- Move power lines to underground in the beginning of the project to avoid re-doing the landscape at a future date.
- Raise the wall surrounding the plaza area by 1 to 2 feet for seating.
- Chair noted that \$575,000 for a 9000 square foot park results in a per acre cost of \$2,783,000.

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

A separate motion was made by Mr. Greene and seconded by Mr. Stepner to widen the sidewalk in front of the monument to the standard size. Motion failed (4-5) Ms. Dunaway, Ms. Granowitz, Ms. King, Mr. Kinney, and Ms. Puentes-Reynolds opposed.

103. Centrum Park – Approval of General Development Plan (GDP)
Kevin Oliver, Project Officer II, Elif Cetin, Associate Civil Engineer, Engineering and Capital Projects Department, and Cheri Blatner, KTU+Consultants provided a PowerPoint presentation on Centrum Park GDP. Mr. Tom Story of Sunroad was available for questions.

Board Members had the following recommendations and comments:

- Recommend opening the park up more by widening the access road and promenade.
- Concerned that the only restrooms available are across the street. (Ms. LoMedico stated neighborhood and/or mini parks typically don't have restrooms as part of the design.)
- The jogging path that goes around the industrial complex is counted as part of the park acreage.
- Add the word "public" to any park signage (not as the name of the park or on the monument.)
- Recommend painting the curb white for drop-offs and pick-ups.
- Concerned on how parks will have funding available for maintenance.
- Concerned the general public will think the park is a private park.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell and seconded by Ms. Granowitz to approve Department staff recommendation for Centrum Park GDP, to include painting of curb for drop-offs and pick-ups and using the word public when appropriate in signage. Motion passed (9-1).

INFORMATION ITEMS – None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, November 18, 2010 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