

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

April 21, 2011

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

Balboa Park Club, Ballroom
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, California 92101

Mailing Address is:

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

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Roz King

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Clay Bingham
Gina Dulay
Steve Harwell
Patty Jencks
David Monroe
Jo-Ann Novak
Shannon Thomas
Isabel Vargas

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

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 17, 2011 MINUTES

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

Ms. LoMedico in her Director’s Report of March 17, 2011, mistakenly reported that the interim leash-free dog park in downtown will be at Eleventh and Island Avenue. The actual location is Park Boulevard and Market Street, cornering Eleventh Street.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the March 17, 2011. Vote was unanimously approved (9-0).

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

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.

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

Mr. Ken Hunrichs – Concerned with two issues: 1) Enforcement of the permits for vendors in order to sell items at Children’s Pool; and 2) The closure of South Casa Beach stairway. The City should have applied for an emergency Coastal Development Permit from the Coastal

Commission to close and instead they applied for a standard Coastal Development Permit. Request the Board look into these two issues.

Ms. Marie Hunrichs – Request that the Board advise the City Parks on a protocol in addressing dead animals at Children’s Pool to be removed in a timely manner.

Ms. Katherine Lopez – Ms. Lopez requested the Board to take action on the General Development Plan/Design for the Memorial Pool re-design for usage of families.

ACTION ITEM

101. Proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Department Director, presented a comprehensive overview of the Park and Recreation Department’s Fiscal Year 2012 Proposed Budget. Patty Jencks, Supervising Management Analyst, Park and Recreation Department was available for questions. Board Members received copies of the PowerPoint Presentation and Park and Recreation Departments proposed budget (located in Volume II of the City Budget.)

Ms. LoMedico provided the public hearings tentative schedule that will be held at City Council Chambers, 12th Floor, 202 C Street on May 5, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and on May 9, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Public Comment:

Mr. John Borja – Express concerns that the recreation center reduction in hours may cause increase in crime and property values to plummet.

Mr. Joe Frichtel – Express concerns, of closing the recreation centers there may be a loss of revenue to the City. Recommends the facilities be operated by volunteers until funds are available to return City staff back into the facilities.

Mr. James Kahn – Currently Activity Center facility is used by all ages, he expressed concerns of loss core hours, loss of training for World Champion and junior tennis players, and the loss of facility investment.

Ms. Dixie Wilson – Waved the right to speak at today’s Board Meeting and will be speaking at Kearny High Budget meeting tonight.

Mr. Rod Simmons – Concerned regarding lack of enforcement at Black Mountain and Del Mar Mesa parks.

Board Members Comments and Questions:

- Clarification on the number of aquatic usage went up but hours went down? (Ms. LoMedico stated this is current year only, for Fiscal Year 2012 it is 285,000.)
- What is the \$27 Million differences in the total Department expenditures and total Department revenue fund? (Ms. Jencks stated this shows General Fund and Non-General fund, this does not show the general fund portion.)

- Concern: Where will the children go if recreation centers and libraries are going to be cut? Consensus/perception is we are balancing the budget on the backs of seniors and kids. People who can't afford to pay for the programs seem to be affected the most. Future of the City is the children. The Mayor stated several years ago, the City's budget is a reflection of our morality.
- Clarification of the \$2.5 Million listed as Other Post-Employment Benefits under Salaries and Wages-Fringe Benefits. (Ms. Jencks stated this is the retirement health benefits for City Employees.)
- What is the ratio of salary to benefits? (Ms. Jencks stated 30 to 60 percent of salary depending on classification.)
- Are actual recreation centers slated to be closed? (Ms. LoMedico stated all recreation centers will be closed Sundays and Mondays.)
- Are additional hours permitted for the recreation centers? (Ms. LoMedico stated six hours per center per week can be purchased.)
- How many children attend the specialized After School Programs at the five recreation centers targeted for closure? (Ms. LoMedico stated the average daily attendance at these five recreation centers using last year numbers is 10 to 65 children depending what site. Recreation centers will be open but will not have these specialized programs. Donations to restore reductions need to take place prior to Appropriation Ordinance. \$157,000 for one year will restore the five programs proposed to be close.)
- How were the five After School Programs selected? (Ms. LoMedico said there is very little to choose from for reductions. The intent was to keep recreation centers open. With the \$140,000 reduction to this specialized program pre-teens under 13 will have a place to go.)
- Request explanation of the vacancy factor. (Ms. Jencks stated at any point of time we have employees entering and leaving the system. It takes time to fill a position through the hiring process. The vacancy factor takes in account this process. By lowering the vacancy factor restores money back to the budget.)
- Will staff be leaving the Department? (Ms. LoMedico stated this will require the process to take place through the Personnel Department to determine if staff will be leaving the Department.)
- Capital Projects Implementation
- May achieve cost savings by returning the Park Planning Division from Engineering and Capital Improvements Department to Park and Recreation Department.
- In terms of the overall reduction how does Park and Recreation Department compare to other Departments within the City? (Ms. LoMedico stated the Fire-Rescue and Police Departments comprise the bulk of the General Fund expenditures for the City. Park and Recreation and Library Departments is the second largest. Ms. LoMedico has not compared other Departments budget reduction, but is aware that Library has taken significant reductions, larger then Park and Recreation Department in terms of overall budget.)
- Mr. Smith stated this has been going on for years where the budget for the City of San Diego has been balanced on the backs of Park and Recreation and Library Departments. We've reached the point of no return, and if we proceed in this fashion we are going to do serious damage not only to our social fabric in the City, and our investments in our physical facilities. That is the message we want to send to the City Council enough is enough. Don't see how this Department can take further cuts without losing our investments.

- Ms. Dunaway recommends:
 - Make a statement were sick of this
 - Endorse the proposal as stands
 - Make a amendment, if money comes available give to Department first
 - Create a fund for disadvantage areas, so they may make applications for special events
 - Become pro-active and do something.
- Recommend removal of Recreation Councils so staff may work with children instead of attending council meetings. (Ms. LoMedico will go back to Recreation Council depending on the final proposal to discuss the issue of staff support to councils.)
- Take a look at libraries and recreation centers holistically so there is always some place opened so children may have a place to go to. (Ms. LoMedico is currently in discussion with the Library Director regarding this issue.)

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

Mr. Kinney was not ready to make a motion but suggest the motion should be created with several sections to the motion. Recommend approval of the budget commending the Director LoMedico and her staff for the integrity they bought to creating the budget that while it is brutal it is fair. Include other sections on the long terms cost to the City with these type of reductions. Relating hours of recreation centers and libraries.

Mr. Smith asked for any other additions. Mr. Greene would like to include a statement that this is done on the backs of seniors and children.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinney and seconded by Mr. Bussell.

Mr. Stepner stated he could not vote for this motion and ask to modify Mr. Kinney motion.

Mr. Bussell withdrew his second and no one second, causing the motion to be finished

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

Commended the Director, and her staff in the Park and Recreation Department and volunteers who have help to support the Park and Recreation Department for many years for the work they have done by doing more with less. For the Director and her staff for coming up with a budget that attempts to be as fair and balanced as it can be given the financial situation. We, as a Board who have dealt with this for a number of years and have watched the effects on the Department with diminishing results on our community are concerned about the long-term effects of these cuts; therefore, we do not act to approve the budget proposed by Mayor.

Vote was approved (6-3) with Ms. Granowitz, Ms. Dunaway, and Mr. Kinney opposed.

Note: The motion is speaking to the fact that the impacts proposed are very dangerous to the City. As an advisory group the Board realizes their vote does not count, but makes a statement that something needs to be done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – No Report

Community Parks II Area Committee

- Ms. Puentes-Reynolds shared with the Committee the information she received from Ms. LoMedico about the Committee concerns from the last meeting.

Balboa Park Committee – No Report

Design Review Committee – No Report

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Diehl has accepted to be the Chair of this Committee.

Mission Bay Park Committee

- Spring Triathlon will take place on Sunday, May 1, 2011
- Mission Bay Triathlon will take place on Sunday October 1, 2011
- All Women Triathlon will take place on Sunday, October 16, 2011
- On May 15, San Diego Celebrate Israel will take place from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- April 29, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. is the Rose Creek Bridge Ceremony which will connect De Anza to Campland
- All comfort stations are now open in Mission Bay.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee – No Report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- On Saturday, April 16, 2011 Ms. LoMedico attended the youth soccer camp at City Heights Urban Village. The staff along with the California Soccer League and others put together a great Soccer Clinic for the youth. There were approximately 250 participants. Soccer balls, t-shirts and other items were handed out. This event will take place again next year.
- Park and Recreation Department staff will partner with the Southbay Community School District as well as the San Diego Unified School District for the Summer lunch program. Last year we served 64,000 lunches and 46,000 snacks.
- Resurfacing was done in Balboa Park and Mission Bay Park parking lots. There is still funding available so Phase II will take place after the summer in these two parks.
- The American Public Works Association (APWA) provided their San Diego County Awards listing. There were 32 different awards in the county; of those 32 awards, 5 were given for parks, 2 of which were City of San Diego parks: North Crown Point Gazebo and Ocean Air Community Park Project. The Engineering and Capital Projects Department will be accepting the award from the American Public Works Association.

- Reminder of the Budget hearing on May 5. For those who would like to attend a budget forum in their community, there are two: Kearny High this evening, Thursday, April 21 and Jacobs Center in the Encanto Community Planning Area on Thursday, April 28.
- Distributed pictures of Rock Church Volunteer Day at Serra Mesa community Park on March 26, 2011.

Board Member Comments:

Mr. Diehl wanted an update on the Bylaws. (Ms. LoMedico stated that all Bylaws have been completed.) Were the Bylaws passed out to the Recreation Councils? (Ms. LoMedico will check with staff.)

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

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, May 19, 2011, 2:00 P.M.**

**Balboa Park Club
Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101**

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico
Park and Recreation Director