

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

June 16, 2011

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
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
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
Roz King
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

Claudia Dunaway
David Kinney

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Laura Ball
Lara Gates
Darren Greenhalgh
Jeff Harkness
Christy Haupt
Jo-Ann Novak
Deborah Sharpe
Lynn Sharpe Underwood
Shannon Thomas
Chris Zirkle

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

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 19, 2011 MINUTES

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the revised May 19, 2011 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimously approved (8-0-2).

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.)

- Ms. King acknowledges Mike Morrow, District Manager in Community Parks II retirement. He is an excellent staff person and has contributed greatly to Ms. King chairing the Committee.
- Ms. Granowitz pointed out the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) for Plaza de Panama is project specific and is different from the Balboa Park Conservancy MOU which is about a process.

- Ms. King stated the International Tennis Federation has chosen San Diego to host its World Cup event and individual championship next year February 3rd to the 12th. Balboa Park is the only public park chosen; all other locations will be private tennis venue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – No Report

Community Parks II Area Committee – No Report

Balboa Park Committee – No Report

Design Review Committee – No Report

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens’ Advisory Committee

- Mr. Diehl reported the Committee reviewed the reclaim water line that is going through the preserve and Canyonside Community Park.
- The Committee is currently working on Bylaws.
- Mr. Diehl would like to know if the canyon is a park, reserve, or open space area.

Mission Bay Park Committee

- The District Manager reported the summer maintenance staff started on May 31, 2011 and will work until mid September.
- Lieutenant Filley, San Diego Police Department provided an overview of July 4th plan. The main problem is traffic control and officers will be on duty Friday night and working all week-end focusing on traffic control.
- The Committee received a report from Mr. Ed Harris of the Lifeguard Association who reported that 70% of the boat operators are eligible for retirement.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens’ Advisory Committee – No Report

Tecolote Canyon Citizens’ Advisory Committee – No Report

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee – No Report

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

- Mr. Smith stated we survived another difficult budget year. He thanked the staff and elected officials who managed to hold things together for another year.
- Mr. Smith was disappointed to read in the paper that the Jacob’s funding for Balboa Park has been placed on hold. He knows Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) has some valid concerns to work out and hopes the two sides can get together to get the project back on track.
- He commended City staff for all they have done this past year and holding up due to negative media comments.
- Mr. Smith wished the best for those retiring like Mike Morrow with 38 years of service and Diane Brittingham with 36 years of service. He commented this will leave a void in the Department.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico provided the Board with a schedule for the free summer lunches offered at City recreation centers this summer. The program partnership with San Diego Unified School District kick-off is on June 22, 2011 at Skyline Community Park.
- Staff is gearing up for summer by sprucing up parks by planting annuals in Founders Plaza, Alcazar Garden and other parks throughout the park system.
- Ms. LoMedico will be issuing the information in a memorandum that was sent to Council about the additional staff and services provided during the Fourth of July. Department can expend close to \$100,000 in overtime over the 3-4 day period in beaches, parks, and Mission Bay.
- Department Instruction on Community Gardens will come to the Board this summer.
- Park and Recreation Board may be dark in July or August depending on items submitted.
- Balboa Park and Torrey Pines Golf Courses are gearing up for Junior World in July.
- In Golf Week an annual grade of nominations for the top 50 municipal golf courses in the nation with South Torrey Pine received a 5 and North Torrey Pines a 17. Kudos to staff.
- Ms. LoMedico thanked the Board Members for their letter and action to support the Department during the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. Ms. LoMedico will send memorandum to staff tomorrow outlining all the reductions that were taken. Ms. LoMedico will provide the Board Members with a copy of the memorandum.
- Nine retirements in the last three weeks due to Park and Recreation Department employees having 25 years of service and changes to the retirement health care.
- On a sad note Belinda Bencomo, who worked for the Department for 24 years passed away from cancer this week.

ACTION ITEMS – None

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Update California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CALGrip) Program

Ms. Sharpe Underwood, Executive Director of the City of San Diego's Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention described the purpose of the 21 member Commission which is advisory to the Mayor and City Council: The purpose of the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention is to:

1. Develop a strategic collaborative effort between various agencies who work with gang related issues.
2. Make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on issues of gang prevention, intervention, diversion and suppression methods, identify local, state and federal funding sources, and identify best practice efforts
3. Advocate, formulate, and recommend for adoption proactive gang policies, ordinances and guidelines

She stated that the Commission has been working on three initiatives city-wide:

1. Safe Passage. This community involved safety initiative is at Montgomery Middle School, Horace Mann, and Bell Middle School.

2. 10 to Succeed: an effort by San Diego City Schools to address the most at risk youth just getting into high school. The Commission is supporting the Madison High School 10 to Succeed Program.
3. CALGrip grant which funds a Police/Park and Recreation Departments collaboration to support extended hours at the following Park and Recreation Centers:
 - a. Encanto
 - b. Southcrest
 - c. Memorial
 - d. City Heights

She then turned it over to David Monroe and Christy Haupt so they could give specifics about the CALGrip funded program.

David Monroe, Deputy Director and Christy Haupt, District Manager of Community Parks II provided the following information: A new grant was approved in February 2011. Because of state cuts, the final amount was \$369,300. Each partner shared in the reduction and the Park and Recreation Department received \$150,852 to be used for 20 weeks during 2011 (May to September) and a second, 20 week program during the same months in 2012. Four neighborhoods prone to gang activity were selected – Mid City/City Heights Recreation Center, Encanto Recreation Center, Dolores Magdaleno Memorial Recreation Center and Southcrest Recreation Center. As in the case of the grant's original prevention outline, park managers directed staff to not turn away pre-teen participants. Research has shown children residing in "gang-entrenched neighborhoods are especially unguarded and open to the exciting and dangerous illusion of being in a gang. Using the department's sports philosophy of recruiting children at a young age, this alternative program welcomes them while they are still open to the positive influence of pro-social activities. Everyone is welcome - including parents and guardians.

Board Members Comments and Questions:

Crime rates have dramatically dropped in Linda Vista.

Commend the partnerships and staff for the wonderful work.

Kudos for this valuable program.

No worries about the CALGrip funding? (The money is secure for two years.)

Martin Luther King was not identified. (Martin Luther King crime statistics are fine.)

202. Review of Parkland Dedication Efforts and Public Vetting Process

Eric Bowlby, Executive Director, San Diego Canyonlands provided a PowerPoint presentation on Review of Parkland Dedication Efforts and Public Vetting Process.

Ms. LoMedico provided the Board Members with a letter of support from Pam Slater-Price, District 3 Supervisor of San Diego County Board of Supervisors in dedicating thousands of acres of city-owned property as permanent open space.

The purpose of dedicating City land as open space is to provide for reliable preservation of open space and recreational opportunities within our communities. Although lands “designated: as open space are set aside for park, recreation, or cemetery purposes, they are done so without the formality of an ordinance or statute dedicating the land for those purposes, and they may still be transferred, sold, exchanged, or developed for non-park use.

Public Comment: Karin Zirk and Alan Marshall in favor of Item 202

Board Members Comments and Questions:

Support goal to ride bike from University City to Mission Bay along Rose Creek.

Suggest taking advantage of meetings with the Community Parks I and II and with the Recreation Council.

Support preserving Open Space areas.

Will information be on website? (Yes, goal is to have information on-line in July once they speak to Mayor, Council Members and managing departments.)

Recommend to have information provided to Community groups well in advance of presentation to them.

Find some way to connect end of Tecolote Canyon to Marian Bear Memorial Park. (Mr. Zirkle stated they were working with Ann Van Leer who is looking at this specific connection.)

The Canyonlands’ staff will return to the Board after staff evaluates parcels for the final advisory vote before they move forward to City Council.

WORKSHOP

301. Barrio Logan Community Plan Workshop

Deborah Sharpe, Project Officer II, City Planning and Community Investments and Lara Gates, Community Development Specialist IV, Community Development Services Department presented the Barrio Logan Community Plan Workshop and provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The Barrio Logan Community Plan Update is significant and precedent-setting in that it is the first community plan update to specifically recommend the inclusion of park equivalencies which will be counted towards meeting population-based

park and recreation standards, and tracked in the community's park inventory in accordance with General Plan guidelines. Currently, there are 10 community plan updates underway which could also propose park equivalencies. In order to assist staff in addressing the outstanding policy issues associated with the draft Community Plan for Barrio Logan and associated PFFP, input from the Park and Recreation Board, and the public, is requested and welcomed.

Board Members Comments and Questions:

Important we find ways to provide recreational opportunities in places like Barrio Logan where there is no available land to build a park. Park opportunities map show where we can start doing these things. Mr. Stepner voiced his concern to stay away from "bean counting" and throw away formulas for equivalencies. Equivalencies don't tell what is equivalent and is a "bean counting" exercise. Equivalencies and formulas do equations, but don't have any bearing on real life. Instead we should be looking at opportunities and designing those spaces rather than creating formulas. We need to avoid creating formulas in order to accomplish the goals set forth in the plan.

How wide is the Boston Avenue Linear Park and could it accommodate active recreational uses like soccer fields? (Ms. Gates stated they reduce the width of the Boston Avenue from 60 feet to 40 feet and added this back into the park. The width varies with the widest 200 feet and narrows down to 75 feet. Looked at air quality and noise from Interstate 5 for this type of used. Linear park was recommended to be used as a passive park. Not sure how an active use park would impact single family residents across the street.)

How many miles to Cesar Chavez and National? (1 to 1 ½ miles.)

Elementary School is not a joint use. What capacity does it have for active sports? (Zero capacity.) The school acquired three more grades in the past three years and is actively looking to acquire land in Barrio Logan in close proximity to the school to provide those types of activities.

Will Cesar Chavez have additional fields added? (Don't anticipate any expansion to this Port of San Diego Park.)

Does the Boston belong to Caltrans? (Yes)

Park is too far for children to walk to and parents do not want children going to Logan Avenue due to gang activity.

Need safe, practical park within the community.

Consider working with traffic division to plan a safe route to park. (Currently working with the Port to make it much more pleasurable to walk down the street.)

Should examine what services it provides to the community. Do not use math equation to solve deficiencies.

Should be doing things that are above and beyond of what is expected.

Leave park deficiencies as an unfunded liability. Concern that it is “off the books” and no longer required to do what should be done.

Do equivalencies achieve what they are meant to accomplish?

What are the proposed Development Impact Fees (DIF) fees? (Would prefer not to discuss fees at this time where it is premature. Equivalencies allowed using DIF where they were not allowed to use in the past.)

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, August 18, 2011, 2:00 P.M.**

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

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico
Park and Recreation Director