

City of San Diego  
Park and Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes  
August 18, 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  
Claudia Dunaway  
Vicki Granowitz  
Norman Greene  
David Kinney  
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds  
Michael Stepper

**Members Absent**

Roz King

**City Staff Present**

Stacey LoMedico  
Charlie Daniels  
Jo-Ann Novak  
Mike Rodrigues  
Shannon Thomas

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

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 16, 2011 MINUTES

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

A motion was made by Mr. Brown with correction and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the revised June 16, 2011 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimously approved with Ms. King absent (9-0-1).

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Diehl/Mr. Bussell**

A motion was made by Mr. Diehl to move Action Items 101. Naming of Baseball Field #2 at Canyonside Community Park in Memory of John Huston and 102. Naming of Softball Field #5 at Canyonside Community Park in Memory of Briana Williams to the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bussell and unanimously approved (9-0-1).

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Bussell/Ms. Puentes-Reynolds**

Mr. Diehl stated Mr. Huston was a dedicated volunteer for Rancho Peñasquitos Little League and passed away while on vacation. Ms. Briana Williams played girls softball and led her team to Nationals until her and her daughter's tragic death.

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Puentes-Reynolds and unanimously approved (9-0-1).

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.) - None

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Community Parks I Area Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported the Committee approved the two action items that are on today's Park and Recreation Board agenda.
- Committee discussed special events - Department staff will return to Committee regarding their questions on special events policy.

Community Parks II Area Committee – See attachment provided by Ms. King.

#### Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney reported the Centennial Committee is in the process of hiring a Chief Operating Officer and the Committee is making progress with the City of San Diego on the Memorandum of Understanding.

#### Design Review Committee

- The Committee made several recommendations to the Ward Canyon (old 39<sup>th</sup> Street Park) General Development Plan amendment.
- The Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project was presented to the Committee.
- Mr. Smith gave the suggestions made by Design Committee members on the Plaza de Panama Circulation and Parking Structure.

#### Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Diehl reported the Committee, approved the Carmel Mountain Management Plan pending on Del Mar Mesa.
- Del Mar Mesa Resource that was presented at the July 21, 2011 meeting.
- The Del Mar Mesa Planning Group would like to put an east entrance to the trail system which is State and Federal land. The Del Mar Mesa Planning Group has been task in persuading the State and Federal agencies to place this entrance on their land.
- Committee is currently revising their Bylaws.

Mission Bay Park Committee – No Report

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 this is the first meeting of the new Fiscal Year with decrease revenues, and not anticipating a lot of projects coming forward. If not building new parks may concentrate on enhancing existing parks with more tree and amenities to enhance their usage.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico will provide the Park and Recreation Board with her end of summer report in September.
- The Board Members received three handouts on "good news" Department correspondences.

ACTION ITEMS – Moved to Consent Agenda.

INFORMATION ITEMS – None

### WORKSHOP

#### **301. Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project**

Mr. Mark Johnson, Principal, Civitas Inc. and Mr. Gordon Kovtun, Principal, KCM Group presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project.

This workshop item discuss project history, goals and current plans for reclamation of the Plaza de Panama, West Prado, Mall/Esplanade and Organ Pavilion Lot areas of Balboa Park.

Project Vision and Goals:

1. Rehabilitate the Plaza de Panama
2. Eliminate vehicle traffic
3. Increase park land
4. Limit pedestrian and vehicle conflicts
5. Improve transportation system
6. Build on previous planning
7. Completion by December 31, 2014.

Environmental Impact Alternatives

1. No Project
2. Precise Plan
3. Precise Plan without Garage
4. 2004 Jones and Jones Plan
5. Pedestrianize Cabrillo Bridge without new parking
6. Pedestrianize Cabrillo Bridge without Organ Pavilion Garage
7. Pedestrianize Cabrillo Bridge with Inspiration Point Garage
8. Pedestrianize Cabrillo Bridge with West Mesa Garage
9. Pedestrianize Cabrillo Bridge with Increased Surface Parking on West Mesa

10. Park Promenade Garage
11. Managed Cabrillo Bridge Closures
12. Gold Gulch Parking Garage
13. Phased Alternative
14. Tunnel Under Plaza de Panama
15. No Paid Parking
16. Quince Street Access
17. Old Globe Way Access.

#### Next Steps

- Complete Environmental Impact Report (End October, 2011)
- Public review of Environmental Impact Report
- Advisory committees votes:
  - √ Balboa Park Committee
  - √ Park and Recreation Design Review Committee
  - √ Park and Recreation Board
  - √ Historic Resources Board
  - √ Mayor's Committee on Disability
- Planning Commission approval
- City Council approval.

Mr. John Rotsart spoke neutral on the Cabrillo Bridge Closure and showed several slides. (The Board consensus was to view the slides.)

Mr. Jay Shumaker completed a neutral speaker slip on Item 301, but the Chair choose to continue the Board discussion on Item 301.

#### Board Members Comments and Questions:

Place parking garage at Inspiration Point with a tram system like Disneyland. (Listed in Environmental Impact Report – Alternative)

Mr. Stepner thinks this is a bad proposal. He would like to make sure the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) looks at alternatives including all the details. There has been a tendency on both sides of the issue to narrow the concerns to historic preservation. He thinks the issue is really the impacts of the bridge. There is lots of grading needed and it induces cars into the park. It makes it faster and easier to get into the park. Concerned that the installation of the bridge will make it less safe for pedestrians as well as park's overall aesthetics.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds is excited about returning parking area to plaza. Appreciative of the efforts on preserving the trees and the preservation of the historic architect of the buildings. She is in favor of any ecological building of a platinum level for the parking structure. Important to have a drop-off area for guardians to drop-off and pick-up children. Once the building is paid for the parking fee should go towards maintenance.

Mr. Greene stated the majority of people who visit the Old Globe and Art Museum are older adults. How will these institutions be serviced? A hug percentage of people who use Balboa Park are lower income, and may not be able to afford a parking fee.

Mr. Kinney stated the Plaza de Panama team has presented to the Balboa Park Committee many times. There has been no vote yet. One issue that hasn't been raised is the maintenance and operations of the project.

Mr. Diehl asked what style will the new buildings be in? What is the next step in the process?

Ms. Dunaway asked what will the parking structure look like when you enter from Park Boulevard, and will the video animation of the park be accurate?

Mr. Smith asked are you taking into consideration the issues of planting on roof decks, and will you need mechanical ventilation on the west-side of the parking structure?

Mr. Bussell stated sometimes simple solutions work best. Why don't you just close the bridge to traffic, forget the parking structure and see how it goes?

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, September 15, 2011, 2:00 P.M.**

**City Administration Building  
Committee Room, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101**

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico  
Park and Recreation Director