

MINUTES

**City of San Diego Boards and Commissions
Parks and Recreation Department
MISSION BAY PARK COMMITTEE
July 11, 2023**

Meeting Location

Paradise Point Resort
1404 Vacation Road
San Diego, CA 92109

Mailing Address:

Balboa Park
Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Cindy Adams
Marshall Anderson
Josh Coyne
Chuck Dunning
Jim Gross
Jeff Johnson
Judith Munoz
Giovanni Ingolia
Darlene Walter

Members Absent

Julie Roland - excused

Guests

Stephanie Smith

City Staff Present

Mike Rodrigues
Kelly Stanco
Scott Sandel
Christina Chadwick
Anna Sonnenburg
Rick Strobel

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson, J. Munoz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – June 6, 2023

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by G. Ingolia and seconded by M. Anderson to approve the June 6, 2023 Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes as written. The motion carried 7-0 with 2 abstentions (J. Johnson, J. Coyne)

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Scott Chipmen complimented the Committee on the meeting location at Paradise Point Resort

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – no report

CITY COUNCIL OFFICES – no reports

STAFF REPORTS

San Diego Lifeguard Service –Rick Strobel from SD Lifeguards thanked SDPD for their watercraft education/enforcement efforts during the Fourth of July weekend on Mission

Bay. Lt. Strobel provided valuable information about boating safety regulations and shared statistics regarding citations, boating incidences and watercraft impounds for many violations. A California Boaters Card is required to operate a vessel for anyone under the age of 50. Lifeguards continue to work with SDPD to curtail illegal commercial watercraft rentals. Lifeguards caught wind of an un-permitted “Festival of Floaties” event scheduled at Sail Bay near Santa Clara on July 30th. SDPD and Lifeguards will be in full force to enforce regulations and insure public safety

San Diego Police Department – no report

Parks and Recreation

Park Ranger Report – Four new Park Rangers have been assigned to Mission Bay Park.

Mission Bay Park District Manager, Mike Rodrigues announced Julie Roland as the newest member of the Mission Bay Park Committee with Bernadette Butkiewicz, Ryan Karlsgodt and Catherine Jolley as newly appointed members awaiting City Council approval. Jim Gross and Judith Munoz have been re-appointed to another 3-year term. Mike thanked Stephanie Smith for her dedicated service on the Mission Bay Park Committee. Upcoming events include the 70th Annual Over the Line Tournament at Fiesta Island on the weekends of July 15th and July 22nd. Work continues on the South Tecolote Shores playground/comfort station into the summer months with estimated completion of mid-August. “Parks After Dark” as part of the Parks and Recreation Department ‘come play outside’ initiative started July 6 and runs through August 26 every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5–8pm at City Heights Linda Vista, Memorial and Skyline Hills Recreation Centers. Free activities for the whole family, come and join us. Supported by the SD Parks Foundation.

INFORMATION ITEM

101. De Anza Cove Amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan –

Kelly Stanco with the Planning Department provided a brief history and overview of the process leading up to this point regarding the De Anza Natural Plan as well as a detailed project timeline. Based on public input, Park Planning developed a conceptual plan with nature-based land use alternatives, including the need for active recreation

Scott Sandel, with the Planning Department presented the revised land use plan restoring wetlands while showing no loss in active recreation and minimal changes to the golf course (subject to future GDP). Low cost/affordable overnight camping will remain as well as public coastal access

Kelly Stanco shared the public input summary. Sea level rise analysis, water quality and other technical studies will be conducted during the GDP process. A PEIR is not required at this time. The Planning Department is scheduled to take

this item to Planning Commission at the end of August '23.

DE ANZA NATURAL AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

201. De Anza Natural Plan Ad Hoc Committee comments:

Judith Munoz reported that the De Anza Natural Plan Ad Hoc Committee met five times and heard from various different organizations/groups with dozens of public comments covering many topics. The plan has since been revised to accommodate additional recreation uses. The Committee passed a motion 4-2 to not support the plan as presented with based lack of detail, studies and reports

Personally, she supports the conceptual plan to restore wetlands as a start with more studies, reports and details to come during the GDP process

Jim Gross shared his concerns and that of many others about the use of South Shores to re-locate the MB Boat & Ski Club and potential toxins that exist in that old landfill area

Kelly stated that the GDP process for South Shores is currently underway

Jeff Johnson asked if a hotel is being considered for the De Anza Cove area. Is there any language in this plan that states anything about a hotel

Kelly replied that there is not a hotel proposed as part of this land use plan

Jeff feels that this plan is an incomplete document with lots of missing information, and a lack of studies for potential impacts.

It appears that the channel between North Fiesta Island and De Anza Cove marsh will make motorboats un-navigable, considering that there is boat launch ramp nearby

Kelly stated that this plan allows use of motorboats, except within the De Anza Cove wetlands area. This is "high level" planning, details will come during the GDP process with plenty of public input and detailed analysis

Jeff asked if other alternatives were considered to meet the environmental goal for wetlands restoration and ultimately improved water quality. Has Rose Canyon Creek stormwater runoff been analyzed. There is not mention of the Fiesta Island revised Master Plan which will bring additional wetlands to the North End of the Island, across from De Anza Cove.

Jeff asked about plans for active recreation such as sports vs. passive recreation such as nature-based activities and picnics

Jeff commented about the need for low-cost accommodations for camping/RVs

Other member comments:

Marshall Anderson thanked the ad hoc committee, Park Planning and the public for their efforts on this topic dating back 7 years

Giovanni Ingolia appreciated adding back more space for recreation and shared concerns about the MB Boat & Ski Club relocation as well as reduced overnight affordable accommodations

ACTION ITEMS

Consent (These items are adopted without discussion; they can be moved to adoption by any committee member)

301. none

Adoption (Each adoption item requires individual action; they can be moved to consent by action of the committee)

401. The City Planning Department requests the Mission Bay Park Committee recommend adoption of the De Anza Natural Amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan and the associated Programmatic Environmental Impact Report to the Parks and Recreation Board and the City Council

Public Comments

Marcella Bothwell from the Parks and Recreation Board thanked Judith, Jim and Jeff for serving on the De Anza Natural Ad Hoc Committee as well as members of the public that came together and shared their comments/concerns regarding this proposal. Marcella stated that the plan lacks PEIR and loss revenues need to be considered

Bill Evans with the Mission Bay Lessee Association wants everyone to be aware of the ripple effects to the hospitality industry and financial impacts this plan could cause if visitor accommodations are impacted

Billy Paul with Friends of Rose Creek recommended not approving a plan without the PEIR. Take your time, don't rush. Do not expand the Golf Course

Kurt Carlson with SD Municipal Golf Committee does not want to destroy active recreation in the De Anza Cove area. A man-made marsh cannot remove contaminants from Mission Bay

Leslie Handa supports Re-Wild plan to protect the birds. Climate change is in the future

Ryan Karlsgodt with C-3 supports the plan and commended the community by

coming together to find a balanced plan

Cristina Santa Maria with SD Audubon supports the Re-Wild “wildest” plan

Tommy Hough supports Re-Wild plan to address sea level rise and improve water quality. Wetlands will help endangered species

Jacob Gelfand with Campland on the Bay provided some suggestions and would like to see beach and swimming areas be maintained for public access as well as recreational boating

Audrey Mattoon with C-3 supports the Re-Wild “wildest” plan

John Heatherington recommends rejecting the proposed plan which lacks detail. No hydrology report, no water quality analysis

Tyenne Paraken believes in protecting the wildlife with enhanced wetlands, support the Re-Wild “wildest” plan

Ed Nooland supports Campland for a safe place for kids

Steele Young with MB Boat & Ski Club thanked the City for listening, however he has no assurances that the relocation of the Boat & Ski Club to South Shores is a viable option

Jim Whalen with MB Boat & Ski Club asked not to move the Boat & Ski Club out of De Anza location until a new location is approved and provided. There is no evidence that this plan will improve water quality as long as Rose Creek flows freely into the bay with no measure up creek to contain contaminants

Susan White with MB Golf thinks a cost analysis is needed. Who’s going to pay for the improvements and how much will it cost

Joanna Hirst with PB Tennis Club is concerned about how the plan will accommodate recreation needs for the 20K plus residents coming to PB

Greg Hose loves marsh land, keep it as a special place

Matt Rogers with So Cal PGA Golf supports Mission Bay Golf Course

Gwendolyn Dick supports Re-Wild’s “wildest” plan

Scott Chapman with MB Gateway supports golf and Campland. This plan decreases recreation. There needs to be a balanced plan

Craig Kessler with So Cal Golf thanks everyone for listening to golf’s concerns. San Diego lacks municipal golf courses and Mission Bay Golf Course must be saved

Jim Peugh would like to see some alternatives. There are too many unanswered questions, the plan is lacking information. Additional studies are needed

Laura Hendrickson with SD BIG seeks the need for additional safe active recreation opportunities in Mission Bay Park

Committee Comments:

Jim Gross thanked the City for a well-balanced approach. He understands this is a “high level” plan with more studies needed. His concerns continue to be economic impacts, need for low-cost accommodations and the need to plan for the increased populations desire for active recreation

Jeff Johnson shared many of his concerns about this incomplete plan, including lack of a PEIR with viable alternatives and no hydrology report. Will increased wetlands really help water quality? The need for stormwater runoff mitigation/treatments up Rose Creek is needed. There is a lack of economic analysis, burden of the costs and loss revenue. Too many unanswered questions about relocating the Boat & Ski Club to South Shores, “old toxic landfill” site. With an increased population, there will be increased recreational needs. Removal of affordable accommodations, impacts to the playing fields and golf are his major concerns

Chuck Dunning believes in “parks for all”. Protect current activities with a vision for the future. There is a need to prepare for sea level rise. Wetlands may improve water quality by absorbing pollution. The loss of low-cost accommodations is a concern. Economics – cost vs. benefit needs to be studied

Marshall Anderson thanked the public for their engagement on this important topic. His concerns remain as the loss of revenue and loss of active recreation. This appears to be a good balance. Hopefully the MB Boat & Ski Club find a home during this process

Cynthia Adams thanked public input and staff for finding a well thought out balanced plan

Giovanni Ingolia stated this plan lacks detail making it difficult to make an informed decision. He is concerned about the loss of low-cost accommodations and asked will increased wetlands really mitigate sea level rise and aid water quality

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by J. Coyne and seconded by M. Anderson to support and recommend adoption of the De Anza Natural Amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan and the associated Programmatic Environmental Impact Report as presented to the Parks and Recreation Board and the City Council.

Judith Munoz stated some concerns she had regarding lack of detail

Jeff Johnson stated the plan lacks many reports and analysis

Marshall Anderson added the need for an economic analysis

Kelly Stanco stated that developing this plan will be a phased approach, seeking funding opportunities

The motion carried 6-3 with J. Coyne, D. Walter, C. Adams, J. Gross, M. Anderson, and J. Munoz voting YES and G. Ingolia, C. Dunning and J. Johnson voting NO

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Marshall Anderson thanked Community Parks I Division staff for their attention to the Robb Field Fitness Center and Santa Clara Weight Room

ADJOURNMENT – Chairperson, J. Munoz adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Notice of Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 @ Santa Clara Recreation Center

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Rodrigues,
District Manager, Mission Bay Park