MINUTES
City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
MISSION BAY PARK COMMITTEE
April 2, 2019

Meeting Location:  
Santa Clara Recreation Center  
1008 Santa Clara Place  
San Diego, CA 92109

Mailing Address:  
Balboa Park  
Administration Building  
2125 Park Boulevard  
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present
Paul Robinson  
David Potter  
Darlene Walter  
Giovanni Ingolia  
Ron Anderson  
Kari Logan

Members Absent
James McGuirk

Staff Present
Jeff Van Deerlin  
Bill Overstreet

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF March 5, 2019

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by Potter and seconded by Ingolia to approve the March 5, 2019 meeting minutes as read. The motion carried with a revision to the minutes (5-0-w/1 recusal)

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

- Glad that the West Bonita playground is moving forward and that it is being renamed in honor of Maruta R. Gardner.
- The San Diego Audubon Society has completed the ReWild feasibility study and would like to come back to the Committee and present its findings. The San Diego Audubon Society Board recently approved pushing forward with asking the City to fully analyze all the alternatives that came out of the feasibility study and to bring the Golf Course back into the land use planning discussion in the De Anza revitalization planning process.
- Minutes from the December 5, 2017 Mission Bay Park Committee meeting where the City was here presenting the two (2) draft alternatives to start
the EIR process. We wanted to follow up on what was approved, use the alternatives as a basis of the EIR analysis and incorporate ReWild in all current studies. Would like the Mission Bay Park Committee to remind the Planning Department that they asked for and approved a full comprehensive review of all the alternatives that are out there for the north-east corner of Mission Bay.

- The restrooms at the Mission Bay Athletic ball fields are in poor condition.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Currently the Mission Bay Park Committee has three (3) vacancies. Under the current bylaws, vacancies count against the Committee when establishing a quorum. Chairperson Robinson and former District Manager Stacy McKenzie met with City Attorney Mara W. Elliott to discuss amending the bylaws to eliminate the vacancies counting against the quorum. The Committee will wait until the three (3) current vacancies are filled and then move forward with amending the bylaws so that vacancies do not penalize the Committee when establishing a quorum.

STAFF REPORTS

CD2 Joshua Coyne

No Report

Bill Overstreet

No report

San Diego Lifeguard Service

No Report

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE

None

ACTION ITEMS

Consent (These items are adopted without discussion; they can be moved to adoption by any committee member.)
101. None

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

201. Naming of New Playground at Bonita Cove West in Honor of Maruta R. Gardner, presented by Jeff Van Deerlin, Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department.

We ask for your approval to name the new playground at Bonita Cove West in honor of Maruta R. Gardner, long-time Mission Beach resident, dedicated educator and former principal at Mission Bay High. As many of you know, Maruta was tragically struck and killed three years ago while painting out graffiti in South Mission. At the time, Mayor Kevin Faulconer pledged the City’s support to name the playground in her honor. That support continues today.

Maruta served as President of the Mission Beach Women’s Club from 2010–2012, President of the Mission Bay Rotary Club from 1994–1995, and chaired the Mission Beach Town Council’s Graffiti Patrol beginning in 1990. Throughout her career, Maruta earned countless accolades and demonstrated an incredible ability to convey the fundamentals of teaching and learning to both staff and students.

One of her most passionate endeavors was “Play by the Bay”, an effort by the Women’s Club to get the Bonita Cove West playground replaced. Last upgraded in 1995, the 23,000 sq. ft. playground now lacks pizzazz. Its’ allure has dwindled along with its play equipment, and it has become almost nothing but a giant sandbox. Now, Maruta’s dream is poised to become reality.

The design, which was shared with you last month, is 60% complete. The project will go out to bid over the summer with construction scheduled to begin just after Labor Day. Completion of both the comfort station and playground should occur by Memorial Day.

In naming the new playground for Maruta R. Gardner, we not only embrace her memory, we honor her soul and we help to ensure that her heart does go on. We ask for your support.

A motion was made by Ingolia and seconded by Anderson to approve Naming of the New Playground at Bonita Cove West in Honor of Maruta R. Gardner. The motion carried. (6–0–0)
Public Comment

- Maruta Gardner’s unexpected death emotionally wounded the members of the Mission Beach Women’s Club as well as the beach community. We are thrilled to see that our “Play by the Bay” park renovation project is on the docket and is targeted for completion by 2020. This was an important endeavor for both Maruta Gardner and the Mission Beach Women’s Club.
- To name the West Bonita playground in honor of Maruta Gardner is a perfect way to acknowledge and memorialize her.
- Beautiful Mission Beach has been spearheading making November 3rd an annual day of service in honor of Maruta Gardner. Last year, we had the honor of Mayor Faulconer re-declaring it an annual day.
- It is important to keep the conversation going with honoring Maruta Gardner’s death as she inspired a lot of people to sit on boards, to volunteer, and to do community service.
- Mr. Gardner fully supports the playground being named in honor of Maruta. She worked hard to start this project and he really appreciates everyone being here.
- I would not be here today in this capacity or be involved in any kind of community activity if it was not for Maruta Gardner. She put her heart and soul into this program.
- A better location to honor Maruta Gardner would be at the Mission Bay Athletic ball fields next to Mission Bay High School.

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REVIEW (Special Events that require road or plaza closures or will potentially impact park and/or commercial operation, are brought to the Committee for a formal recommendation. They can be moved to Consent by action of the Committee.)

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS (No actions taken; discussed by the Committee and staff)

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. 2019 Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon, Sunday June 2, 2019, presented by Lee Collenberg
This is the 22nd year of the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon. San Diego was our 1st
and is our marquis event. We do not run on Fiesta Island but there is an impact to the area. There are road closures on East Mission Bay Dr. from the Hilton to Sea World Dr., west bound Sea World Dr. from Tecolote to South Shores. South Shores parking lot will be impacted, and south Tecolote Shores parking lots will be impacted.

**SUB-COMMITTEE**

601. None

**COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS** - The reports are non-debatable.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Chairperson Robinson adjourned the meeting at 6:27 P.M.

**Notice of Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** TBA

Santa Clara Recreation Center  
1008 Santa Clara Place  
San Diego, CA 92109

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bill Overstreet*  
Bill Overstreet, Grounds Maintenance Manager, Mission Bay Park

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