

**City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
Minutes
Thursday, November 21, 2019**

“TO PROVIDE HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE, AND ENRICHING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL”

Meeting Held at:

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

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
202 C Street, MS 39
San Diego, CA 92101

Members Present

Dennis Otsuji, Vice-Chair
Marcella Bothwell
Jon Becker
Rick Gulley
Bobby Hughes
Noli Zosa

Members Absent

Katherine Johnston, Chair
(excused)
Nick Anastasopoulos
(excused)
David Baron
(excused)
Ron Cho
(excused)

City Staff Present

Andrew Field, Director
Karen Dennison, Interim
Assistant Director
Jonathan Avila
Ryan Barbrick
Thyme Curtis
Ilisa Goldman
Jason Hendrick
Scott Sandel
Shannon Scoggins
Gabriela Verendia
Heidi Vonblum
Nancy Zamora-Hudson

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Otsuji at 2:05 p.m. He announced that the Board would be convening as the Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee at the conclusion of the Park and Recreation Board Meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2019

MOTION:

MOVED/SECONDED

Ms. Bothwell/Mr. Becker

A motion was made by Ms. Bothwell and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the October 17, 2019, Park and Recreation Board Meeting minutes. The motion was approved 6-0-0 and passed by the following vote; Yea: Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Rick Gulley, Bobby Hughes, Dennis Otsuji, and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None). Not Present: Nick Anastasopoulos, David Baron, Ron Cho, and Katherine Johnston.

NON-ADOPTION AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Board. (Comments relating to items on today’s Agenda are to be taken at the time the item is heard.) Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes and is not debatable unless part of an organized group presentation whereby time is ceded to main speaker.

Speaker (1) – Rene Smith commented on an opinion piece featured in the Voice of San Diego to which he and others contributed, entitled “New Balboa Park Projects Lack of Transparency and Design”. He further commented on the Parks and Recreation Department’s role and responsibilities. He pointed out that it seems strange that people who have to implement the plan are not the people who are directly responsible for the design and implementation. He noted that he had no quarrel with the Planning Department but he felt that Leadership is a triangle composed of Responsibility, Authority and Accountability. He claimed that concept had been fractured in the City. He suggested that as an advisory Board to the City, the Board take a look and consider in deliberations over time as to where the Board has been and where it is heading now.

REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT AGENDA - None

The Chair may entertain a motion by any Board Member to approve any agenda item as consent when no speaker slips have been submitted in favor or in opposition to the item. Items approved on consent are approved in accordance with staff’s recommendation as reflected on the agenda and described in the Staff Report to the Park and Recreation Board, unless otherwise noted in the motion. At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as “Consent” items.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMUNICATIONS – None

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – No meeting to report

Community Parks II Area Committee – No meeting to report

Balboa Park Committee – Representative absent.

Mission Trails Regional Task Force

- Mr. Zosa reported that there was discussion regarding naming some new trails.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

- Vice-Chair Otsuji congratulated newly appointed Parks and Recreation Department Director Andy Field. He stated that he was looking forward to working closely with him and making a lot of successful inroads in the Department. He also noted that the Board was very happy to have him onboard as Director.

- Director Field stated that it was a privilege and an honor to serve as Director of this fine Department. He noted that as the third largest urban park system in the country, this was a unique opportunity to represent so many diverse communities and so many parkland areas for people to recreate in.
- He stated that his top two priorities for the first year of his directorship were; 1) to work closely with communities to meet their recreational needs (especially in the southern section); and 2) to make this a great Department to work with in City government. He further expressed that he was excited and looking forward to taking this journey with the Board.

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Zosa commented that a location for a dog park in the Navajo communities had been identified on the peninsula of Lake Murray. He stated that they had a sponsor group and that they were working in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department. The future dog park will have access to parking because of the little league fields. The location would serve the Tierrasanta, San Carlos, and Del Cerro areas. He noted that there would be more information in the coming year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Field announced that the Deputy Director of Open Space, Jeanette DeAngelis, had retired. The Director is now in the process of working on securing and Interim Open Space Deputy Director.
- He also noted that the Department was still without Casey Smith, who was still serving as the Fleet Department Director. Karen Dennison remains the Parks and Recreation Department Interim Assistant Director. With his recent promotion to Director, the Assistant Director position would now be another position to be filled. He stated that the Department was looking at a January time frame to begin filling positions.
- The Developed Regional Parks (DRP) Deputy Director position remains vacant. Michael Tully will continue as Acting Deputy Director.
- The upcoming retirement of Paul Sirois, Assistant Deputy Director for Maintenance Assessment District (MADS) will create another vacancy in January. Community Parks II Deputy Director David Monroe's retirement in late May will be another vacancy with "big shoes" to fill.
- Board Members wishing to serve on interview panels for these positions in early 2020, were asked to please contact Nancy Zamora-Hudson.
- The Director announced that December Nights, December 6th-8th, would be kicking-off the holiday season. All holiday events would begin in the Recreation Centers as well, such as Winter Wonderland at Hilltop Recreation Center and Santa arriving in a helicopter at Montgomery Waller. He further noted that once finalized the list of

events would be provided to the Board. He extended a warm invitation for all to attend the events.

- Director Field announced that several ribbon cutting ceremonies had been held in conjunction with San Diego Unified School District as part of the Joint Use Program. Recent ribbon cuttings included: Encanto Elementary Ball Field, Gage Elementary School, and Linda Vista Elementary School. An effort will be made to coordinate advance notification of these events with the Communications Department. The next to be announced in 2020 will be the Marvin Elementary Joint Use Facility.
- The Director reported that the ground breaking at the Maruta Gardner Playground at Bonita Cove West was part of the \$40 million effort to upgrade Mission Bay Park play grounds, parking lots, comfort stations, and other park amenities. The reconstructed play area and new comfort station will be accessible. All ages and all abilities will be able to play on the course and other equipment. The Department will be dialing back the use of playground sand to improve accessibility.
- He also shared that the Age Well Services Program had put on a dance for members of the Armed Forces in honor of a belated Veteran's Day and an early Thanksgiving treat. Over 150 people attended and there are plans for more such events in the future.

ACTION ITEMS - None

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Introduction to Accessibility in the City of San Diego

Presenter: Thyme Curtis, Executive Director
Office of ADA Compliance and Accessibility

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Questions/Answers

202. Parks Master Plan

Presenters: Heidi Vonblum, Program Manager
Planning Department
Jonathan Avila, Park Designer
Planning Department

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Questions/Answers

WORKSHOP – None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Copies of the reports, audio and PowerPoint presentations can be found on the Parks and Recreation Department website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/reports>

Next Calendared Meeting: January 16, 2020
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,



Andrew Field
Director
Parks and Recreation Department