

**City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 17, 2022**

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

**Meeting Held by In Person and Teleconference:**

This meeting was held at Balboa Park Club Ballroom and remotely using the Zoom Webinar platform and was streamed online. The public was invited to join the meeting by phone or computer, as well as invited to submit “Public Comments” in writing via a webform. The form was made available on the Parks and Recreation website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/boards>.

NOTE: Both verbal and written communication were used by Committee Members, City staff, and presenters during the meeting. City staff also used the screen-share function to allow viewers to view content shared by the speaker which included PowerPoint presentations and websites.

Before the meeting was called to order, City staff read instructions to the public regarding technical procedures for making live public comment during the webinar.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>City Staff Present</b>
Nick Anastasopoulos- In-Person Jon Becker- In-Person Marcella Bothwell (Chair) – In-Person Molly Chase – Virtual Shaina Gross – In-Person Rick Gulley- In-Person Dennis Otsuji (Vice Chair) – In-Person René Smith – In-Person Pita Verdin – Virtual	Evelyn Smith	Andy Field – Director -In-Person Tom Tomlinson – Virtual Louis Merlin – In-Person Ryan Barbrick – In-Person Mike Ruiz – In-Person Shannon Scoggins –In-Person Sarah Erazo – In-Person Darren Genova – In-Person Elvi Ricafort – In-Person

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcella Bothwell at 2:10 pm.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2022**

**MOTION:**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

**Mr. Otsuji/Mr. Gulley**

A motion was made by Mr. Gulley and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the **October 20, 2022, Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**. The motion was approved 6-0-2 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji, and Pita Verdin. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: Molly Chase and Shaina Gross Not Present: Evelyn Smith

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:**

<b>Commenter Name:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Maureen Baker	<p>On behalf of myself and my neighbors we all are upset that the new fenced in area of Fault Line Park requires your dog to be on a leash. What is the point of having it fenced in then? If it's true, the dogs only go to that area that is not working, instead everyone is bringing their dogs to the bigger, non-fenced in area. Please reconsider making it off leash.</p> <p>Ms. Baker had a follow up question on her submitted written comment. Ms. Bothwell responded that the next step is to contact with her recreation group and have them bring forward a discussion with the dog park. Ms. Baker asked how to find out her recreation group. Ms. Bothwell asked Deputy Director Louis Merlin to respond to her question. Mr. Merlin responded to send her request via <a href="mailto:askparks@sandiego.gov">askparks@sandiego.gov</a>, and staff will direct her question accordingly.</p>
Cindy Cook	<p>With the extreme influx of dog owners in East Village, Ms. Cook requested that the fenced in area at Fault Line Park to be off leash. If this is a budget issue, I am willing to do fund raising, start a volunteer group to maintain, etc.</p>
Shannon Chan	<p>Ms. Chan requested the fenced in area at Fault Line Park converted to off-leash.</p>
Mike Malleske	<p>Mr. Malleske requested the fenced area of Fault Line Park an off-leash dog park.</p>
Nick Ricchio	<p>Mr. Ricchio requested the fenced in area at Fault Line park be an off-leash park.</p>

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<b>Commenter Name:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Melissa Barios	I want the fenced area at Fault Line Park to be off leash.
Daniele Laman	Ms. Laman expressed her disappointment of still not having a board member for CD 9. She also shared that she applied via onboard.
René Smith	Mr. Smith would share that Saturday is World Toilet Day. Along this line fight to build more bathroom
Elida Chavez	Ms. Chavez pointed out that they don't have a board member for the district 9. It is critical for the approved Parks Master Plan. She also recommended to consider Ms. Laman for the vacancy. She asked for the board to reach out to Mayor Gloria to recommend Ms. Laman for the vacancy.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** No items were submitted for the consent agenda.

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE:** No items were requested for continuance.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Summary of Updates:</b>
Area Committee Community Parks I	Mr. Otsuji reported having a productive meeting.
Area Committee Community Parks II	Mr. Smith reported that they are doing their best to reconstitute the area committee. They would have scheduled a meeting on December 13 <sup>th</sup> . Ms. Bothwell asked also for the hard copy of this meeting to be added to the parks foundation calendar.
Balboa Park Committee	Ms. Chase reported that no meeting held in November. However, she was happy to report that they will have a December 9 <sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Bothwell asked also for the hard copy of this meeting to be added to the parks foundation calendar.
Mission Trails Citizens	Mr. Gulley reported having a November 1st meeting. Primarily topics discussed were San Diego River Crossing Bridge, West Sycamore Staging Area status report, and finally to continue to monitor the land acquisitions between the County and MCAS Miramar.

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**SAN DIEGO PARKS FOUNDATION (SDPF) UPDATE:**

Chair Bothwell shared the following updates:

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Update:</b>
Ms. Bothwell	<p>Ms. Bothwell was pleased to announce that the Parks Foundation hired a new executive director, Mr. Jon Hinkin and she requested Mr. Hinkin to give his update for the foundation.</p> <p>Mr. Hinkin thanked Ms. Bothwell for her warmest welcome. He indicated that he was just few weeks in the job, but he is excited and recognized familiar faces as well. He shared that they were at the tail end of the 2022 season for the Parks after dark. He's scheduled to attend one, after the meeting, one for tomorrow night, and 3 more in December and Golf tournament on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. A lot of many programs with the City this coming 2023, including the planned Golf Tournament, all good news coming from Parks Foundation and next time he'd more robust report.</p>

**CHAIR COMMENTS:** Chair Bothwell provided her comments under the SDPF update item.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None

**DIRECTORS REPORT:**

Mr. Field welcomed Mr. Jon Hinkin to the SD Parks Foundation and expressed gratitude and excitement for Mr. Hinkin in his new role. He also took time to acknowledge in the audience the presence of the new Chief Executive Officer for Forever Balboa Park, Ms. Elizabeth Babcock. He was very excited for Ms. Babcock to be on board, and he expressed that her arrival is a win for Balboa Park.

In addition, Mr. Field announced that the North Telecote Playground grand opening which is next to the Mission Bay Resort on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. Mayor Gloria, Councilmember Campbell, and Mr. Field are attending this special park opening. Mr. Field is excited that this project goes forward and the transformation of that area of the Mission Bay Park. He also shared that Chair Bothwell will be attending as co-presenter.

There is a temporary sheltering operation underway at the Balboa Park Activity Center. It is anticipated that this is a short operation for the facilities maintenance to enact a repair at the Golden Hall downtown. He anticipates this will be done before December Nights.

Lastly, winter carnivals throughout the City park system are coming next month. The first one is December Nights which begins on December 2, 2022. Events are posted on the City's webpage at <https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation>. Mr. Field hopes that the board members will get a chance to come and attend. Thereafter, there will be many events planned for the

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park system and variety for the recreations centers. He hopes to have a list created as we get to the week leading to December nights and will provide copy to the board.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**101. Proposed Naming of the Botanical Building East Wing Garden**

Presenter: Christina Chadwick, Assistant Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department

MOVED/SECONDED: Ms. Chase/Mr. Smith

A motion was made by Ms. Chase and seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the staff recommendation for Proposed Naming of the Botanical Building East Wing Garden. The motion was approved 9-0-1 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Molly Chase, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji, René Smith, and Pita Verdin. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Evelyn Smith.

Public Comment on Item #101: - None

Board Member Comment on Item #101:

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Mr. Smith	Mr. Smith congratulated Ms. Chadwick for this naming opportunity. He also asked if there's a December 8 <sup>th</sup> meeting and presentation of the overall project.  Ms. Chadwick confirmed the scheduled meeting.
Ms. Chase	Ms. Chase thanked Ms. Chadwick for this item, and she pointed out the successful partnership with the City. She expressed that the naming opportunity shows the true vision of Botanical building to come to life.

**102. SeaWorld Master Plan**

Presenters: Jim Lake, Park President, SeaWorld-  
Maddy Kilkenny

MOVED/SECONDED: Mr. Otsuji/Mr. Becker

A motion was made by Mr. Otsuji and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the staff recommendation for the SeaWorld Master Plan. The motion was approved 9-0-1 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Molly Chase, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji, René Smith, and Pita Verdin. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Evelyn Smith.

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Public Comment on Item #102: - None

Board Member Comment on Item #102:

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Mr. Becker	<p>Mr. Becker congratulated Mr. Lake making it through with the EIR process through these years. He noticed that the realignment plan has lines to the parking lot. He asked if that plan is to accommodate the mobility CAP plan for EV bikes or remove parking stalls. Mr. Becker also asked what recreation elements will be added to the plan.</p> <p>Mr. Lake responded nothing at this point and probably would know more in the spring.</p>
Mr. Smith	<p>Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Lake for summary of his plans and appreciated his offer of including the various technical references to his report. He requested these be included to the minutes. He asked about the annual parking monitoring. He was curious if there is a report being given to the Mission Bay Park Committee. Mr. Lake responded that they don't have the report yet. Ms. Kilkenny responded that the reports are available from the staff noted in the presentation.</p> <p>Mr. Smith also recommended to consider the green infrastructure approach. He knows that Dudek is on board with his recommendation. He also acknowledged the commitment for the Climate Action Plan (CAP), including the sea level rise report.</p>
Mr. Otsuji	<p>Mr. Otsuji thanked Mr. Lake for his presentation and shared his upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in two years. He pointed out he was involved with the project in 1968 and 1973. He was glad that the master plan made progress for the City of San Diego and what it represents. He asked if SeaWorld still using the salt water for the flushing in the restrooms. He recommended to add this to their EIR report, and this would be helpful.</p> <p>He also commented if they do their CAP, to plan more tree canopies in the parking lot. He thanked Mr. Lake presentation and for all they do at Dudek.</p>
Ms. Bothwell	<p>Ms. Bothwell shared that she represents CD 2 and she expressed her appreciation for their support to her community. She shared that it has been an enduring thing and expressed that they have the unanimous support from the Mission Bay Park Committee. They were very enthusiastic about the plan and look forward to moving forward.</p>

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**103. Chollas Triangle Park – General Development Plan**

Presenters: Darren Genova, Park Designer, Engineering & Capital Projects Department  
Leigh Kyle, Principal Landscape Architect, Spurlock Landscape Architects

MOVED/SECONDED: Mr. Otsuji/Mr. Becker

A motion was made by Mr. Otsuji and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the staff recommendation for the Chollas Triangle Park – General Development Plan. The motion was approved 9-0-1 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Molly Chase, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji, René Smith, and Pita Verdin Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Evelyn Smith.

Public Comment on Item #103:

<b>Commenter Name:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Ms. Laman	<p>Ms. Lamam pointed out that the funding for this project is not fully funded and asked for the timeline for this project.</p> <p>Mr. Genova responded that currently wrapping up the GDP process and he was at the PRB for their approval to the next stage. Estimated timeline 2 year from now. Assuming there is funding in place.</p> <p>Mr. Field also acknowledged what Ms. Laman pointed out that the project is not fully funded. He cited that we have several projects in design stage and have to wait for the construction funding to move forward for construction. This project was in the same boat and City is looking for funding opportunities including general fund, Citywide DIF, grants, and commercial paper. The goal is for this project to be funded.</p>

Board Member Comment on Item #103:

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Mr. Becker	<p>Mr. Becker commended Ms. Kyle presentation and he was also glad to know the extensive outreach that was done with the community.</p> <p>He asked for a recap of the flood area. Ms. Kyle responded that they couldn't use revegetation in the area. They don't have community garden.</p>

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<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Mr. Smith	<p>Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Kyle for her great presentation. He also expressed that he is familiar with the area. He was glad to know that public sanitation in the restroom is in the current plan. He expressed his concerns on 54<sup>th</sup> street. He believes that not safe for pedestrians.</p> <p>Ms. Kyle responded that they are working with the City engineer.</p> <p>Mr. Smith asked that the city staff to think this has a larger issue of pedestrian safety which he believed that the 54<sup>th</sup> street and other components and remediation of chollas creek and storage. There are several things to consider, he questioned how this park has input from the Board.</p> <p>Ms. Bothwell responded to Mr. Smith that his question is out of the scope of the board.</p>
Mr. Otsuji	<p>Mr. Otsuji shared that the revised GDP should have the same consultant for this GDP. He also expressed that the changes from GDP to construction documents would have same process that they went through GDP. He also asked for any stormwater plan for this project.</p> <p>Ms. Kyle responded not that much.</p> <p>Mr. Otsuji pointed out that storm water guideline is changing next year and hope for better guideline beneficial for the parks. He also shared that planned plants are going to help the park.</p> <p>He also asked if younger people come to the meeting to give input. Ms. Kyle responded yes.</p>
Ms. Verdin	<p>Ms. Verdin thanked Ms. Kyle for her great presentation. The plan presented is very thorough. She would love to start the motion to approve.</p>

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**201. Recruitment and Retention Update**

Presenter: Louis Merlin, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Public Comment on Item #201: None

Board Member Comment on Item # 201:

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Ms. Gross	<p>Ms. Gross applaud our hiring efforts and is happy to collaborate with the Department.</p> <p>Ms. Gross asked if we have removed the education requirements on</p>



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Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
	<p>the application from the position. Mr. Merlin responded yes and something they are working with personnel. He also shared that the Department removed the minimal qualifications for certification and once hired and trained in three months then certification can be done.</p> <p>Ms. Gross asked if personnel requirements preclude the maintenance positions for formerly incarcerated applicants. She noted that retention with these applicants is much better.</p> <p>Mr. Merlin agreed with Ms. Gross' suggestion. He also shared that background check is managed by the Personnel Department.</p>

**202. Park Ranger Update**

Presenter: Mike Ruiz, Chief Ranger, Parks and Recreation Department

Public Comment on Item 202: None

Board Member Comment on Item 202: None

**203. Joint Use Program with School Districts Annual Update**

Presenter: Shannon Scoggins, Park Designer, Parks and Recreation

Department Public Comment on Item 203: None

Board Member Comment on Item 203:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
Ms. Gross	<p>Ms. Gross asked about the removal of concept of parity.</p> <p>Ms. Scoggins responded that in the old agreement we had three pillars of contributions: land, capital expenditures, and maintenance. The City and San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) have an agreement that clarified shared goals, purpose, and responsibility to serve the public, and create safe neighborhood during and after school. This eliminated the need for parity calculations.</p> <p>Ms. Gross commented that she looked at the parks master plan. It said that the play all-day program will have 45 parks in the next five to 10 years. She asked how those fields are selected, how we decide on the location, and how we look equity throughout the City</p>

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<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
	<p>as part of the program.</p> <p>Ms. Scoggins responded that the City partners with San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) to determine sites for joint use, and they are usually locations that are planned for site modernizations.</p>
Mr. Smith	<p>Mr. Smith asked how were amenities added to the parks? Ms. Scoggins responded that it varies. It depends on the suitability for the district area.</p>
Ms. Verdin	<p>Ms. Verdin asked if joint use fields have possible solutions for issues on off-leash dog area in the fields. Ms. Scoggins responded that dog off leash is not allowed in joint use fields. She pointed out that it is not allowed to have an off-leash dog area in joint use fields at SDUSD. She shared that the San Diego Humane Society (SDHS) handles enforcement of the laws for off leash dogs. However, the Department is providing education and signage to continue to have a safe and clean field for the students.</p>
Mr. Becker	<p>Mr. Becker expressed that he has always been a big fan of this program. He wanted to know if we have collaboration and partnership with Poway Unified School District. Ms. Scoggins responded yes, and she pointed out that this information is on her report on page 59 with the shared use of Black Mountain Gymnasium. Mr. Becker thanked Ms. Scoggins and will review the list from page 59. Mr. Field noted that Councilmember Marni von Wilpert asked the same question when joint use was presented to the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee earlier this month.</p>
Ms. Bothwell	<p>Ms. Bothwell commented that SDUSD bond issues fund capital expenses but noted that other school districts do not necessarily have bond programs. Ms. Bothwell asked how are these going to work out with the other school that do not have bonds? Ms. Scoggins responded that the City would go back to the old program, which involves use of development impact fees and other City funds to cover the cost of construction.</p>
Sally Smull	<p>Ms. Smull asked about the process to address when a school does not allow a joint use program. Mr. Field referred the question to Tracey Tincknell, Real Estate Supervisor for SDUSD. Ms. Tincknell responded that they will do their best to have a discussion with the school administrator and community and discuss the benefits of having the joint use program to the school and the community. If they are unable to have a site administration on board then they would look for other opportunities in that neighborhood and community. Ms. Bothwell asked for the contact person for Ms. Smull to send her question. Ms. Scoggins responded to give her contact info at <a href="mailto:sscoggins@sandiego.gov">sscoggins@sandiego.gov</a>.</p>

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<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Ms. Otsuji	<p>Mr. Otsuji expressed his appreciation to Ms. Scoggins for having a good relationship with SDUSD. He also praised SDUSD. The partnership is instrumental in successfully implementing this joint use program. He thanked SDUSD for being a partner to the City to help make this a successful program. Mr. Otsuji thanked SDUSD for planting more trees.</p> <p>Mr. Field also echoed what Mr. Otsuji shared. He thanked Ms. Scoggins and Ms. Tincknell. He commended their leadership and expressed appreciation for their fantastic partnership.</p> <p>Mr. Otsuji also recommended to have a partnership with SDG&amp;E. They have numerous rights-of-way (ROW) and easements.</p> <p>Mr. Field shared that the City is working with Morgan Justice-Black from SDG&amp;E for tree planting projects throughout the City, both on parkland and other locations.</p>
Ms. Bothwell	<p>Ms. Bothwell commended the excellent recommendation from Mr. Otsuji. She also asked when the SDHS will return to the Board for its annual update on animal services. Mr. Field shared that the program is now with the Department, and the Department recently hired Mr. Tim Graham as the Program Coordinator managing the SDHS contract. He will be leading the presentation to the Board in the new year.</p> <p>Ms. Bothwell asked who they can call for animal issues. Mr. Field responded to contact the number posted from Ms. Tincknell office (619) 299-7012.</p>

**204. Come Play Outside**

Presenter: Sarah Erazo, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Public Comment on Item 204:

Board Member Comment on Item 204:

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Mr. Otsuji	<p>Mr. Otsuji expressed his commendation for this program which he believes is getting better and better because of great people running the program.</p>

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<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Ms. Bothwell	<p>Ms. Bothwell asked the data on parks after dark and data crime impact to the neighborhood. Ms. Erazo responded that will have the data on parks after dark and data on crime from UCSD anytime soon.</p> <p>Ms. Bothwell also praised and congratulated Ms. Erazo for doing an amazing job!</p> <p>Mr. Field also praised and thanked Ms. Erazo for the great job she did. It truly requires many weekends to serve in that role.</p> <p>Ms. Erazo responded that she enjoyed getting back to special events and getting engaged with various communities throughout the department.</p> <p>Ms. Bothwell reminded Ms. Erazo of sending her email request for a copy of the video she presented to the board.</p>

**205. Park and Recreation Board Member Site Visits**

Presenter: Shaina Gross, CD 7 Park Board Member, Park and Recreation

Board

Public Comment on Item 205: None

Board Member Comment on Item 205:

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Ms. Gross	<p>Ms. Gross recommended site visits to the Board. She made the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Suggest visiting as a group or individual.</li><li>2. Suggest introducing ourselves to the Planning Community Group even through zoom.</li></ol>
Ms. Verdin	<p>Ms. Verdin commented that these were great suggestions. She also shared that she visited sites from her district. She asked about the opportunity fund meetings. Ms. Gross responded that she got this information from one of Mr. Field's forwarded emails. She believes that another meeting is scheduled for tonight.</p> <p>Mr. Smith confirmed it and shared that there is a meeting on December 13th to discuss the opportunity fund. He recommended</p>

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<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
	<p>that this is a good opportunity for Ms. Verdin to attend the meeting and learn more of the opportunity fund.</p> <p>Mr. Field also confirmed that the last one is scheduled at 6pm and the main reason why Ms. Erazo had to leave the board meeting.</p>
Ms. Bothwell	<p>Ms. Bothwell clarified that she was hoping that the planning groups and recreation councils, now called community recreation group would eventually merge. She believes that the Board will have benefits from the merge.</p> <p>Mr. Field also shared that the new community recreation group reform to begin in 2023. We are going to bring back retired Shelly Stowell who is familiar with the program.</p> <p>Mr. Field also learned that the Measure H (childcare) will be led by Andrea O'Hara, Director of the Office of Child and Youth Success (OCYS). Mr. Field will invite Ms. O'Hara to introduce her new department to the Board in the new year. Measure H (childcare) will be led by OCYS with impacts to the park system to be determined.</p>
Mr. Becker	<p>Mr. Becker shared that he is familiar with the planning group. They have representatives for recreation group come to the meeting and apprise them with budgets and other information.</p>
Ms. Gross	<p>Ms. Gross reminded the Board if they are interested in site visit.</p> <p>Ms. Bothwell shared that they had site visits with the San Diego Parks Foundation to Carmel Valley Area and San Ysidro area. The visits truly made a profound impact on her. There were clear differences with the infrastructure available for these communities. So, she's totally on board with Ms. Gross suggestions.</p> <p>Ms. Gross suggested that maybe they go hiking on weekends.</p> <p>Ms. Bothwell liked the idea. Ms. Bothwell asked Mr. Field if a group hike would create any Brown Act requirements? Mr. Field responded if the Park Board goes hiking as a group, the Department would need to provide notice of the meeting at the hiking location.</p>

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**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Copies of the reports, attachments, PowerPoint presentations, and audio-video recordings can be found on the Parks and Recreation Department website at

<http://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/reports>.

**Next Calendared Meeting: January 19, 2023**

Submitted by,



Andy Field

Director

Parks and Recreation Department