City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2023

"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.

Members Present	Members Absent	City Staff Present
Nick Anastasopoulos- In-Person	Evelyn Smith	Tom Tomlinson – In-Person
Jon Becker- In-Person	Molly Chase	Louis Merlin – In-Person
Marcella Bothwell (Chair) – In-Person	,	Ryan Barbrick – In-Person
Shaina Gross – Virtual		Michelle Kelly – In-Person
Rick Gulley- In-Person		Gabby Verendia – In-Person
Dennis Otsuji (Vice Chair) – In-Person		Martha Acosta – In-Person
René Smith – In-Person		Kathleen Brand – In-Person
Pita Verdin - Virtual		Michelle Abella-Shon - Virtual
		Elvi Ricafort – In-Person

<u>CALL TO ORDER</u> – The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcella Bothwell at 2:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2022

MOTION:

MOVED/SECONDED

Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Becker

A motion was made by Mr. Anastasopoulos and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes with recommended amendments. The motion was approved 8–0–2 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Rene Smith, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji, and Pita Verdin. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Molly Chase, and Evelyn Smith.

Commenter Name:	Summary of Comments:
Danielle Laman	Danielle Laman asked question regarding revisions of TPAs to SDAs, how that will affect the collection of the Citywide Park DIF commented on the redistricting. How are we going to subject the Developer Impact Fees (DIF) with the new redistricting?
John Stump	John Stump wished the Board happy new year and thanked them for their service. He'll be speaking out later for the RPIF item 101. He shared that 65 years ago he served with the San Diego County of City of El Cajon. Incorporated the Chollas Recreation Council. He indicated that the public was not provided an opportunity to comment on the approval of the minutes and that they should have an opportunity to comment.
Mieko Sunbury	Ms. Sunbury complained about behavior of organized sports occurring at Jefferson JU. Complaint included using the field after hours, gates not being locked, public urination, property damage from soccer balls, aggressive behavior from the soccer players, amplified music, Police Department not responsive, Carlos Rios previously made aware of the situation.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE: No items were requested for continuance.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Topic:	Summary of Updates:
Area Committee Community Parks I	Mr. Otsuji reported that the committee did not have a meeting.
Area Committee Community Parks II	Mr. Otsuji reported that the committee did not have a meeting.
Balboa Park Committee	No report.

Mission Trails Citizens	Mr. Gulley reported that the committee met on January 3, 2023.
	Important items discussed were the top 12 projects that they
	would like to complete and sent these to Ms. Bothwell. He also
	reported that they discussed the Old Mission Dam Dredging
	project, West Sycamore Staging Area, Stowe Trail Status Report
	and finally the land acquisitions negotiations between the
	County of San Diego and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

SAN DIEGO PARKS FOUNDATION (SDPF) UPDATE:

Chair Bothwell shared the following updates:

Topic:	Update:
Marcella Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell was excited to share good news that the SDPF's website has an addition of translation for Somali and Vietnamese in addition to English and Spanish. Many exciting events going on the many recreation centers. Ms. Bothwell stated that SDPF has a calendar of events on their website and requested City staff provide SDPF with our calendar so there is a centralized calendar of all monthly events.
	She also reminded the Board that the newsletter was emailed to the Board The newsletter's main focus is to introduce the new executive director.
	As for the chairperson report. Ms. Bothwell thanked Parks and Recreation staff for their work to repair the storm damage at the boardwalk. She expressed her appreciation to all City staff who were there including Mr. Field.
	She also reminded the Board of the upcoming Boards and Commissions' Ralph M. Brown Act Training on January 26, 2023. She encouraged the Board to sign up. She announced that the Street Vendor ordinance is going into effect on February 1, 2023. She pre-emptively thanked the park rangers for this effort.

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

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
René Smith	Mr. Smith commented on the dog off leash area issues at Faultline Park. He would like City staff to respond to the requests from the public. Mr. Tomlinson responded that the city staff is aware of the complaint and is working with staff to address the matter with the developer who maintains the park.
Marcella Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell asked about any damage that occurred to the seawall as a result of the recent storms, what is the assessment/SOW to repair, costs, and timeline to complete repairs. Mr. Tomlinson responded that this will be addressed as part of the Director's report next month.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Mr. Tomlinson shared the following updates on behalf of Mr. Field.

- Appointments to the P&R Board
 - The Board position vacated by Ron Cho last fall remains vacant with no update on filling the position
 - Additional announcements on board positions are forthcoming
- Storm Damage
 - Over the past six weeks, the region has experienced numerous storms with high wind, strong surf, and rain
 - This has resulted in extensive damage across the park system, notably including:
 - Waves overtopping the Boardwalk in Mission Beach and Pacific Beach, resulting in need to remove sand and debris from those areas
 - Fences, handrails, coastal access stairs, and sandstone bluffs were damaged in multiple coastal locations, including La Jolla Cove/E.B. Scripps Park, Children's Pool, Ocean Beach Pier, and a variety of shoreline access points; some locations remain closed to public use
 - Numerous trees fell throughout the park system
 - Quince Drive in Balboa Park is closed to traffic due to hillside stability concerns
 - Building flooding and roof leaks have occurred at some locations
 - The Department is working to clean up the areas damaged by these storms and will look at repairing damaged assets and amenities
- SD Access for All Public Wireless Internet at Recreation Centers

- U.S. Secretary State Anthony Blinken recently noted the City of San Diego's actions in adding public wireless internet to public parks and building across the City in a presentation he made to the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C. this week
- In his remarks, Secretary Blinken said: "Solutions are found in cities like San Diego, which is using geospatial data to determine which communities are most in need of digital connectivity and has set up open, public Wi-Fi hotspots, free tech support, free computer and internet skills classes where they're needed most."
- The full text of the Secretary's remarks are posted at <u>https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-at-the-united-states-conference-of-mayors-91st-winter-meeting/</u>.
- Mayor's State of the City
 - $\circ~$ On January 11, 2023, Mayor Todd Gloria provided the State of the City at the Civic Theater
 - $_{\odot}~$ His remarks touched on parks, noting the numerous parks under design and construction in the City of San Diego
 - \circ He noted:
 - "We're working to make sure families ... won't wait so long for neighborhood improvements. ... Fairbrook Neighborhood Park was one of nine new parks we opened in 2022. And we completed upgrades on 15 more."
 - "This is more park improvements than the City completed in any of the past six years."
 - "And this year, we are on track to open 13 new parks and upgrade 18 more as part of our 'Parks For All of Us' Master Plan, which was adopted by the City Council last year."
 - The full text of his remarks is available at <u>https://www.sandiego.gov/mayor/2023-</u><u>state-of-the-city-address</u>.
- Budget Update
 - Our Fiscal Operations Manager Michele Kelley will report on this momentarily.
- CPRS
 - California Parks and Recreation Society Conference is in San Diego in April 2023 and is a great opportunity to learn the latest in the recreation profession
 - Several Board members have already signed up to attend
- Parks and Recreation Board
 - Recent changes to SDMC 26.30 will go into effect later this year. When that happens, the Board will have a slightly new name, with "Parks" rather than "Park" in the title.
 - Once we have full membership, the Department plans to hold a workshop on the basics of board operations, policy manual, overview of the Department, board bylaws, and board policies
 - This should occur in the May–June timeframe

- Pickleball
 - The Department is developing pickleball facilities at Kearny Mesa and Colina del Sol
 - Later this year, the Robb Field Community Recreation Group will begin workshops to discuss visions for a permanent pickleball facility to be located at Robb Field
- Proposed Overnight Gated Closure of Certain Coastal and Bay Parking Areas
 - The application has been submitted, and the City now working on responding to questions raised by the Coastal Commission
- Future Board Items:
 - "101" Introduction to Park Board Workshop, including:
 - Board Bylaws Update
 - Board Policies Review
 - Department Overview Presentation
 - Animal Services/Dog Off Leash Update from SD Humane
 - o Chollas Creek Regional Park Master Plan Update
 - o DeAnza Natural Environmental Impact Report
 - Fiesta Island Master Plan Update (information can be found here: https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/parkplanning/fiesta-island)
 - Implementation of San Diego Charter Section 55 amendments regarding childcare on dedicated parkland
 - Restroom Condition Assessment and Maintenance
 - Grants Update

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Smith requested that the Board hear an item from the Department of Real Estate and Airport Management (DREAM) regarding leases in our City parks (excluding Balboa Park) as part of the 2023 Calendar of Agenda Items.

ACTION ITEMS:

101. Adoption of the Board Calendar Year 2023 Presenter: Elvi Ricafort, Senior Management Analyst, Parks and Recreation Department.

MOVED/SECONDED: Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Becker

A motion was made by Mr. Anastasopoulos and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the staff recommendation for Adoption of the Board Calendar Year 2023. The motion was approved 8– 0–2 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji, René Smith, and Pita Verdin. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Molly Chase, and Evelyn Smith.

Public Comment on Item #101:

	Summary of Comments:
Commenter Name:	
	A hybrid format should be universally available for the public. Hybrid meetings for all official city meetings such as Planning Commission Council Committees, City Council, and other Boards. Absolutely increases attendance. Mr. Tomlinson responded that the department is working on the new format.

Board Member Comment on Item #101:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
Shaina Gross	Ms. Gross wanted to confirm if all future meetings will be in person, without virtual option. Is that correct? Mr. Tomlinson responded yes, and Department is working on the hybrid format for the public.
Marcella Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell asked the Board if interested in touring Park de la Cruz for 30 minutes prior to the February 2023 meeting.
René Smith	Mr. Smith commented that the planned meeting at Park de la Cruz was a nice segue to what Ms. Gross recommended for site visits. He hopes this is a start for many opportunities to hold meetings in other locations.

102. Adoption of the PRB Annual Report 2022

Presenter: Tom Tomlinson, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department

MOVED/SECONDED: Mr. Smith/Mr. Becker

A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the staff recommendation with amendments. The motion was approved 8–0–2 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji, René Smith, and Pita Verdin Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Molly Chase, and Evelyn Smith.

Public Comment on Item #102: - None

Board Member Comment on Item #102:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
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Dennis Otsuji	Mr. Otsuji asked if they have to resubmit again their applications for their expired terms. Ms. Bothwell shared that the Boards and Commission website has the link for the new application. Mr. Otsuji expressed that it seems like Boards and Commissions were approving the new members, but they are forgetting the expired board members applications.
Jon Becker	Mr. Becker commented about the redistricting and asked how this would impact their board status. He also pointed out on page 6 that the Board participates on community plan updates.
René Smith	Mr. Smith commented on the consultative nature of their responsibilities. He requested edits on pages 2 and 6 of the report to include additional language regarding the Board's authority. He also commented on the estimated number of 11 volunteer hours in the report and that he cannot complete his duties on the Board within that time frame.
Dennis Otsuji	Mr. Otsuji commented that it is good idea for Director Field to present the duties of the Board. There are simple answers that can be provided to the new members and that the PRB is an integral and cohesive Board. He also indicated that the Board was already aware of the comments before the Mira Mesa Community Plan (MM CP) was presented to the Board since it went to Planning Commission and they presented their concerns and they did a good job. The Planning Commission took this to heart and approved the MM CP. Shows that all these boards work together.

103. Adoption of Draft Letter

Presenter: Marcella Bothwell, Chair, Parks and Recreation Board

MOVED/SECONDED: Mr. Becker/Mr. Gulley

A motion was made by Mr. Becker and seconded by Mr. Gulley to approve the staff recommendation. The motion was approved 8-0-2 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji, René Smith, and Pita Verdin Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Molly Chase, and Evelyn Smith.

Public Comment on Item #103:

	Summary of Comments:
Commenter Name:	
Danna Givot	Danna Givot Comments: I strongly support the Parks and Recreation Board taking a larger role in San Diego's community plan update
	(CPU) process. I live in the College Area and we have 25,000 people
	and 1 dedicated park with 1.6 acres, not all useable. The city is going to put 2 dog parks and some equipment on that to increase our park
	points from the measly 164.5 pts. In its 10/26/22 presentation to the
	community, the Planning Department presented us with a slide under reporting our points by a factor of 10. With 24,839 people, they said
	we deserved 248 park points. We corrected that slide, and it is
	included below as an attachment. The proposed CPU for the College

	Area calls for 85,000 people and 8,571 park points, but there is no plan for more parks, a community center, or a swim center, just the possibility of a linear park and string of pearls parks that rely on developers to create them. This is unacceptable. We support your efforts to get involved in community plans early. We need parks, recreation centers, green spaces. We have no dedicated fields for kids sports, and infill will make this a concrete jungle. Please help us. The Planning Department is not listening. Attachments:
	https://www.sandiego.gov/system/files/webform/obc-public- comments/planning_commission_presentation_for_college_area_1 11722.png?sandread=f5eda36324521d04
	https://www.sandiego.gov/system/files/webform/obc-public- comments/college_area_parks_mistake_slide.png?sandread=f5eda4 6324521eb7
Newell Booth	Newel Booth Comments: The Parks and Recreation Board's input to the Community Plan Update process is critical to achieving livable communities. With increased densification, backyards are being eliminated for ADU and multiple dwelling units. This upzoning is occurring in neighborhoods that are already park deficient. Planning and finding funding for parks in these areas are urgently needed. Attachments:
	The results of this submission may be viewed at: https://www.sandiego.gov/node/1030632/submission/664457
Jean Hoeger	Jean Hoger Comments: The San Diego Parks and Recreation Board needs to have a seat at the table with the Planning Department to have more involvement in the Community Plan Update process. The College Area community has a huge park deficiency and the Parks and Rec Board would be the perfect entity to come up with plans to remedy those deficiencies. Attachments:
	The results of this submission may be viewed at: https://www.sandiego.gov/node/1030632/submission/664469
Alex Zukas	Alex Zukas Comments:
	Dear Parks and Recreation Committee,
	I am writing in support of Dr. Bothwell's letter to Heidi Vonblum requesting that the Park and Recreation Board (PRB) be included in all Community Plan Update (CPU) meetings and planning. I have followed the CPU for the College Area for over a year now and can say that parks are an afterthought if thought about at all in the rush to build more housing. The College Area is park deficient and the new CPU does little to remedy the situation. I live in El Cerrito which is extremely park deficient but, as Dr. Bothwell notes in her letter, "transportation and park infrastructure [is] necessary to make these homes truly livable." The residents of the College Area and the Eastern Area could not agree more. I know because I live just south of

	 the College Area and I serve on the Board of the Eastern Area Communities Planning Group and I know that a CPU is coming our way in the near future. I would greatly support and appreciate having the PRB involved early in our discussions with the Planning Department to make sure parks are a solid part of the proposed CPU. Sincerely, Alex Zukas Attachments: The results of this submission may be viewed at: https://www.sandiego.gov/node/1030632/submission/664484
Suzy Shamsky	Suzy Shamsky Comments: I am in favor of the strategy that the Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) needs to be involved earlier in the Community Plan Update process than is currently happening.
	Attachments:
	The results of this submission may be viewed at: https://www.sandiego.gov/node/1030632/submission/664571
Susan Baldwin	Susan Baldwin Comments:
	I wholeheartedly support the five items requested by Chair Bothwell in her draft letter. The city must address the parks and recreation needs of communities in the Community Plan Update process as described in Parks Master Plan.
	College Area, University Community, Clairemont and Hillcrest Focused Plan Amendment are in process currently.
	Thank you Chair Bothwell for your important letter. The public is a key player too.
Geoff Hueter	Geoff Hueter Comments:
	I support the letter. When we effectively grant land to property owners as part of upzoning in a community plan update, it is our last and best point of leverage to get part of that land value allocated to parks.
Danielle Laman	Danielle Laman Comments:
	Ms. Laman requested a list of the community plan updates currently underway. Mr. Tomlinson responded that all the upcoming plans are listed on the Planning Department's webpage.
	Ms. Abella-Shon also shared that link for the Planning Department's webpage from the chat: <u>www.sandiego.gov/planning/community-plans/updates</u>

Board Member Comment on Item #103:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
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Shaina Gross Pita Verdin	Ms. Gross commented via zoom chat that she appreciated the comments from Ms. Bothwell. She would like to see Board have more meaningful input into decisions being made in a more timely way, rather than being a final "rubber stamp" when things are already fully baked. Ms. Verdin thanked Ms. Bothwell for writing the letter.
Dennis Otsuji	Mr. Otsuji commented that he did not disagree with Ms. Bothwell letter. He shared his 50 years of history of the department. He also served 25 years for different park responsibilities and served 16 years with the Planning Commission. He pointed out that the last Park Master Plan was in 1956. It took them 20 years to start and finally got one done but it is not perfect. The current plan includes recreational value points and is better than 1956 plan. Mr. Otsuji commented that the best thing that is more effective than a letter is for the Planning Director to get together with Parks and Recreation Director and set up a meeting and have a full discussion of the Board's concerns. Mr. Otsuji also shared that the visual perception for the City's park program is three parts of a stool. Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Department and Development Services Department. These entities run parks and recreation. Working with the 3 entities to put together our parks program is very difficult, and Andy has done an outstanding job. Mr. Otsuji recommended that it may be better if the 3 Departments met.
Marcella Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell completely agreed with Mr. Otsuji. However, it is still not efficient. She commented that the letter is intended to start a cooperative effort, and the Board appreciates all of the work Planning does.
René Smith	Mr. Smith had a question for Mr. Otsuji. He was told that years ago both the Park Board and Planning Commission joined a meeting. Mr. Otsuji responded that he was not aware of that meeting. Mr. Smith reminded Mr. Tomlinson of Mr. Otsuji's recommendation to meet with the two departments. Mr. Tomlinson responded that Parks and Recreation Department has ongoing meetings with the Planning Department and Development Services Department.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

201.

City of San Diego Budget Calendar and Process Presenter: Michele Kelly, Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department

Public Comment on Item #201:

	Summary of Comments:
Commenter Name:	
John Stump	Mr. Stump commented of having concerns about the budget, a line item for the cost of billing for the Chollas Lake. Requested for the Board to have a small discussion on whether the amount of the money that is being budgeted is just a placeholder, correct, and what can we do to reduce that amount by actually putting a fresh rainwater or stormwater plan in-place.
	Ms. Kelley responded that the Chollas lake is currently under General

Fund at the Open Space Division (CP2). No budget for water.
Mr. Tomlinson invited the Board and the public to attend the May budget review hearing of the Department's FY24 budget and provide more data points.

Board Member Comment on Item # 201:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
René Smith	Mr. Smith commented that all of us have ideas for the budget for this Budget process. Anything that helps before April 15, they must take additional input from the Board.
	Ms. Kelly commented that we may not get all of the adjustments we submitted for our budget. She encouraged the Board to show up during budget deliberations in May.
	Mr. Tomlinson also responded that everything has been submitted, is with Department of Finance, and is currently being reviewed. Any concerns that the Board may have they can reach out to Mr. Field.
	Mr. Smith commented that the IBA report has more on non-park programs. Mr. Smith also requested that the Parks Master Plan (PMP) survey results be part of the minutes.
	Parks Master Plan: see <u>https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-for-all-</u> <u>of-us</u>

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

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

Next Calendared Meeting: February 16, 2023

Submitted by,

Tom Tomlinson

Tom Tomlinson Assistant Director Parks and Recreation Department