

**City of San Diego  
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 16, 2023**

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

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

This meeting was held at Park de la Cruz Community Center 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 Shaina Gross – In-Person Rick Gulley- In-Person Dennis Otsuji (Vice Chair) – In-Person Evelyn Smith – In-Person René Smith – In-Person Pita Verdin – In-Person	Molly Chase	Andy Field – In-Person Tom Tomlinson – In-Person Louis Merlin – In-Person Ryan Barbrick – In-Person Juliana Grotzinger – In-Person Kevin Oliver – In-Person Shannon Scoggins –In-Person Gina Dulay – In-Person Andrea O’Hara – In-Person Kristi Fenick – In-Person Jon Garibay – In-Person Jane Boardman – In-Person Michelle Abella-Shon In-Person Elvi Ricafort – In-Person

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2023**

**MOTION:**                      **MOVED/SECONDED**                      **Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Becker**

A motion was made by Mr. Anastasopoulos and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the **January 19, 2023, Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes** with recommended amendments. The motion was approved 9-0-1 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji, Rene Smith, Evelyn Smith, and Pita Verdin. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Molly Chase

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:**

<b>Commenter Name:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Megan Anne Graulich	<p>Ms. Graulich stated that she has children who have benefitted tremendously from youth sports. She approached the Board to discuss the 2023 recreation league called On Point Lacrosse, which has its spring season beginning in a few weeks. The team is scheduled to practice at Robb Field and Dusty Rhodes.</p> <p>However, she stated that Dusty Rhodes Park is not in good condition, an embarrassment, and unsafe. For example, her son had to lay on his stomach and put his arm down into a gopher hole to retrieve a ball last season. The gopher holes create safety concerns for kids running on the field. Additionally, people experiencing homelessness are in the park, in the bathrooms, and in the pavilions. The park needs to be cleaned up and returned to the kids.</p> <p>Our coach has subsequently searched for other field locations in our area and found that the fees are exorbitant. For example, Correia Middle School fields cost \$350 per hour, which would cost \$2800 a week for this program. That amount is too expensive for youth sports and would prevent the continuation of this program.</p>
Daniele Laman	<p>Ms. Laman commented on changes made by City Council on Developer Impact Fees (DIF) not to be made by SDAs. She also expressed that the impact to the budget and redistricting needs to appear on the map.</p>
Mieko Sunbury	<p>Ms. Sunbury noted continued concerns with the joint use located at Jefferson Elementary School, including late closures of the gate. She asked what we are doing about finding other fields for soccer players? Can they go to Morley Field or other locations?</p>

**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. Smith reported that the committee did not have a meeting.
Balboa Park Committee	Ms. Chase is absent, so there is no report.
Mission Trails Citizens Advisory Committee	Mr. Gulley reported that the committee will have a meeting on March 7th. They discussed how to donate parcel of lands to the City.

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

Chair Bothwell shared the following updates:

Topic:	Update:
Undertow Fundraiser	Ms. Bothwell was excited to share good news that the SDPF’s website had a successful golf tournament fundraising.

**CHAIR COMMENTS:** Chair Bothwell provided her comments under the San Diego Parks Foundation (SDPF) update item and had no additional comments.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** No board member comments were received.

**DIRECTORS REPORT:** Mr. Field shared the following updates:

**Appointments**

- The Board continues to have one board member vacancy
- Due to redistricting, some members have shifted from one district to another
- Neither SDMC 26.30 nor bylaws require a Board Member represent a certain Council District; however, with 11 members, staff hopes to have membership that can try to cover all districts
- All members who are on expired or soon-to-expire terms should submit their applications to <https://onboard.sandiego.gov/>. This is needed serve again as the Office of Boards and

Commissions has new system. Members who submitted prior to the new system (2021) will need to resubmit.

### **Chromebooks**

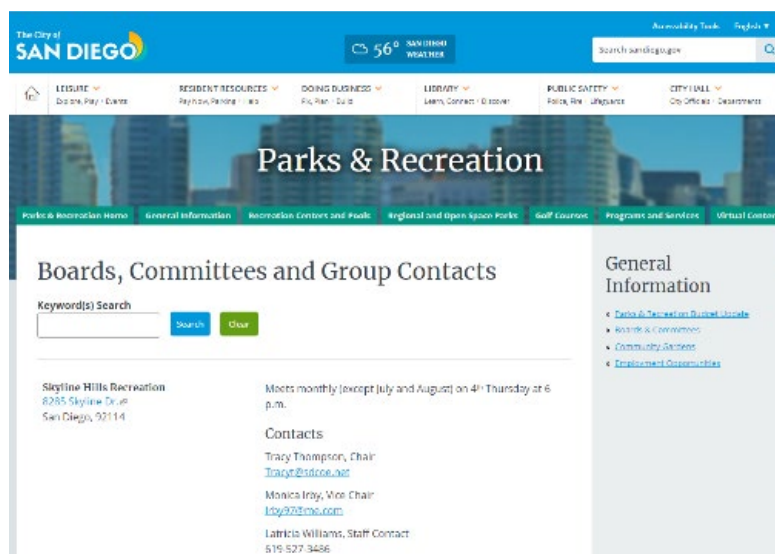
- Mr. Field noted that Department staff will not be printing agendas, minutes, or staff reports for the Board meetings
- To ensure Board access, staff can provide Chromebooks for Board members to access materials directly from the City's webpage

### **Budget Update**

- This past Monday, February 13, 2023, the City Council reviewed Fiscal Year 2024 City Council Budget Priorities and the Fiscal Year 2024-2028 Five-Year Capital Infrastructure Planning Outlook
- In a little more than a week, on Monday February 27, 2023, the City Council will review the Fiscal Year 2023 Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report
- The Department is currently preparing its Fiscal Year 2024 budget submission, and Mayor Gloria will release the proposed budget on or before April 15, 2023

### **Park Contact List**

- The Department created <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/boards/bcgcontact>, a new list of all boards and community groups including chair and staff contact information.
- This interface will expand in the future to include which advisory bodies are involved with which parks. If Board members have advice on improving the interface, please let staff know.
- The Department is constantly updating the information, so if Board members notice any errors, please let the appropriate staff contact person know.



### **Public Records Act Request Training**

Boards and Commissions' California Public Request Act (CPRA) webinar training tomorrow Friday, February 17, 2023, at 2:00 pm. If you are interested and can attend, you can sign up. If you cannot attend, the **webinar will be recorded and distributed.**

### **General Development Plans**

The Department will work with Engineering and Capital Projects as well as the Park Asset Management Group to ensure Board Members are notified when a public workshop is scheduled for creation of new or amended general development plans.

### **Grand Openings/Groundbreakings**

The Department has asked Communications Department to include Board Members on future invitations to attend grand openings and groundbreaking ceremonies. These were done in the past, but we have fallen out of sync post-pandemic. Benny Cartwright is our new public information officer to assist with ensuring the Board Members know of these events in advance.

Last week on Friday, February 10, 2023, Mayor Todd Gloria, Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, Assemblymember Chris Ward, and several dignitaries broke ground on the new Olive Street Park, which will be home to a new AIDS Memorial. Construction is now underway.

**Responses to January Public Testimony:** At the January Board meeting, staff received several comments and questions on a variety of topics. The following are responses to those questions:

**1. Opportunity for public to comment on the approval of the meeting minutes**

Response: The caller is correct. There should be a request for public comment on the minutes. Going forward, Chair Bothwell will ask if there is public comment on the minutes.

**2. Proposed revisions of TPAs to SDAs and possible impacts to Citywide Park DIF**

Response: Mr. Field sent an email on this topic to Board members on February 10, 2023. The City Council is considering a proposal to change Transit Priority Areas (TPAs) to Sustainable Development Areas (SDAs) from 1/2 mile to 1 mile. This proposal is part of Agenda Item 330 on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, as part of the 2022 Update to the Land Development Code and Local Coastal Program. The following elements impact the development impact fee:

- a. Development Impact Fees - Build Better SD Implementation (Item No. 39): Removes the line "Resolution No. R-313688, adopting the Citywide Park Development Impact Fee" from the code since as of July 1, 2022, the Citywide Park DIF applies to all projects.
- b. Development Impact Fees - Citywide Park General Development Plans (Item No. 41): Amends the regulations of a performance and payment bond for the design and construction of a park developed onsite pursuant to a General Development Plan. Requires the bond payment prior to final inspection, which aligns the payment for the General



Development Plan (GDP) approval process. This amendment also specifies that a designee can act on behalf of the Park and Recreation Director.

- c. Citywide Park Development Impact Fee (DIF) Resolution Update (Item No. 53): Amends Resolution R-313688 by replacing the language related to the Voluntary Accessibility (145.4004 (Tier I-Accessible Dwelling Unit) or 145.4005 (Tier II- Visitable Unit)) with reference to Chapter 14, Article 5, Division 40 (Housing Accessibility Program) adopted in Housing Action Package 1.0 in February 2022. Updates the resolution by applying the DIF reduction for projects in a TPA to projects in an SDA. Additionally, adds a section to the resolution to include a 3bedroom home incentive which caps the maximum Citywide Park DIF for three- or more-bedroom homes at the rate applicable to a 900 square foot multifamily unit. This incentive would apply for three- or more-bedroom units up to 1,500 square feet and is intended to encourage the development of additional homes for families.
- d. Wireless Communication Facilities, Park Site Approvals (Item No. 23): Modifies the code language by adding that a representative from the Parks and Recreation Department can make a determination on wireless communication facilities within parks.
- e. Downtown Items
  - 1) Update Existing Downtown Urban Open Space Regulations (Item No. 17): Amends the existing CCPDO Urban Open Space Incentive Program to incorporate the points system from the adopted Parks Master Plan.
  - 2) Update to Existing Downtown Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program (Item No. 25): Amends the existing CCPDO Downtown TDR Program to simplify the regulations and bring it into alignment with the Parks Master Plan.

### **3. Jefferson Elementary School Joint Use – Concerns with Organized Sports:**

- a. Concerns include field use after hours, unlocked gates, public urination, property damage from soccer balls, aggressive behavior from the soccer players, and amplified music.
- b. Response: District Manager Carlos Rios is aware of the concerns and is working with the user groups to reduce the conflict seen at this joint use facility.

### **4. Faultline Park Dog Area**

Response: Deputy Director Steve Palle is aware of the complaint and is working with staff to address community concerns with the operator.

### **5. Storm Damage - Seawall**

Response: The seawall has no immediate damage from January's storms. However, it was overcome by high tides and surf during those storms. In the future, the seawall is slated for improvements/repair under the Mission Bay Park Improvements Fund/Charter 55.2 funding. Currently, the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement is under development and will address the eventual upgrade of the seawall.

**6. Secretary Blinken's comments regarding San Diego's efforts on Wi-Fi**

Response: Mr. Field provided the link to board members via email to Board members on 2/10/23. Per the request received at last month's Board meeting, please find below link to remarks by Secretary of State Antony Blinken regarding the City's SD Access for All program, including the excerpt highlighted below:

<https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-at-the-united-states-conference-of-mayors-91st-winter-meeting/>

*"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."*

**7. Chollas Lake and Dam**

Response: Public Utilities Department inspects the dam annually, and the community continues to support water-based programming at this inland location. The Parks and Recreation Department fills the reservoir with water to ensure Chollas Lake can provide youth fishing opportunities.

**Future Board Items:** Mr. Field noted the following pending items for future Board meetings:

- "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
- Childcare on dedicated parkland (Measure H 2022/Charter Section 55)
- Chollas Creek Regional Park Master Plan Update
- Constant Contact and Webpage Updates
- DeAnza Natural Environmental Impact Report
- Department of Real Estate and Airports Management Overview including leases
- Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in parks
- Fiesta Island Master Plan Update (information can be found here: <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/parkplanning/fiesta-island>)
- Restroom Condition Assessment and Maintenance
- Tactical Equity Plan Overview

**California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS)**

California Parks and Recreation Society Conference is coming to San Diego in April 2023.

**Board Member Questions of P&R Director:**

- Ms. Bothwell asked about the redistricting, how would this affect the distributing of budgeting of funds when budgeting of funds is by area communities and by council districts. How are you going to keep the consistency of funding using the council districts.? Mr. Field responded that we didn't have extreme number of park changes of redistricting this time, as we saw in 2012. It was at that time that we do some significant realignment and we see no major realignment this time. We didn't see major organizational changes as well. However, we will continue to update paperwork stating with the proposed budget book that is going to be fixed when the Mayor releases that in April. Ms. Bothwell asked if department would continue to use the use the definition of shifting districts. Mr. Field stated yes.
- Mr. Otsuji requested a high-level overview of the coordination that occurs between Parks and Recreation Department, Development Services Department and Planning Department as it relates to the parks system.
- Mr. Becker asked when is the DeAnza's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is coming up? Mr. Field responded that he didn't know. No update at this time. When they are ready, they will come to present to the board.
- Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Field for the General Development Plan notification changes he mentioned. When implemented by Board actions, they will increase the likelihood that issues concerning notification, as presented regarding Montezuma Park, will be eliminated, or significantly reduced. Mr. Smith also commented that Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and Climate Action Plan (CAP) implications for parks when coupled with childcare requirements and other significant initiatives portend significant and strategic shifts in park expectations, funding, and obligations.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**101. Montezuma Neighborhood Park and General Development Plan Amendment**

Presenters: Juliana Grotzinger, Associate Civil Engineer and Project Manager,  
Engineering and Capital Projects Department  
Jeff Justus, Technical Principal, Schmidt Design Group

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 **Montezuma Neighborhood Park General Development Plan Amendment**. The motion was approved 8-0-1 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji, Evelyn Smith, and Pita Verdin. Recused: None. Abstained: René Smith. Not Present: Molly Chase.



Public Comment on Item #101:

<b>Commenter Name:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Susan Richardson	<p>Ms. Richardson, a resident of the College Area, stated that she I am in support of the proposed GDP amendment for Montezuma Park. I urge the Department of Parks and Recreation to fund the design and construction of the park to ensure the park is renovated in a timely manner. I am discouraged, however, on the lack of effort the City to inform the community of the process. The concept designs were created with virtually no public input from area residents. The College Area is severely park deficient and additional (non-school sites) need to be identified for community use. Also, please ensure that a member from District 9/Colina del Sol Community Recreation Group be appointed to the Citywide Parks and Recreation Board so that the citizens of District 9 have representation on all park matters in San Diego.</p>
Andrew Bailey	<p>Mr. Bailey resides on Van Dyke Avenue. He expressed concerns that the soccer users who use Montezuma Park have not been a part of the General Development Plan process. He shared to the Board that there were no notices placed on the site itself. Design seems too busy. He stated a dog off leash area may not make sense since there are plans to have one at Clay Park.</p>
Karen Austin	<p>Ms. Austin has written articles on this project for the local community newspaper (see Attachment 1). Ms. Austin commented that more parks are needed in College Area. However, she noted several concerns: (1) the process did not reach all the community concerns, (2) the Colina del Sol Community Recreation Group (CRG) is not in College Area and thus prevented notification and awareness in the community, (3) some houses next to park and Language Academy did not receive notice of meetings, and (4) design seems to be busy with too many amenities in such a small space.</p>
Danielle Laman	<p>Ms. Laman commented that the College Area is very deficient in park acreage. Active play for kids and dogs at Montezuma Park makes sense.</p>

Board Member Comment on Item #101:

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Mr. Otsuji	Mr. Otsuji appreciated the work on the General Development Plan (GDP) and noted his support.
Mr. Smith	Mr. Smith commented that given the limited parking and the pervasive abuse of parking regulations apparent in the area, he had suggested that time limited parking on the adjoining street be included in the recommendation going forward to the Planning Commission and the City Council.
Mr. Becker	Mr. Becker asked if an onsite posting occur with GDP workshops? Mr. Oliver responded that Council Policy 600-33 was followed, and Engineering and Capital Projects (ECP) Department staff members attended the College Area Planning Group meeting.

- 102. Eastbourne Neighborhood Park General Development Plan**
- 103. Shoal Creek Neighborhood Park General Development Plan**
- 104. Walden Neighborhood Park General Development Plan**

These three items (102, 103, and 104) were heard together with a single staff presentation.

Presenters: Shannon Scoggins, Park Designer, Parks and Recreation Department  
 Rick Barrett, Principal, MIG, Inc.

102. Eastbourne Neighborhood Park General Development Plan

MOVED/SECONDED: Mr. Otsuji/Mr. Gulley

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

103. Shoal Creek Neighborhood Park General Development Plan

MOVED/SECONDED: Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Becker

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

104. Walden Neighborhood Park General Development Plan

MOVED/SECONDED: Mr. Gulley/Mr. Becker

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

Public Comment on Items #102-104:

<b>Commenter Name:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Daniele Laman	Ms. Laman asked for the vote on the general development plans when they were presented to the Carmel Mountain Ranch Sabre Springs Community Planning Group. Staff responded they were approved by a vote of 6-1-0.
Eric Edelman	Mr. Edelman wanted to ensure pedestrian issues at Shoal Creek site are addressed since there is extensive traffic congestion, and kids interact near traffic in the area due to nearby overpass. Ms. Scoggins submitted his request to the Transportation Department's Traffic Engineering Operations Division for evaluation of a non-signalized crossing with flashing beacon.
Andrea O'Hara	Ms. O'Hara suggested inclusive play swings be included in the playgrounds since the parks are close to local elementary schools.

Board Member Comment on Items #102 - 104:

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Mr. Becker	Mr. Becker asked why doesn't loop path at Eastbourne connect to the existing golf cart path? Ms. Scoggins responded that the connection is made at the northwestern corner of the park; otherwise, there is an elevation change between the two pathways that prevent them from meeting at other locations in the park. Mr. Becker also commented that split rail wooden fences deteriorate over time and suggested that they should be made more durable.

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Mr. Smith	<p>Mr. Smith asked if can walk between parks on existing trails? Ms. Scoggins stated yes, there are six miles of trails on private property that connect the public parks.</p> <p>Mr. Smith also expressed concerns with the Recreational Value Points (RVP) calculation. Ms. Scoggins noted this project was entitled prior to adoption of the Parks Master Plan.</p>
Mr. Otsuji	<p>Mr. Otsuji asked if the MIG, Inc. the primary landscape architect? Mr. Otsuji asked to ensure the parks would be integrated into the overall landscape design for the complete project. MIG, Inc. responded it is for the parks only.</p>

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**201. Status of Playground Structure Replacement – Dennis V. Allen Park**  
 Presenter: Gina Dulay, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department

**Public Comment on Item #201:**

<b>Commenter Name:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Daniele Laman	<p>Ms. Laman asked if there an active Community Recreation Group (CRG) for the Mt. Hope area? Ms. Dulay responded that currently there is no CRG for this area.</p>

**Board Member Comment on Item # 201:**

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Ms. Gross	<p>Ms. Gross thanked Ms. Dulay that this item is on the agenda. She asked if the new equipment comparable to what was there before? Ms. Dulay responded yes.</p> <p>Ms. Gross then asked if this takes longer than other parts of the City? Ms. Dulay said no, the supply chain issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic were an issue, and the materials for the playground had to be special ordered.</p>
Mr. Otsuji	<p>Mr. Otsuji asked where is this park located at? Ms. Dulay said it is in the Mt. Hope neighborhood at Gateway Center East, which near the Costco at the southeastern corner of the interchange of Interstate 15 and State Route 94.</p>

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Mr. Smith	Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Dulay for the speedy response to the destruction in the park and the forthcoming General Development Plan (GDP). He also thanked Ms. Dulay for the clarification that it isn't the procedure to necessarily await insurance proceeds distribution before implementing procurement actions.
Mr. Becker	Mr. Becker asked if there are any concerns with the new structure being combustible? Ms. Dulay said yes, it could burn.

**202. Office of Child and Youth Success Overview**

Presenter: Andrea R. O'Hara, Executive Director, Office of Child and Youth Success

**Public Comment on Item # 202: None**

**Board Member Comment on Item # 202:**

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Ms. Gross	Ms. Gross noted the importance and opportunity created by the passage of Measure H related to childcare in parks. She emphasized the need for pilot projects to determine where and how to transition recreation centers into childcare facilities. She noted there is a need to avoid displacing recreation programs to allow for childcare. Childcare facilities should be aligned to be in locations where the actual need exists.
Ms. Verdin	Ms. Verdin agreed with Ms. Gross and wanted to learn more about which recreation centers can accommodate childcare. Staff noted that the process to implement Measure H just began, with additional information coming soon.
Mr. Smith	Mr. Smith thanked Ms. O'Hara for the important work she engaged in. While he does not speak for the Board, he hopes that Ms. O'Hara consider the Board as supportive partner in that endeavor. He commented that Ms. O'Hara heard comments from other Board members about their enthusiastic engagement in this matter. Given the number of U.S. Navy members resident in San Diego, and the U.S. Navy's Fleet and Family Service Centers, Mr. Smith hopes that Ms. O'Hara's work brings her into contact and cooperation with that program.

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
Ms. Bothwell	<p>Ms. Bothwell commented that the Summer All Star Program has similarities to Come Play Outside program under the San Diego Parks Foundation. The Park Ambassador Program helps teach kids how to create resume and learn how to get a job. Ms. O’Hara responded that there is a college readiness and financial aid workshops via Reality Changers. There is a need to connect with those youth not in school. There is also a group called Detour that helps with resume building and interview skills for young women. These might be ways to grow and expand on Come Play Outside. There is a need to reach out specifically to youth who do not have housing or shelter.</p>

**203. Age Friendly San Diego Update**

Presenter: Kristi Fenick, District Manager, Parks and Recreation Department

**Public Comment on Item # 203:** None

**Board Member Comment on Item # 203:**

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
Mr. Smith	<p>Mr. Smith commented that he is a regular recipient of Caitlin Weston’s cheery and information laden emails and thanked Ms. Fenick for the programming work and the outreach. Further, he shared with Ms. Fenick’s enthusiasm for the remarkable 8 80 Cities program led by the remarkable Gil Penalosa. Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages. The AARP has information on Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages available at <a href="https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/tool-kits-resources/info-2018/livable-parks-guide.html">https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/tool-kits-resources/info-2018/livable-parks-guide.html</a>.</p>
Ms. Bothwell	<p>Ms. Bothwell asked if these design guidelines items be a requirement for all general development plan updates, perhaps on a checklist? Ms. Abella-Shon stated that yes, the Department will try to ensure these elements are included using the Design Elements Consultant Design Guidelines as a checklist.</p>
Mr. Otsuji	<p>Mr. Otsuji noted that the checklist used to exist and hopes it can be reinstated.</p>

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Mr. Becker	Mr. Becker asked how would Electric Vehicle (EV) be operated? Mr. Field responded that he could ask Sustainability and Mobility Department to provide an update on the EV charging stations and how they will be integrated into park design for a future Board meeting.

**204. State Grants Update**

Presenter: Ryan Barbrick, Supervising Management Analyst, Parks and Recreation Department

**Public Comment on Item # 204:** None

**Board Member Comment on Item # 204:**

<b>Board Member:</b>	<b>Summary of Comments:</b>
Mr. Gulley	Mr. Gulley asked how does the process work? How does the Department coordinate with the state agencies, elected officials, government affairs, and project lists? Mr. Barbrick responded TBD
Mr. Otsuji	Mr. Otsuji commented that it is great to have Senator Pro Tempore Toni Atkins to help with locating funds and matching them with projects, especially in Balboa Park.
Mr. Smith	Mr. Smith extended his congratulations to the grants team for these stunning achievements. He commented to Ms. Bothwell to propose first a round of applause to Director Field, Supervisor Barbrick and the entire Parks and Recreation Department’s staff for this accomplishment. Second, he proposed that the Board formally acknowledge them for their appreciation in the manner that Ms. Bothwell most consider appropriate.
Ms. Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell commented that grants are a great source of funding for community and neighborhood parks.
Ms. Gross	Ms. Gross agreed with Ms. Bothwell but hopes City will not stop funding parks because the State is providing grant funds. She also asked if the information be placed on a map? Mr. Barbrick said not yet, but perhaps in the future.

**205. City of San Diego Five-Year Capital Outlook**

Presenter: Ryan Barbrick, Supervising Management Analyst, Parks and Recreation Department

Public Comment on Item #205:

Commenter Name:	Summary of Comments:
Daniele Laman	Ms. Laman asked what the distinction is between discretionary and non-discretionary funds? Mr. Field responded that the General Fund has the most opportunity for a wide variety of uses including operations, maintenance, repairs, and capital improvements. Other funds have restrictions, such as limitations for use on capital improvements only or use on specific types of capital improvement projects. As such, development impact fees are listed as nondiscretionary funds since they must be used for a certain type of project and may only be used for capital improvements.
David Moty	Mr. Moty asked what is the timeline for the needs index? Mr. Field stated he didn't know the timeline for the needs index. Mr. Tomlinson stated Planning Department is leading the effort. There will be additional information on this in the coming months.

Board Member Comment on Item # 205:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
Ms. Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell asked how are projects prioritized? Ms. Abella-Shon noted that a number of factors contribute, including community interest, political will, funding availability, project priority score, deferred maintenance need (if an asset cannot function without fixing a particular system within the asset, then it might become more essential to fix). Mr. Field emphasized the importance of scoring from Council Policy 800-14, and Ms. Abella-Shon noted the importance of the condition assessments in identifying needed projects.

**206. Brown Act Training for the Parks and Recreation Board**

Presenter: Jane Boardman, Deputy City Attorney, Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Ms. Boardman presented the training interactively, with the Board members asking questions and seeking clarifications on how to manage meetings and avoid Brown Act violations.

Public Comment on Item # 206: None



**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 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: March 16, 2023**

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Field". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andy Field  
Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

**ATTACHMENT 1**

<https://sdnews.com/new-playground-and-dog-park-proposed-as-montezuma-park-improvements/>

# New playground and dog park proposed as Montezuma Park improvements

by [Karen Austin](#)

February 13, 2023 in [College Times Courier](#), [Top Stories](#)



**UPDATE:** The draft [Montezuma Neighborhood Park GDP Amendment](#) will go before the Parks & Recreation Board during the [PRB meeting](#) on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m.

The only dedicated park in the College Area is receiving much needed attention as part of the City’s draft General Development Plan (GDP) Amendment for Montezuma Neighborhood Park.

Located at 4943 Catoctin Drive, the park was built in 1974 and is documented as being 1.6 acres of open space. It has no amenities common to most neighborhood parks, such as play equipment for children and sport courts.

That should change with proposed upgrades to include separate playgrounds for children 2-5 and 5-12 years of age and off-leash dog enclosures for small and large dogs. Following some initial controversy, these and other design elements were recently approved at the local level and will be reviewed for approval by the City of San Diego Parks & Recreation Board (PRB) during one of its public meetings in early 2023.

With the College Area currently in the process of drafting an update to its 1989 Community Plan, local park space has been a key topic of land use discussion and planning for some time. Especially so, because according to Martin Flores, a Parks Planner for the City’s Planning Department, the College Area has just 6.6% of the parks and amenities it currently deserves. With greater housing density being planned in the College Area through 2050, the demand for meaningful parks space will only grow.

To start addressing the parks deficit, the City contracted with Schmidt Design Group for assistance. Specializing in landscape design, they produced two Montezuma Park design concepts which aimed to better meet the recreational needs of current and future College Area residents.



Understandably, it was a major surprise for the College Area Community Planning Board (CACPB) and members of its Plan Update Committee to learn that the future of their only community park was being discussed without their review or input. Troy Murphree, who is a College Area resident and member of the planning board believes, “it’s really

important that the people who the park is supposed to benefit are involved in making decisions about what they want.”

Park GDPs are supposed to be discussed on the local level by Community Recreation Groups (CRG), which serve in an advisory capacity to City recreation centers and the City’s Parks & Recreation Department. Although eligible with a population of 25, 000 people, the College Area doesn’t have its own recreation center, so Montezuma Neighborhood Park is under the purview of neighboring Colina Del Sol Recreation Center and its CRG.

The two designs were initially presented to the volunteer board of the Colina Del Sol CRG on July 20, 2022. According to Juliana Grotzinger, the City’s project manager assigned to the Montezuma Park GDP, some 20 people attended, including board members and interested others.

It was noted during the meeting that no one from the College Area was on the CRG board and, in fact, no College Area residents appeared to be present for the discussion. With no representation and no input by actual College Area residents, City staff and Schmidt Design Group consultants agreed to better inform and involve locals in the future of their only park before the CRG would make recommendations.

As per City Council Policy 600-33, which establishes guidelines to assure the public has adequate advance notification and opportunity to participate in the input process of projects, the July 20th presentation was repeated during the November 9th in-person meeting of the CACPB.

### **Cursory poll asked meeting attendees three questions**

Kevin Oliver, a project officer with the City’s Engineering and Capital Projects Department, Division of Architectural Engineering and Parks, presented the same two design alternatives to the Planning Board members and others who were present. A cursory poll asked the approximately 20 attendees to raise their hands in response to the following three questions: How often do you visit the park (daily, weekly, few times a month, few times a year, never)? How do you get to the park (walk, bike, drive)? What is your preference for playground equipment (traditional, natural elements like boulders and logs, inclusive components for all abilities)?

The ensuing discussion of the design alternatives focused on issues like the size and location of areas allotted for children and dogs. Safety concerns were brought up about

co-locating these distinctly different uses in close proximity to each other, with specific attention to whether pathways could be provided separately for people and dogs. In a show of hands, the board was split about 50-50 on whether to forgo the dog parks and stick to kids and open space.

Daniele Laman, vice-chair of the CRG, was present and shared that Clay Neighborhood Park, just south of El Cajon Boulevard, is slated to get a dog park.

For more than 20 years Laman has served on both the Chollas Lake and Colina Del Sol CRGs and has been on the board of the Chollas Lake Little League since 1998. Laman believes her experience and decades-long commitment to local parks planning and programming makes her an ideal candidate to serve on the Citywide PRB. When asked about this opportunity she said, "I'd like to serve on the Parks & Rec Board because there hasn't been any 9th District (City Council) representation for the 10 years it's (the district) been in existence."

Other points of discussion during the CACPB meeting included the number of trees expected to be lost to construction, specific landscape details including seating, picnic tables and shade structures, the need for a bathroom, need for safety measures along the street, and how to incorporate the drainage swale at the back of the park into a usable space.

Ultimately, the Planning Board voted not to support either of the two alternatives. Instead, the board requested that feedback given during the CACPB meeting be factored into a revised design concept to be presented at the CRG's hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting on Nov. 16. The CACPB also voted to request member Troy Murphree represent them on the Colina Del Sol CRG, given concerns that College Area representation was non-existent.

Residents within 300 feet of Montezuma Park were notified of this scheduled meeting and were informed that the CRG would once again discuss the future of the park. It should be noted that the City's General Plan Recreation Element, defines "neighborhood parks" as intending to serve 5,000 residents and ideally, should have 3 to 13 usable acres with play areas, multi-purpose fields, multi-purpose courts, and other amenities. With only one very small designated City park to serve a College Area population of 25,000 people, only those within 300 feet were informed of the opportunity to discuss park improvements. Most of the residents within the entire service area of 1,970 acres have

not been made aware of the proceedings.

### **Revised design concept presented based on community feedback**

Jeff Justus, head of production for Schmidt Design Group, was the lead presenter during the Nov. 16, 2022 CRG meeting. He presented a revised design concept based on feedback from the approximately 20 people who attended the CACPB meeting. The new design incorporated suggestions to blend traditional play structures and natural elements, maintain some turf area, add fencing to keep kids and play toys from going into the street, as well as lattice structures for shade, picnic tables, new lighting, and a gender-neutral bathroom facility.

Click here (<https://www.collegearea.org/montezuma-park-community-meeting>) to review the presentation slides and conceptual designs, including layout, plant materials and other features.

In response to previously discussed risks associated with young children and dogs playing in the same area, Justus stated, “It’s a small park, so we really weren’t able to put two different walkways in two different locations. We didn’t feel it was appropriate to create a caged-in walkway just for the dogs to get to the back portion of the play area . . .” No separate walkways were incorporated into to new design.

Sue Richardson is a College Area resident who, along with Murphree, will help represent the College Area community on the CRG. She was appointed on Nov. 16, after attending three consecutive meetings. Reflecting on the presentation she heard that night, she stated, “I appreciate that the City took the input given during the CACPB meeting into consideration and it was reflected in the new draft concept. The Montezuma Park renovation will be a great asset for the community, but the College Area still needs more usable parks to reduce our significant parks deficit.”

At the end of the discussion that evening, Chairperson Sidney Michael moved that the design proposal be adopted as presented. According to Lacy Bradshaw, director of the Colina Del Sol Recreation Center, the motion passed. At some point, 21 participants were noted on Zoom. According to Bradshaw, “Records show ten people signed into the meeting (in person). There are 13 board members, 7 of them were in attendance and 6 of them voted yes and the 7th (the chairperson) does not get a vote.”

In terms of next steps, Grotzinger said, “We are working to present to PRB in early 2023, aiming for February or March. Upon approval from the board, it will depend on the asset

owner, Parks & Recreation Department, to allocate enough funds to continue the design from 30% (funding) to final CDs (conceptual designs) and to award a construction contract.”

Residents who want to take part in the City’s public hearing about Montezuma Park will be able to find PRB meeting agendas, parks information and documents at: [sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation](https://sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation).

College Area residents are welcome to attend Colina Del Sol CRG meetings, which are held every other month (the odd numbered months), on the third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on Jan. 18, 2023. The in-person location is 5319 Orange Avenue. To attend by Zoom contact Lacy Bradshaw at [lbradshaw@sandiego.gov](mailto:lbradshaw@sandiego.gov).

For information and the meeting schedule of the CACPB go to: [sandiego.gov/planning/community-plans/college-area/planning-group](https://sandiego.gov/planning/community-plans/college-area/planning-group).

For the College Area Community Plan Update Committee go to: [plancollegearea.org](https://plancollegearea.org).

*Karen Austin is a College Area resident and member of the College Area Community Council.*