

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

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

Meeting Held by In Person and Teleconference:

This meeting was held at the 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 Jon Becker- In-Person Marcella Bothwell (Chair) – In-Person Shaina Gross – Virtual Rick Gulley- In-Person Dennis Otsuji (Vice Chair) – In-Person Evelyn Smith – Virtual René Smith – In-Person Pita Verdin – In-Person	Molly Chase	Andy Field – In-Person Louis Merlin – Virtual Ryan Barbrick – In-Person Tyler Canales – In-Person Steve Palle – In-Person Sarah Erazo –In-Person Salome Martinez – In-Person Karen Dennison – Virtual Sameera Rao - Virtual Michelle Abella-Shon - In-Person Gabby Verendia – In-Person Elvi Ricafort – In-Person

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcella Bothwell at 2:07 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2023

MOTION/SECONDED:

Mr. Gulley/Mr. Anastasopoulos

A motion was made by Mr. Gulley and seconded by Mr. Anastasopoulos to approve the February 16, 2023, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes. 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:

Commenter Name:	Summary of Comments:
Eduardo Sambugaro	Mr. Sambugaro stated that the San Diego Beach Tennis Group would like to be able to install, maintain, promote, and make available at least two beach tennis posts in a San Diego Park or Mission Bay Park at no cost to the City of San Diego. Additional information on their proposal may be found here: https://www.sandiego.gov/system/files/webform/obc-public-comments/bt_proposal.pdf?sandread=afab4c1ca65ec0af
Daniele Laman	Ms. Laman noted her concerns with the efforts to improve Clay Neighborhood Park, noting that the General Development Plan approved by the Colina del Sol Community Recreation Group has been impacted by a stakeholder making a competing opinion, which will result in late changes to certain park design elements. She then asked for an update on the status of the proposed Portia Dawson naming at the North Chollas Community Park comfort station. Finally, she noted that there is a proposal to rename Clay Elementary School and asked how that will impact the naming of nearby Clay Neighborhood Park.

Board Member Comment:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
René Smith	Mr. Smith commented that Mayor Gloria will release the proposed budget next month, and the Board should dedicate resources to review of the budget at next month's meeting.
Pita Verdin	Ms. Verdin commented that she arrived late due to issues with the meeting location. She wanted to note her vote of yes for last month's meeting minutes. She is glad to finally meet in person at Balboa Park.

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 noted the committee had a combined meeting with Community Parks II. They discussed the Opportunity Fund, which is on the agenda for today’s Board meeting.
Area Committee Community Parks II	Mr. Smith confirmed what Mr. Otsuji stated.
Balboa Park Committee	Ms. Chase was absent, so there was no report.
Mission Trails Citizens Advisory Committee	Mr. Gulley reported the following topics were discussed: West Sycamore Staging Area Design Review, SDG&E wood to steel pole replacement, San Diego River Crossing Project continues forward, City of Santee Mesa Road Project, Oak Road improvement project, Stowe trail status report, and Old Mission Dam Dredging project.

SAN DIEGO PARKS FOUNDATION (SDPF) UPDATE:

Chair Bothwell shared the following updates:

Topic:	Update:
San Diego Parks Foundation	Ms. Bothwell shared that the Parks Foundation’s new calendar has updates with numerous events happening all over the park system. With spring break coming, egg hunts will be scheduled at recreation centers.

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 to the Parks and Recreation Board

- There continues to be 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 to 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.

Budget Update

The Department is currently preparing its Fiscal Year 2024 budget submission, and the Mayor will release the proposed budget on April 14, 2023

Employee of the Second Quarter, Fiscal Year 2023

- **John Brosnan**, Golf Operations Assistant, who responded quickly to rescuing an abandoned baby that was left in a stroller at Mission Bay Golf Course late one night.
- **Frank McCollister**, Recreation Specialist, who took the lead to chair a three-day interview panel which led to the hiring of ten employees and displayed excellent customer service by improving golfers' buying experiences in the golf shop.
- **Shannon Scoggins**, Park Designer, who serves as the department's joint use coordinator has updated 32 joint use agreements recently and working on updating 30 more, all while implementing the City's Parks Master Plan policies.
- **Minu Villa**, Pesticide Applicator, was a key component on the building of components for a truck to handle spray applications for odor control with sea lions and birds and to accommodate spraying at the Balboa Park rose garden.
- **Kristin Hunter-Behbahani**, Greenskeeper, had incredible work ethic and paid attention to detail after being sent to Torrey Pines Golf Course for fall/winter renovations and overseeding.
- **Walter Heyward**, Grounds Maintenance Worker II, who regularly volunteers for District-wide cleanups, stripped and waxed floors at a recreation center and received praise from the County for excellent customer service during a Monkey-pox vaccination site.
- **Javier Ramirez**, Recreation Aide, who directed winter break camps, coached two flag football teams, setup football fields and refereed many games while assisting the Sports League Director.
- **Gregory Monroe**, Recreation Leader I, who worked effectively with user groups and patrons and was instrumental in the youth flag football program.
- **Gilbert Herrera**, Park Ranger Aide, who supervises an Urban Corps crew that removed nearly ten tons of trash from Market Creek Canyon and offers his patron contacts with high levels of respect regarding street vending and homelessness.

Ongoing General Development Plan Workshops:

- Allied Gardens Community Park (Dog Off Leash Area)
- Chollas Triangle Park GDP Development P20005
- Clay Neighborhood Park GDP Amendment (Dog Off Leash Area)
- Emerald Hills Community Park GDP Amendment P20003

- Grape Street Dog Park GDP Amendment P23001
- Kelly Street Park GDP Amendment P22004
- Lake Murray Community Park Sportsfield Lighting GDP Amendment
- Marie Widman GDP Amendment
- Montezuma Park GDP Amendment P21002
- Sefton Field Improvements GDP Development P23006
- South Shores GDP Development B20130
- Sunshine Berardini Field GDP Development P22006
- Willie Henderson Sports Complex GDP Amendment B20096

City Career Fair

The City is holding a career fair on March 22, 2023, at 11 a.m. at the Balboa Park Club.

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

- “101” Introduction to Park Board Workshop, including:
 - Board Policies Review
 - Department Overview Presentation
- Animal Services/Dog Off Leash Update from SD Humane Society
- Childcare on dedicated parkland (Measure H 2022/Charter Section 55)
- Chollas Creek Regional Park Master Plan Update
- Community and Neighborhood Services Committee Work Plan Update
- Constant Contact
- DeAnza Natural Environmental Impact Report (this will be heard at the April 20, 2023, meeting)
- Department of Real Estate and Airports Management Overview including leases
- Fiesta Island Master Plan Update (information can be found here: <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/parkplanning/fiesta-island>)
- Pickleball and Tennis Update from Advocate Groups (this will be heard in June)
- Restroom Condition Assessment and Maintenance

California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS)

The California Parks and Recreation Society Conference is in San Diego in early April 2023.

Board Member Questions of P&R Director:

- Mr. Smith asked how the Parks and Recreation Department responds to non-agenda public comment raised in the Parks and Recreation Board meetings. Does use of the Get It Done app help? Mr. Field responded that a maintenance referral in Get It Done helps add the maintenance need onto staff workload. For matters of policy or recreation programs, the Director will try to respond at the current or following meeting during the Directors Report segment. Park staff can also connect with commenters during or after the meeting.
- Mr. Otsuji asked what happened at the last Balboa Park Committee meeting. Is there any news on the proposal to add a homeless shelter and camp at Inspiration Point? Mr. Field responded that a main agenda item earlier this month was related to Balboa Drive reconfiguration, which will be heard next week at a special meeting over concerns with proper noticing and prior

availability of the meeting reports. As for Inspiration Point, the proposed shelter/camp is under discussion for feasibility as noted in the recent San Diego Union-Tribune article, but no decision on whether to proceed has been made.

ACTION ITEMS:

101. Naming of McGonigle Canyon Neighborhood Park to Solterra Vista Neighborhood Park
Presenter: Tyler Canales, District Manager, Parks and Recreation

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 renaming of McGonigle Canyon Neighborhood Park to Solterra Vista Neighborhood Park. 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, Evelyn Smith, René Smith, and Pita Verdin. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Molly Chase.

Public Comment on Item #101: None

Board Comment on Item #101: None

102. Opportunity Fund Council Policy
Presenters: Sarah Erazo, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Salome Martinez, Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department

MOVED/SECONDED: Ms. Verdin/Mr. Gulley

A motion was made by Ms. Verdin and seconded by Mr. Gulley to approve the staff recommendation for the Opportunity Fund Council Policy. 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, Evelyn Smith, René Smith, and Pita Verdin. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Molly Chase.

Public Comment on Item #102:

Commenter Name:	Summary of Comments:
Michel Anderson	Mr. Anderson, Chair of the San Diego Parks Foundation, noted the mission of the Parks Foundation, which has been working on matters of recreation equity over the past four years. He noted that the Opportunity Fund has several challenges such as outdated census information, difficulty hiring staff, high demands on City staff, and numerous competing work efforts. Mr. Anderson noted the Parks Foundation supports the Opportunity Fund and is grateful for staff efforts to respond to all questions raised by board members.

Sally Smull	Ms. Smull asked which Climate Equity Index was used, 2019 or 2021. She stated that the Encanto Recreation Center had three different directors, which also resulted in challenges spending funds since there was not continuity with staffing. Ms. Martinez responded that staff used the 2019 index, and she also noted that the funds raised in the Encanto area will be able to use those funds this year and in future years until they are spent.
Danielle Laman	Ms. Laman asked what the outcome was at the Community and Neighborhood Services Committee this afternoon. Ms. Erazo stated that the committee voted in favor of the item.

Board Member Comment on Item #102:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
Jon Becker	Mr. Becker asked about whether the Opportunity Funds can be used for maintenance and capital projects. Ms. Martinez stated that the focus is on recreation programs but can be used for maintenance and repairs. Mr. Becker then asked about the County role in funding the Come Play Outside program after 2021. Ms. Erazo stated that two County funding sources were involved. In 2021, it was for Come Play Outside and in 2022, it was for Parks After Dark.
René Smith	Mr. Smith asked why the Opportunity Fund changed from \$1 million to \$500,000 and asked whether the Recreation Center Funds could receive funding for other places in addition to the Opportunity Fund. Mr. Field responded that the Opportunity Fund 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.
Marcella Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell asked if there will be transparency associated with the use of the Opportunity Fund so that Community Recreation Groups and stakeholder groups can be empowered to make better proposals so that they compete better for their programs and activities. Ms. Martinez responded that yes, they can receive that feedback from the evaluation committee and staff.
Dennis Otsuji	Mr. Otsuji asked whether capital projects can be funded by Opportunity Fund. He also asked if there will be annual review of the policy to see if

	it is effective and working as intended.
Marcella Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell asked if the information will be updated such as most recent Climate Equity Index. Ms. Martinez stated yes, that is correct.
Pita Verdin	Ms. Verdin commended staff for a good presentation and hard work on bringing this matter forward for Board consideration.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 201. Equity Forward – Community Engagement Process on the City’s Capital Improvements Program Budget, Capital Funding Sources, and Needs Assessment**
Presenter: Sameera Rao, Assistant Deputy Director, Planning Department

Public Comment on Item #201: None

Board Member Comment on Item #201:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
René Smith	Mr. Smith asked if the Board heard an update on Council Policy (CP) 800-14 and 000-32. Mr. Field responded it did not, but it would eventually hear an item on making CP 600-33 compliant with CP 000-32. Mr. Smith asked Ms. Rao to return to the Board with updates on the process as Equity Forward continues. He asked about the Budget Equity Guide and how it relates to the Equity Forward initiative. Ms. Rao stated that she will get back to the Board with an answer. Mr. Smith requested comments received in the Equity Forward presentations be provided in granular format to the Board in the interest of open information and sharing. Mr. Smith noted that the term “world class” was removed from CP 800-14 and believes this tends to reduce the focus on making San Diego America’s Finest City. Mr. Smith asked if the strategies outlined in CP 800-14 used to create the five-year capital outlook for each asset category. Mr. Smith asked when the Engineering and Capital Projects biannual report is going to be released. Ms. Rao stated she would get back to the Board on this.
Marcella Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell went to the webpage and noted DeAnza Natural is getting so much attention now, but she asked when other planning initiatives will be developed and used. Ms. Rao stated that the seven categories are posted on the webpage but many of them are not fully built out. This development will continue in the weeks and months to come.

Dennis Otsuji	Mr. Otsuji recalled when the delivery of projects and planning were within the Parks and Recreation Department. Today he believes the current delivery method does not work given many areas were split between several departments. He suggested the Equity Forward should consider these organizational issues and ensure they are looking at the best possible project delivery method.
René Smith	Mr. Smith asked Mr. Otsuji if he wanted a report on this matter. Mr. Otsuji stated no, there is no need for a specific report other than to factor these concerns into future reports.
Marcella Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell noted that community planning updates and equity are so important and intertwined. She requested a response from the Planning Director Ms. Vonblum regarding the Mira Mesa Community Plan Update Process. Ms. Rao indicated she would respond back to the Board via email. Subsequent to the meeting, Ms. Vonblum sent a letter to the Board, and that letter is attached to the meeting minutes.

202. Parks and Recreation Department Tactical Equity Plan
Presenter: Andy Field, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Public Comment on Item #202: None

Board Member Comment on Item #202:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
René Smith	Mr. Smith noted that the <i>San Diego Union-Tribune</i> had reported on Get It Done numbers and saw the lower number of outstanding reports for Parks and Recreation Department.

203. Parks and Recreation Department Webpage Updates
Presenter: Louis Merlin, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Public Comment on Item #203: None

Board Member Comment on Item #203:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
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Dennis Otsuji	Mr. Otsuji noted that the division profile for Developed Regional Parks is missing the San Diego Zoo. Mr. Field stated that would be corrected and appreciates hearing any errors or omissions.
Marcella Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell appreciates the webpage updates and finds them very clear when trying to find appropriate staff to assist with various issues in the park system.

204. Parks and Recreation Board Bylaws Update
Presenter: Marcella Bothwell, Chair, Parks and Recreation Board

Public Comment on Item #204:

Commenter Name:	Summary of Comments:
Danielle Laman	Ms. Laman asked about updates for CP 700-42 (community recreation groups) and whether that will be a future ad-hoc subcommittee. Ms. Laman asked for open space and joint use to be included in the bylaws

Board Member Comment on Item #204:

Board Member:	Summary of Comments:
Dennis Otsuji	Mr. Otsuji appreciates the ideas raised in the presentation about the bylaws. He noted one of his roles on Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Board is to help bring awareness to communities and neighborhoods park issues that do not get much attention. The goal is to get information out to the community as frequently as possible. The prior design review committee had representation from outside of the Board, so the rules have changed.
Marcella Bothwell	Ms. Bothwell asked the Board whether design review would be helpful to create using existing Board members.
Jon Becker	Mr. Becker noted that ad-hoc meetings might be a better way to address larger park design issues such as master plan amendments and general development plans.

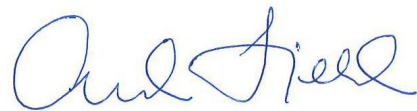
Dennis Otsuji	<p>Mr. Otsuji and Mr. Becker both agreed a design review committee could be beneficial.</p> <p>As an example of an ad hoc committee, Mr. Otsuji, and former board member Vicki Granowitz both were part of the DeAnza subcommittee representing the Parks and Recreation Board.</p>
Marcella Bothwell	<p>Ms. Bothwell asked Mr. Otsuji what the design review committee would do. Mr. Otsuji noted that Balboa Park was commonly reviewed by the former design review committee.</p>
René Smith	<p>Mr. Smith wrote an opinion piece about Balboa Park Design Review Committee several years ago and wondered about pending projects in Balboa Park, such as Balboa Drive, Museum of Art West Wing remodel, and Park Boulevard mobility improvements. Mr. Smith supports restoring a park design review committee and leaving it in the bylaws. Mr. Smith asked if Balboa Park Committee (BPC) bylaws could also be updated in a manner similar to Parks and Recreation Board bylaws. Ms. Bothwell responded that Mr. Smith can check the bylaws of the Balboa Park Committee.</p>

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 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: April 20, 2023

Submitted by,



Andy Field
Director
Parks and Recreation Department