

MINUTES

**City of San Diego Office of Boards and Commissions
Parks and Recreation Department
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
De Anza Natural Plan Ad Hoc Committee
June 27, 2023**

Meeting Location

Paradise Point Resort
(Mission Bay Park)
1404 Vacation Road
San Diego, CA 92109

Mailing Address:

Balboa Park
Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jon Becker
Marcella Bothwell
Jim Gross
Rick Gulley
Jeff Johnson – arrived @ 6:08pm
Judith Munoz
Rene Smith

Guests

Kurt Carlson
Bill Evans
Rebekah Loveless
Deborah Knight
Charlie Nieto

City Staff Present

Mike Rodrigues
Gabriela Verendia
Scott Sandel
Kelley Stanco

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson M. Bothwell called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – May 23rd, June 13th and June 20th

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by J. Munoz and seconded by J. Becker to approve the May 23, 2023, June 13, 2023 and June 20, 2023 De Anza Natural Plan Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes as written. The motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstention (R. Smith)

CHAIRPERSON REPORT – no report

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Tommy Hough supports Re-Wild Mission Bay. He commented that the draft EIR lacks data related to sea level rise. He would like to see details of what the wetlands will do to protect the shoreline and clean water. He agrees with the balance in recreation between and environment

Sandy Vissman with US Fish & Wildlife Service would like to see restored habitat to protect fish and wildlife. Draft EIR lacks detail on impacts of sea level rise. Improve water

quality and support Re-Wild.

Andrew Meyer with SD Audubon shared water quality letters and commented that the sea level rise analysis is not acceptable. He advocates for recreational uses and environmental wetlands at De Anza Cove

Scott Chipman commented on his Mission Bay Gateway Plan which provides balance between recreation and wetlands

George Heatherington with Environmental Center of San Diego thanks the committee for allowing this inclusive forum but there are still many unanswered questions for the planning Department. He is looking for better land use options

John Heatherington with Environmental Center of San Diego would like to see better public access and encourages the committee to reject the plan as presented

Grant Williams advocates use of parkland for park use. Marshland brings birds that create pollution. Leave the park alone, as is

Scott Andrews with Save our Access stated that the City ruined the bay and does not test the water for quality. He wants safe and clean water

Phillip Musegans with San Diego Coastkeeper supports SD Audubon's Re-Wild initiative which balances wetland restoration with active recreation uses

Billy Paul with Friends of Rose Creek supports bringing back the wetlands

Isabelle Kay with Kendall Frost Marsh Reserve stated that the City destroyed the wetlands for recreation uses and would like to see maximum wetland restoration

Rover Bernhard emphasized that climate change is now and wetlands are our future. It is only going to get worse unless we do something to restore the wetlands

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Rebekah Loveless with Renascence Inc. Native American provided history of thriving wetlands pre 1950s with fresh water providing thriving communities. She recommends getting back to the natural cultural habitat that the Kumeyaay community once had. Build the water shed and restore the native community providing eco-tourism education. Tully boats once used Mission Bay Park

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Rene Smith agrees with rebuilding the community

202. Charlie Nieto with Pacific Beach Town Council provided a community perspective and commented on the importance of the youth sports fields for active recreation. He added that additional housing will bring more residents into the community and there will be a greater need for more recreation opportunities. Adding back six acres to the recreation fields is a start.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Rene Smith asked what is the PB Town Council's position on this topic? Mr. Nieto responded stating that most residents of PB support wetlands but do not want to see a decrease in recreational opportunities on the fields and courts. Most oppose the buffer zone that decreases active recreation uses

Marcella Bothwell added that Pacific Beach is lacking 60 acres of park land

203. Community Recreation Group-presenter, Felix Goodson – no show

204. Bill Evans with Mission Bay Lessee Association thanked and appreciated the Committee for their efforts. Hotels, marinas, resorts and other leases in Mission Bay Park generate \$60M in revenue for the City plus property taxes employing thousands of residents. De Anza Cove was not included in the overall Mission Bay Master Plan. He questioned the cost to restore wetlands and requested a water quality analysis. How do wetlands enhance water quality? There needs to be a study. The City needs to research the outcomes vs. loss of revenues. California Coastal Commission will question any loss of affordable lodging. Campland on the Bay provides affordable overnight accommodations

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Judith Munoz questioned the loss of revenue at De Anza Cove

Jon Becker commented that a lot of Mission Bay is State land

Rene Smith requested a copy of the Draft PEIR and MBP Master Plan

205. Kurt Carlson with San Diego Municipal Golf Committee, a citizens advisory group for Municipal Golf, stated Mission Bay Golf Course is a "course for all" that attracts over 150K participants annually. The new clubhouse and pro shop will enhance the facilities. MB Golf Course is affordable, utilizing 46 acres with some par 4s and lights for night golf. They serve adults and juniors, provide camps and instruction generating revenue for the City. Twenty High School Golf teams utilize the course. There are environmental benefits from golf courses.

Tony Brooks with Lion Golf Academy hosts juniors' programs at Mission Bay Golf Course using golf to bridge the lessons of life. There are many benefits of golf and Mission Bay Course is very important in developing children

Aaron with La Jolla High School Golf Team stated that Mission Bay Golf Course provides a location for students to play competitive golf

Nikki with So, Cal PGA supports MBGC for its unique opportunities providing social and economic community benefits

Curtis with ProKids youth golf stated that MBGC is a pipeline for golf opportunities providing affordable access to the sport of golf

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ann Dynes, former Chair of SD Municipal Golf Committee and President of La Jolla Parks and Beaches recommends looking for an alternate location of Mission Bay to restore wetlands. Mission Bay Park is a regional asset and populations in Pacific Beach will increase in time. MBGC is a pipeline for golfers

Nancy Davis, President of MB Women's Golf Club stated the golf course provides seniors a place to exercise and make friends. Do not reduce the golf course please

Shirly Rehkopf and Carolyn Allen with the MB Women's Golf Club supports the opportunities the golf course provides, leave the golf course as it is

Scott Chipman stated that the Gateway Plan supports the golf course. It is a useful open space with youth access. Marshland does not provide access

Kevin Fitzgerald with So. Cal Golf Association supports the golf community and is grateful to the City of San Diego for providing and maintaining the golf course. There needs to be a balance of uses of De Anza Cove

Gloria Henson is an avid golfer that opposes the Gateway Plan in regard to the golf course plan. Keep the youth fields and golf course as is, no one should lose facilities

Treasa Skiles loves golf and opposes any change to the golf course

Robert Kennedy is in favor of keeping the golf course as is

Barbara Williams with MB Women's Golf Club recommends maintaining the present configuration of Mission Bay Golf course

Al Bruton a long time resident has played the Mission Bay Golf Course since the 40s, there is value to the golf course

Billy Paul stated that golf is not an aquatic sport and doesn't need to be in the coastal zone. It is a waste of space and recommends closing the golf course

Holly Kennedy with San Diego Junior Golf supports the golf course

Julia Grant submitted a web comment supporting the footprint of Mission Bay Golf course. Municipal golf courses like MBGC are both affordable and accessible for golfers of all income and skill levels

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Jon Becker asked the Golf Community how they stand on the De Anza Natural Plan as presented

Kurt Carlson responded stating "don't touch the golf course" it provides opportunities and makes money

Rene Smith asked if golf community has written a letter regarding the PEIR and the proposed pathway which encroaches to golf and fields

206. Deborah Knight Friends of Rose Canyon - Rose Creek Watershed: The Main Freshwater Tributary of Mission Bay shared a watershed map of Rose Canyon. Her organization supports the "wildest" option. Storm drains drain into Mission Bay from the canyons. She supports wetlands to aid in water quality

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Jeff Johnson stated the goal is to increase water quality. He asked about pollutants entering the storm drains from the canyons and if infrastructures can be built up creek to filter contaminants before entering Mission Bay. He stated that there is a lack of infrastructure in the canyons to mitigate poor water quality in Mission Bay

Marcella Bothwell feels that a hydrology report would be helpful

Jon Becker also asked about lack of stormwater BMPs, on-going siltation and requested a hydrology report

Kelly Stanco with Planning Department stated that a hydrology report would most like come during the General Development Plan process along with sea level rise analysis and Environment Impact Report

COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION

Rene Smith asked Planning about obtaining an extension for the recommendations to

obtain requested environmental documents. Kelly Stanco stated that an extension is not possible. Marcella Bothwell feels there is a severe lapse in data

It was agreed by the committee members to hold one more ad hoc committee meeting prior to July 11th to come up with a viable recommendation to the Mission Bay Park Committee and Parks and Recreation Board.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair, M. Bothwell adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Notice of Next Meeting: Thursday, July 6, 2023

Respectfully Submitted, *Mike Rodrigues*, District Manager, Mission Bay Park