

**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 #5  
July 6, 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  
Judith Munoz  
Rene Smith

**Guests**

Rick Gulley

**City Staff Present**

Mike Rodrigues  
Gabriela Verendia  
Scott Sandel  
Kelley Stanco  
Christina Chadwick

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson M. Bothwell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – June 27, 2023

Corrections: Under Item 204, Rene Smith asked if MB Lessees had provided a response on the DPEIR and, if so if we could have a copy. Bill Evans stated they did, and it would be provided

Under Item 205. Rene Smith asked the SD Municipal Golf Committee if they wrote a letter to the city regarding the proposed pathway encroachments to the golf course and fields. If so, he requested a copy of the letter

**MOTION:    MOVED/SECONDED**

A motion was made by R. Smith and seconded by J. Gross to approve the June 27, 2023 De Anza Natural Plan Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes as corrected. The motion carried 6-0

**CHAIRPERSON REPORT** – Chair Bothwell announced the “Parks after Dark” program will be returning this summer 2023 starting July 6 thru August 26 every Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at City Heights Rec Center, Dolores Magdaleno Rec Center, Linda Vista Rec Center and Skyline Hills Rec Center

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS**

Carolyn Allen representing Mission Bay Women's Golf Club would like to see affordable golf continue at Mission Bay Golf Course

Mark Broido supports the "wildest" option

Dan McKirnan with Environmental Health Coalition supports the "wildest" option. South Shores landfill is full of toxins and needs to be cleaned up and repurposed for RVs

Lance Jefferson is a Crown Point resident that supports expanded wetlands. Save golf and the playing fields

Gwendolyn Dick with Re-Wild supports the "wildest" option for better water quality

Chuck Dunning provided some clarifications to wetlands studies. It takes 6 hours of tidal flow to clean water

Billy Paul commented about poor speaker slip access

Liza Butler with Silver Strand, Coronado stated wetlands restoration requires careful planning and she is watching for the outcome

Lori Saldana commented that the MB RV Resort is blocking public access to the beach areas

Nancy Davis with Women's Golf is disappointed to see the re-wild plan flooding the golf course

Cristina Santa Maria promotes habitat and recreation. Many speakers are not water quality experts, protect the wetlands

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**201.** Scott Sandel and Kelly Stanco with Park Planning Department thanked Jim Gross from Paradise Point Resort for hosting these workshops and everyone that participated. Scott and Kelly provided a very comprehensive overview and summary of the "revised" De Anza Natural Amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Report. The timeline and project schedule were also shared. The proposed plan will visit Mission Bay Park Committee on July 11 and Parks and Recreation Board on July 20. Final report is due August 31 with a visit to Planning Commission in October and City Council Committee in the Fall

**COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Rene Smith recommends waiting until August for the both the Mission Bay Park Committee and Park Board to visit this item since it is lacking the PEIR and other vital information

Judith Munoz thanked Park Planning for providing a balanced plan

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Billy Paul agrees that a PEIR is needed to make an informed decision

Craig Kessler with Southern California Golf Association supports active recreation and municipal golf in San Diego

Lori Saldana is concerned about public access compliance citing violations of the Coastal Act. Not waiting for the PEIR leads to potential litigation

Brian Niznik with MB Boat & Ski Club has questions about the Boat & Ski Club move to South Shores. The plans must be tied together to avoid disruption and impact. Is South Shores safe for development

Isabelle Kay commented about the process and need for comprehensive planning. There are no guarantee wetlands will solve the water quality concerns

Dean Ranger thanked the Board Members. Protect precious resources, supporter of Re-Wild plan

Jim Peugh for better water quality, support the “wildest” plan. Wetlands restoration can lead to nature based recreation

Scott Chipman supports a balance between recreation and wetlands. This plan lacks detail and water testing reports

Joanna Hirst with PB Tennis Club commented that increased density and population in this area will require more recreation opportunities, not less

Dan McKirnan is concerned about toxins at the old landfill South Shores

Lilian Barnes is an advocate for maximum wetlands restoration

Lesley Harda supports maximum wetlands restoration to address sea level rise and loss of bird species

**ACTION:**

301. De Anza Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation to Mission Bay Park Committee and Parks and Recreation Board concerning De Anza Natural Mission Bay Park Master Plan Amendment

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Marcella Bothwell stated that there are many unanswered questions, such as:

- Water Quality study
- Re-locating the MB Boat & Ski Club and potential toxins at the old landfill
- Lack of Hydrology Report and studies of Rose Creek
- Carbon sequestration studies
- Sea Level Rise studies
- Concerns about the buffer at Rose Creek and impacts to golf and fields
- Motorized watercraft operations within the reserve with narrow channel
- Fishing impacts
- Need for ecotourism study
- Economic revenues - costs vs loss of MB Lessee revenue
- Lack of sustainability studies – construction costs and ongoing maintenance costs

Jeff Johnson shared many concerns he has regarding this proposed plan with lack of reports and studies, especially the lack of PEIR. Where is the data. He feels pushed to rush this process. He noted that here is a massive plan at North Fiesta Island to add wetlands to meet the goals

Jim Gross thanked everyone for participating in the public input process and he learned a lot about expanding the wetlands. His primary concern is improving poor water quality of Mission Bay. He believes there is room for both recreation and wetlands restoration at De Anza Cove

Rene Smith stated this plan lacks the draft EIR to address water quality. He would like to see alternatives to include information from Fish and Wildlife, CEQA comments and Regional Water Quality Board reports. He asked if a potential hotel is being considered for this area

Judith Munoz understands this is a very conceptual plan with details coming during the General Development Plan process. Sea Level Rise is real and could benefit from more wetlands. There needs to be a balance between water quality improvements and active recreation

Jon Becker learned a lot and agreed the plan lacks details. He is concerned about lack of hydrology report, loss of Boat & Ski Club and future increased density/population. He appreciates working with all stakeholders

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by J. Johnson and seconded by J. Becker **to not recommend** the De Anza Natural Mission Bay Park Master Plan Amendment AND the DPEIR as presented by Planning Department to Mission Bay Park Committee and Parks and Recreation Board.

Chair Bothwell recommended adding the following reasons:

- A formal environmental analysis has not been completed
- Based on lack of testing studies:
- Water Quality Report including the current status of both De Anza and the upstream pollutants. The analysis should include the potential solutions to the water quality problem
- Hydrology Report including a sediment study from upstream sources and the ongoing maintenance required for routine channel dredging to improve water circulation
- Sea Level Rise Analysis including analysis of how adaption strategies could be implemented
- Economic and Fiscal Analysis including the upside of potential eco-tourism verses the loss of Mission Bay lessee revenue. The Analysis should include both capital and maintenance costs of the selected plan and alternatives.
- Analysis of the feasibility of utilizing the South Shores as a viable placement for recreation activities (including the Ski club) recognizing the limitations based on the history of the toxic waste of the landfill.

Rene Smith added:

Need for analysis for alternatives to the De Anza Natural Plan such as Wetlands Optimized Alternative recommended by the RWQC

- Need to weigh De Anza Natural Plan and its alternatives against the relevant policies within the City of San Diego Parks Master Plan
- Regarding CEQA, the plans do not appear to address the concerns raised by the CADFW

Jeff Johnson and Jon Becker agreed to the recommended revisions to the motion from both Marcella Bothwell and Rene Smith.

**The Motion carried 4-2** with J. Johnson, R. Smith, J. Becker and M. Bothwell voting YES and J. Gross and J. Munoz voting NO

**ADJOURNMENT** – Chair, M. Bothwell adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.  
Next meetings – 7/11/23 with Mission Bay Park Committee  
7/20/23 with Parks and Recreation Board

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