

City of San Diego
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 21, 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 Board 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 Jon Becker Shaina Gross Rick Gulley Daniele Laman Evelyn Smith (arrived at 2:30 p.m.) René Smith	Marcella Bothwell (Chair) Dennis Otsuji (Vice Chair) Pita Verdin	Ryan Barbrick Andy Field Gina Dulay Carlos Rios Louis Merlin Chief Mike Ruiz Tara Ryan Andrea O’Hara Shannon Scoggins Christina Chadwick Tom Tomlinson Jason Grani Elvi Ricafort Michelle Abella-Shon (Virtual) Gabriela Verendia

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Rick Gulley at 2:08 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2023

MOTION/SECONDED:

Ms. Gross/Mr. Becker

A motion was made by Ms. Gross and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the July 20, 2023, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved 5-0-1 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Jon Becker, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, and René Smith. Recused: None. Abstained: Nick Anastasopoulos. Not Present: Marcella Bothwell, Dennis Otsuji, Evelyn Smith, and Pita Verdin.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT: Two members of the public provided comment:

Andrea Zinko is the president of the San Diego Balboa Park Puppet Guild. She stated that on June 24, 2023, in the early morning hours, items were stolen from the puppet theater. The same person reentered the theater and stole the safe. This is the culmination of several years of steadily escalating behavior that resulted in damage to the theater. The puppet theater is not closed except once temporarily in July when the air conditioner broke. This week, the puppet theater is hosting Sound of Music puppetry. The theater would like more help from Parks and Recreation Department in the future to address air conditioning and theft issues.

Gary Blume represents the Total Altruism Project. He was a teacher at Clairemont High School. Altruism is doing an act of kindness without expectation of thanks or reward. Mr. Bloom picked up trash in the park recently and was thanked by another park patron. He suggested it would be nice to have stations with litter pick up sticks. He put up a first installation of this trash pick up station and noted reduction in litter. Given its success, he would like to add more of these stations and has plans for more locations. His webpage is at www.totalaltruismproject.org.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE: None.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Community Park Area Committees: Mr. Field reported there were no meetings and no updates.
- Community Park Area II Committee: Mr. Smith reported that there are informal discussions underway about updating Council Policy 600-33 related to how public input for park design and development are conducted.
- Balboa Park Committee: Mr. Field provided updates on Balboa Park during his Director's Report (below).
- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee: Acting Chair Gulley reported there was discussion about Mission Trails Golf Course, Oak Trail improvements, Old Mission Dam dredging, San Diego River bridge, and related topics
- San Diego Parks Foundation: Chair Bothwell was not present and did not report.

CHAIR COMMENTS: None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

1. Ms. Laman reported that she attended the grand reopening of the Dennis V. Allen Park playground on July 29, 2023. The park now includes a nature exploration area. She also attended the grand opening of the new demonstration garden at Park de la Cruz Community Center on September 16, 2023.
2. Mr. Smith reported that the City budget for Fiscal Year 2024 has been approved, and now is the time to let Councilmembers know about priorities for the development of next year's budget. As part of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget development process, City Councilmembers are soon due to submit their priorities via memorandum to the Independent Budget Analyst. The City Council heard the request to fund Quince Drive improvements on July 26, 2023 (Item S405). Given the use of regional park funds for a portion of this emergency project that includes roadway improvements, slope restoration, and drainage upgrades, Mr. Smith suggested that the Board listen to the questions and comments raised during the City Council meeting. See presentation at: https://sandiego.granicus.com/player/clip/8725?view_id=3&redirect=true&h=d8d46a96e57dca4ed8e5f022f16d09be. Finally, Mr. Smith mentioned the San Diego River Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) and requested this item be considered for a future Board meeting agenda.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Mr. Field provided the Board with the following updates:

Board Member Vacancies

Molly Chase has resigned from the Parks and Recreation Board. On September 19, 2023, Mayor Gloria nominated Allison Soares to replace Ms. Chase with a term ending March 2025.

At the same time, Mayor Gloria reappointed Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Richard Gulley, and Evelyn Smith for additional terms ending March 2024.

These appointments and reappointments will be heard at a forthcoming City Council meeting for confirmation and approval.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Field noted the successful completion of summer events, programs, activities, day camps, and sports programs throughout the park system. The includes Come Play Outside and Parks After Dark events.

On Saturday, September 16, 2023, the Department opened a new demonstration garden at the Park de la Cruz Community Center.

On Wednesday, September 13, 2023, Mr. Field participated in the kick-off of the Park Ambassador/Leader Academy at San Ysidro Teen Center (Old Library) in partnership with the San Diego Parks Foundation. That same evening, he then toured the recently remodeled San Ysidro Senior Center, where a number of older adults had gathered to sing karaoke and celebrate community.

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On September 9, 2023, the Department hosted the annual Clairemont Family Day celebration, which included a special AquaFest for families to enjoy a day of free swimming at the Clairemont Pool. Mr. Field climbed the floating obstacle course in the deep end of the pool and was able to make it across on his first try.

In October, staff will host a number of fall carnivals in preparation for Halloween. Once the dates, times, and locations are finalized for the carnivals, staff will provide the Board with a listing in case they would like to attend.

Vendor Outreach Fairs have begun so that we can increase the number of pre-qualified recreation vendors for a variety of services such as food, sports, art, cultural programs, entertainment, fitness, youth programs, event rentals, instructors, camps, etc. Here is our fall schedule:

- Paradise Hills Recreation Center – Friday, September 22, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Dolores Magdaleno Memorial Recreation Center – Monday, October 2, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- South Bay Recreation Center – Tuesday, October 17, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Serra Mesa Recreation Center – Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.
- South Clairemont Recreation Center – Thursday, November 16, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A webpage listing all recreation programs is currently under development.

47th and Castana Parcel

During the July board meeting, Sally Smull asked about the status of 47th Street and Castana Street parcel acquisition. Mr. Field noted that the Public Utilities Department owns the parcel currently, and a number of activities are underway to prepare the parcel for eventual sale to the General Fund, including addressing encroachments onto the parcel by adjacent property owners, addressing flooding concerns given its location on Chollas Creek, ensuring environmental considerations are met, and obtaining an appraisal to inform the acquisition cost. Once these issues are addressed, this parcel is a good opportunity for future acquisition funding by Citywide Park Development Impact Fees.

Pacific Beach Town Council Police And Emergency Services Appreciation Night (PAESAN) Event and Recognitions

City Council approved two ceremonial proclamations at its meeting of September 19, 2023, that will be presented by Councilmember Joe LaCava at the upcoming Pacific Beach Town Council PAESAN recognition event on September 27, 2023:

- Item S502: Proclamation of Park Rangers and Park Maintenance Staff Day on September 27, 2023

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- Item S500: Proclamation of Christina Chadwick Day – in recognition of her winning the Rose Marie Starns Mission Bay Service Award – on September 27, 2023

Balboa Park Updates:

- Prioritization Framework for Balboa Park Projects: AEA Consulting gave an informational presentation to the Balboa Park Committee at its meeting on September 7, 2023, to showcase their initial work to create a prioritization framework and scoring system for Balboa Park projects. See presentation at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/bpcagenda20230907item3.pdf>. The consultants toured the park last week and are continuing with their stakeholder consultations currently.
- December Nights 2023 Updates:
 - New this year is a website designed to be “mobile first” and optimized for cell phone use. This new digital tool will provide up-to-date information and feature an interactive map to help attendees navigate their way around the event.
 - Also new is an emphasis on using alternative transportation for getting to the event, with the goals of alleviating traffic as well as reducing carbon emissions in support of our climate action initiatives.
 - The Family Zone was introduced last year, and for 2023 it will be expanded to include Santa Claus, fun activities, and more in the Muni Gymnasium.
 - Thank you to the nonprofit partners, sponsors, and volunteers, who are helping to make December Nights possible.
- Safe Camping at the “O Lot”: City crews from multiple departments continue preparations for a safe camping site at the “O Lot” in Balboa Park. The target opening is later this fall. More details will be shared with stakeholders as received.
- Halloween in Balboa Park: The recreation staff at the Municipal Gymnasium and Balboa Park Activity Center will be hosting a free Halloween event on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Palisades Plaza. We are calling it the Balboa Park Spooktacular. There will be 8-10 carnival games with candy prizes and a free costume contest with fabulous basket prizes for 1st and 2nd place participants. There will also be a free opportunity drawing for the kids to win cool prizes like toys and games of their choosing.
- State Grant Funding Secured for Balboa Park – The State budget for Fiscal Year 2024 includes more than \$5 million for the Fleet Museum, \$1.275 million for the Natural History Museum (NAT), and \$500,000 for maintenance at the Organ Pavilion.

Budget Updates

The Fiscal Year 2024 adopted budget has been published and is posted on the City’s webpage at <https://www.sandiego.gov/finance/annual>.

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The Independent Budget Analyst released the calendar of key dates for the monitoring of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget and the development of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The calendar can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/fy2022keydates.pdf>. Some key dates:

- October 11, 2023 – Release of Fiscal Year 2023 Year-End Financial Performance Report
- October 12, 2023 – Release of Fiscal Year 2025 City Council Budget Priorities
- November 3, 2023 – Release of Fiscal Year 2024 CIP Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report
- November 9, 2023 – Release of Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Five-Year Financial Outlook, and Fiscal Year 2024 First Quarter Budget Monitoring Report
- January 12, 2024 – Release of Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Five-Year Capital Infrastructure Planning Outlook
- January 29, 2024 – Release Report on Fiscal Year 2025 Updated City Council Budget Priorities
- February 2, 2024 – Release of Fiscal Year 2024 Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report

Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan Update

The City Planning Department launched a new webpage for this effort:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/chollas-creek-master-plan>. A fact sheet is also available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/chollas-creek-fact-sheet.pdf>.

The goals of the Chollas Creek Watershed Master Plan are:

- Protect and enhance Chollas Creek's ecology
- Improve the creek's sustainability and resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Increase recreational opportunities
- Improve walking, rolling, and biking within the watershed and adjacent neighborhoods
- Foster an increased sense of ownership and connection to the Creek among community members
- Promote cohesive new development
- Expand economic opportunities

This plan will build on the policy and planning work already completed by the community outlined in the Chollas Creek Enhancement Program.

The City will host several public workshops and other public engagement activities to gather input from the community. A Board presentation on the proposed Master Plan is forthcoming later this fall.

The Chollas Creek Master Plan Guided Walk is coming on September 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Southcrest Recreation Center, with additional walks at 12 noon at Castana Street and

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47th Street and 2:00 p.m. at Chollas Parkway and Salta Place. Staff will lead an hour-long guided tour at each location along sections of the creek to discuss topics such as parks and green spaces, walking/rolling and biking within the watershed, watershed habitat, climate resilience, cultural identities, and social activation.

Board input on these topics will help the City draft the guidelines contained in the Master Plan to make this area more resilient, accessible, and enjoyable. Questions and comments are welcome by email to publicspaces@sandiego.gov.

Sunshine Berardini Field General Development Plan

The first general development plan workshop for Sunshine Berardini Field in City Heights was held at 6:30 p.m. on September 20, 2023, at Colina del Sol Recreation Center. Additional input opportunities are forthcoming.

A webpage listing all general development plan workshops is currently under development.

Parks and Recreation Employees of the Year

Please join me in congratulating the four park staff who are Fiscal Year 2023 employees of the year!

- Charles “Chuck” Warren, Equipment Technician II, addressed a 100-foot eucalyptus tree that fell in Balboa Park by cutting limbs away from a park patron who was trapped between a wall barrier and the sidewalk. Mr. Warren has since been awarded as one of the Employees of the Year for the entire City of San Diego!
- Hector Meza, Equipment Technician II, does an excellent job keeping equipment maintained, addressing irrigation repairs, and providing afterhours emergency callbacks for leaks from broken irrigation systems.
- Daniel Mielke, Recreation Specialist, demonstrated exceptional dedication in ensuring the smooth operation of Mission Bay Golf Course over the past year while hosting approximately 500 people per day.
- Tiffany Swiderski, Senior Park Ranger, worked with partner organizations to remove over 37,000 pounds of trash from the San Diego River Park and tributary canyons.

Questions of the Parks and Recreation Director:

- Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Field for the GDP webpage idea. He asked for a status update on College Area and University City community planning updates. Mr. Field indicated that he would check with the Planning Department for an update.

CONSENT ITEMS:

101. Proposed naming of Southcrest Community Park Ball Field to Shelley Curtis White Field
Presenter: Gina Dulay, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Ms. Laman made a motion to approve consent item 101 and seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion was approved 7-0-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Evelyn Smith, and

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René Smith. Recused: None. Abstained. None. Absent: Marcella Bothwell, Dennis Otsuji, and Pita Verdin.

Public Comments:

Dwayne Hill noted that today is a special, historic day to recognize a pioneer of youth sports in the community. He supports the item and recalled the good works of Shelley Curtis White.

Board Comments:

Ms. Gross is excited for this renaming and is glad to see the renaming policy in the supporting documentation. She noted the policy does not include anything about equity or inclusion in the naming policy. Oftentimes people who have parks named for them have access and often are White. The Board should promote inclusivity as not everyone has opportunities to participate. She would love to see this lens added to the naming policy.

Mr. Hill responded that he followed Council Policy 900-20 when determining how to rename the ballfield. He offered to share his report on the naming of the ballfield in honor of Shelley Curtis White.

Ms. Smith noted that her husband grew up in San Diego and played in this field and had Mr. White as the umpire.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

102. Federal Boulevard Pocket Park General Development Plan

Ms. Scoggins and Ms. Estrada made the presentation outlining the proposed pocket park at Federal Boulevard and Home Avenue in the City Heights community. Groundwork San Diego has obtained significant funding for this project.

Mr. Becker made a motion to approve discussion item 102 and seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion was approved 7-0-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Evelyn Smith, and René Smith. Recused: None. Abstained. Noe. Absent: Marcella Bothwell, Dennis Otsuji, and Pita Verdin.

Public Comments:

Gary Blume asked how big the park is and wondered if it would be the same size as the Balboa Park Club Ballroom. Ms. Estrada said the park is probably a bit smaller than the size of this room.

Board Comments:

Mr. Becker noted the irrigation system needs and number of trees in the pocket park.

Ms. Laman asked about the calculation of recreation value points for the pocket park, including amounts awarded for amenities such as trail, play area, and other amenities. The scores seemed to change through multiple presentations, and Ms. Laman asked for a reconciliation of the community recreation group meeting and the current Parks and Recreation Board report. Ms. Scoggins responded that she is not aware of the discrepancy

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between the two staff reports including whether bike racks may have altered the score (for an overall recreation value point score change from 34 to 41 between the August and September reports). Ms. Scoggins will evaluate this offline and respond back to the Board with an update.

Mr. Smith commended staff for the presentation structure and the way it focuses on the entire watershed, over several slides, down to the specific area. Since the Chollas Creek initiative has been over a decade in the making, it needs careful deliberation. He likes the slide #5 chart and recommends please keep using it. He noted that the Chollas Creek watershed extends beyond San Diego city limits (Districts 3, 4, 8, and 9); however, the park, as currently defined, does not extend into nearby City of Lemon Grove or unincorporated San Diego County.

On slide 7, Mr. Smith asked staff to elaborate on what is meant by “Recommended Notice Area,” which may relate to the interpretation of Council Policy 600-33, but maybe it means something else? Ms. Estrada stated that the goal is to outreach to adjacent residential areas since they will be the ones who will use the park. Mr. Smith asked to note the location of military housing. Ms. Estrada noted the goal is to ensure residents in military housing (along with other adjacent neighborhoods) can access those areas including the trail system along Chollas Creek.

Mr. Smith is opposed to more asphalt in the City and asked whether paved areas were necessary in this park setting. Ms. Scoggins responded that the trail is a transportation and mobility asset, hence the use of asphalt, which may result in more use of the trail along Chollas Creek.

Mr. Becker asked about the funding for this park. Ms. Scoggins noted that Groundwork San Diego was responsible for funding including obtaining grants. Brian McGiff, from Groundwork San Diego, identified four funding sources that are \$10.1 million combined for the project including state and local funds. This covers a quarter mile stretch from Home Avenue to the Interstate 805 bridge. Groundbreaking is currently scheduled to occur in early 2024.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

201. Expressive Activity Guidelines

Chief Ranger Ruiz presented the proposed program to address expressive activities in various parks throughout the City. This matter is scheduled to appear at the City Council’s Community and Neighborhood Services Committee in October 2023.

Public Comments:

Catharine Douglass, a founding member of the Coastal Coalition, stated the beach belongs to everyone. She watched the implementation of sidewalk vending ordinance take effect in Balboa Park and then 10 months later at the beaches and shoreline parks. Some areas suffered degradation from the vendor activities, including turf lawn areas turning into dirt. She noted that the current ordinance is unclear and hopes for clarity that can make parks accessible and safe including residents and visitors to the coast.

Marcella Teran, from the Coastal Coalition and Pacific Beach community, has some of the same concerns as Ms. Douglass. She noted problems that are created by vending and impacts to natural beauty that creates a sea of commercialism. The ordinance needs to be tightened up, which has created confusion. According to the California Coastal Act, street vending blocks access to the ocean and beach. Enforcement is made difficult by the loophole in what is artistic expression. She hopes the coastline will be kept beautiful.

Daniel Nielsen is a musician in Balboa Park and has been performing in the park for seven years. He wants to be able to use amplifiers again. It was not a problem in previous years, with performers respecting one another and trying not to use amplification to override each other. His concern is that if every act is separated, people will perform in under trafficked areas. He recommends decibel meters to determine noise levels from amplification rather than banning amplifiers.

Kenny Shelton is a busker in Balboa Park and is sharing documents from **Mitchell A. Walker**. Mr. Shelton read what Mr. Walker wrote. Mr. Walker feels the performers lottery system worked well until that system ended in 2022. He feels the ordinance needs more clarity on amplification and recommends a decibel reading instrument should be issued to the park rangers. Mr. Walker asked if the lottery system can be restored and whether El Prado can be reopened back on the lawn areas for buskers.

Taylor Locke has been street performing in Balboa Park and Seaport Village for a few years. Red tape has taken the fun out of it. The 27 approved expressive locations in Balboa Park in a small space makes him feel like he is a mime trapped in a box. Self-expression in a park helps create culture for a City, placing art in boxes will pigeonhole art, expression, and culture.

Chet Harrison is a classic guitarist in Balboa Park. He noted that some rude buskers drove others away by bringing higher-decibel performances. He requests a limit on decibels but not a ban on amplification. The guitar must be louder than ambient noise within the park.

Andrea Zinko with the San Diego Puppet Guild noted that puppetry started with busking. She would not want to see performers leave Balboa Park, as they are part of the fabric of the park. Ms. Zinko asked a question of staff in the event the Puppet Theater brings puppet shows outside of the theater: Are outdoor puppet shows allowed? Can museums and cultural organizations place tables and share their wares with the public?

Becky Hostetter comes from a family of creators and makers. She has been selling art in Balboa Park. While she was glad to see the State of California pass laws to allow sidewalk vending, she is not pleased that street vending has been allowing park rangers to ticket anyone who is selling anything other than paintings. She anticipates litigation is likely unless rules are modified to address the law's shortcomings. She expressed a willingness to help solve that problem.

Martin Stamper is a musician performing in San Diego for the last 10 years. He prefers to play outside rather than at indoor venues. Amplification is needed to be able to hear the instruments above the general noise of the park. He would like to work together to solve problems rather than continue to see tyrannical control of humanity. He recommends that some decibel level be allowed rather than a ban of amplification.

Julie Otto, Mary Otto, Adrianna Robinson, and Sana Duvall ceded their time to **William J. Dorsett**, who had 15 minutes to speak.

Mr. Dorsett is an artist and busker and first amendment activist. He expressed concerns with rulemaking associated with expressive activities. He has been working with City staff and expressed disappointment that only a portion of his recommendations were approved and implemented. The remainder of regulations are problematic and create intrusive impacts to expressive performers. He indicated the current proposal will not pass the time, place, and manner test. Civil rights attorneys are on standby to see how this will play out. There should not be regulations on expressive activities, but there should be on big business, which could overtake free speech opportunities. Mr. Dorsett is concerned with park rangers, who he believes need an oversight board to address park rangers who do not follow policies and procedures. Ways that government can reduce opportunities include limiting permissive areas of busking, reducing amplification, and banning certain sizes of signs. Mr. Dorsett noted several San Diego Municipal Code issues that need to be remedied, including one dating back to 1933. He has been having difficulties with several park rangers, including one ranger with whom he went to court and plans to appeal the lower court's determination. He asked that stages be created along El Prado. If the City works against buskers and limits free speech, lawsuits will follow.

Board Member Comments:

Ms. Laman noted that there are often protests in Balboa Park and asked Chief Ruiz whether the proposed ordinance changes will result in changes to the protocols associated with protests and related activities. Chief Ruiz responded that he would work with San Diego Police Department to address these issues especially as related to traffic control and safe operations of the protests. Ms. Laman asked about a sleep-in protest at the international cottages. Would that be allowed and is it safe to do so at that location? Chief Ruiz responded that he has no information on sleep-in protests and wanted to get more information on that situation. Ms. Laman then asked about the Art Mart along Pan American Road East. She asked whether this falls into the same kind of activity or would it remain in the space it currently occupies? Chief Ruiz responded that Art Mart is a long-term special use permittee. Ms. Laman asked why don't park rangers wear body cameras? Is there a rule related to that? Chief Ruiz responded that any recording of the public would require oversight, and currently park rangers do not have that authority.

Mr. Smith asked for a working group to discuss this matter in greater detail. He asked for more clarification about the 30-day period. He noted issues related to First Amendment rights and amplification as follows:

- **First Amendment:** One of the critical points made earlier was the comment that detailed information has been provided to the City regarding the potential violation of free speech and expressive activity rights by the proposed approach. He thinks it would behoove the City to be aware of that material and to ensure that the City Attorney has it in hand.
- **Amplification** was raised as an issue at the Balboa Park Committee meeting and brought up again today during public comment. It was suggested that Rangers have sound level meters available. Since such meters apps are readily available for cell

phones, could the use of the sound meter app be employed to determine if sound amplification exceeds acceptable levels? Mr. Smith noted that at least three members of the Balboa Park Committee raised the issue of the importance of amplification. Chief Ruiz responded that amplification became more and more common especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and became increasingly common during the history of the entertainer program. Staff is not opposed to amplification. Staff would like to find a cultural and historic balance that allows for all to enjoy the park, including musicians and park patrons. San Diego Municipal Code has limitations on amplification, which is why park rangers are enforcing it now. Mr. Smith noted that cell phones have a sound meter application that could be used by City staff to address amplification.

Mr. Smith concluded by stating that City staff has not communicated well with the busker and entertainer community. Mr. Smith suggests City staff make that bridge to the community to help address their concerns with expressive activity.

202. Update – Measure H Implementation

Ms. O'Hara and Ms. Ryan presented an update on the status of licensed childcare (Measure H) and STEM pre-kinder care implementation.

Public Comments: None.

Board Comments:

Ms. Laman asked if there is a legal term or map for “childcare deserts”? Ms. Ryan stated the information is on the YMCA webpage at <https://www.ymcasd.org/child-care-supply-map>.

Ms. Gross asked about the EDC data and how that relates to the YMCA map. She asked about the facility issues for the eight locations for licensed childcare. Ms. Ryan responded that the goal is to focus on historically disadvantaged communities in areas such as the Promise Zone and South Bay areas primarily within Community Parks II. Ms. Gross asked if a childcare provider could participate in the process to identify childcare locations and specific needs. Ms. Ryan noted that the effort to date is to focus on existing facilities first, but additional perspectives are welcome as the effort evolves.

Mr. Smith was excited when Measure H passed but is disappointed today. This is because the recreation centers are undersized yet are not funded to upgrade the buildings with a focus on children. Portable trailers seem worse than improving existing recreation center buildings. He is seeking more capital funds to upgrade existing buildings and expand them to accommodate those facilities. Ms. Ryan noted that Measure H did not come with funding. Mr. Smith feels the lack of dedicated funding results in the City not fulfilling needs. Ms. O'Hara responded that this is a fair concern. City will be creative on how to address needs and match need to locations. She wants to explore options to address the high price of childcare that prevents parents from being able to work or go to school.

203. Update – Outdoor Preschool Nature Camps

Ms. O'Hara and Ms. Ryan presented an update on the status of licensed childcare (Measure H) and STEM pre-kinder care implementation.

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Public Comments: None

Board Comments:

Mr. Smith asked whether staff has done an assessment of where outdoor programs exist? He thinks there are more in the northern portion of the City. Ms. Ryan believes Mr. Smith is correct. She noted that the request for qualifications process outlined here will be more transparent and help increase opportunities in new areas of the City. He then asked if any incentives are planned for these programs in southern communities. Ms. O’Hara noted that this is an expensive program, around \$300 per child per week. Small business outreach is needed to help find service providers to match up with the program opportunity. Mr. Smith noted additional state funding opportunities are forthcoming and suggests the City apply for the second grant fund.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 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: October 19, at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Andy Field
Director
Parks and Recreation Department