

**City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 18, 2021**

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

Meeting Held by Teleconference:

This meeting was held remotely using the Zoom Webinar platform and was streamed online.

***** ONLINE MEETING *****

<https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1614916136>

To call into the meeting, dial toll free:

US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 669 216 1590 or +1 551 285 1373 or +1 646 828 7666 or 833 568 8864

Webinar ID: 161 491 6136

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. Board members and City staff utilized the chat function in the Zoom Webinar to share comments and web links which were visible to those who viewed 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.

Members Present	Members Absent	City Staff Present
Katherine Johnston, Chair Dennis Otsuji, Vice-Chair Nick Anastasopoulos David Baron Marcella Bothwell Rick Gulley Noli Zosa	Jon Becker (excused) Ron Cho (excused) Bobby Hughes (excused)	Karen Dennison, Assist. Director Michelle Abella-Shon Jonathan Avila Marisol Aguilar Christina Chadwick Gina Dulay Sarah Erazo Ilisa Goldman Shelly Stowell

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Johnston at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2021

MOTION:

MOVED/SECONDED

Mr. Anastasopoulos/Ms. Bothwell

A motion was made by Mr. Anastasopoulos and seconded by Ms. Bothwell to approve the February 18, 2021 Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved 7-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, David Baron, Marcella Bothwell, Rick Gulley, Katherine Johnston, Dennis Otsuji and Noli Soza Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None) Not Present: Jon Becker, Ron Cho, and Bobby Hughes.

NON-ADOPTION AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Board. The Board did not receive any Non-Agenda Public Comment requests.

Public Speaker Comment: **Elizabeth Harter**

“I would really appreciate it if the 5 Peak Challenge at Mission Trails was extended. It ended in June and with COVID continuing it would be wonderful to continue to challenge youth to exercise outdoors when so much is not.”

“I asked before and it was not presented. I asked if it was possible to have the award for completing 5 peak challenge at Mission Trails Park. Inactivity and obesity are huge issues and if this inspires people of all ages why not. Set a time frame complete in 3 months if you want but run it all year. I think it would be worth doing and promoting through libraries schools etc. Get Healthy San Diego people have become more sedentary not less.”

REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT AGENDA - None

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMUNICATIONS – None

(Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – Mr. Otsuji reported that no meeting had been held.

Community Parks II Area Committee – Representative not present

Balboa Park Committee

- Ms. Johnston noted that the BPC had met, and that Action Item 101 Kate O. Sessions Cactus Garden Naming Proposal had been the big item of that evening.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens’ Advisory Committee – Mr. Zosa did not have anything to report.

San Diego Parks Foundation

- Ms. Bothwell reported that wi-fi has been installed at 21 to 25 additional Recreation Centers. One at Linda Vista Recreation Center and the other at Willie Henderson Sports Complex
- The City is funding Bay Terrace
- Tree Planting Project at Mountain View
- Price Foundation collaboration to have kids get outside with a summer program. Circus, Movies in the Park, Swimming Lessons, and outdoor adventure programming.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - None

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS - None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Karen Dennison greeted Board Members and meeting participants. She noted that Director Andy Field would be joining the meeting later. She gave the following update on the Department's status:

- COVID-19
 - The regional stay at home order ended 1/25/21
 - Update on the San Diego County Public Health Order as of 2/7/21
 - The color coded tearing system that we have been operating under looks at Southern California Region Triggers – case rate, ICU capacity, hospitalization rates. The County remains in the purple tier but there has been a decrease over the last several weeks. Things starting to relax more.
 - Youth and Adult Sports Industry Guidance updated on 2/19/21 – assigns each sport a risk category based on indoor/outdoor, level of contact, and ability to sanitize. Parks and Recreation Department permitting outdoor sports again effective 3/5/21.
 - Includes Cross Country Running at Morley Field in collaboration with SDUSD and CIS.
 - Vaccination sites at the Municipal Gym and Balboa Park. More and more people getting vaccinated and supplies continue to increase. Data shows that approximately 25% of residents have had at least 1 vaccination and approximately 13% have received both.
- Fiscal Year 22 Budget Development and Fiscal Year 21 Budget Monitoring
 - City Council issued a budget priority memo at the Budget Committee on 2/1/21.
 - Report that outlines the Council Budget Priorities by Council District

- Five Year Capital Outlook Report was presented to City Council on 2/9/21
- Independent Budget Analyst Report was presented to City Council on 2/22/21
- Announcement by Mayor Gloria regarding Federal Stimulus Funds on 3/9/21
- Past and Upcoming Council Items
 - Mission Trails Regional Park Joint Exercise of Powers approved by City Council on 3/9/21
 - PS&LN Committee on 3/10/21 proposed 3 new locations in the Pacific Beach Area
 - Obtained Council approval to amend the Municipal Code
 - Modifications to off leash dog rules at Mission Bay Park slated to go before City Council in the month of April
 - Park Equity Report will be going to City Council soon too.
- Upcoming Board Items
 - Proposed Budgets for the Recreation Center Funds
 - Next Steps in Parks Master Plan
 - Fiesta Island General Development Plan
- Parks and Recreation Staffing Announcements
 - Gina Dulay, Deputy Director, Community Parks II Division
 - Erika Ferreira, Deputy Director, Open Space/MAD's Division
 - Michael Jones, Assistant Deputy Director, Open Space/MAD's Division
 - Michal Tully, Deputy Director, Developed Regional Parks Division
 - Acknowledged Paul Kilburg who served as Interim Deputy Director for the past year in the Open Space Division
 - Announced upcoming retirement of Bruce Martinez, Deputy Director, Community Parks I Division
- US Open June 17th through June 20th
- Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) due April 1st
- Future Board Agenda items, Board Members please feel free to reach out

ACTION ITEMS

101. Kate O. Sessions Cactus Garden Naming Proposal

Presenters: Christina Chadwick, Assistant Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation
Jackie Higgins, Planning Director, Balboa Park Conservancy
Christine M. Abrell, Philanthropy Coordinator, Balboa Park Conservancy
Audrey Tamayo, Project Coordinator, Balboa Park Conservancy
Nancy Carol-Carter, Historian

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Requested Action

NOTE: The Board received 2 public comments for Action Item 101.

Public Speaker Comment: **John Bolthouse**

“Based on the extensive research conducted by the Balboa Park Conservancy, acclaimed park historian and Master Gardener Nancy Carol Carter, and the San Diego History Center, Friends of Balboa Park fully supports the proposal for the Cactus Garden in Balboa Park to be formally named in honor of Kate O. Sessions (1857–1940), as put forth by the Balboa Park Conservancy. The extensive and enduring contributions Kate O. Sessions made to this historic garden – not to mention Balboa Park in general – via her advocacy, expertise and coordination are the primary reason this magnificent piece of the park’s landscape came to fruition. The “Kate O. Sessions Cactus Garden” naming proposal will be an appropriate way to acknowledge Sessions’ direct relationship to this garden and further honor her indelible contributions to Balboa Park. We encourage the Park & Recreation Board to endorse this proposal.”

Public Speaker Comment: **Anne Fege**

“I’m am Anne Fege and I chair the San Diego community forest advisory board and I’m also one of the co leaders of Kate sessions commitment. And so I just wanted to to fill in here that the cactus garden is a fitting tribute to Kate Sessions for her contributions to San Diego’s landscaping and urban nature. So your history, Nancy Carter and others is fascinating and clearly deserves to be renamed.”

“But I also wanted to remind folks about the effort to honor Kate Sessions and continue her legacy in the Kate Sessions commitment which is a new movement that’s echoing her Sessions agreement with the San Diego city leaders to plant 100 trees per year in Balboa Park and the early 1900s.”

“This new movement invites communities to plant 100 trees each year to expand their tree canopy strengthen communities and take climate action and also to honor the trees that we do have some of which were planted in Kate Sessions time. The website is Katestrees.org so as we know as Kate new growing healthy trees is a simple and sustainable way to cool neighborhoods reduce energy costs, improve air and water quality.”

Foster outdoor living and build sense of community, much as we enjoy in Balboa Park, we can enjoy in other parts of the city. So Kate Sessions commitment offers education resources connections and support for communities and individuals to get out and grow a tree. So we work with local nurseries to source and sell small quality shade native and fruit trees for backyards and front yards and we promote the city's free street tree program and we celebrate the park."

"Tree section and now funding raised by the San Diego Parks Foundation. So just wanted to say that Kate Sessions inspiration is alive and well in this as well as the cactus garden. So thanks for the opportunity to tie this together. Thank you."

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Anastasopoulos/Ms. Bothwell

A motion was made by Mr. Anastasopoulos and seconded by Ms. Bothwell to recommend approval of Action Item 101 Kate O. Session Cactus Garden Naming Proposal. The motion was approved 7-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, David Baron, Marcella Bothwell, Rick Gulley, Katherine Johnston, Dennis Otsuji and Noli Soza Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None) Not Present: Jon Becker, Ron Cho, and Bobby Hughes.

102. McGonigle Canyon Neighborhood Park General Development Plan

Presenters: Jonathan Avila, RLA, Park Designer, Planning Department
 JT Barr, PLA, Principal, Schmidt Design Group,
 Consulting Landscape Architect

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Requested Action

NOTE: The Board received 1 public comment for Action Item 102.

Public Speaker Comment: **Anne Fege**

"Yes, real briefly, this is a Anne Fege and I actually bicycle by that site almost every day we are able to bicycle around Penasquitos on roads and Mira Mesa, and then up the bike Path. So I'm well familiar with that site, or at least over looking into it. However, the two comments are that I appreciate the location of a number of trees and I was going to ask some questions about it, but I see the list of tree species is that there's quite a few larger trees. And Jonathan, you and I have talked about that. That's where we got to put big trees because they don't fit so well in street trees. So thank you very much."

"My second comment is that if this is next to a school. I know that the San Diego Unified School District has a joint use arrangement with the City of San Diego, but I wonder if there isn't something as that school is built that some joint useless could be appropriated and maybe thinking ahead in this plan that how that might be facilitated. So the school could use that area and maybe it already has been."

“And then the third is, this is a reminder, from the Parks Master Plan that the development sees in this district north, and I actually live near the 56 in Black Mountain. So I'm in an area that's also privileged where funds were somehow set aside for park development in these districts and as we discussed the Parks Master Plan and that they in the older neighborhoods have far fewer parks and probably also need some acreage set aside. And I know that's a separate discussion, but I do think that this is a reminder that the privileged somehow set aside money and they will actually have an amazing park. And so how do we think about that in the largest city context. Anyway, thanks for being able to share those three thoughts.”

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Gulley/Mr. Anastasopoulos

A motion was made by Mr. Gulley and seconded by Mr. Anastasopoulos to recommend approval of Item 102, McGonigle Canyon Neighborhood Park General Development Plan. The motion was approved 7-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, David Baron, Marcella Bothwell, Rick Gulley, Katherine Johnston, Dennis Otsuji and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None). Not Present: Jon Becker, Ron Cho and Bobby Hughes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 201. San Diego Humane Society Humane Law Enforcement Park Patrol Program**
Presenter: Danee Cook, Operations Captain, Humane Law Enforcement,
 San Diego Humane Society

The presentation outlined the following:
- Background
- Presentation
- Discussion

NOTE: No Public Comments were received for Information Item 201.

- Chair Johnston thanked the presenters for their hard work.

- 202. Pickleball in the City of San Diego**
Presenters: Michelle Abella-Shon, Project Officer II, Asset Management,
 Parks and Recreation Department
 Ilisa Goldman, Park Designer, Asset Management,
 Parks and Recreation Department

The presentation outlined the following:
- Background
- Presentation
- Discussion

NOTE: The Board received 1 Public Comment for Information Item 202.

Public Speaker Comment: **Salvatore Fanale**

“Hi. Thank you for letting me speak. I'll try and be quick because I know you're trying to move on before you lose your quorum. So just two points I wanted to make that are really relevant to some of the comments that have already come up the multi-purpose courts are great. I happened to be one of those people who has tried to play at the local rec center where there's pickle ball coach striped on the basketball court. And I have literally been threatened with violence by the basketball players to leave because they don't appreciate the pickleball players taking their space from them.”

“So that's for me, at least, a major consideration. We just can't even play in La Jolla anymore. And then the second thing is this presentation talked about the number of courses that are open, but one thing that is harder to mention is, is the time that some of those courts are open. So for example, the 14 courts that are available in Balboa Park are only available six hours a week. So time is a major consideration and the fact that most of those are indoor so that doesn't work. Now, during pandemic and the ones that are outdoor. A lot of them are not lit. So you can't play especially through the winter. After 5pm. So while it may seem like 61 courts is quite a lot. It's actually very few when you consider how many people are trying to use those courts.”

“For example, at Gershwi, which is my local park there were 16 people trying to play football there last weekend but I went on Saturday. So it's very competitive and that was on courts that we've had taped out on the basketball courts.”

- Chair Johnston thanked the presenters and speaker. She noted that comments Had been heard from both the committee members and from members of the public. She also commented that there is a high demand for this sport.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 pm.

Copies of the reports, attachments, PowerPoint presentations and video recordings can be found on the Parks and Recreation Department website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/reports>.

Next Calendared Meeting:

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Submitted by,



Karen Dennison
Assistant Director
Parks and Recreation Department