

**City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 20, 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 +1 833 568 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. 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
Katherine Johnston, Chair Dennis Otsuji, Vice-Chair Nick Anastasopoulos David Baron Jon Becker Marcella Bothwell Ron Cho Rick Gulley Noli Zosa	Bobby Hughes (excused)	Karen Dennison, Assistant Director Ryan Barbrick Christina Chadwick Charlie Daniels Sarah Erazo Louis Merlin Jon Richards Shelly Stowell Nancy Zamora-Hudson

NOTE: Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was video recorded after it was a few minutes into the “Director’s Report” portion of the agenda.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Johnston at 2:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2021

MOTION:

MOVED/SECONDED

Mr. Gulley/Mr. Baron

A motion was made by Mr. Gulley and seconded by Mr. Baron to approve the **April 15, 2021 Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, David Baron, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Katherine Johnston, Dennis Otsuji and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None). Not Present: Bobby Hughes.

NON-ADOPTION AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT - None

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.

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 – Chair Johnston had nothing to report.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Zosa reported that the meeting had focused mainly on the naming of a bridge in honor of a citizen whom had recently drowned at Mission Trails.

San Diego Parks Foundation

- Ms. Bothwell announced that New York City Park Commissioner will be retiring in June. Prior to his departure he will be sharing his expertise via a virtual meeting on June 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting link and more information may be found on the San Diego Parks Foundation at sandiegoparksfoundation.org.
- Ms. Bothwell reiterated that the Foundation had received funds for the “Get Kids Outside” Summer Program which was rebranded “Summer for All of Us”. The County donated \$750k, the City donated \$400k, and Price Charities donated \$150k. She noted that recreation centers were working hard to reopen and gave kudos to Shelly Stowell and Sarah Erazo for all their hard work.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - None

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Anastasopoulos inquired about the status of a grant given to the City for a project in the Rancho Bernardo Community. He specifically asked why the City had not yet moved forward with the project funds.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Assistant Director Karen Dennison greeted Board Members and meeting participants. She noted that Director Field would not be present as he was in attendance at the Budget Review Committee Meeting. She gave the following update on the Department's status:
 - COVID-19 San Diego County Public Health order last updated 4/6/21 (see https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/health-order.htm)
 - Color-coded tiering system (Blueprint for a Safer Economy) considers key factors such as COVID-19 case rate, ICU capacity, and hospitalization rates.
 - These have decreased in San Diego County over the last several weeks.
 - Latest data is available at <https://sdcounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/30b5e0fa2a5f4404b1219d8cd16b2583>
 - The County is in the **orange** tier at this time; the color-coded tiering system is described at <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>
 - Governor announced that the color-coded tiering system would be retired on June 15 if case rate and hospitalizations remain low.
- Assistant Director Dennison invited Community Parks I Deputy Director Shelly Stowell to give an update regarding the Department's reopening efforts thus far.
- Deputy Director Stowell explained that the Department was working on a phased reopening implementation via test sites.
 - Four sites had opened recently to see how new code restrictions would work in operations so that staff could learn from each other. And therefore, taking those lessons learned to the other 56 locations that will be implementing recreation programs.
 - At the end of June will open another 12 to 15 locations until down to the bottom of the list of phased re-openings. Not sure we will actually have enough staff to open every facility. The Department will do its best to get there with new hirings.

- Deputy Director Stowell invited Recreation Services Program Manager Sarah Erazo to talk about the programs and the challenges faced with implementation as well as what is being planned.
- Recreation Services Program Manager Erazo stated that she was very glad to be present and said that the Department had hit the ground running. As soon as the green light had been given to start implementing the reopening plan, a meeting had been held with staff on a weekly basis to discuss programming, how to bring it back, and at which facilities.
 - Programming will be prioritized based on staff availability.
 - Influx of funding obtained by the San Diego Parks Foundation for the Department has been instrumental in discussions of new programs and services that will be provided this summer to children that have been without this type of activity for the last year.
 - Working to onboard schedules and contractors. Over the course of the last year, contractors that provided recreation services have expired documentation which must be updated. This is required from independent contractors in order to operate on city grounds.
 - A new addition to programming this year will be running open play activities through Active Net, because we are required to have every participant that comes into a facility be pre-registered for a program. The Active Net system will enable the Department to know who, and what time they enter a facility. The Department will have their contact information in the event that contact tracing activities are needed.
- Assistant Director Dennison thanked and acknowledged Deputy Director Stowell and Recreation Services Program Manager Erazo for their phenomenal work.
- Assistant Director Dennison also addressed Chair Johnston's inquiry regarding the Mission Trails incident which Mr. Zosa had mentioned at his Committee Report.
 - She reported that at the May 4, 2021 Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee, a presentation had been made by Parks and Recreation Staff Project Officer Michelle Abella-Shon, along with Open Space Deputy Director Erica Ferreira, Senior Ranger Ryan Robertson, and District Manager Steve Haupt regarding an unfortunate incident which has been very much in the media regarding the young man that Mr. Zosa referred to, whom accidentally passed away. The incident is searchable and can be read about online. His family and parents are embarking on a fundraising effort in order to help pay for a proposed pedestrian bridge.

- Chair Johnston requested a report back regarding the Department's plan to address what appears to be an unsafe crossing. She further noted there is a pedestrian bridge in the Master Plan. She requested a better understanding of the costs and timeline associated with the project at a future meeting.
- Chair Johnston thanked everyone for their efforts and noted that everyone was looking forward to getting back to being outdoors and visiting the parks, and recreation centers.

ACTION ITEM:

101. Proposed Agreement for Botanical Building Naming Opportunities

Presenters: Christina Chadwick, Assistant Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Charlie Daniels, Park Designer, Parks and Recreation Department
Jackie Higgins, Director of Planning, Design and Programs, Balboa Park Conservancy

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Requested Action

NOTE: No (0) Public Comments were received for Action Item 101.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Gulley and seconded by Mr. Becker to recommend approval of **Action Item 101, Proposed Agreement for Botanical Building Naming Opportunities.** The motion was approved 8-0-1 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, David Baron, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Katherine Johnston, and Dennis Otsuji. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: Noli Zosa. Not Present: Bobby Hughes.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

201. Mayor's Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget

Presenter: Karen Dennison, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Questions and Answers

202. Fiscal Year 2022 Recreation Center Fund Budgets

Presenter: Sarah Erazo, Recreation Services Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Questions and Answers

WORKSHOP – None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 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, June 17, 2021

Submitted by,



Karen Dennison
Assistant Director
Parks and Recreation Department