City of San Diego **Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, July 15, 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/i/1614916136

To call into the meeting, dial toll free:

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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
Dennis Otsuji, Vice-Chair	Katherine Johnston, Chair	Andy Field, Director
Nick Anastasopoulos	(excused)	Karen Dennison, Assistant Director
David Baron		Michelle Abella-Shon
Jon Becker		Ryan Barbrick
Marcella Bothwell		Sarah Erazo
Ron Cho		Kathleen Ferrier
Rick Gulley		Ilisa Goldman
Evelyn Smith		Louis Merlin
Noli Zosa		Moriah Saldana
		Roberto Carlos Torres
		Mike Tully
		Jim Winter
		Nancy Zamora-Hudson

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Otsuji at 2:05 pm.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2021

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

A motion was made by Mr. Anastasopoulos and seconded by Mr. Baron to approve the **June 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, Dennis Otsuji, Evelyn Smith and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None). Not Present: Katherine Johnston.

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 received eight (8) Non-Agenda Public Comment requests.

Name: Linda Bjork

Comment Type: Non-Agenda Comment #1

Comments:

Ms. Bjork noted that recreation centers that are not yet opened should be reopened for seniors to play cards and mahjongg.

Name: K. Smart

Comment Type: Non-Agenda Comment #2

Comments:

K. Smart noted that Tubman Joint Use Park has been locked and unavailable for community use over the past two weekends. The Department should ensure the joint use area is kept open for public use especially over the weekend when school is not in session.

https://www.sandiego.gov/system/files/webform/obc-publiccomments/tubman_jup_locked_again_this_weekend.jpg?sandread=5c94b66d02df1af1

Name: Troy Murphree

Comment Type: Non-Agenda Comment #3

Comments:

Ms. Murphree noted that Tubman Joint Use Park has been locked and unavailable for community use, which may be due to deficiencies with the security contractor. The Department should ensure the security contractor has a contact number and keeps the joint use area closed at night.

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https://www.sandiego.gov/system/files/webform/obc-public-comments/2a878792-9387-40d3-a664-26e0405fc8df.jpeg?sandread=77e52f6d12b82486

Name: David Seid

Comment Type: Non-Agenda Comment #4

Comments:

Mr. Seid noted that the House of China at Balboa Park suffered broken glass when someone threw a rock into a window. The Department should expand security services into the International Cottages/House of Pacific Relations area of the Park to include daytime and nighttime throughout the week.

Attachments:

https://www.sandiego.gov/system/files/webform/obc-public-comments/vandelism_broken_window.jpg?sandread=253f9e5d7d983783

https://www.sandiego.gov/system/files/webform/obc-publiccomments/vandelism_rock_and_glass.jpg?sandread=253f9d5d7d9835d0

https://www.sandiego.gov/system/files/webform/obc-public-comments/vandelism_boarded_window.jpg?sandread=253f9f5d7d983936

https://www.sandiego.gov/system/files/webform/obc-public-comments/hoc_interior.jpg?sandread=253faa5d7d984be7

Name: Marie Hunrichs (timed ceded by Ken Hunrichs)

Comment Type: Non-Agenda Comment #5

Comments:

Ms. Hunrichs asked the Board consider the sea lions and public access at Boomer Beach and Point La Jolla. In 2015 and 2016, the City commissioned Dr. Doyle Hanan of Hanan and Associates to study and gather information on the sea lion population on La Jolla beaches including Boomer Beach.

In 2017 the City again hired Hanan & Associates to provide a Marine Coastal Management Plan for La Jolla beaches at a total cost of about \$100,000 for the study and plan. The Plan was intended to provide guidance for the City to manage marine mammals. Included in the management alternatives was Options for Moving and/or Excluding California Sea Lions from Certain Areas. Each of the techniques would be allowed under section 109(h) of the MMPA using NOAA/NMFS approved deterrent techniques. NOAA is the federal agency which has ultimate enforcement authority regarding sea lions.

However, instead of discouraging sea lions from continuing to settle in the La Jolla Cove & Boomer Beach areas, the City decided to select the least effective option to install educational signs setting the stage for yet another popular recreational beach to be closed.

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In the past 6 months or so, Sierra Club animal activists have claimed authority in the Boomer Beach area and challenge visitors in using public land shared with sea lions. The City does not recognize them as members of a City docent program. However, the Sierra Club pushed to have stenciled signs on walls and trash cans in the Boomer Beach overlook area near the Bridge Club at Scripps Park. This option only serves to somewhat educate the visitors to the area. It does not address the problem of sea lion population expansion which will lead to increased predation by sharks and more closed beaches.

It is irresponsible for the City to allow wild animals to further establish themselves in an urban area especially when the City paid for a Marine Coastal Management Plan giving them much better options.

The Board should ask the City these relevant questions:

- 1. If the City attempts closure, they will need a Coastal Commission permit and a California Environmental Quality Act report. How much more tax payer money is the City willing to spend on closing yet another public beach in La Jolla?
- 2. How will this loss of beach access be mitigated? Boomer Beach is the only recognized beach for body surfing in 17 miles of San Diego coastline. Spear fishermen use Boomer Beach and Pt. La Jolla to swim to the nearby kelp beds. As the sea lion population increases, sea lion excrement in the ocean causes swim events to be cancelled or moved. Traditional Independence Day fireworks have been cancelled due to possible sea lion disturbance.
- 3. At least 2 sea lions at Boomer Beach have been attacked in the past month by sharks. One was euthanized by Sea World. When the first waterman is attacked by a shark, La Jolla and San Diego will get negative publicity impacting tourism.
- 4. The more money spent in regarding management of sea lions will mean less money for other parks. Many City Rangers have been re-assigned to help with the Boomer Beach sea lion and human interaction issue. Is this fair to the rest of the SD community? There are many other neglected parks in San Diego because those parks do not receive enough Ranger oversight.
- 5. Construction projects near these growing pinniped colonies are far more expensive to complete and take far more time because of the seals and sea lions.

Name: John Leek

Comment Type: Non-Agenda Comment #6

Mr. Leek expressed concerns about recent sea lion activity near Pt. La Jolla Beach, and he expressed concerns that if Pt. La Jolla is closed, that action would be in violation of the Coastal Act and Local Coastal Program.

Name: Kurt Hoffman

Comment Type: Non-Agenda Comment #7

Mr. Hoffman noted that he had never seen a white shark in the wild until a few weeks ago; they came to Boomer Beach looking for sea lions and seals. He stated that the City needs to prevent loss of beach access due to pinnipeds.

Name: Daniele LamanComment Type: Non-Agenda Comment #8

Ms. Laman congratulated Ms. Smith, the Board Member from Council District 4. She noted that currently there are five (5) Board Members from Council Districts 2 and 5 and no seat designated for Council District 9. She requested that the inequity be fixed.

REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Cho and seconded by Mr. Baron to place <u>Action Item 101</u>, <u>Naming of the Ocean Beach Volleyball Courts after George Stepanof</u> on the consent agenda. The motion was approved 8-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, David Baron, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None). Not Present: Katherine Johnston.

• There were no Public Comments for Action Item 101, Naming of the Ocean Beach Volleyball Courts after George Stepanof.

A motion was made by Mr. Baron and seconded by Mr. Becker to recommend approval <u>of the consent agenda</u>, <u>which included Action Item 101</u>, <u>Naming of the Ocean Beach Volleyball Courts after George Stepanof</u>. The motion was approved 8-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, David Baron, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Dennis Otsuji and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None). Not Present: Katherine Johnston.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

<u>COMMUNICATIONS</u> – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Community Parks II Area Committee – Representative to be announced.

Balboa Park Committee – Representative not present. Mr. Field noted that the Committee did not meet earlier this month since their normal meeting changed to a special meeting to be held next week on Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

• Mr. Zosa reported that no meeting had been held. He requested that Board Member Marcella Bothwell continue to be the representative to the MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee due to his prior commitments. Mr. Zosa and Ms. Bothwell had been sharing the responsibility.

San Diego Parks Foundation

• Ms. Bothwell reported that a Mayoral Press Conference had been held at Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center with Mayor Gloria and Commissioner Fletcher featuring the transfer of funds for \$750k. These funds will in part help with the the Come Play Outside program, which features swimming classes and water safety courses. Additionally, communities will enjoy performances from Maraya Dance and Fern Street Circus among other programs.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - None

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS

• Mr. Baron and Mr. Cho requested that the incident of vandalism at the House of Hospitality be placed on the next agenda for follow-up discussion.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Field greeted Board Members and meeting participants. He gave the following update on the Department's status:
- Appointments to the P&R Board
 - There is no update this month; however, we are anticipating additional actions to be placed on the City Council docket in the coming weeks.
- COVID-19 Update
 - o Reopening Plan memo issued July 8, 2021
 - Key elements:
 - On June 9, 2021, the County of San Diego entered the Yellow Tier, which further expanded permitting for park use and recreational programs.
 - On June 15, 2021, California retired its Blueprint for a Safer Economy.
 - On June 17, 2021, Cal/OSHA announced newly revised requirements regarding facial coverings in the workplace. The revised COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards allow fully vaccinated workers to not wear a face covering in most settings while at work, which aligns with similar guidelines issued by the California Department of Public Health effective June 15, 2021.
 - On June 23, 2021, the City no longer required fully vaccinated employees to wear a facial covering while in the workplace (both indoors and outdoors), with some limited exceptions, once they self-report their vaccination status (https://bit.ly/cosdvax).
 - Park patrons who are not fully vaccinated must still wear masks indoor and outdoor in areas that are experiencing high COVID transmission.
 Park patrons that are fully vaccinated may go unmasked in most cases.
 Read more on masking guidance.

- Park and Recreation facilities that have not opened and almost all recreational activities and programs will resume operations on July 19, 2021 (a few recreation centers will take longer to reopen). The Balboa Park Botanical Building will also open to the public on July 19, 2021.
- California will closely monitor COVID-19 vaccination and infection rates over the summer and will review these guidelines by September 1, 2021
- In-person meetings of Park Board are looking to start in the fall once Communications Dept has completed its efforts to hire staff

• FY 2022 Budget Development and FY 2021 Budget Monitoring

- o On July 1, Fiscal Year 2022 began under the recently approved budget.
- With the shift in fiscal years, the Department of Finance is closing out Fiscal Year 2021 and will issue a year-end report this fall.

Commercial Paper

- Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved the Commercial Paper program and forwarded its capital project allocations to the City Council
- City Council will consider the allocations at its meeting of 8/3/21
- Proposed P&R Allocations (\$20.7M) from the \$145M program are as follows:
 - Balboa Park Botanical Building Improvements (\$20005) -\$12,572,844
 - Chollas Triangle Park (P20005) \$1,700,000
 - Coastal Erosion and Access (AGF00006) Bermuda Avenue Coastal Access Replacement (B17110) – \$2,131,947
 - Hickman Fields Athletic Area (S00751) \$1,594,787
 - Regional Parks (AGF00005) Federal Building Roof Replacement (B20066) – \$2,700,000
 - Wightman Street Neighborhood Park (S00767) \$40,000
- Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget Allocation 2021 Lease Revenue Bonds and Commercial Paper Proceeds to Fund Critical Infrastructure Needs

• State Budget Allocations to San Diego Parks

- o **Balboa Park** Building renovations to the Casa del Prado \$3,700,000
- o Barnes Tennis Center Billie Jean King Tennis Court renovation \$2,500,000
- Chicano Park
 - Arts Council for the Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center in San Diego - \$7,500,000
 - Mural restoration at the Chicano Park in San Diego \$2,500,000
- o **Chollas Creek/Southcrest** green infrastructure project, which will treat storm water runoff entering Chollas Creek \$3,100,000
- o Chollas Lake electrical upgrades \$424,000

- Mission Trails Regional Park
 - San Diego River Bridge \$1,500,000
 - Trail System Management and Youth Camp Programs \$100,000
- o Ocean Beach Pier Renovation \$8,400,000
- Rancho Bernardo Community Park Improvements to the Ed Brown Senior Center - \$300,000

Come Play Outside

- o Funding sources, obtained in partnership with San Diego Parks Foundation:
 - County of San Diego Health and Human Services Grant: \$750k
 - City of San Diego Fiscal Year 2022 Budget: \$400k
 - Price Philanthropies
- Focus on 16 recreation centers and parks within Communities of Concern (defined by the Climate Equity Index, which is available at: https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2019 climate equity index report.pdf
- Planned Programs:
 - Aquatics
 - Learn to Swim
 - Pool Guard Training
 - Fern Street Circus
 - Flexible youth activity and camp programming
 - Arts and Crafts
 - Gymnastics
 - Martial Arts
 - Music Lessons
 - Photography Camp
 - Science Camp
 - Sports Clinics
 - Water-Based Activities (kayaking, surfing, etc.)
 - Outdoor Adventure Camp
 - Movies in the Park
 - Teen Nite
- Summer Youth Environmental and Recreation Corps Program
 - Permanent Job Opportunities

- Grounds Maintenance Worker
- Recreation Aide/Leader
- Swimming Pool Guard/Manager
- o Internships and Mentorships
 - LEADER Academy
 - Mentor Program
 - Natural Resource/Park Ecology Program
 - Park Ranger Interpretation and Education
- Partnership with local nonprofits to help reach youth ages 16 to 24
- **Ongoing Recruitments** The Department is in the process to hire all levels of staff, and Personnel Department will issue notices seeking interested applicants. Employment Opportunities are available at https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sandiego.
- Parks Master Plan (PMP):
 - The Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods (PS&LN) Committee heard the PMP at its meeting on 7/14/21 (yesterday). The Committee voted to approve the PMP with conditions and forward it onward to City Council for consideration at its meeting of 8/3/21.
 - PMP Team, which includes staff from the Planning and Parks and Recreation Department, continues to take public input to help improve the plan. Mr. Field noted the that Team appreciates the feedback and work effort from various park stakeholder groups, especially the Parks and Recreation Coalition (PARC).
 - Mr. Field noted that he has the following general perceptions of the PMP draft, which he shared with PS&LN Committee yesterday:
 - First commitment in a citywide policy calling for the equitable prioritization of park investments
 - Provides flexibility for better community input into the types of parks needed in the community
 - Addresses the critical need for funding for our parks system
 - Addresses not only the need for more parks, but the need for programming in parks, and the need to ensure that all parks are well maintained and safe
 - Community input process via General Development Plan and Council
 Policy 600-33 remains very important
 - Mr. Field noted that there are seven sources of project information that staff uses for the purpose of prioritizing projects (which are scored under Council Policy 800-14):

- Community Plans, including Public Facility Financing Plans and Impact Fee Studies (see https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/facilities-planning)
- Condition Assessments (Park Amenities and Facilities)
- Park Planning Tools (General Development Plans, Precise Plans, Master Plans, and Natural Resource Management Plans)
 (https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/parkplanning/documents and https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/documents)
- Unfunded Park Improvements List (derived from Community Recreation Groups and staff on a biennial basis) (https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/documents)
- Project Priority Memos (Community Planning Groups, City Councilmembers, and Nongovernmental Organization/Nonprofits) (https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/21-17_council-budget-memos.pdf, https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/21-01_rev2_fy22_city_council_budget_priorities_2nd_complete_rpt_1.pdf, and https://www.sandiego.gov/cip/reports)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Concerns (for specific projects that improve access to parks/buildings)
- **Five-Year Capital Outlook** (produced each fall by Engineering and Capital Projects) (https://www.sandiego.gov/cip/reports)
- o Last month, the Board approved the PMP with the following conditions:
 - 20% allocation request proposal for park land acquisition
 - Ongoing monitoring program to keep the PMP continuously updated
 - Implementation plan for Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park to the next level by requesting an RFP for a master plan
 - Definition of communities of concern and low/moderate income areas (Climate Equity Index)

These elements remain under consideration as the PMP moves forward for City Council consideration in August.

• Coastal Parking Lot Overnight Closures and Gates

- In June, staff sent letters to coastal community groups and stakeholder nonprofit organizations for feedback on whether to continue to close certain parking lots at Shoreline Parks and Mission Bay Park (with gates and/or signage)
- o On July 12, Mr. Field sent a copy of the letter to all Park Board members

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 This can be an action item for the September meeting if there is interest on the part of the Park Board to establish a recommendation

• Community Recreation Groups

- o In-person meetings may resume starting August
- o Council Policy 700-42 no update since our letter dated 1/5/21

City Council Items:

- Proposed curfew at 3 Pacific Beach-area parks (PB Library Grounds, Fanuel Street Park, and Bob McEvoy Fields) approved by City Council on 6/8/21;
 Coastal Commission review pending
- Proposed modifications to on-leash dog approved hours for Mission Bay Park remains pending at this time

Golf

- o U.S. Open (6/17/21-6/20/21) completed successfully
- o Junior World underway at Torrey Pines Golf Course currently
- **Employees of the Quarter** no update this month
- Requests for future Park and Recreation Board Agenda Items:
 - o Pure Water project and reclaimed water program September
 - o Federal funds for improving park maintenance TBD
 - Climate Equity Index July
 - Park Social TBD

• No Meeting in August

Board Member Questions

- o Mr. Gulley asked if the Botanical Building Award (RFP) cost inclusive of the state and local funds? Is it \$21M total cost (\$12.5M+\$8.5M)? Director Field responded that yes, it was.
- Vice Chair Otsuji inquired if there were staffing challenges within the Department. Mr. Field responded that over the past year and half, the Department has seen a loss of 20% to 40% of staff.
- Vice Chair Otsuji asked about federal dollars for park infrastructure. Mr. Field noted that he would invite Intergovernmental Relations Director Adrian Granda to a future meeting to present on this topic.
- Public Comment was made by Kurt Huffman asking if the Botanical Building would be a more permanent structure. Director Field replied that it would be. Mr. Huffman also asked if volunteers would be let back into the park again. Director Field replied that yes, they would be.

ACTION ITEM:

102. Appointment of Board Member to Community Parks II Area Committee

Presenter: Dennis Otsuji, Vice-Chair, Park and Recreation Board

Mr. Field asked the Board for volunteers to serve as the new chair of the Community Parks II Area Committee. After a brief exchange of questions and answers, Mr. Baron agreed to volunteer for this role, replacing former Board Member Bobby Hughes.

A motion was made by Mr. Anastasopoulos and seconded by Ms. Bothwell to <u>Appoint Board</u> <u>Member David Baron to the Community Parks II Area Committee.</u> 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, Dennis Otsuji, Evelyn Smith and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None). Not Present: Katherine Johnston.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Climate Equity and the Climate Action Plan

Presenters: Roberto C. Torres, Climate Equity Specialist, Sustainability Department Moriah Saldana, Program Coordinator, Sustainability Department

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Questions and Answers
- There were no "Public Comments" for Information Item 201.
- Ms. Bothwell asked how the Foundation could help the implementation of a more equitable park system.
- Vice-Chair Otsuji asked how the Climate Action Plan fit into the climate equity index.

202. Park Amenity Assets Condition Assessment PowerPoint Presentation

Presenters: Michelle Abella-Shon, Project Officer II, Parks and Recreation Department Jim Winter, Project Officer II, Parks and Recreation Department

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Questions and Answers
- There were 2 Public Comments for Information Item 202 as follows:
 - Rene Smith thanked the Board for the assessment to date but needed more data for areas such as irrigation and historic restoration.

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- Carolyn Chase was happy to see this study come forward. She felt it would be very easy to generate interesting maps of the parks. She requested a list of parks in poor condition sorted by Council Districts and within Communities of Concern. She expressed that this gave an important picture of park maintenance needs, but it was necessary to push for funding to evaluate other existing systems that were excluded from the original study.
- Ms. Bothwell requested an excel copy of the files provided. Jim Winter explained that each park had its own assessment report, which made it easier to understand the data behind the parks.
- Vice-Chair Otsuji expressed that he was glad to see Jim Winter back on a provisional basis. His questions was where to find the funds needed to help these facilities get improved.
- Mr. Cho found the data fascinating and asked when the reports would be updated again. Director Field replied that it was onetime money.
- Mr. Cho responded that the data needed to be updated to keep the information from lagging behind actual needs. He asked where would funding come from for upkeeping these facilities. Director Field replied that the draft Parks Master Plan (PMP) will provide funds for new parks (Citywide Development Impact Fee (DIF)) but did not provide funds for maintenance, repair, and general replacement within existing parks. The best existing source of funding for existing parks is the Commercial Paper Program.
- Vice-Chair Otsuji added that money was needed to help pay for maintenance of new parks in the optimal condition and needs to be in the PMP. He noted that storm water was not included, nor were irrigation systems. Both of which are very expensive.

WORKSHOP - None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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, September 16, 2021

Submitted by,

Andy Field Director

Parks and Recreation Department