

**City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 21, 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. 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 Committee 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 David Baron Jon Becker Marcella Bothwell - Chair Ron Cho Rick Gulley Evelyn Smith Dennis Otsuji, Vice-Chair Noli Zosa	Molly Chase	Andy Field, Director Karen Dennison Louis Merlin Ryan Barbrick Shelly Stowell Charlie Daniels David Lanni Elvi Ricafort

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcella Bothwell at 2:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

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

A motion was made by Mr. Anastasopoulos and seconded by Mr. Gulley to approve the **September 16, 2021 Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**. The motion was approved 8-1-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Evelyn Smith, Noli Zosa, and Dennis Otsuji. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: David Baron. Not present: Molly Chase.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commenter Name:	Summary of Comment:
John Stump	Discussion of City Heights event
John Baker	Concerns with the appearance of Balboa Park, with paint peeling off building, broken doors, broken benches, broken lights, broken wash stations, etc.
Bruce Dammann	Haunted Trail has been in West Mesa for years and closes large areas of the picnic area each year. Balboa Park should get more from the Haunted Trail than it appears to be getting. Can this be reviewed?
Daniele Laman	When will the Board get a representative from Council District 9? She asked Mr. Field to follow up with Mayor's Office. Ms. Laman also requested an update on reopening the women's room at Organ Pavilion Restroom, which has been closed since 10/13/21.
Ryan Purdy	South University City ballfields are not in good shape and both McElroy and Fort Fields need to be renovated. Can the University City Little League install new improvements at the field?
Carolyn Chase	Link published on agenda did not work on webinar. Phone number and meeting ID did not work. Glad to get link from Ms. Bothwell, but it is expired and should be fixed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Committee Name:	Summary of Comment:
Area Committee CP-1	Mr. Otsuji noted that he attended a joint virtual meeting of CP-1 and CP-2 to discuss fees and low-income fee waivers.
Area Committee CP-2	Mr. Baron provided the same update as Mr. Otsuji.
Balboa Park Committee	No update since Ms. Chase is not present.
Mission Trails CAC	No update.

SAN DIEGO PARKS FOUNDATION (SDPF) UPDATE:

Topic:	Update: (from Ms. Bothwell)
Come Play Outside	Recognition event for staff involved in the Come Play Outside summer programs and offered staff nice rewards for their participation and help this past summer. Surveys are very important, and more data is needed to get good info about usage and programming needs in the parks.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

- **Mr. Baron** noted the great job by San Diego Parks Foundation in funding Fern Street Circus for the Park de la Cruz grand opening event; walking dog by Normal Heights Adams Community Park – lots of beer there; there needs to be more security

- **Mr. Anastasopoulos** expressed concerns with the Rancho Bernardo dog park and hopes to see this matter on the agenda next month. Park is run down and needs to be upgraded. Should be fast tracked since money is there from State of California.
- **Mr. Otsuji** noted the condition assessment report went to City Council's Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and thanked Mr. Field for that presentation.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Mr. Field noted the following updates for the Board:

- **Appointments to the P&R Board**
 - We still have a vacancy for the District 8 seat
 - As news comes regarding reappointments and new appointments, Mr. Field will keep the Board apprised
- **COVID-19 Update**
 - Most facilities, recreational activities, and programs resumed operations by July 19, 2021, with a few exceptions
 - In-person meetings of Park Board are looking to start in calendar year 2022 due to the increase in cases related to the recent Delta variant
- **FY 2022 Budget Development and FY 2021 Budget Monitoring**
 - Upcoming Budget Reports:
 - FY 2021 Year-End Performance Report – 10/25/21
 - FY 2023-2027 Five-Year Financial Outlook – 11/3/21
 - FY 2022 First Quarter Budget Monitoring Report – 11/3/21
 - FY 2022 Mid-Year Capital Budget Monitoring Report – 11/10/21
 - Upcoming City Council/Committee Budget Meetings:
 - Budget and Government Efficiency Committee – 11/3/21
 - Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee – 11/10/21
 - City Council – 10/25/21, 12/7/21, and 12/14/21
- **Come Play Outside**
 - Halloween Carnivals are coming ... we will send out a flyer to Board members once it is ready
 - Winter Events around the holidays are coming, including the second annual drive-thru Taste of December Nights at Balboa Park the first weekend of December
- **Summer Youth Environmental and Recreation Corps Program**
 - Virtual Job Fair for Southeastern San Diego/Encanto coming 11/17/21

- We are hiring ... job openings are posted now for:
 - Golf Operations Assistant - T11439-202105
 - Grounds Maintenance Worker I - T11225-202110
 - Grounds Maintenance Worker II - T11457-202110
 - Senior Management Analyst - T11501-202110
 - Supervising Management Analyst - T11502-202110
 - Therapeutic Recreation Leader - T11314-202105
 - Chief Park Ranger (Program Manager) Parks and Recreation Department (Unclassified)
 - Pool Guard I - T10996-202103
 - Pool Guard II - T10997-202103
 - Recreation Aide - T11355-202107
 - Recreation Leader I - T10975-202105
 - Recreation Leader II - T11348-202105
 - Swimming Pool Manager I - T10998-202103
 - Swimming Pool Manager II - T10999-202103
 - Swimming Pool Manager III - T11000-202103
- **Parks Master Plan:**
 - Copy available on City's webpage at <https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-for-all-of-us>
- **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** is planned for Environment Committee in November
 - **Park Amenity Condition Assessments** was presented to Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on 10/13/21; a UT article summarizing the results is available here:
<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/politics/story/2021-10-17/sandiego-parks-need-213m-in-upgrades-but-most-are-rate-in-good-condition>
 - **SDUSD Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Use Council Policy 700-35** to City Council on 11/1/21 or 11/2/21
 - **Proposed Overnight Gated Closure of Certain Coastal and Bay Parking Areas package** is being developed for Coastal Commission to receive later this year or in early 2022
- **Employees of the Quarter** for First Quarter, FY 2022
 - **Erika Weikel**, Park Ranger, who responded to a patron who had a drug overdose and successfully aided with the recovery of the patron.
 - **Christine Axtmann**, Park Ranger, who has worked diligently with staff to get the Better Impact system ready for volunteers to return to Mission Trails

Regional Park and developed training module templates specific to each volunteer role.

- **Alejandrina Miranda**, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, who performed at an extremely high level in a demanding environment during COVID-19 restrictions and has quickly and efficiently addressed maintenance issues that occur in Shoreline Parks.
- **Maria Cummins**, Account Clerk, who has taken on extra duties and has processed 183 purchase requisitions and 773 invoices, while closing out the last Fiscal Year's purchase orders.
- **Lucio Ramirez**, Grounds Maintenance Worker II, who has accepted extra duties and shifts on Saturdays as no one else from the area was available to assist and cleaned out over 100 yards of dirt, leaves and debris to clear a ditch for the upcoming rainy season.
- **Denise Wright**, Administrative Aide 2, who accepted extra duties by coordinating, organizing, and greeting interview candidates and overseeing the training of staff on how to prepare and record ActiveNet biweekly ACH deposits.
- **Julie Gregg**, Supervising Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, who took a lead role planning and implementing the Grand Opening of Park De La Cruz Community Center while taking on extra duties as TRS was short a supervisor.
- **Melissa Walton**, Pool Guard 2, who has covered shifts on short notice, worked in an OCA Pool Manager capacity and taken professional trainings in her own time to be an Emergency Medical Responder, which directly benefits the Aquatics District.
- **Ali Noureddine**, Pool Guard 2, who doesn't hesitate when staff need help on difficult skills or rescues and stood out as a leader while being a role model for new hires.
- **Soksann Edwards**, Recreation Aide, who approaches his job with a positive attitude and exceeds expectations daily by having a great work ethic, integrity, and professionalism.
- **Robert Pino**, Greenskeeper, who fabricated support structures for a golf range picker and extended the life of the machine until a new one arrived, which without would have incurred revenue losses up to \$60,000.
- **Board Member Questions of the Director**
 - Mr. Zosa asked if an update is coming related to redistricting. Ms. Bothwell noted that the map from the Redistricting Commission is due on November 15, 2021, and it will go to Council on December 15, 2021, with a possible extension into January. Mr. Zosa recommends everyone look at the maps to see what district will serve each neighborhood.

- Mr. Cho noted that a Redistricting Commission meeting is scheduled this evening to discuss the three proposed maps.
- Mr. Becker noted that there is a good chance of changes coming to Rancho Peñasquitos.
- Mr. Otsuji asked whether the condition assessments will result in any improvements. Mr. Field noted that the report is sobering and notes the significant deferred maintenance needs across the park system.
- Ms. Bothwell asked about the impact Governor Newsom's announcement about drought? Mr. Field replied that the impact is unknown at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Appoint Rick Gulley as the New Park and Recreation Board Representative to the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

Presenter: Andy Field, Director, Parks and Recreation

During his presentation, Mr. Field noted that a new representative was needed since Ms. Bothwell became chair of the Board.

No public comment was received.

MOTION: Approve Staff Recommendation

MOVED/SECONDED

Mr. Otsuji/Ms. Smith

A motion was made by Mr. Otsuji and seconded by Ms. Smith to approve the **appointment of Mr. Gulley as the new Park and Recreation Board representative to the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee**. The motion was approved 8-1-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, David Baron, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Evelyn Smith, Noli Zosa, and Dennis Otsuji. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not present: Molly Chase.

102. Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Fee Schedule Update

Presenter: Shelly Stowell, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation
Sarah Erazo, Program Manager, Parks and Recreation

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Questions and Answers

Public Comment

Commenter Name:	Summary of Comment:
John Stump	Mr. Stump expressed his concerns about fee increases that inhibit or make more expensive not for profit activities. He asked why Parks and Recreation costs have increased and what efforts have been made to reduce costs. Before fees and taxes on events are raised there should be serious consideration as to whether City Contractors and Employees have begun to be a kleptocracy. A serious indicator of this kleptocracy approach would be if the median compensation for Parks and Recreation employees exceeded the median income for City of San Diego residents about \$45k per year for an individual or some \$72k for the entire family. He requested that staff should carefully find a nexus to costs based on a realistic relationship to what most families earn not inflated costs. If the Department needs to recover costs, particularly in Balboa Park; then the place to look are the major tenants who are profitable enough to pay their Chief Executives more than the Parks and Recreation Director for the entire City.
Carolyn Chase	Ms. Chase noted that EarthWorks should not see an increase in permit and use fees. Recommends reducing 10% use fees and eliminating fees for operating golf carts during events. Clarify BP traffic control in events. Opportunity Fund has a diverse crowd with volunteers. Increased fees reduce access.
Sally Smull	Ms. Smull asked which communities get access to the opportunity fund for use for programs and activities.

Board Member Comment

Ms. Bothwell asked how fees are calculated for the Haunted Trail and whether that is considered a cosponsored event? Mr. Field commented that the Haunted Trail is a permitted activity with fees charged to the event producers, and the event producers would pay into the opportunity fund if the proposed fee schedule is approved.

Mr. Anastasopoulos noted that the 1991 City Manager’s Report relates to the free speech permit fees and that City Council had approved that fee.

Mr. Becker asked whether the opportunity fees would be in addition to active sports use fees? Ms. Stowell indicated it would go to Communities of Concern per the 2019 Climate Equity Index. Mr. Becker then asked whether opportunity fees would be tied to the Consumer Price Index or reevaluated every couple of years. Ms. Stowell indicated that the opportunity fee would be reevaluated every few years per Council Policy and stated that the Department cannot get to full cost recovery for most fees.

Mr. Cho noted the difference in revenues, as \$225k would go to the General Fund with the proposed 10.8% increase. He asked when the Department’s fees were last adjusted for cost increases. Ms. Stowell replied that occurred in 2015.

MOTION: Approve Staff Recommendation

MOVED/SECONDED

Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Baron

A motion was made by Mr. Anastasopoulos and seconded by Mr. Baron to approve the **Fiscal Year 2023 fee schedule update for the Parks and Recreation Department**. The motion was approved 8-1-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, David Baron, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Evelyn Smith, Noli Zosa, and Dennis Otsuji. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not present: Molly Chase.

103. Balboa Park Natural History Museum General Development Plan

Presenter: Charles Daniels, Park Designer, Parks and Recreation
Vicki Estrada, Estrada Land Planning
Judy Gradwohl, San Diego Natural History Museum

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Questions and Answers

No public comment was received.

Board Member Comment:

Ms. Bothwell likes the concept and the idea to call this a demonstration garden.

Mr. Gulley noted that the NAT is located right next to the San Diego Zoo and is a great add to this area of Balboa Park. He fully supports the plan and appreciates the teamwork of Vicki Estrada and Andy Spurlock.

Mr. Otsuji is glad to see this GDP moving forward. He feels it is in the right direction with different elements. Trees are very important in any planting plan. Dennis Otsuji identified a series of specific questions about the positioning of trees and vegetation surrounding the NAT and noted the heavily used lawn next to the Moreton Bay Fig Tree to the north. He noted maintenance concerns and hopes the gardens are designed with maintenance in mind.

MOTION: Approve Staff Recommendation

MOVED/SECONDED

Mr. Baron/Ms. Smith

A motion was made by Mr. Baron and seconded by Ms. Smith to approve the **Balboa Park Natural History Museum General Development Plan**. The motion was approved 8-1-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, David Baron, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Evelyn Smith, Noli Zosa, and Dennis Otsuji. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not present: Molly Chase.

INFORMATION ITEM:

201. Golf Division Business Plan Update

Presenter: John Howard, Assistant Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation
David Lanni, Golf Course Manager, Parks and Recreation

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Questions and Answers

No public comment was received.

Board Member Comment:

Ms. Bothwell thanked the staff for report and for accommodating the Undertow at both courses at Torrey Pines. How could there be 100,000 rounds of play at Mission Bay Golf Course? Seems like it would be difficult for all of them to fit!

Mr. Gulley asked if the clubhouse at Torrey Pines shares revenue with the Golf Enterprise Fund. Staff noted that the City is the landlord, and Torrey Pines Club Corporation is lessee. Tobey's at Balboa Park is another example of lease.

Mr. Otsuji asked what the resident fees are at Torrey Pines South? Mr. Lanni noted the rates are \$78, \$63 on weekdays. There is a senior rate of \$44 on weekday.

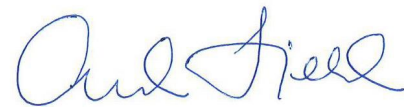
Mr. Cho wants to support the Undertow. He noted challenges with the Balboa Nine Hole Course and asked if it is getting any help. Mr. Lanni noted that the restroom renovation project is underway. Feedback is good for course conditions, and play is up over last year.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 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: November 18, 2021

Submitted by,



Andy Field
Director
Parks and Recreation Department