

SAN DIEGO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
ROBB FIELD ADVISORY GROUP

**JUNE 9, 2022 MINUTES**

of the

**Special Meeting Held At:**

Online at various attendee locations, using a Zoom platform

**Attendance (Officers):**

John McKaveney (Albion Soccer Club), President  
Rasheed Hassan (X Flag Football), Vice President  
Jim Nickel (Kiwanis Club of Ocean Beach), Secy./Treasurer

**Attendance (Members):**

Jane Bird (Volo San Diego)  
Michelle Huber (Peninsula Little League)  
Scott Lewis (PYSA)  
Annika Santos (SD Surfers Rugby)  
Dan Smith (SD Old Aztecs Rugby)  
Whitney Wilkinson (At-Large)

**Absent:**

Michal-Lynn O'Kelley (High Tech High School)

**Guests:**

Stefan Boyland (Ocean Beach Pickleball)  
Carole Farr (Peninsula Tennis Club)  
Ryan Redondo (Barnes Tennis Center)  
Mike Shinzaki (Ocean Beach Pickleball)  
Todd Sprague (Peninsula Tennis Club)  
Other Zoom meeting guest attendees – see attached list

**City Staff**

Angelina Black, Area Manager  
Matt Ryan, Center Director III

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson, John McKaveney, called the special meeting of the Robb Field Advisory Group to order at 2:00 pm on Thursday, June 9, 2022. This meeting was conducted entirely online using a Zoom platform. A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

The Robb Field Advisory Group members and City staff in attendance introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The proposed agenda for the June 9, 2022 special meeting of the Robb Field Advisory Group was presented for approval.

***MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Jim Nickel/Whitney Wilkinson) to approve the June 9, 2022 agenda, as presented. Motion passed unanimously [5|0|0].***

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The proposed minutes of the March 3, 2022 regular meeting of the Robb Field Advisory Group were presented for approval.

***MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Whitney Wilkinson/Dan Smith) to approve the March 3, 2022 minutes, as presented. Motion passed [5|0|0]. Abstained: Whitney Wilkinson.***

*Rasheed Hassan entered the meeting at 2:05 pm.*

## **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Meeting attendee Ron Bell spoke about the parking problems caused by Recreational Vehicles (RV's) parking overnight and for prolonged periods at Robb Field and thus using up a significant amount of available parking space, especially in certain areas. Ron also spoke about the large numbers of homeless persons at Robb Field at various times and the sorts of problems their presence may create or worsen.

*Michelle Huber entered the meeting at 2:10 pm.*

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Chairperson, John McKaveney, commented that he did not have anything new to report at this time. However, John did respond to the two issues raised by Ron Bell. John said that the police are actively working on the RV parking problem and recently conducted a "sweep" that appears to have had a beneficial effect on the RV parking problem. John reminded everyone that we have been encouraged to report problems caused by homeless people to the police so the police can take action. The police usually cannot act unless they receive a complaint.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Secretary, Jim Nickel, reported that as of May 31, 2022 no council member or organization is currently at immediate risk for loss of membership due to three consecutive non-excused absences or four annual absences from council meetings. Jim also reported that resignations of two longtime members, Gary Gilbert and Steve Rowell, had been accepted at the last Advisory Group meeting on March 3, 2022, so two At-Large member vacancies now exist. Jim reminded all Advisory Group members that if they have a medical reason or other valid reason for missing a meeting, they should notify the Robb Field office to request an excused absence. The May 2022 attendance report is attached to these minutes.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Treasurer, Jim Nickel, reported the following unaudited financial information provided by the City of San Diego in their "Budget to Actuals Report" for the Robb Field account for Period 10 of Fiscal Year 2022. Period 10 encompassed the time period beginning April 1, 2022 and ending April 30, 2022. The beginning balance on April 1, 2022 was \$136,093 and the ending balance on April 30, 2022 was \$157,575. The total revenue for January, 2022 was \$21,482, consisting of \$961 of interest income and \$20,522 of income from usage fees. The total expenses incurred but not yet paid (encumbrances) were \$19,286. The encumbrances consisted of \$1,888 for fertilizer, \$16,483 for soil and conditioner, and \$915 for miscellaneous professional/technical services. The expenses actually paid were \$5,279. The expenses actually paid consisted of \$3,874 for various supplies and \$1,404 for various contracts. The actual net operating profit (gain), excluding encumbrances, was \$16,204 (rounded to the nearest whole dollar). As of January 31, 2022, the closing balance in the Robb Field fund was \$159,136.99. The City's unaudited Fiscal Year 2022 Budget to Actuals Report as of the end of Period 10 for Robb Field Recreation Center is attached to these minutes.

***MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Rasheed Hassan/Annika Santos) to approve the Budget to Actuals Report for Robb Field for Period 10 of Fiscal Year 2022 as presented, subject to audit. Motion passed unanimously [7|0|0].***

## **SAN DIEGO CITY STAFF REPORTS:**

Center Director III, Matt Ryan, reported that the annual field maintenance of the Quad has been completed. The Quad is now open and the fields are in good condition. The grass was cut today and it appears green and full. Renovation of the Back 9 fields is currently scheduled to begin on July 5, 2022 and will take place during July and August.

## **FITNESS CLUB REPORT:**

Matt Ryan reported that the Fitness Club continues to be temporarily closed. A management contract is still under negotiation. No date has been set to re-open. Additional staff will be needed when the Fitness Club does re-open.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

There were no Action Items scheduled for this meeting.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

1. Pickleball proposal for Robb Field: Mike Shinzaki and his colleague Stefan Boyland presented their proposal on behalf of local pickleball players. Mike and Stefan are both professional pickleball players and instructors who are currently organizing pickleball games and providing pickleball instruction as volunteers working at the Barnes Tennis Center facility six days a week. Their proposal is to repurpose six or all 12 of the Robb Field tennis courts, converting them to pickleball courts under their direction and control. They believe that the number of pickleball players is rapidly growing, that there is a shortage of pickleball courts in San Diego, that the Robb Field tennis courts are underutilized, that the Peninsula Tennis Club (PTC) is a failing facility, that PTC tennis players can easily find other places to play like at Barnes, and that construction of new pickleball courts or using other playing surfaces for pickleball is not a workable solution. If the city approves Mike and Stefan taking over the Peninsula Tennis Club's special use permit, they said they will fund all the needed changes and improvements to the facility at no taxpayer expense. They are requesting that the Robb Field Advisory Group issue a letter of support for their proposal to repurpose the Robb Field tennis courts to pickleball courts.
2. Peninsula Tennis proposal for Robb Field: Todd Sprague, an active board member of several local tennis organizations, presented the Peninsula Tennis Club (PTC) proposal. Todd said that the PTC wants to continue operating the Robb Field tennis courts as tennis courts under their control in compliance with their Special Use Permit from the City of San Diego. The PTC requests that the Robb Field Advisory Group reject Mike and Stefan's proposal to evict the PTC from a facility they have successfully managed for more than 40 years. Todd stated that Mike and Stefan's characterization of the PTC as a failing facility is not true. Todd also tried to correct the misperception about the numbers of pickleball players vs. tennis players that Mike and Stefan created by comparing rates of growth of the two sports. Todd said that the total number of pickleball players in the U.S. today is less than just the increase in the number of new tennis players since the pandemic began. Carole Farr added that the PTC is a successful non-profit entity that operates the Robb Field tennis courts and does all the maintenance and capital improvements at no taxpayer expense. Ryan Redondo from Barnes Tennis Center made the point that Barnes is booked up and does not have the capacity to take in the large number of players that could be displaced from Robb Field if the Robb Field tennis courts were changed to pickleball courts. Todd ended by saying that he and many other tennis players think that pickleball courts are needed, but not at the expense of existing tennis courts. Todd also said that many tennis players believe that newly developed dedicated pickleball courts need to be built in the near future. Therefore the PTC requests that the Robb Field Advisory Group vote to keep all of the Robb Field tennis courts as tennis courts operated by the PTC as they have done successfully for the past 40-plus years.

*Rasheed Hassan left the meeting at 3:05 pm.*

## **COMMUNITY/ORGANIZATION REPORTS:**

**Albion Soccer Club/John McKaveney:** Albion is in the middle of their new season. They have two new affiliates, one in Riverside and the other in Las Vegas. Overall registration is now back to pre-covid levels.

**Peninsula Youth Softball Association (PYSA)/Scott Lewis:** The Cool Breeze tournament took place last weekend. It was their largest ever. A total of 71 teams played. Robb Field had very good infrastructure for the tournament, including Portapotties and dumpsters. PYSA is finishing up their all-star season in the next few weeks.

**X Flag Football/Rasheed Hassan:** No report.

**Kiwanis Club of Ocean Beach/Jim Nickel:** The Kiwanis Club of Ocean Beach held its 75<sup>th</sup> annual Ocean Beach Kite Festival on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at Robb Field. The children made a total of 734 kites. Professional kitefliers also performed.

**SD Surfers Rugby/Annika Santos:** SD Surfers Rugby's last home game was last Saturday. They will be finishing up the WPL season soon. They will be starting their 7<sup>th</sup> season soon and it will run through the summer.

**SD Old Aztecs Rugby/Dan Smith:** Old Aztecs season finished in April. The new season has now started. The tournament will be in July at Robb Field.

**Peninsula Little League (PLL)/Michelle Huber:** Peninsula Little League just had its closing ceremonies this weekend. They are hosting juniors and seniors all-stars now and through July.

**Volo San Diego/Jane Bird:** Kickball and softball are both going well at Robb Field. Also Volo has experience with pickleball and would be willing to help.

**High Tech High School/Michal-Lynn O'Kelley:** No report.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

***MOTION:*** It was moved/seconded (Scott Lewis/Annika Santos) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously [7|0|0]. Meeting adjourned at 3:13 pm.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting of the Robb Field Advisory Group is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 2:00 pm via Zoom.

**ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS:** If you expect to miss the meeting, please email Matt Ryan at [msryan@sandiego.gov](mailto:msryan@sandiego.gov) or call (619) 531-1563.

If there are any questions regarding these minutes, please contact the Corresponding Secretary, Jim Nickel, at [jimnickel@earthlink.net](mailto:jimnickel@earthlink.net). This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request.

**Submitted by:**

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James R. Nickel, Secretary

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Date

**Reviewed by:**

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Angelina Black, Area Manager, Parks and Recreation Dept.

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Date

**Approved by:**

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John McKaveney, Chairperson

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Date

## OTHER ZOOM MEETING GUEST ATTENDEES

Attachment to the Minutes of the Robb Field Advisory Group meeting held on June 9, 2022

The following list of persons who attended or may have attended at least part of the Robb Field Advisory Group meeting held by Zoom on June 9, 2022 was derived from the sign-in/chat record and from lists of probable attendees submitted to Center Director III Matt Ryan by Carole Farr and other attendees.

### June 9<sup>th</sup> Robb Field Advisory Group Meeting Guest Attendees Other Than Scheduled Speakers

#### First & Last Names Known

David Demer  
Bridget O'Brien  
Annie Bix  
John Knight  
Susan Bruin  
Joe Mansfield  
Steve Leffler  
Debbie Merickel  
Sue de Boer  
Paul Smit  
Au-Co Mai  
Kim Latham  
Ron Bell  
Cindy Hanson  
Pete Saucedo  
John Mann  
Kyle Balaban  
Randi Lettington  
Glen Fisher  
John Broderick  
Dave Kelly  
Steve de la Torre  
Kim Genovese  
David Coppa  
Martin Thornros  
Joe Paraiso  
Manuel Amaya  
Mark Bauer  
Brian Rosenberg  
Judy Sweet  
Anne Garrison  
Bee Mittermiller  
David Hewitt  
Gary Garmstead  
James Vandergriff  
Linda Milan  
Linus Smith  
Noel Sarthou  
Patricia Nguyen  
Robert McClellan  
John Saunders  
Shane Grosenbach

#### Only Partial Names or Initials Known

Mark W...  
Shelly T...  
T... Prichard  
S... Thompson  
Mimi ----  
Oki ----  
Alan ----  
Aurelie ----  
Cheri ----  
Dianne ----  
J... T...  
SCTA User