

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

September 17, 2009

MINUTES

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
202 C Street, MS 37C
San Diego, California 92101

Members Present

Wilbur Smith, Chair
Rick Bussell
William Diehl
Vicki Granowitz
Roz King
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

Ginny Barnes
Bruce Brown
Norman Greene

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Sheila Bose
Elif Cetin
Charles Daniels
Patty Jencks
Jo-Ann Novak
Kevin Oliver
Carol Wood

CALL TO ORDER – The Chair Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2009

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz/Mr. Bussell

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the July 16, 2009 meeting minutes. Ayes have it with two Board Members abstaining.

Ms. Granowitz requested the motion made by her on June 18, 2009 meeting minutes regarding West Lewis Mini Park be amended. Ms. LoMedico will bring the amended meeting minutes back to the Board in October.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Consent At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as “Consent” items.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz/Mr. Bussell

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Bussell to move Item 103 - West Lewis Mini Park – Approval of General Development Plan to the consent agenda.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz/Mr. Bussell

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the Consent Agenda.

For the record: Mr. Smith noticed the cost on this project was \$450,000 for roughly less than 10,000 square foot park, putting it at \$1.9 million per acre. This has to be one of the most expensive parks the City of San Diego has ever built. In these days of fiscal austerity this seems a little over the top.

The ayes have it.

Special request of order of business with Mr. Alessi presenting an informational Item 201 - Open Space Needs Assessment and Update on Park Planning.

At the advice of Ms. Davies, Mr. Stepner disclosed that he was a consultant on the project.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Area Committee Community Parks I

- Ms. King reported that the Mountain View Community Park will be used as a police sub-station and the teen center will move to the community center.
- A request was made to have the cooking class evaluated at Willie Henderson Sports Complex.
- The new sidewalks have been installed at Paradise Hills.
- A request to restock the fish at Chollas Lake was made as a result of fish removed with water by fire tanker scooping aircraft during recent operations.
- The Committee requested an update on the status of the changes to the skate park ordinance.
- Dion Akers, Council Representative of Council District 3 provided a report on their priorities and major projects. Council District 8 sent a written report to the Committee
- The Committee requested follow-up on plans for installation of reclaimed water service within various Council Districts of Community Parks II.
- The Committee continues to be challenged by attendance issues.
- Ms. King reported she is pleased with Park and Recreation Department staff that have provided assistance to the Committee over the past year.

Area Committee Community Parks II – No report

Balboa Park Committee

- Ms. Granowitz would like to work on the Park and Recreation Board policy for placing signs within the park system.
- Changes to the alcohol ban are moving forward and will be at Public Safety and Neighborhood Services (PS&NS) Committee in October.

- The second phase of the study of Governance and fund raising for management is moving forward. The Mayor's office and Council District 3 have approved the nominees list. A press conference will take place in the near future.

Design Review Committee

- Mr. Smith reported that landscape architects are concerned the landscapes will be negatively impacted by the new water schedule that will take effect in November.
- Mr. Smith is concerned about the equity of the two joint use agreements in Serra Mesa Area. His concern is that the City of San Diego will pay four million dollars for improvements for development of a now City property and the City has part time use.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee – No report, meeting tonight.

Mission Bay Park Committee – No report

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – No report

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee – No report

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee

- Mr. Stepner reported they met in August. The primary topic of the meeting was a discussion on who the park is to serve.

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.) - None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mr. Smith reported Mr. Ricky Duran, District Manager, will retire after 30 plus years of service on September 30, 2009 and wished him all the best.
- Mr. Don Mackey Sr. passed away in July. He was instrumental in the development of the Torrey Pines Golf Course, and made tremendous contributions to San Diego's recreation programs.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico distributed the following items:
 - Water brochures are being distributed at recreation centers and public offices with simple instructions regarding water use restrictions. The Public Utilities Department is making recommendations to the City Council to change the mandatory restrictions for watering from once a week the beginning of November 1, 2009. The Department is requesting to reduce watering time from three times a week and a total of 30 minutes to three days and a total of 21 minutes. Recommendations include variance to watering turf and the ability to water potted plants at any time. The report may be going to Natural Resource and Cultural (NR&C) Committee the first week of October.
 - Board Members received an invitation to the Friends of Balboa Park 9th Annual Millennium Awards Luncheon on October 27, 2009. One of the honorees will be Board Member Stepner.

- “Good News” a thank you email to City staff for keeping parks in good shape in the face of significant budget and workforce reductions.
 - “Good News” a thank you letter for commending Park and Recreation Department staff good work in responding to budgetary challenges.
 - Mayor Jerry Sanders Fact Sheet dated August 27, 2009 regarding water use down by 14 percent citywide.
- Ms. LoMedico reported that Mr. Bussell is back on the Park and Recreation Board with his term ending in March 1, 2010. However, he will no longer be on the Mission Bay Park Committee.
 - Ms. LoMedico will introduce Scott Reese the new Assistant Park and Recreation Director at the next Board meeting. Mr. Reese was unavailable due to attending a national conference.
 - Children’s Pool – Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be on the City Council October 22, 2009 agenda. Ms. LoMedico will be at Superior Court on October 6, 2009.
 - Rotation of the pool’s closer is posted at each site and on the City web page. These closures are part of the budget reduction.
 - The Fiscal Year 2010 budget is on line and includes the City Capital Improvement Projects budget. Budget and Finance meeting will take place on September 23, 2009, and will discuss budget principals. The Mayor’s Five Year Plan will be available October 1, 2009. This plan will address new park and recreation facilities and staffing needs.
 - Lifeguard and Coast Guard staff intervention has reduced the number of flotillas at Mission Bay.
 - Kate Session Neighborhood Park staff has been incorporating changes in management to reduce drinking in this park by pruning shrubs, relocating of porta-potties. Closing comfort stations. Turning off water supply, and installing protective covers on all water valves.
 - The final cost to support the Fourth of July activities for additional non-personal (porta-potties, toilet paper and additional refugee disposal) over three days was \$160,000. This is lower than previous years. Police and Lifeguard staff reported this Fourth of July crowd was the largest ever visiting beaches and shoreline parks.
 - One hundred children participated in the Sports Committee championship baseball and softball league. The charge was \$5.00 a month for families who may not be able to afford other league packets involved in little leagues. Free pizza and water was distributed to attendees.
 - Five hundred people attended the grand re-opening of Kellogg playground which was made a reality by donations from the community.
 - An article about the 50 year old Ocean Beach Comfort Station appeared in the Union Tribune today. This facility recently closed due to structural and safety issues. The comfort station was demolished today. The City target date for completion of construction of a new comfort station is within 18 months.
 - Ms. LoMedico reminded the Board Members the November meeting will be a joint meeting with the Planning Commission on the San Diego River Master Plan. Mr. Smith requested advance documents for the November joint meeting. (Ms. Novak will work with the Planning Commission representative and send to the Board Members.)

- Due to the number of work items coming to the Park and Recreation Board Ms. LoMedico requested the Board not go dark in December. Ms. Novak will request Board Members availability for a December 17, 2009 Park and Recreation Board meeting.
- Mr. Bussell requested the Police Department provide information on related to crimes rates and trends in Mission Bay Park. (Ms. LoMedico will provide Mr. Bussell with this report at the next Board meeting.)
- Ms. Granowitz would like to know how the Police and Lifeguard Department staff are mitigating the impact of the large number of people on the flotillas? (Ms. LoMedico will have to get back Ms. Granowitz on this question.)
- Ms. Granowitz would like to know if Balboa Park - Inspiration Point has been removed from the potential list for the Winter Homeless Shelter. (Ms. LoMedico reported that the motion on Monday by the City Council was to take these sites off the list and request the Mayor's Office to come back with some additional sites outside the downtown core area. Ms. LoMedico is confident Balboa Park is off the list.)

ACTION ITEMS

101. Approval to Accept the Donation of a Solar Powered Clock for Naval Training Center (NTC) Park

Mr. Charles Daniels, Park Designer, of Park and Recreation Department provided information on the first proposed donation of the solar clock of this type to be installed on the west coast. The donation is proposed in memory of James M. Davis, Rotary President, educator and who was involved in various charities and committees as President and Grand Juror. Mr. Thorn from the Rotary Club was on hand to answer questions.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz/Mr. Bussell

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the acceptance of the donated solar powered clock for Naval Training Center Park. Ayes have it.

102. Approval of North Ocean Beach Gateway General Development Plan

Ms. Elif Cetin, Associated Civil Engineer, Mr. Kevin Oliver, Project Office II of Engineering and Capital Projects Department and Mr. Kurt Carlson, Project Manager, KTU+A Planning and Landscaping Architecture provided a comprehensive presentation on North Ocean Beach Gateway General Development Plan. The site will be developed as a passive park incorporating a decorative plaza that provides pedestrian access into the adjacent Rob Field Community Park. The improvements will also act as a "Gateway" for automobile, bike and pedestrian users entering Ocean Beach from the north.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Bussell/Ms. Granowitz

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell and seconded by Ms. Granowitz to approve the North Ocean Beach Gateway General Development Plan. Ayes have it.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Open Space Needs Assessment and Update on Park Planning

Mr. Frank Alessi, Executive Vice President Chief Financial Officer, Tara Lake, Senior Planner, and Mr. Dean Coker, Assistant Vice President of Advance Planning, of Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) provided a brief update on proposed parks program for the downtown. Mr. Alessi understands in the past there may have been some challenges working with CCDC on various matters, but he is optimistic that in the future we will be working in a more collaborative way on park projects that benefit not only downtown residents but the entire City.

Mr. Coker stated that CCDC is focusing on land acquisitions for Saint Joseph Park between Ash and Beech at 3rd and 4th. Also, moving forward with land acquisition for East Village Green located at East E and F at 14th Street.

Ms. Lake presented information on the initial steps for creating a parks master plan which will involve outreach to the community and staff site visits. The top four potential recreational space needs are:

- Multi-purpose open space
- Dog parks/dog runs
- Playgrounds or tot lots
- Sidewalks/walkable streets

Board Members Comments and Questions:

- Will Board Members be allowed to participate in the process? (Yes)
- Caution on temporary dog parks, becoming permanent dog parks.
- Take into consideration that the demographics of the report will change where citizen will be in their 60's.
- Is there a plan for reuse of water? (Yes, when/where it is available.)
- Is 20th and B/Pershing Park one of CCDC? (This is not in the program.)
- Any plans to change Horton Plaza Park to be a usable park? (Yes, CCDC plan on sending out a Request For Proposal.)
- It was noted that dog parks are high on the list. (Population of downtown is expanding.)

202. Park and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2009 Customer Satisfaction Survey Results

Ms. Patty Jencks, Supervising Management Analyst, Park and Recreation Department provided a comprehensive presentation on the Fiscal Year 2009 customer Satisfaction Survey Results. The main purpose of the survey is to gauge the satisfaction of our customers and focuses on our park users, not on non-park users. Users rated their experience with our park system as 92.6% excellent or good, and our programs and facilities were rated 94.7% excellent or good.

Park users were asked if they would support an increase in park user fees to maintain current service levels. Over 56% of the respondents answered yes. Sixty-one percent of respondents felt that the fees they pay are right for the quantity and quality of services received.

Park users were asked to select their top three priorities for programs/services if additional funding was allocated toward park and recreation services. The top five answers in order of preference were:

- Youth Programs
- Longer Recreation Center Hours
- After School Programs
- Maintenance Recreation Centers
- Pools

Overall park users felt safe in park and recreation areas.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Stepner expressed concern that the impact of further reductions in budget would eventually have an impact on programs and services that may be reflected in survey results next year. Park and Recreation Department Staff are currently doing a good job with less.

WORKSHOP

301. Donor/Fund-Raising

Ms. Carol Wood, Grants Administrator, Park and Recreation Department, and Ms. Jenny Wolff, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Corporate Partnership Program provided a report from March, 2009 Park and Recreation Board meeting. Ms. Wood and Ms. Wolff responded to several questions from the Board Members and reported the Council Policy on Donations is being revised and a Administrative Regulation on Donations is being developed in part to incorporate the change using SAP.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds would like to know how the Board or individuals can help economically challenge areas raise funds. Staff answered this:

- Board Members may update their 2005 Unfunded Park Improvements List.
- Board Members may advocate on the behalf of the Park and Recreation Department.
- Utilized current non-profit corporations that have a 501C3 in place, such as the San Diego Friends of the Park.
- Fund projects through the new City Community Development Block Grant (CBDG.)

Board Members comments and questions:

- May additional projects be added to the Facilities Finance Plan? (Yes)
- Mr. Diehl would like to know if a Recreational Council may pay a Grounds Maintenance Worker over-time pay for additional maintenance? (Ms. LoMedico will follow-up on this question.)
- Ms. Puentes-Reynolds will ask Ms. Granowitz in November to be on the Ad-Hoc Committee to revise the Park and Recreation Board Policy on plaques.
- Donations are usual tangible items and it is difficult for people to donate to programs.

- Board may consider developing a speakers group to attend community meetings to present ideas for donations on behalf of Park and Recreation Department. Mr. Bussell would like to volunteer to be a speaker.
- Ms. Granowitz would like to volunteer to assist in setting up a 501C3.
- Mr. Diehl commented that most fees come from development impact fees, and stated they have no City staff that runs their programs, all recreation programs are contracted out.

Ms. Wolff commented if the Board decides to create a campaign to raise funds for: all recreation centers to have equal hours of operation, she recommended that all information such as each area: current operating hours and the demographics be placed in one location on the City website. This would allow companies the opportunity to view areas where they may like their presents to be know and donate to that particular area.

Ms. LoMedico requested that Ms. Wolff read and respond to a general public question:

*How do we prioritize time spent on building Strategic Corporate Partnerships and the Mayor's Office has been promoting raising money for the fire pits.
A website was created to offer citizen's to give money on line. The overall theme was how do we prioritize different programs and services that we try and raise money for?*

In terms of Corporate Partnership 99 percent of Ms. Wolff's time is spent raising money through marketing partnership to off-set the General Fund expenses, so there is more money available to pay for items we need and not restructure gifts that are targeted for a single purpose.

Ms. Wolff first goal is to build the new SAP system and train as many people as possible on to manage donations. This includes how to approach the public and what to say when soliciting donations. She encouraged staff to make her aware of services and programs needs so she may include them on the City of San Diego website on philanthropy.
<http://www.sandiego.gov/philanthropycenter/index.shtml>

STANDING UPDATES

Ms. LoMedico reported that the final Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR) plan was presented the final to the Steering Committee in August and the plan is with the Labor Relations Department. Once discussions and Meet and Confer are completed Department staff will bring the formal report to the Park and Recreation Board.

Ms. LoMedico commented that at the July 16, 2009 meeting there was a question from a citizen regarding the Low-Income Golf presentation report. The citizen stated that staff did not follow the resolution from Council and the report was incorrect. Ms. LoMedico requested that staff listen to the recording again and has received advice from Attorney Davies. The report was within what Council requested, and we will be moving forward to Natural Cultural and Resource (NR&C) Committee.

Mr. Stepner distributed a commentary by Vince Vasquez on Public Parks in the Time of Austerity and a PARK(ing) Day 2009 Facts for San Diego PARK(ing) Day 2009 on Friday, September 18, 2009

Mr. Diehl reported that Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserved kick-off the Los Peñasquitos canyon fire watch. Last week-end they had a kick-off meeting asking for volunteers and handed out 500 brochures from the Fire-Rescue Department.

Mr. Diehl reported that Black Mountain Open Space Park is seeking funds to construct an ADA trail at the visitor center.

Ms. King reported the fastest growing sport for the past two years is tennis. Ms. King appealed to the Board Members to save existing tennis courts. She also stated the United States Tennis Association (USTA) main emphases is to increase participation among children age 6-12 years old using the Quick Start Program which employs techniques that can be practiced anywhere.

Mr. Diehl requested a report on leases. Ms. LoMedico will schedule the presentation for the first of the year as Real Estates Asset Department staffing is down 25% due to the recent retirements.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, October 15, 2009**

**City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101**

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico
Park and Recreation Director