

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

March 18, 2010

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
Ginny Barnes
Rick Bussell
William Diehl
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
Roz King

Members Absent

Michael Stepner
Bruce Brown
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Kathy Aceves
Laura Ball
Nancy Bragado
Howard Greenstein
Bennur Koksuz
David Monroe
Scott Reese
Deborah Sharpe
Shannon Thomas
Jane Witzke
Chris Zirkle

CALL TO ORDER – Chair, Mr. Smith, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2010

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Bussell/Mr. Greene

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell and seconded by Mr. Greene to approve the February 18, 2010 meeting minutes. (7-0)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – None

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

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Area Committee Community Parks I

- Ms. Barnes reported the Committee is working on the recreation council roles in fund raising (e.g. types of fund-raising, etc).

Area Committee Community Parks II - No Report.

Balboa Park Committee

- Ms. Granowitz reported the Committee did not meet due to a potential Brown Act violation.
- The last meeting of the Balboa Park Task Force will be in April and the Committee hopes to finalize the report. Ms. Granowitz is targeting April to present report to Park and Recreation Board.

Design Review Committee

- Mr. Smith reported that Alexandra Corsi, Engineering and Capital Projects, Project Manager gave a presentation on the City Heights Mini Park General Development Plan.
- Mr. Clark Ritter, Engineering and Capital Projects, Project Manager, gave a presentation on the Memorial Pool renovation. The Committee was concerned about the lack of landscaping and other amenities, including solar panels.
- Staff reported on the Language Academy Joint Use Area. Committee was concerned no trees being planted and the use of synthetic turf.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee – No report

Mission Bay Park Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported on the closure of 12 of the 24 restrooms for the winter, which are due to re-open March 30, 2010.
- Lifeguards reported that they had 100 mooring permit renewals processed. Boats are being brought to the dock for inspection instead of the lifeguard having to go out to the boats.
- San Diego Cycle Vets request a time change on their permit for an event from 6-9:30 a.m. instead of 7-9:00 a.m. for time trials to take place.
- The Ocean Discovery Institute on Aquatic Adventure provided a presentation on their program.
- The Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee did not meet.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – No report.

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee

- A “meet and greet” was held including a welcome back to Senior Ranger Tracey Walker.
- The Wildlife Report - 21 species of birds were spotted on a 20 minute walk including the Cedarwax Wings.
- Youth along with University of San Diego will be hosting Youth Empowerment Program sharing the knowledge of canyons with school age youth.
- Senior Ranger Walker reported on damage from the last storm which consisted mostly of trash in the canyon.
- A “thank you” event is being planned for the Police and Fire Department staffs.

- Senior Ranger Walker plan on updating the Tri-Canyon Survey.
- Drone Project with University of San Diego to be use for the encroachment of plants that is taking place in the canyon by Mount Terminus.
- Sewer repair project was finished March 1st and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) is working on a long-term access plan.

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee

- Ms. Barnes reported that the General Development Plan was approved by the Committee and will be following the Park and Recreation Department steps of going to the various Committees, and should be targeted to bring before the Park and Recreation Board in October of this year. Ms. Barnes thanked Mr. Smith, Ms. Granowitz, and Ms. LoMedico for attending the meeting in acquiring firsthand knowledge of the project. The next task is to get cost estimates and to prioritize the needs for the park as the funds become available.
- Ms. Barnes reported that the Fixed Wing Gliders would not be flying the Spring of 2010 or 2011 due to the ongoing construction at University of California San Diego

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.)

- Ms. Barnes wanted to know if the off-leash dog park policy would be coming before the Board and Ms. LoMedico noted that there was an attachment in today's handouts.
- Ms. Barnes was concerned that the Carmel Valley Recreation Council has seen no movement on the on-line registration process and was told it was to go into effect in September. Ms. Barnes is concerned about the funding being pulled and feels it will save the Department money in staff time. Ms. LoMedico cautioned her on the cost savings as some Recreation Centers will not be able to fully utilize the on-line payment option as members of the public will still want to register on site and that she should outreach to Scott Reese, Assistant Park and Recreation Director, for information. Ms. LoMedico stated that the funding was in place; there was a 60 day extension and that she would be happy to add to a future Board agenda.
- Mr. Bussell wanted to know why the Trail Guide Program, which is in Mission Trails Park, was not offered more. (Ms. LoMedico said it was a funding issue.)
- Ms. Granowitz congratulated Ms. Barnes on a job well done in Torrey Pines City Park on approval of the General Development Plan. Ms. Granowitz knows that it is not always an easy process and it takes strong leadership to accomplish. Mr. Smith agreed.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mr. Smith had a chance to visit the Grape Street Park as requested by Ms. Emerick, at the last meeting. He counted approximately 45 cars and 60 dogs. The concerns of both the homeowners and park users need to be considered. Mr. Smith received e-mails from homeowners who requested solutions to the fence situation.
- Mr. Smith visited the Girl's Club site and noticed that the front of the site was cleaned up and a small program was utilizing the facility. He thought he would find it boarded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico responded to the question regarding the trail markers in Black Mountain Park by Mr. Greene at the last meeting. The Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation is the owner of the image on the trail maker and wanted to be acknowledged, along with the artist.
- Mr. Greene asked at the last meeting about turf removal and Ms. LoMedico confirmed that there is no active turf removal program in the park system. The removal of the turf around the Indian Statue in Presidio Park was done in the 1990's during an archeology dig when artifacts were discovered. The turf was never replaced due to the water damage that may affect additional artifacts still in the ground.
- Mr. Stepner asked the question on the status of Villa Montezuma at the last meeting. The status has not changed since the last update. Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) allocated funds for improvements and those improvements are moving forward.
- Department staff working on synthetic turf policy and targeting late Spring to bring before Park and Recreation Board.
- Ms. LoMedico distributed two memorandums dated March 10, 2010 on appointments and re-appointments of Board Members. The first memorandum, the appointment of David Kinney to the Park and Recreation Board and Ms. Granowitz replacement as chair to the Balboa Park Committee pending Council approval. Second, Ms. LoMedico congratulated the re-appointments of Bruce Brown, Rick Bussell, William Diehl, Wilbur Smith and Michael Stepner and thanked them for service commitment for another year. The Board Members that are to be termed out should be hearing shortly on the time frame of the appointment of new members.
- Park and Recreation Department has received a number of complaints and recommendations on best practices to operate and manage dog off-leash parks. The memorandum in today's handouts went to Department staff and Park Advisory Groups to review the recommendations and changes and take action. Recommendations will be brought before the Board, Council Committee and the City Council.
- Ms. LoMedico reported on groundbreaking for Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park Tot Lot, Birney Elementary Joint Use and Montclair Neighborhood Park on new playground equipment.
- Upcoming events-Arbor Day Tree planting in Balboa Park will take place on March 25, 2010.
- Memorial Girls Club Facility-City has received permission to remove the occupants and will be moving forward with that process. Mr. Smith is concerned that care should be taken when removing the occupants, as the occupants may not be aware of the situation. (Ms. LoMedico said staff will use care)
- Grape Street Park-documents received from last month's meeting have been forward to Bill Anderson, Director City Planning & Community Investments.
- Floatopia event is scheduled for this weekend in Mission Bay/Sail Bay.
- Jon Maddern has left the Department for a job in South Carolina as a Golf Superintendant. (Department Staff working on filling his position.)
- Golf Division update on Resident Identification Program, Costs Associated with Special Events and Low-Income Fee Waiver went to Natural Resource and Culture (NR&C) Committee yesterday as an informational item and the report was accepted. This item is due to go back to the Committee in 30 to 60 days with the cost of a resident I.D. card.
- Children's Pool (seals) went before Natural Resource and Culture (NR&C) Committee; no action was taken by the Committee.

- The Department is partnering again this year with the San Diego Unified School District on the Summer Lunch program.

ACTION ITEM

101. Trail Policies Amendments to the General Plan

Howard Greenstein, Park Designer, City Planning & Community Investment Department (CPCI), Urban Form Division, gave an overview of the project. CPCI and the Park and Recreation Department intend to comprehensively plan a citywide trails system, and develop both general trails criteria and recommendations, and those that will specifically apply to the individual resource-based parks, open space and community planning areas. They intend to create a document that can be used to implement trail creation, trail closures, trail maintenance, rehabilitation, and restoration/remediation. Accomplishing this will require considerable staff, consultant and financial resources. Recognizing that it will be some time before these resources are available, staff recommended interim methods and alternative approaches to addressing trail issues as they arise and trail planning until comprehensive planning is completed. Staff proposed General Plan Recreation Element amendments, including additional discussion language, and specific policies to guide trail development citywide. Staff also proposed adding a description of the various trail categories to the General Plan Glossary, and amending existing policy language to allow the flexibility of addressing comprehensive planning through a Trails Master Plan or a combination of incorporating trail planning into a number of documents, including the future Parks Master Plan.

The Board Member asked several questions and discussed: bylaws, implementation of policy, San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) work in trails, and signage.

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

Mr. Bussell made a motion to move for approval of the Trails Policies Amendments to the General Plan. Ms. Granowitz seconded the motion. Motion passed. (7-0)

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. California Gang Reductions, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) Grant for Teen Center Programs

David Monroe, Deputy Director, Community Parks II Park and Recreation Department provided the Board with information regarding the CalGRIP grant. Three teen centers: Memorial, Mountain View, and Southcrest Recreation Centers are open on Friday's from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00p.m., in order to reduce, intervene and prevent gang interaction. Since the kick-off in June gang violence has gone down 30% on Friday night in these areas. A supplement grant, for Project Safe Neighborhood, was applied for and Department staff was notified in January they received \$47,000 to provide variety of youth-oriented programs. Working, along with the Police Department, San Diego Work Force and Metro United, the Department is very pleased with the success of this program and hopes to extend it to other centers in the future when grant money becomes available.

202. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fiscal Year 2011 Park and Recreation Department Requests

Park and Recreation Director, Stacey LoMedico provided background on the CDBG funding that went before the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services (PS&NS) Committee. Ms. LoMedico introduced Kathy Aceves, District Manager of Therapeutic Recreation Services, to assist in answering questions. Ms. LoMedico brought this item before the Board for dialog. There are 3 programs which staff request annual CDBG funding: Therapeutic Recreation Service, Power Beach Wheelchair Program and Senior Services, which are also funded in part with the General Funds. In the past, the Council Office would inform Ms. Aceves on what dollar amount to request. This was the first year of a new process and with that Ms. LoMedico, Mr. David Monroe, Deputy Director Community Parks II, and Ms. Aceves discussed and applied for full funding via CDBG. The City Council needed the full cost to run these programs. As a result, the Park and Recreation Department, did not receive funding for these programs.

The Board would like to see a brief description on these programs and be able to share some type of handout with their Recreation Councils. In order that more people are aware of these programs and what types of programs are being looked at for the CDBG process. The Board would like to know if this process is changing from year to year.

WORKSHOP – None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. in remembrance of Celeste Weinsheim who was an active volunteer in the park system/City for many years.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, April 15, 2010**

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

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico,
Park and Recreation Director