

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

August 19, 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
Bruce Brown
Rick Bussell
Claudia Dunaway
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
Roz King
David Kinney
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

William Diehl

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Cathy Anzuoni
Clay Bingham
James Filley
Erica Flahan
Jo-Ann Novak
Clark Ritter
Shannon Thomas

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

Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Barnes for her 11 years of service to the Board, and stated she is an asset to her community and the City of San Diego.

Mr. Smith welcomed Ms. Claudia Dunaway as the newest Board Member.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2010

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

A motion was made by Mr. Greene and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the July 15, 2010 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous to approve the meeting minutes with Claudia Dunaway, Roz King and Michael Stepner abstaining (6-0).

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 102 Southcrest Trails (formerly State Route 252 Corridor Park, Phase II) General Development Plan to the Consent Agenda. Vote was unanimously approved (9-0).

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

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell and seconded by Mr. Greene to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote was unanimously approved (9-0).

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Area Committee Community Parks I – No Report

Area Committee Community Parks II

- Ms. King provided a hand-out to the Board Members, outlining the discussion at the last meeting (see attachment.)
- In addition the various recreation council members have concerns about the proposed 10 foot replacement fence at Normal Heights.
- Ms. King asked if the recreation centers can benefit directly from phone towers on site if yes how and if not why.
- The Committee would like to know the status of Fox Canyon.

Balboa Park Committee – No Report

Design Review Committee

- Mr. Smith reported the Committee discussed the Torrey Pines Master Plan and made a number of recommendations to the consultant regarding parking, signage, habitat restoration, trails reduction, safety, park like amenities, and picnicking.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

Mission Bay Park Committee – No Report

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported Tracey Walker, Senior Park Ranger, is working with San Diego Natural History Museum staff on enhancements of displays at the nature center.
- Mr. Bussell met with University of San Diego (USD) staff who have a program where students work with learning resource management and environmental ethics and then they go out into the community and teach elementary and middle age school children.
- Keli Balo, Chief Biologist, in Metropolitan Wastewater provided an update on sewer repair in canyon.
- Mr. Bussell provided an update on Tecolote Canyon removal of non-native species between Mt. Acadia to Balboa which is targeted to be completed in fall of 2010.
- San Diego Mountain Bike Association offered to come in and clean-up trails. Normally it takes a few weeks to complete cleaning of trails, but this is completed in one day due to the large number of members who come to help.

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee – No Report

COMMUNICATIONS – None

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mr. Smith reported on HR 1509 legislation which is aimed at promoting healthy communities by combating obesity. Grant money is available for this program starting in 2011 to 2015.
- In researching dog parks Mr. Smith notice that on the East Coast they use “peer pressure” to have owner’s pick-up after dogs.
- Mr. Smith is concerned about the negative press articles regarding public employees’ salary. He feels the morale is still high where staff are committed to doing their job and feels this is commendable. Whatever we can do to keep staff morale up is a benefit to all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico reported the City Council adopted the Department’s Fiscal Year 2011 Fee Schedule. They made no changes to the low-income fee waiver. They did not adopt an increase in the hourly rate to the adult leagues as proposed by the staff.
- Dog Off Leash Areas (DOLA) and changes to the Municipal Code will be heard at Public Safety and Neighborhood Services (PS&NS) Committee in September. Ms. LoMedico will notify the Board Members.
- Movies at the park are a success! The movie at Montgomery Waller Community Park had over 700 people in attendance. The last movie in the park will be at Point Loma Community Park on September 3, 2010.
- National Recreation and Parks Association has a grant that was given to San Diego Unified School District for free lunches. It was another successful year. Ms. LoMedico will provide the statistic to the Board Members when they are available.
- The Open Space Brush Management Team completed their goal of thinning over 590 acres of brush in open space park land.
- In North Park several years ago a driver ran into the playground and completely destroyed it. Recently a new playground was opened, but unfortunately it was completely graffiti the following day. Staff did a good job of cleaning it up and the contractor was very helpful.
- Trust for Public Lands does an annual park fact every July. The City of San Diego as a city municipal park system is rated second largest in the nation behind Phoenix with close to 40,000 acres. Ms. LoMedico went on record with some interesting statistics: acres of park land per city area nation-wide average is 8.3%. City of San Diego percentage of park land per acre is 22% on an average.
- Ms. LoMedico reported all 1,700 palm trees in Mission Bay will be trimmed.
- Department staff and volunteers planted nearly 300 trees in Balboa Park this year. Since 1988 the Horticulturist stated that the number of tree species has increased from 341 to 481 species.
- Carol Wood, Supervising Grants Administrator, is retiring. The Department will have one staff member in this section until a new person can be hired.
- Ms. LoMedico distributed a newspaper article where Crystal Ritchie, Balboa Park’s horticulturist, pointed out the features of the park’s Zoro Butterfly Garden.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Update - Kate Session Alcohol Municipal Code Changes

Clay Bingham, Deputy Director, and Erica Flahan, Account Clerk, of Park and Recreation Department, Community Parks I Division presented a PowerPoint presentation. Lieutenant James Filley of the San Diego Police Department was available to answer questions.

After lengthy public comment and Board discussion a motion was made:

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

A motion was made by Mr. Greene and seconded by Mr. Bussell to not adopt the Department's proposed compromise but to approve a 24 Hour ban with the Department to bring back to the Board within six months, a report of how the ban was working. Motion passed with Ms. Puentes-Reynolds opposed (8-1).

103. Park and Recreation Board Bylaws

Ms. Granowitz and Ms. Ginny Barnes worked on the San Diego Park and Recreation Board Bylaws that were modeled after the San Diego Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee Bylaws. Ms. Granowitz pointed out two changes; 1) page 5 under Article VI-Vacancies; and 2) page 6 Article IX-Subcommittees and Committees is a new section.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Kinney to approve the Park and Recreation Board Bylaws. Vote was unanimously approved (9-0).

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Downtown Parks Master Plan

Tara Lake, Senior Planner and Mark Caro, Senior Planner of Centre City Development Corporation each provided a PowerPoint presentation. Brad Richter Assistant Vice President of Planning of Centre City Development Corporation was available to answer questions.

Board Members Comments and Questions:

- Will someone be advocating for seniors and children facilities? (Currently have several children representatives. Ms. Lake is not sure what organizations to invite to represent the seniors.)
- Recommend a recreation center facility in the downtown area. (Mr. Richter plans on exploring non-traditional recreation centers by partnering with other groups that operate recreation facilities.)
- Need for a park in Open Space in the Master Plan for the rest of the City.
- Provisional of recreational space in non-traditional ways allows more people to use the space.

- Mr. Richter will notify Ms. LoMedico when information is available on Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) website. Ms. Lake will send PowerPoint presentation to Ms. LoMedico to distribute to Board Members.
- Could Park and Recreation Board Members be members at the stakeholders meetings? (Park and Recreation Board Members are on the list and will be interviewed.)
- How is the water situation being handled?
- Encourage green streets, bicycle lanes, and making the area pedestrian friendly.
- Any plans to improve the traffic circulation on Fifth Avenue through the Gaslamp District going North? (Mr. Richter continues to look for improvements to the traffic circulation in this congested area. This area is our entertainment district and will be one of the more congested areas of downtown. The new pedestrian bridge, park to bay link and green streets should divert traffic from the main streets such as Broadway, Fifth Avenue and G Street.
- What are the plans of Horton Plaza to make it more usable? (Going forward with a Request For Qualifications, fixing the fountain, changing landscaping and drawing more people into the park by providing sidewalk cafes and limited vendors.)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, September 16, 2010 2:00 p.m.**

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Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico,
Park and Recreation Director