

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

May 17, 2012

Minutes

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
202 C Street
San Diego, California 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
William Diehl
Amy Denhart
Claudia Dunaway
Bobby Hughes
Vicki Granowitz
David Kinney
Kathryn Warburton

Members Absent

Michael Stepner

City Staff Present

Charles Daniels
Stacey LoMedico
Bonnie Pearson
Shannon Thomas

CALL TO ORDER – Chair, Smith, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m and welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2012

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Warburton/Ms. Denhart

A motion was made by Ms. Warburton and seconded by Ms. Denhart to approve the April 19, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (10-0).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - None

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – No Report

Community Parks II Area Committee

- Chair Smith and Board Member Hughes, Vice-Chair of Community Parks II attended the meeting. Mr. Hughes reported that the committee received a grant for \$867,000 from the State for Festival Park on Federal Blvd. near Imperial Ave. and Euclid Ave. The Committee approved the final plans for the MLK building upgrades. The Jacobs Center will contribute \$200,000 to complete the project.

Balboa Park Committee – No Report

Design Review Committee

- Chair Smith reported the committee approved the Plaza de Panama Project with a 5-4 vote

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Ms. Warburton reported the committee voted in favor of supporting the County's effort to secure an agreement for public use of the historic Stowe Trail. The trail is within the Marine Corps property and the trail extends from Mission Trails Regional Park to Sycamore Canyon Reserve. The committee would like to see fencing.
- The CAC (Citizens' Advisory Committee) voted to make remarks to the City Council during the FY2013 Budget to ask for funds to reopen Kumeyaay Campground on weekends.
- There was a large audience and most attendees were there to voice their opposition to the proposed power plant in Santee. The CAC will look at conformance with Mission Trails Regional Park Design Guidelines and make recommendations to the City's Development Services Department.
- Ms. Warburton invited everyone to come to Mission Trails Regional Park's Explore Mission Trails Day on May 19th

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee – No Report

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mr. Tom Leech - requests the Board consider the International House of Relations and reducing the size of the new houses, since it appears the park is running out of space.

Mr. Kevin Swanson - is a proponent of bringing jobs to the San Diego region for 2015 and having Balboa Park as a sustainability showcase for the innovation games.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico announced there will not be a Park and Recreation Board meeting in August.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Balboa Park Plaza de Panaman, Circulation and Parking Structure Project

Presenters: Charles Daniels, Park Designer, Park and Recreation Department and co-presenter, Mark Johnson, Civitas Consultant

Mr. Daniels appeared before the Board to request their recommendations on the proposed plan amendments to the Balboa Park Master Plan, Central Mesa Precise Plan, and Site Development Permit to implement the Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project. Mr. Daniels presented a PowerPoint presentation which provided details of the project as well as a detailed report that covered the following:

- Summary
- Background
- Project Description
- Project Overview
- Description of Project Components
- Analysis
- General Plan
- Project Objectives
- Project Components
- Sustainability
- Environmental Analysis
- Community Participation
- Conclusion
- Alternatives

Details of the report and attachments can be found on the Park and Recreation Department's website: <http://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/index.shtml>

Mr. Mark Johnson, Consultant with Civitas co-presented with Mr. Daniels to explain how the design team addressed the various development of the project. Civitas sees that the balance of the park's cultural institutions has been lost because of the cars. Mr. Johnson stated the project provides great benefits to the park. There are eleven places (intersections) where cars and pedestrians interact; approximately 2,500 pedestrians vs. approximately 5,000 cars. With the project that is reduced to five places where pedestrians and cars interact; 700 pedestrians vs. 3,200 cars. Many questions have arisen regarding parking and the Tram. This plan will provide accessible parking and maneuvering through the park's core. The project funding is at a cost of approximately \$40M; the parking structure is approximately \$15M of that which will be funded by a \$14M Revenue Bond and private donations if there are cost overruns. The bridge and public spaces are approximately \$25M. The Plaza de Panama Committee has pledged to the City Council previously that any costs above the \$40M will be covered by private donation. Mr. Johnson added that the project has been heavily vetted throughout the public input process. The City Council will be the final recommendation/approval/denial body for this project.

Chair Smith opened the floor to hear from speakers regarding the project. He asked that speakers limit their comments to two minutes and tell the Board members why they are in favor or opposed to the project. The Board received a total of 23 requests to speak in favor; 33 requests to speak in opposition of the project:

- 23 Requests to Speak in favor of the project (16 speakers; 7 non-speakers)
- 33 Requests to Speak in opposition of the project (16 individual speakers, 16 organized speakers and 1 non-speaker).

After Board questions and discussions, a motion was made by Mr. Diehl and seconded by Ms. Warburton to approve the plan as presented and recommended by staff.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Diehl/Ms. Warburton

The motion was denied. Chair Smith called for the question via show of hands:

In Favor – 4
Opposed – 5
Abstained – 1

The motion failed 5-4-1.

INFORMATION ITEMS - None

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Thursday, June 21, 2012 2:00 p.m.**

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

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico
Park and Recreation Director