

City of San Diego  
Park and Recreation Board

July 19, 2012

**Minutes**

***“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”***

**Meeting Held at:**

City Administration Building  
Committee Room, 12<sup>th</sup> 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  
Amy Denhart  
Claudia Dunaway  
Vicki Granowitz  
Bobby Hughes  
David Kinney  
Michael Stepner  
Kathryn Warburton

**Members Absent**

William Diehl

**City Staff Present**

Howard Greenstein  
Jeff Harkness  
Stacey LoMedico  
Bonnie Pearson  
Christine Rothman  
Brian Schoenfisch  
Shannon Thomas

CALL TO ORDER – Chair, Smith, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m and welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2012

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Brown/Mr. Stepner**

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Stepner to approve the June 21, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved. (10-0)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz to move Item 102 *North Park Mini-Park General Development Plan* to the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Mr. Brown.

Ms. Warburton asked if there is money to build the park. Todd Schmit, Project Manager stated there is \$1.25 million set-aside for the development of the park; of which \$125,000 has been spent on design. The park estimate as shown on the GDP for \$950,000 is unfunded.

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED      Mr. Bussell/Ms. Warburton**

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell to move the consent agenda to approval. Ms. Warburton seconded the motion. (10-0)

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – No Report

Community Parks II Area Committee

Ms. Denhart reported that staff member Marilyn Stern of the Community Parks II Area Committee did an excellent job in briefing her prior to the meeting. Ms. Denhart stated that the meeting was very informative and the committee approved the recommendation of the Festival Park General Development Plan.

Balboa Park Committee – No Report

Design Review Committee

Chair Smith stated he would update the Board on the Central Avenue Mini-Park. He stated the committee had a number of issues and/or concerns/suggestions for the consultant to move the bike rack away from the children's play area. The committee felt that would be a conflict; create an entryway into the park to give it a more formal entrance. A gate at the south entrance; designation of a future skate park, security lighting, no restroom, 8ft sound wall adjacent to the freeway, relocate a couple of palm trees which are near the children's play area. Suggestion of planting an oak tree, which some committee members had concerns about root problems adjacent to concrete areas, leaf litter on the proposed skateboard park. Last week the committee considered the Festival Park GDP and that project is on today's agenda. Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

Ms. Warburton stated that the committee wanted to work with the military in possibly purchasing Stow Trail. The military has stated they are not opening it to public. There will be a 5K Run at Mission Trails Park on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The Citizen's Advisory Committee has established a five member ad hoc committee to look at the Quail Brush Power Plant. Ms. Warburton stated she was informed that it was not approved at the Planning Commission. She anticipates the next step will be to go before the City Council. SDG&E will be installing a weather station on Fortuna Mountain. Additionally, at Mission Trails Regional Park staff is interested in getting a weather station on Cowles Mountain and SDG&E agreed to work with MTRP Park Rangers. The Master Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan will be out for review in August and September; the Draft EIR is expected in April, 2013. Ms. Warburton added that Mr. Scott Sherman is the new Councilmember for District Seven, replacing Councilmember Marti Emerald on the Mission Trails Task Force.

## Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee

Mr. Stepner stated that last month the Park and Recreation Board approved the Torrey Pines City Park Plan. As such, there are no more reports for the Torrey Pines Advisory Board.

### COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mr. Bussell commended Ms. LoMedico and staff for the incredible job they did on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July clean-up on the day after and also how staff restored Mission Bay Park to a pristine form.

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Chair Smith commented it appears that we are entering into a period of relative economic stability in terms of parks.
- He noted that retirements appear to have slowed down and we are not losing more expertise of staff.  
The appearance of the parks throughout the City look quite good. Balboa Park's Plaza de Panama was approved by City Council on a vote of 7-1 and there is still some discontent of reading the letters to the editors. There are still those who are concerned about the project.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico stated there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the long-awaited West Lewis Mini-Park on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will be a wonderful addition to the park system.
- A panel discussion will be held on next Wednesday on Re-emerging City Building Framework and there will be a few staff members from the Department on the panel.
- Ms. LoMedico provided a copy of the obituary of Mr. Chuck Ables who was a long-term employee (40 yrs.) as a Park Designer with the City of San Diego.
- Summer Updates – Ms. LoMedico thanked Mr. Bussell for the compliments, and stated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was not as well attended as in previous years per the Lifeguards statistics. The weather impeded people from attending the beaches and shoreline parks. Ms. LoMedico stated she arrives between 6:00 am and 7:00 am and Mission/Belmont Park was completely clean by 7:00 am. Crews had everything done by 9:00 am
- Ocean Beach Comfort Station Re-Grand Opening was held prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and it's been open since the end of June.
- July 14<sup>th</sup> the Lake Murray Playground Project Committee had a community build. The playground is still ongoing with ADA improvements being made. It is scheduled to open soon. The project has been a community-driven effort and the community has worked very hard to bring the playground to the Lake Murray community.
- The Planning Commission voted last week for the Coastal Development Permit on the Children's Pool year-round rope. The issue will be heard at the Planning Commission on August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- During the summer on Mission Bay Park there will be approximately 80 campers, persons with disabilities both youth and adults attending our annual Camp On the Bay August 16<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>. We bring them out for four days of kayaking, hand-cycling

activities and all types of activities. Ms. LoMedico invited Board members to stop by Crown Point from 10am – 3pm.

- Movie Nights are continuing throughout the park system. There have been several opening night movie nights. Kearny Mesa Recreation Center held their opening last weekend and Councilmember Zapf provided opening remarks. It was well attended by approximately 300 people.
- Last month the Board reviewed, and recommended approval of the Golf Plan. It will be docketed at the NR&C Committee next Wednesday at 2pm. If NR&C takes action it is anticipated to be on Council Agenda after the Legislative Recess.

## ACTION ITEMS

### **101. Festival Park General Development Plan**

**Presenter:** Jeff Harkness, Park Designer, Christine Rothman, Program Manager, Brian Schoenfisch, Sr. Planner, Planning Division, Development Services Department, Park Planning Division – Additional presenters/speakers: Charles Davis and Randy Pruitt, Jacobs Center for Innovation, Ron Teshima, Teshima Design Group

Chair Smith commented that this is one of the first parks that falls under the provision of equivalencies. He added that this GDP is one that is a precedence setting item.

Mr. Harkness appeared before the Board to request approval for the Draft Festival Park General Development Plan (GDP). It is a .84 acre Festival Park located within the Village at Market Creek development. Mr. Harkness presented and outlined the proposed plan in his Report to the Board members. The Report provided the following details:

- Summary
- Background
- Discussion
- Alternatives

Mr. Harkness stated it is anticipated that an instruction on equivalencies will be presented for review and discussion in the latter part of 2012.

Details of the report can be found on the Park and Recreation Department website:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/reports/index.shtml>

Mr. Charles Davis and Mr. Randy Pruitt discussed the community input process that was used in moving forward with the Festival Park plan. Mr. Davis stated that this land has been zoned and waiting for this action for approximately 12 years. The Village at Market Creek is approximately 55 acres to be used as a mix-use center for housing and commercial use, also planned for open space. He stated the park being situated adjacent to the amphitheatre will be a great addition to the community which is deficient of park space. Mr. Davis thanked City staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Pruitt briefed Board members on the community process for planning of the park. Three separate workshops were held. Each workshop progressively modified the park plan until the community arrived at this design.

Mr. Ron Teshima, Teshima Design Group Landscape Architects presented the General Development Plan via PowerPoint presentation. Details of the General Development Plan can be obtained from the City of San Diego's Development Services Department.

Questions/Comments from Board Members:

- Ms. Granowitz asked about equivalencies? It appears that this is just a park funded by a developer.
- Ms. LoMedico stated in the recreation element there is a section on equivalencies. It came back to the Board and was adopted in the last few years. Each equivalency or determination of a equivalency would be determined through the particular planning group. She asked Ms. Christine Rothman to comment.
- Ms. Rothman stated the equivalency policy is in the works and is drafted and is being routed through the Planning Department, other City departments as well as committees that have a part in it. This plan is slightly different because the City received a grant and is not developer-driven. The City applied for and received the \$800,000, approached this owner to see if feasible and to partner with the City.
- Ms. LoMedico asked if Ms. Rothman was indicating that the development is not dependent on this project. The project/site development itself was already a part of the development agreement for the Jacobs Center and the grant assisted with the funding?
- Mr. Stepner added that it is not an equivalency project. It was an alternative way of funding a public park.
- Mr. Bussell inquired as to the construction timeline on the park.
- Mr. Pruitt stated 3-4 months; January/February.
- Mr. Harkness stated an MOU needs to be completed between the Jacobs Center and City of San Diego.
- Mr. Brian Schoenfisch stated this is a first of a six year State funded grant program that is a result from the 2006 Bond measure, (Prop C), which rewards jurisdictions such as the City San Diego for providing and approving affordable housing projects Citywide by providing funds directly to the City to create infrastructure. Festival Park is the first of that six year cycle.
- Ms. Warburton inquired if it is the Jacobs Center who is providing the private financing to complete the project and maintenance?
- Mr. Pruitt stated yes, the Jacobs Center agreed to provide additional funding for construction and long-term maintenance of the park.
- Ms. Dunaway inquired as to the average cost of a tot park of this size?
- Mr. Harkness provided the anticipated cost for this project is \$385,000.
- Ms. Dunaway also asked what is the next grant for parks?
- Ms. LoMedico advised to ere on the side of caution because the average costs can vary depending on the needs of a particular park and/or playground.
- Mr. Schoenfisch stated the City was awarded a grant for \$1M for improvements for Chicano Park. Each December the State of California will initiate a new round of the applications.
- Chair Smith inquired if the security camera is still a part of the park? Mr. Schoenfisch stated yes.
- Chair Smith, also inquired will the cameras be on poles? Mr. Pruitt stated one on top of Food for Less and one on top of the adjacent building.

**MOTION:            MOVED/SECONDED            Mr. Brown/Mr. Bussell**

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the plan as presented and recommended by staff. The motion was unanimously approved (10-0)

**103.    Riviera Del Sol Neighborhood Park General Development Plan**

**Presenter:** L. Clark Ritter, Park Designer, Engineering & Capital Projects Department, Architectural Engineering and Parks Division, co-presenter Glen Schmidt, Schmidt Design

Mr. Ritter appeared before the Board to request approval for the Riviera Del Sol Neighborhood Park General Development Plan (GDP). It is approximately 4.9 acres and located in the western portion of the Otay Mesa community. Mr. Ritter presented and outlined the proposed plan in his Report to the Board members. The Report provided the following details:

- Summary
- Background
- Discussion
- Alternatives

Mr. Ritter advised that two community workshops were held in conjunction with the Ocean View Hills Recreation Council. All reviewing bodies, Ocean View Hills Recreation Council, Community Parks II Area Committee and Design Review Committee approved the GDP unanimously with recommendations that are incorporated into the plan presented today. The estimated total project cost is approximately \$4.9M.

Mr. Glen Schmidt, Schmidt Design Group presented a brief PowerPoint presentation overview of the GDP. The overall design is a series of islands. There is a walk-way which goes around the perimeter, entry plaza, children's play area, artful soul theme, basketball court, an open area, four areas of turf, clusters of palms to reflect the island theme. The plan is ADA accessible.

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

Questions/Comments from Board Members:

- Mr. Stepner inquired it appears there is only one entry to the park. Mr. Schmidt acknowledged that is correct. Mr. Stepner commented from a design perspective he was concerned regarding the one entry.
- Mr. Stepner also inquired as to what thoughts were given in not having a ramp that came off of Spruce Street, Riviera Shore Street? Mr. Schmidt commented it would be a significant expense. Mr. Stepner commented it would provide more use and more safety out of the park. Additionally, Mr. Stepner was not satisfied with the answer that the sloping area adjacent to the park does not belong to the City. Mr. Schmidt inquired if Mr. Stepner was suggesting an easement across the private property? Mr. Schmidt commented that was not taken into consideration and stated that the park is landlocked by private property. Mr. Schmidt added he would be happy to look into that if that's the direction from the Board.

- Mr. Bussell inquired if the design team has had any discussions with the local police as to their views on the construction of the park? Mr. Ritter advised that Police Department attended the first two workshops and attend regular meetings with the Ocean View Hills Recreation Council. He does not recall any objections from police.
- Chair Smith complimented City staff and Schmidt Design on the design plan.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the plan as presented and recommended by staff. The motion was unanimously approved (10-0)

INFORMATION ITEMS - None

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. in memory of former City employee Mr. Chuck Ables who was with Park Design for many years.

Next Meeting: **Thursday, September 20, 2012 2:00 p.m.**

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

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico  
Park and Recreation Director