

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
October 18, 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
Amy Denhart
William Diehl
Claudia Dunaway
Vicki Granowitz
Bobby Hughes
David Kinney
Kathryn Warburton

Members Absent

Michael Stepner

City Staff Present

Laura Ball
Stacey LoMedico
Hilda Mendoza
Lane MacKenzie
Stacy McKenzie
Bonnie Pearson
Chris Zirkle

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Wilbur Smith, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m and welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2012

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

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the July 19, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved with one abstention (10-0-1).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - None

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – No Report

Community Parks II Area Committee

- Ms. Denhart reported the committee saw the Dedication of Park Lands presentation and the committee voted to recommend approval of the recommended list in the CP II area.

Balboa Park Committee

Mr. Kinney reported the committee recommended approval of the new “temporary” signage for the San Diego Zoo and new additions to some of the cell phone towers. Additionally, the committee approved a letter to CALTRANS concerning their work on the Cabrillo Bridge, which will require approximately a five month closure. The letter specifically recommended consideration in improving the sidewalks that have been partially damaged from previous work.

Design Review Committee – No Report

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens’ Advisory Committee

- Ms. Warburton reported the Army Corps of Engineers are preparing to clean up the Camp Elliott area, north of (SR) State Route 52. A portion of that property will eventually become a part of the park.
- November 3rd, Mission Trails will host Military Day in the park for families to enjoy nature in the park.
- Master Plan for Mission Trails is moving forward again. The target date for completion is Fall 2013 or early 2014.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mr. Eric Bowlby, Executive Director of San Diego Canyonlands discussed his organization’s work regarding a project in City Heights. Canyonlands has a \$365,000 Urban Green Grant, Prop 84 funds awarded to his organization to restore 14 acres of habitat; Swan, Hollywood, Manzanita and 47th Street canyons.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chair Smith stated it has been a pleasure serving the Board and staff and wished the best for everyone for the future. It has been an interesting five years for him and if he can be of assistance in the future, please feel free to contact him. He added to “continue to advocate for parks in San Diego”; which includes existing and future parks. Please advocate for more trees in the park and advocate for more staff.

Ms. LoMedico stated that Chair Smith has termed out and a new appointment will be on the Tuesday, October 23, 2012 Council Docket. Ms. LoMedico expressed kind words regarding Chair Smith in his outreach to her and to others when support was needed regarding specific items. He’s always been extremely supportive, attended many events and a great advocate for the park system. Ms. LoMedico added it has been a pleasure working alongside of Chair Smith. Finally, on behalf of staff, Ms. LoMedico thanked Chair Smith for his service.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. LoMedico reported on memos Board members received regarding the reorganization in Development Services Department (DSD) as well as other items regarding DSD and Facilities

support, which she encouraged members to read. Additional items on the Director's Report were:

- January, 2012 a brief update regarding electrical charging stations that were being proposed and installed in the park. The first station will be in Balboa Park and the latest update is included in the Board packet.
- Highlight on one of our active volunteer groups – The Rock Church, which has a golf ministry. The golf ministry spent four hours enhancing Mission Bay Golf Course.
- Photo of the “unofficial” Grand Opening of the Lake Murray Community Park Playground. This playground upgrade was taken on by the community and raised money for approximately two years. Councilmember Marti Emerald was instrumental in assisting the community in raising project funds. The official Grand Opening will be Wednesday, November 14th at 1:00 pm.
- Park and Recreation Administration has received nice comments from Councilmember Todd Gloria as well as from members of the community who have children participating in some of our programs.
- It is fall season again and time for our annual Toys for Tots Program with the U.S. Marine Corps., which will kick off in the next few weeks. Board members will be receiving details.
- The State Office of Historic Preservation is considering Chicano Park and adding it to the national registry.
- Councilmember Lori Zapf will be presenting a Proclamation on Tuesday, October 23rd with San Diego South Bay Unified School Districts for our Summer Lunch Program in honoring both school districts as well as Walmart Foundation for our past summer lunch program. We served 80,000 meals and 50,000 snacks.
- At City Council on Tuesday, October 23rd, there will be a formal nomination of Robert Chávez to the Board. Mr. Chávez will be replacing Chair Smith if approved by Council. Mr. Chávez has extensive redevelopment background and is a former City employee. He is currently the new Executive Director of Urban Corps and will be joining us in November.
- Golf's Business Plan will be going before Council in mid-November.
- Next week at Budget & Finance Committee the committee will be reviewing the 5 Year Outlook. This is the first indication of how the City is doing in terms of its finances with its projected revenues and expenditures. The outlook looks very good.

Retirement Party on October 25th for “Coach” Bill Whitaker. He is a long-term City employee and has been with the Park and Recreation Department for 66 years. He is the longest tenured City employee on record and has spent his entire career coaching kids. He has also been inducted into the San Diego Hall of Champions for his coaching and coaching at St. Augustine High School. Mayor Sanders and Councilmember Gloria will be in attendance to present “Coach” with a Proclamation.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Recommendation for Dedication of Park Lands

Presenter: Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director, Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Department, co-presenters, Laura Ball, Project Officer II, Open Space Division and Lane MacKenzie, Asset Manager, Real Estate Assets Department

Mr. Zirkle appeared before the Board to request for a recommendation the Park Land Dedication, a document entitled “Declaration of the Dedication of Land” under SB 1169-Kehoe. Mr. Zirkle explained that designated park land is land that can be sold or used for non-park purposes by a majority of the City Council but that dedicated park land cannot be sold or used for non-park purposes without a 2/3 vote of the people. Mr. Zirkle presented and outlined the proposed plan in his Report and PowerPoint presentation to the Board members. The Report provided the following details:

- Summary
- Background
- Discussion
- Alternatives

Staff has determined that approximately 5,881 acres of city-owned land are eligible for conversion from designated park land to dedicated park land. Mr. Zirkle advised that this item was heard by the Land Use & Housing Committee on October 17, 2012. The LU&H committee recommended forward dedication of all parcels to the City Council for dedication; including those for the community planning groups.

Speakers: In Favor – 1 Opposed – 1

Ms. LoMedico thanked Eric Bowlby and San Diego Canyonlands team for taking on this project.

Ms. Laura Riebau of the Eastern Area Planning Group had concerns and requested clarification regarding limitation of two areas: Northern part of Chollas Lake Park and Chollas Creek Enhancement Plan and would like these areas to be included in the dedication. Mr. Zirkle responded to Ms. Riebau’s concerns that there is difficulty recording the dedication status of the site that has no APN (Assessor’s Parcel Number) or legal description. Mr. Mackenzie stated in the past any dedications were to be done by fully legal description of the property. Areas without APN’s are indentified as Right-of-Ways. There are legal reasons why these two areas are not included in the dedication. Ms. LoMedico stated for clarification, in order to move forward with development of any park, it does not have to be dedicated; it can still be designated.

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

Questions/Comments from Board Members:

- Mr. Bussell commented he has heard nothing but support for the dedications. There was however concern that this would be called “park land” and not “improved land” by developers. Mr. Bowlby commented that dedication does not change how land is currently used. Details of his statement can be found on the City’s General Plan – March 2008.
- Mr. Diehl asked for clarification on dedicated, active or passive parks terminology. Ms. LoMedico commented there is developed and open space. Developed can be decided by the community as a passive facility or an active. Mr. Diehl also asked if this is a one-time dedication or could we go back? Ms. LoMedico stated that the Park and Recreation Department has had support from the Mayor and the Senator in assisting us on a dedication that should have been

done annually by Council Policy. She added the Park and Recreation Department should work with Real Estate Assets Department to determine what funds are needed to make this happen within the City's process - Council Policy 700.17.

- Ms. Warburton requested clarification on the action by LU&H regarding the total number of acres? Mr. Zirkle advised LU&H requested staff to evaluate parcels that were not acquired for park purposes and total acres to be evaluated is 11,432 plus acreage added by Community Planning Groups. Staff is recommending dedication of 5,881 acres. Ms. Warburton asked if Board members will be kept in the loop when staff goes forward to Council. Ms. LoMedico added staff is targeting to go to full Council Nov. 26, 2012 and she will keep Board members updated.
- Ms. Granowitz wanted to ensure Board members understood what "other potential uses not acquired for park and open space and encroachments" means. Mr. Zirkle explained via his PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Granowitz stated her motion will be to divide the motion into two parts.

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

After Board questions and discussions, a motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Brown to (a) approve staff's recommendation, which is approval of the dedication of the 5,881 acres and (b) to establish a procedure for further evaluation of other sites for possible inclusion for dedication and request that the City Budget include funds for Park and Recreation Department to complete the surveys.

Ms. Dunaway requested that the Board receive an answer to Mr. Bowlby's question regarding the legal clarification regarding not limiting dedication to inside city limits. Attorney Hilda Mendoza stated the City Attorney's office has been requested by the LU&H Committee to conduct research and it will be brought forward to City Council. Additionally, Ms. Mendoza stated assuming it is not a confidential opinion it will be conveyed to the Board

The motion was unanimously approved (10-0)

INFORMATION ITEMS - None

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Thursday, November 15, 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