

City of San Diego  
Park and Recreation Board  
February 21, 2013

**Minutes**

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

**Meeting Location:**

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

**Mailing Address:**

City of San Diego  
202 C Street, MS 37C  
San Diego, California 92101

**Members Present**

William Diehl, Chair  
Bruce Brown  
Claudia Dunaway  
Vicki Granowitz  
Bobby Hughes  
David Kinney  
Michael Stepper  
Kathryn Warburton

**Members Absent**

Amy Denhart  
Rick Bussell  
Robert Chávez

**City Staff Present**

Nancy Bragado  
Stacey LoMedico  
Bonnie Pearson  
Mike Rodrigues  
Robin Shifflet  
Shannon Thomas

CALL TO ORDER – Chair William (Bill)Diehl, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2013

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Bruce Brown/Ms. Warburton**

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Warburton to approve the January 17, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-3).

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 Mr. Brown/Ms. Granowitz**

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to move Action Item 102. Naming of Gymnasium at Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center in honor of Bruce Cornblum and Action Item 103. Mesa Verde Neighborhood Park – General Development Plan Amendment to the Consent Agenda.

The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-3).

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – No Report

## Community Parks II Area Committee

- Chair Diehl attended in Ms. Denhart's absence. He stated several recreation centers have received grants from the Friends of Parks.

## Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney reported the committee is looking into additional cell phone towers being placed in the park.

The committee heard an informational presentation from the City's bicycle initiatives staff representation regarding the use of various streets in Balboa Park as bicycle zones, with vehicles being prohibited for certain weekends.

## Design Review Committee – No Meeting

## Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Meeting

## COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mr. Kevin Swanson, San Diego 2015. Mr. Swanson has concerns regarding facilities in the parks system and that the park may not be ready for the influx of visitors for the 2015 celebration. Additionally, he's concerned with transparency as to what is being planned for 2014, 2015, and beyond.

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – No Report

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico updated members regarding Park and Recreation Department's Annual Department Meeting. It's a two-day event where the department staff gathers to celebrate accomplishments as staff and "team". For the two-day gathering, approximately 600 employees attend.
- Status of the Assistant Director position recruitment. The announcement closed in November and there were more than 130 applications. We are now proceeding to the second round and anticipate good news in April, 2013.
- Ms. LoMedico provided an updated photo of the Balboa Park Lily Pond to Board members and invited them to join the Department on February 25, 2013 with Council President Todd Gloria, Friends of Balboa Park and Mayor Filner to re-open the Lily Pond.
- Park and Recreation Department recently promoted District Managers. In addition, we have had promotions for Area Managers. All promotions will be effective March 2, 2013.
- Ms. LoMedico also provided members with "Good News" documents that she received over the last several months. One "Good News" item that was well received and highly publicized was from the television coverage of the Farmer's Insurance Open.

- Ms. LoMedico also commented on an e-mail she received complimenting one of our staff, Gerry Laraya for assisting a jogger who had fallen. This e-mail was from Mr. Vince Hall, Chief of Staff to Mayor Bob Filner.

## ACTION ITEMS

### **101. Adoption of the draft San Diego River Park Master Plan and Associated Amendments to Community Plans and the Land Development Code**

**Presenters:** Robin Shifflet, park Planner, Development Services Department; co-presenter Todd Mead, CIVITAS

Ms. Shifflet and Mr. Mead presented a brief PowerPoint presentation which provided some history of the Master Plan and where we are today and next steps. Additionally, Board members were provided in advance a detailed “draft” via CD for their review. During the PowerPoint presentation Mr. Mead covered some of the high points, outlined the process and some of the key pieces of the plan and next steps. The report presented to Board members outlined the following:

- Summary
- Background (Milestones in the Master Plan and associated amendments processes)
- Discussion
  - Master Plan Vision and Principles
  - General and Specific Recommendations
  - Design Guidelines
  - Design Guidelines and Relationship to MSCP and ESL
  - Implementation
  - Regulatory Framework
  - Community Plan and Land Development Code Amendments
  - Recommendations from Community Planning Groups and Park Advisory Bodies
  - Significant Issues Raised During Public Input
- Conclusion
- Alternatives

## Public Speakers

(In Favor) Mr. Kevin Swanson, citizen and Mr. Robert Hutsel, Executive Director, San Diego River Park Foundation)

Mr. Hutsel stated that the mission of the San Diego River Park Foundation has been to work to create a better future for the 52 miles of the San Diego River. The San Diego River Park Master Plan has been a core activity for the organization. Mr. Hutsel thanked Ms. LoMedico, Robin Shifflet, Jeff Harkness and staff for their years of hard work on this project. The San Diego River Coalition supports the plan unanimously. He urged members to adopt the plan.

Comments/Questions from Board members:

- Mr. Stepner commented that the first park plan by John Nolan in 1908 called for the River Park to be established. Then in the late 1960's the goal was to put concrete in the river and make it a flood channel. He added there have been several steps and continuous efforts and urges the Board to move forward and adopt the plan.
- Ms. Warburton asked, once the document is approved by City Council, who is the lead department/agency that keeps the document and tracks movement. Ms. Shifflet advised there will be two departments overseeing it. Development Services Department will review all future developments and design guidelines as they come forward. Park and Recreation Department will implement trail connections and other areas that are publicly owned. Ms. LoMedico acknowledged and thanked Ms. Shifflet for the enormous work she has done on this project. Ms. LoMedico added that this is unique in it is not park land and most is not public land; it's private land. Additionally, Ms. LoMedico advised that a position is needed in Park and Recreation for someone who can take on the role and understands the project from all departments.
- Ms. Warburton also asked if the other jurisdictions have a plan? Ms. Shifflet advised that the City of Santee has a plan, and the County of San Diego is working on the area beyond the City of Santee. Ms. Warburton also asked about the pools mentioned in the Master Plan document. Is there a way to open the area? Mr. Mead stated there is an opportunity to use the pools and it's a different type of water and wildlife habitat. He stated that ultimately there will always be ponds, but not necessarily in the same locations or as many as there are today. Many of the pools are located on private property.
- Ms. Granowitz commented on how well this plan has moved forward. She congratulated staff and consultants on their achievements thus far.
- Chair Diehl asked if there was any dedicated open space that would connect to our open space areas? Ms. Shifflet advised there is public dedicated open space along the river, but the majority of the land adjacent to the river is privately owned. The water is not privately owned, but the land under the river is privately owned. Also, Chair Diehl asked if this will reduce the flooding in Mission Valley, Fashion Valley and ball fields by Interstate 5? Mr. Mead commented that it is possible and space is there to do so.
- Ms. LoMedico reiterated two things about the plan: (1) people in business see the economical value of this river to their property and, (2) she acknowledged Mr. Rob Hutsel and San Diego River Park Foundation, the San Diego River Coalition, and former Mayor Dick Murphy for their leadership in making this happen.

The full Final Draft Master Plan and associated amendments is available at:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/parkplanning/sdriverplan.shtml>

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

A motion was made by Mr. Stepner and seconded by Ms. Granowitz to approve the adoption of the San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan and recommended the support of a Project Director position be established to manage the implementation of the Master Plan.

The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-3).

**102. Naming of Gymnasium at Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center in honor of Bruce Cornblum**

**Presenter:** Mike Rodrigues, District Manager, District 40, Community Parks I Division on behalf of the Rancho Bernardo Recreation Council

**103. Mesa Verde Neighborhood Park – General Development Plan Amendment**

**Presenter:** Mike Rodrigues, District Manager, District 40, Community Parks I Division

*Action Items 102 and 103 were moved to the consent agenda and approved unanimously.*

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**201. Balboa Park 2015 (EDGE) Celebration Update (PowerPoint Presentation)**

**Presenters:** Gerry Braun, Interim CEO, EDGE 2015; co-presenters Ben and Nikki Clay, EDGE 2015 Board Members

- Ms. Clay commented that the most asked question of EDGE2015 is: will there still be a celebration even though the Plaza de Panama is not going forward? The answer is “yes”. Additionally, Ms. Clay commented that Mayor Filner supports moving forward with the celebration.
- The celebration is to invite the world to visit Balboa Park; showcase San Diego and will include all the communities of San Diego. It will be an awe inspiring extraordinary visitor experience, highlighting the museums, galleries and programs of Balboa Park and showcasing San Diego to the world. The calendar of events begins in December, 2014.
- Mr. Clay outlined the PowerPoint presentation which covered the following:
  - A 365-Day Multiverse of Discovery
  - EDGE2015 Canvas
  - Recent Implementation Milestones
  - Initial Venue Allocation Methodology
  - Initial Master Calendar Framework
  - Initial Sanctioning/Partnership Framework
  - EDGE2015 Programming Initiatives Balboa Park Cultural Institutions
- Mr. Braun briefly commented on the venue methodology, calendar framework, and the ten programming initiatives (included in the PowerPoint presentation) EDGE2015 has used in preparing for the celebration. Finally, Mr. Braun stated that EDGE2015 is in the process of re-working its web page off of the BalboaPark.org web page.

Opposition: 1 (Kevin Swanson)

Comments/Questions from the Board members:

- Mr. Stepner inquired if EDGE2015 can use parking downtown and get MTS to get the RT going and make the shuttle service permanent? Since there is no entry to Balboa Park on Park Blvd., can something be done to make that change?

Additionally, can something be done to expand the park land once the centennial celebration has concluded.

- Mr. Kinney commented he appreciated the commitment, and specific planning that the EDGE2015 committee has done.

There was ongoing discussion regarding the celebration and the outcomes that will take place and could how it could possibly impact Balboa Park after the celebration. For more details contact EDGE2015:

[www.facebook.com/edge2015sd](http://www.facebook.com/edge2015sd) and [www.twitter.com/edge2015sd](http://www.twitter.com/edge2015sd)

Closing Board Comments/Questions:

- Chair Diehl requested Ms. LoMedico provide an update to the Board on the Department's On-line Registration other Master Plans Citywide.
- Ms. LoMedico advised there will be an Oversight Committee meeting for March, which will center on allocations of the FY12 funds.
- Ms. LoMedico also advised that she plans to bring the 2012 Park and Recreation Annual Department Meeting video to show to Board members as she mentioned in 2012 she would try to do.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Thursday, April 18, 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