

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
January 16, 2014

Minutes

"WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS"

Meeting Location:

City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th 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
Rick Bussell
Robert Chávez
Vicki Granowitz
David Kinney
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

Amy Denhart
Claudia Dunaway
Bobby Hughes
Kathryn Warburton

City Staff Present

Rebeca Cordova
Andrew Field
Howard Greenstein
Scott Mercer
Theresa Millette
Kevin Oliver
Todd Schmit
Robin Shifflet
Shannon Thomas
Jim Winter
Jane Witzke

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Diehl at 2:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2013

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

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the November 20, 2013 meeting minutes with the corrections Ms. Granowitz requested. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee

- No report.

Community Parks II Area Committee

- No report.

Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney reported that the Cabrillo Bridge in Balboa Park is closed to vehicular traffic through April. So far there seems to be minimal impact to the institutions.

Design Review Committee

Chair Diehl reported on two items that were presented to the Committee

- The San Diego Zoo proposed a six (6)-story parking structure within its leasehold behind the Museum of Art. A portion of the project outside the leasehold along Old Globe Way was also proposed to make it more pedestrian friendly. The Committee approved the redesign of Old Globe Way, but it had concerns about the parking structure. The parking structure came back to the Committee in January and was approved.
- The Hickman General Development Plan (GDP) Amendment was not supported by the due to concerns related to design considerations including the proposed location of the swimming pool.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' 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. John Leek asked the Board to examine San Diego Municipal Code 26.30 related to the Board's responsibility associated with La Jolla Underwater Park.
- Mr. Ken Hunricks of the Friends of Children's Pool discussed a letter from Chris Yates regarding Pinniped management.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Interim Park and Recreation Director Andrew Field provided the following update to the Board members:

- Park Board Appointments were approved by the City Council on January 14, 2014. As a result of this action, two existing members (Vicki Granowitz and Bobby Hughes) were reappointed, and three new members (Virginia Angeles, Hazel Ocampo and Dennis

- Otsuji) were appointed. Their terms will be effective on or around January 27, so their first official meeting will be in February. Mr. Field noted that Ms. Angeles and Mr. Otsuji were in attendance at the January meeting. Mr. Field acknowledged and thanked departing members Amy Denhart, Claudia Dunaway, and Kathryn Warburton
- Mr. Field noted that Board members Conflict of Interest Statement will be due by April 1. A notice to remind members to submit their statement will be going out in mid-February.
 - As a result of City restructuring, Stacey LoMedico is now the Assistant Chief Operating Officer for the City of San Diego, and Ronald H. Villa was appointed as the new Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the Neighborhood Services Branch of the City. Mr. Field will ask Mr. Villa to attend an upcoming Board meeting for a meet and greet.
 - Recruitment for the permanent Park and Recreation Director is underway, with the first screening complete. The goal is to have the position filled by March.
 - Multiple holiday events were underway throughout the park system in December, including the well-attended December Nights in Balboa Park as well as community-based recreation center events such as Breakfast with Santa, Lunch with Santa, Candy Cane Lunch, and snow in the park.
 - Mr. Field has been visiting various parks to observe maintenance practices and appreciates input from Board members as they visit various park sites.
 - Staff is working toward improving playground maintenance, including repair of rubberized surfacing, sand replacement, and staff attending certified playground inspector trainings in March.
 - The Developed Regional Parks Permit Center moved onto Active Net effective on January 1. On Line Registration will continue to be rolled out over the remaining recreation centers over the next year.
 - A new interface on the City's webpage allows users to locate various parks in an interactive feature.
 - The City Council approved the third Deferred Capital Bond earlier in the week. Park-related projects include Tierrasanta Community Park Sports Field Lights and University Village Neighborhood Park Tot Lot as well as various accessibility improvements.
 - The Farmers Insurance Open is Jan 23-26, 2014. The weather is expected to hold nicely for the event.
 - Grand Opening/Groundbreaking Ceremonies/News Conferences include:
 - o Balboa Park Tram Press Conference/Grand Opening – December 9, 2013
 - o North Kellogg Park Comfort Station Groundbreaking – January 6, 2014
 - o Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Park – January 11, 2014
 - o Press Conference with Councilmember Marti Emerald for installation of security lights at Willie Henderson Sports Complex Security Lighting – January 22, 2014
 - o City Heights Square Mini Park Grand Opening – February 3, 2014

- Tree Contracts continue through the solicitation process. The Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) tree trimming contract was approved by the City Council on December 17, 2013. The golf, park/open space, and street tree contracts are under review currently with a target City Council date of late February or early March 2014.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Otay Mesa Community Plan Update-Recreation Element

Presenter: Howard Greenstein, Park Designer, Planning; co-presenter Theresa Millette, Senior Planner, Planning

Mr. Greenstein presented a PowerPoint on the recreation element of the Otay Mesa Community Plan along with Senior Planner Theresa Millette to the Board.

Comments/questions from members:

- Mr. Brown asked whether the various smaller neighborhood parks could be consolidated or combined in southwest Otay Mesa. Mr. Greenstein noted that the park locations are conceptual pending development of the area.
- Mr. Diehl noted that there is no provision for off-leash dog parks in the element, and he suggested that those should be incorporated. Mr. Diehl also noted that the concept of a "Grand Park" does not have any specific standards. Mr. Greenstein noted that the "Grand Park" is simply a larger Community Park with amenities similar to a Community Park. Mr. Diehl noted that Table 7.3 of the Community Plan only lists northwest Otay Mesa and wondered why central and southwest Otay Mesa were not included. Mr. Greenstein noted that only the development for northwest Otay Mesa has reached a point where specific park names and locations are known; the other areas are not as far along in the development process.
- Mr. Bussell suggested that a skate park might be appropriate for Otay Mesa and appreciates that details of the "Grand Park" may come later. Mr. Bussell also requested a distinction between the eastern and western Facilities Benefit Assessments (FBA) in Otay Mesa. Scott Mercer, Supervising Project Manager, stated that the FBA's were set up based on development patterns whereby fees collected in the western portion of Otay Mesa must be used for facilities and improvements in the western portion (and vice versa).
- Mr. Brown asked which community groups have been involved in developing the community plan to date. Staff noted the planning group and business groups have been involved. Mr. Brown suggested that more public input be obtained from residential areas of the community.
- Ms. Granowitz agreed with Mr. Diehl that off-leash dog parks are needed and should be added to the plan. Ms. Granowitz suggested that overlooks into canyon and open space areas should have standards, perhaps using West Lewis Mini Park in Uptown as an example.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Kinney to approve the plan, and seconded by Mr. Bussell. The motion was approved unanimously (6-0-0).

102. General Development Plan (GDP) for the Balboa Park Golf Course Clubhouse

Presenter: Todd Schmit, Park Designer, Public Works Department; co-presenter Jack Gallagher, Dahlin Groups

Mr. Schmit presented a PowerPoint presentation on the design concepts of the Balboa Park Golf Course Club House along with Project Officer II Kevin Oliver, and Jack Gallagher of Dahlin Groups to the Board.

Comments/questions from members:

- Mr. Chávez requested a schedule for the project. Mr. Schmit responded by providing the dates for environmental clearance and completion of construction documents by 2015. After a bidding process, construction would begin in 2016 after the Balboa Park Centennial celebration has completed.
- Mr. Stepner noted that the proposed pathway along Golf Course Drive shows in the staff report as “will be considered.” Mr. Stepner noted that this is a dangerous statement that does not obligate anyone to take action and not guarantee installation of the proposed six-foot sidewalk. Mr. Schmit noted that the project is not far enough into the design process yet to include the sidewalk definitively.
- Mr. Kinney stated that he has very few questions about the project itself but does have concerns with connectivity with the neighboring community. Mr. Kinney feels that the connectivity is beyond the scope of the project and that the sidewalk cannot be funded by the Golf Course Enterprise Fund.
- Mr. Bussell noted the narrowness of Golf Course Drive and suggested that funds should be maximized to increase accessibility to the golf course. Mr. Bussell asked whether Regional Park Improvement Funds was allocated toward this project; Mr. Schmit responded that the project is solely funded by the Golf Course Enterprise Fund.
- Ms. Granowitz noted that this project is steeped in history. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed the original clubhouse, and this project will not adversely impact the historical elements of the clubhouse. However, Ms. Granowitz noted the architect’s attention to detail and conformance with federal Department of Interior standards as well as a great design. Ms. Granowitz noted that the plans call for a large meeting space and noted that such space in such a new venue will likely create a demand for destination events in that space, including weddings. As a result, Ms. Granowitz felt conflicted as to whether to support this project or not. A major concern is the potential for the increased usage of the site beyond the current usage. Increased traffic will result, and that will impact nearby neighborhoods as well as pedestrians, bicyclist, and cars on the narrow, substandard Golf Course Drive. Ms. Granowitz noted the lack of a traffic study and requested one be conducted, especially to analyze impacts to Greater Golden Hill. Due to low roofs on buildings, Ms. Granowitz also noted that skateboarders may climb to the top of the structure and use it for jumps (as they do currently) and expressed concern that homeless will also cause security issues at night. Perhaps a tram can be constructed to enable access to the golf course from Tram Central at Inspiration Point and/or City College. Ms. Granowitz recommended more way-finding

signage around the area to mitigate anticipated increased traffic and to assist tourist who are unfamiliar with the site location.

- Mr. Stepner noted that this project should be examined in the context of park equivalencies. He also noted that the sidewalk on Golf Course Drive is not mitigation and should not be considered as such. Mr. Stepner noted that many projects like this one do not take advantage of potential opportunities associated with equivalent uses.
- Mr. Diehl noted that the Golf Course Enterprise Fund should pay for the sidewalk on Golf Course Drive since Golf Course Drive is a park road and not a public right of way.
- Mr. Oliver noted the unique aspects of staffing and security at this site, including Golf operational staff scheduling both weddings and golf events.
- Ms. Granowitz suggested that increased golf courses use along with special events will create an increase in magnitude in terms of traffic generation. But these issues could in part be mitigated with Parking, Traffic and Security Management Plans, which will be important to the success of the new facility.

Mr. Diehl took public testimony at this point.

- Rachelle Alvarez of the Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee stated that this project should again be brought before the Planning Committee as an action item. Ms. Alvarez noted concerns with traffic impacts and use of the Golf Course Enterprise Fund, which she feels should cover the cost of the pedestrian sidewalk. Ms. Alvarez also noted that this project has been in discussion for many years, with input collected in 1998. She closed by requesting a traffic study and environmental impacts from the project.
- Cheryl Brierton asked why the sidewalk is not in the project plans presented to the Board. She noted that such a basic piece of infrastructure should be included in the overall project.
- Blair Ward of the Golden Hill Community Development Corporation noted that alternate funding mechanisms, such as market tax credits and grants with TransNet match should be considered for funding the sidewalk along Golf Course Drive.

Comments/questions from members:

- Mr. Chávez suggested that the Board table this item to obtain Greater Golden Hill Community Planning Committee input. He further asked staff whether the Board's consideration of this project is the final approval step needed. Mr. Schmit responded that additional public input will occur through both the environmental and design processes over the next two years, including when the site development permit is obtained.
- Ms. Thomas noted the permit process and typical environmental process that still must occur before a site development permit can be approved.
- Ms. Granowitz asked why the Board is reviewing a project prior to the completion of the environmental document, noting Council Policy 600-33. Ms. Thomas responded by noting that the Board does not cover permits.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Chávez that the approval of the clubhouse project be tabled until the March meeting to give staff time to (1) discuss a timeline and approach for the traffic study, (2) present the item to the Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee and allow for public input, and (3) answer all issues raised by the Board in a written report. Ms. Granowitz agreed to provide a written list of questions based on the discussion was seconded by Mr. Bussell. The motion was approved (5-1) with Mr. Kinney opposed.

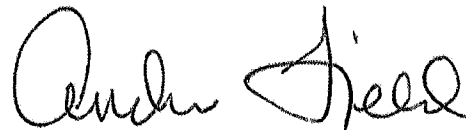
INFORMATION ITEMS -None

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: **February 20, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.**

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

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Field". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "F".

Andrew Field
Interim Park and Recreation Director

