

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
June 19, 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
Virginia Angeles
(arrived late)
Bruce Brown
Rick Bussell
Robert Chávez
Vicki Granowitz
Bobby Hughes
(arrived late)
David Kinney
Hazel Ocampo
(arrived late)
Dennis Otsuji
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

City Staff Present

Andy Field
Lara Gates

Jeff Harkness
Mark Nassar
Herman Parker
Bonnie Pearson
Robin Shifflet

Shannon Thomas

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Diehl at 2:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2014

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the May 15, 2014 meeting minutes with any necessary spelling and/or punctuation corrections as noted. The motion was approved (5-0-4) with two abstentions.

Mr. Stepner inquired if any notes were taken at the workshop from last month’s joint meeting with the Planning Commission as he feels that the discussion was important to follow-up on . Ms. Pearson responded she would follow-up with the Planning Commission to inquire if minutes were taken at the joint meeting.

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 and seconded by Mr. Bussell to move Action Item 101, Fenton “Piazza Famiglia” at India and Date Streets – General Development Plan to the Consent Agenda.

Comments from members:

- Mr. Otsuji commented that the creation of that public space is appreciated by all.
- Mr. Kinney wanted to encourage the developers going forward to not cause it to become a retail site and that it stays open for the public as a community gathering space.

Speakers: 3 In favor

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

Consent Agenda was approved with two abstentions and two members arriving late. (7-0-2)

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported there is general concern amongst the community regarding CEQA requirements for fireworks.
- Staff reported that the May Revised Budget was out and encouraged the community to look at the numbers.
- The committee approved the renaming of Scripps Ranch Community Center to Scripps Ranch Civic Association Community Center.
- The committee discussed the Big Belly Recycling Program that the City is instituting. Mr. Bussell encouraged that a presentation be brought forward to the board members.

Community Parks II Area Committee - None

Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney reported the committee heard a report from the Balboa Park Conservancy on their plans to restore the botanical building.
- The Cabrillo Bridge has now reopened and work will continue for several months. It may close intermittently.
- The committee also heard a report on a project to do some special lighting in Balboa Park beginning in 2015, but will continue beyond that date. The project entails doing coloring washes on the building; LED lights with colors that change depending on the event and/or the season. Mr. Kinney will keep the members informed on the process.

Design Review Committee - None

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee - None

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Speaker: 1- Susanne Ledebøer requested Park and Recreation Board, Park and Recreation Department, and Council District get together with the Planning Group, Community Association and the Adams

Recreation Council in Normal Heights in moving forward with a plan for an off-leash dog park at Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park.

Chair Diehl asked Mr. Winter if he had any information as to when this park will come on line. Mr. Winter replied he does not know where the funding is as this time. The design and General Development Plan has been completed. Staff is working with Caltrans on some adjacency property issues. Mr. Winter will follow-up with the members on the status of the funding.

Chair Diehl invited members to Westview High School on July 3 for Fireworks, which will begin at dusk.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Chair Diehl announced that Fitness in the Park is doing a commercial on June 27 at 9:30am at Morley Field. The company is looking for people to walk and be in the commercial.
- Rancho Peñasquitos Skate Board Park will celebrate its ribbon cutting ceremony on July 8. The park received a \$398,000 upgrade. It opened to the general public yesterday.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Parker announced that Bruce Martinez, who had been serving as Interim Deputy Director of the Developed Regional Parks Division has been officially appointed to that role.
- The Department will be launching a new program this summer titled, "Parks Fit San Diego". The intent of the program is to encourage the community to get out to our parks. Additionally one of the primary uses will be for fitness, to get involved and be active in the park. Park and Recreation staff will be actively seeking the community's participation to walk, jog and swim. The program will run from July 14 to August 14.
- Mr. Parker announced the ribbon cutting ceremony yesterday at Cabrillo Heights Neighborhood Park. This event was to dedicate new improvements at the site; a new tot lot installed, rain gardens to control rain and water run-off. Also additional fencing, picnic tables and shade structures were installed
- All aquatic programs are under way and ready for the summer and all pools are open.
- Movies in the Park has returned again this year for families to enjoy this summer.

Public Comment – Ms. Maria Riveroll requested completion of Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park

ACTION ITEMS

101. Fenton "Piazza Famiglia" at India and Date Street – General Development Plan

Action Item 101 was moved to the consent agenda and approved unanimously.

- Chair Diehl acknowledged the Board received three letters of support for the project: Little Italy Association of San Diego, Little Italy Residents Association and Castor Family Enterprises

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Southeastern San Diego and Encanto Neighborhoods Community Plan Updates – Recreation Element

Presenters: Jeff Harkness, Park Designer, Planning, Neighborhoods and Economic Development

Mr. Harkness introduced Lara Gates, Community Development Specialist IV who is overseeing the project for long range planning and was in attendance to support and answer any questions regarding the community plan update.

Mr. Harkness clarified the number of attachments that were supposed to be in the members' packets. He presented a report and PowerPoint presentation which outlined the following:

- Background
 - Southeastern San Diego Recreation Facilities
 - Encanto Neighborhoods Recreation Facilities
 - Specific Master Plans for Encanto Neighborhoods
- Discussion
 - Southeastern San Diego Future park and Recreation Facilities
 - Encanto Neighborhoods Future Park and Recreation Facilities
 - Summary of Park and Recreation Facilities
- Next Steps
- Conclusion

Mr. Harkness advised that this plan will return to the Park and Recreation Board to take action in March prior to it going before City Council in May. The report and presentation can be found on the Park and Recreation website at:

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

Comments/questions from members:

- Mr. Bussell inquired about accessibility to the community. Mr. Harkness replied the accessibility will probably be a combination of walking and driving.
- Mr. Chavez inquired about Chollas Creek being created as a regional park. Can that be folded into this community plan update process? If not, why and is it worth doing it now? Mr. Harkness replied that this is a new avenue for the City to create an actual regional park from nothing. A company named Groundwork is spearheading the regional park aspect and will provide a comprehensive study to identify goals, and what elements Chollas Creek has that would meet the definition of a regional park. The study will come before the Park and Recreation Board. Mr. Harkness will keep the members updated on the status of the study.
- Mr. Otsuji commented this is a great start on both areas, felt that the Planning Department is doing a great job. Additionally, he commented that it is important for the community to be involved and are a part of the solution. Mr. Otsuji requested Planning Department study the cemetery in the area. Mr. Otsuji also requested the Planning Department take a look at Market Street and Imperial Avenue. He felt it important to include these areas in the planning process.
- Mr. Stepner added the use of cemeteries could add to the resource in those communities.

- Ms. Granowitz agreed with Mr. Otsuji and Mr. Stepner in the work that is being done. She added that Chollas Creek could become a catalyst as to how this area is viewed; as it is special and unique.
- Ms. Ocampo inquired about the improved water quality in Chollas Creek. Ms. Gates replied that the area is a highly impaired water body at this time and is listed on various State of California agencies. One of the goals is to attempt to clean that up by installing new storm water improvements. Also doing improvements to the adjacent areas as well.
- Chair Diehl inquired as to what the current build out is of these communities? Ms. Gates replied for Encanto 13,184 existing residential dwelling units; Southeastern 15,032 existing residential dwelling units. Ms. Gates stated the current community plan, which was prepared in 1987, allows for 18,371 units in Encanto; 18,587 for Southeastern. Approximately 5,000 more units in Encanto that would be allowed in the community plan and, 3,500 in Southeastern if it went to build out. The draft plan as proposed would be for Encanto.
- Chair Diehl also requested that maps not be prepared that show trail systems across privately owned property.

One Speaker in favor of the project: Maria Rival, resident of Mt. Hope since 1946 and her passion is Chollas Creek.

202. Park Condition Assessments

Presenters: Andy Field, Assistant Park and Recreation Director; Jim Winter, Project Officer II, Assets Management Division, Park and Recreation Department

Mr. Field and Mr. Winter provided a report and PowerPoint presentation on park condition assessments. The presentation is to provide the condition assessments being done on behalf of the park assets and not buildings and provide an update of plans for the next five years. The report and presentation outlined the following:

- Park System (41,436 acres)
- Developed Parks
- Current Park Inventory
- Initial Condition Assessments
- Park Selection Criteria
- Future Condition Assessments
- Summary

Comments/questions from members:

- Chair Diehl inquired if the project includes off-leash dog parks and separate off-leash dog areas. Mr. Winter responded when the consultants look at a park, they look at all aspects i.e., skate parks, dog parks, trash cans, picnic tables etc.
- Chair Diehl also inquired if this includes MAD owned parks? Mr. Field replied there is no such thing as a "MAD owned" park. All parks are owned by the City. The goal is to inventory all developed City park sites.
- Chair Diehl also inquired if the inventory/review will go back to the Recreation Councils for their review and input? Mr. Field responded that once the studies are returned staff will bring findings forward to be presented and discussed at a future Board meeting.

The report can be found on the Park and Recreation website at:

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

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: **July 17, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.**

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Submitted by,

Herman D. Parker
Park and Recreation Director