

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
September 18, 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

Michael Stepner,
Vice Chair
Virginia Angeles
Bruce Brown
Rick Bussell
Robert Chávez
Vicki Granowitz
Bobby Hughes (arrived
late)
David Kinney
Hazel Ocampo

Members Absent

William Diehl, Chair

Dennis Otsuji

City Staff Present

Heather Ferbert

Andy Field
Steve Palle
Herman Parker
Bonnie Pearson
Brian Schoenfisch
Becky Yzaguirre

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2014

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

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell and seconded by Ms. Granowitz to approve the June 19, 2014 meeting minutes with any necessary spelling and/or punctuation corrections as noted. The motion was approved (9-0-2).

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 Mr. Bussell and seconded by Mr. Brown to move Action Item 102, Naming of the Linda Vista Picnic Shelter to the Melinda Appling Memorial Pavilion to the Consent Agenda.

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

Consent Agenda was approved unanimously (9-0-2) with two absences.

Comment from the public: Doug Beckham, Chair Linda Vista Recreation Council
Mr. Beckman stated this has been in the works for quite some time. It's being named for the family of Ms. Appling. She served on the Recreation Council and during her tenure, she helped raise \$29,000 for the Recreation Council to help the children. The Recreation Council appreciates the approval.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee - None

Community Parks II Area Committee

- Mr. Hughes reported the committee approved the renaming of City Heights Mini Park to Virgie Hazel McCain and William Henry Carter Mini Park. He added that Mrs. McCain is 104 years old. This item will be coming before the board in October.

Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney reported the committee has been discussing several items related to the San Diego Zoo. Work needs to be done on the walk-way leading from El Prado to the Zoo entrance. Utilities underneath needing to be repaired and replaced in order to enhance the entire walk-way. Workshop items have been presented twice regarding a new entrance to control walk-ways and traffic.

Design Review Committee - None

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Chávez thanked all who participated in the Urban Corps big family event.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Public Comment: Ms. Suzanne Ledebor, Normal Heights resident. Ms. Ledebor reminded members that she spoke to the board in June, 2014 regarding the desire and need for an off-leash dog park at Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park. She added that the community still wants and needs the off-leash dog park.

Vice Chair Stepner acknowledged Ms. Ledebor's request noting that no action could be taken today, but adding staff acknowledged and will look into the request.

Mr. Bussell announced that although Tecolote Canyon Natural Park Citizens Advisory Committee no longer reports to the board, he had a few items of interest to share. The annual Baskets & Botany event will be held October 11 at the Tecolote Nature Center. Additionally, the committee is working on a memorial for Janie Dumas from Kumeyaay, who has been an integral part of the success of the canyon.

Mr. Bussell added that due to the storm, there was significant damage to the canyon. Clean-up is underway with assistance from San Diego Mountain Bike Association.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Vice Chair)

- Vice Chair Stepner reminded members of the May 15, 2014 joint workshop held with the Planning Department to discuss parks. He noted there were no minutes taken, but there has been follow-up. Vice Chair Stepner distributed a document from Citizen's Coordinate for Century 3, a long-time advocacy group in San Diego who is holding a breakfast style workshop next Thursday, September 25, 2014. The subject will be: The Public Realm in San Diego Urban Parks. The goal of this workshop is to look at where we should be going with regard to the park master plan for the City of San Diego. He encouraged members to attend.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Parker announced that the Memorial Pool recently reopened on June 30, with Mayor Faulconer and staff in attendance. It is a new state-of-the-art infinity pool, with water play areas.
- Mr. Parker commented on the summer pilot program called Parks Fit San Diego. The program emphasized using our parks for fitness, staying in shape and encouraged people to walk in our parks. It was a successful program with approximately 2,000 participants and was held from July 14 to August 14. Mr. Parker thanked staff for their participation and in getting the word out to the community.
- Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Edward Tyler Cramer Park, which was held August 21 in the Linda Vista area. Cramer family members from Great Britain attended the ceremony.
- The department's Teen Center premier of the Haunted Trail at Balboa Park will occur on September 25 from 7:45pm – 10:00pm
- The Aquatics Portable Pool Program concluded for the summer on Sept 1.
- Mr. Parker invited members to the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Central Avenue Mini Park which will be held October 2 at 10:30am.

Questions/Comments to the Director from members:

- Ms. Granowitz asked Mr. Parker to update members on damages from the wind storm. Mr. Parker responded that a report was prepared outlining some of the damages the parks sustained. Most damage was tree related; downed trees in some of the Open Space areas, branches down throughout the City. Mr. Parker added that Park and Recreation crews did an outstanding job removing the debris quickly. He added there was no property damage.

ACTION ITEMS

- 101. McKinley Elementary School Joing Use Improvements – General Development Plan**
Presenters: Debbie Van Martin, Project Manager, Public Works Department; Vicki Estrada, Estrada Land Planning

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Bussell to move for approval of this item.

The motion was approved unanimously (9-0-2) with two absences.

- 102. Naming of the Linda Vista Picnic Shelter to the Melinda Appling Memorial Pavilion**
Presenters: Steve Palle, District Manager, Community Parks I Division; Doug Beckham, Chair, Linda Vista Recreation Council, Joann Carini, Representative, Linda Vista Recreation Council

Action Item 102 was moved to the consent agenda and approved unanimously.

- 103. Chicano Park Recreational Improvement Project**
Presenters: Brian Schoenfisch, Senior Planner, Planning Department; Klara T. Arter, Communications & Development Manager, Urban Corps of San Diego County

Mr. Chavez on the advice of the City Attorney's Office recused himself from the approval process regarding Item #103, as he is the Executive Director of the Urban Corps of San Diego County.

Mr. Brian Shoenfisch, joined by Klara Arter and Ty Sterns of Urban Corps of San Diego County provided a brief history and background overview of the project with a report that outlined the following:

- Summary
- Background (Project Summary, Implementation Schedule, Youth Impact, About Chicano Park)
- Discussion
- Draft General Development Plan
- Draft Site Plan
- Handout of Sample Images

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

Comments/questions from members:

- Mr. Brown inquired if there will be any shade area over the playground area. Mr. Sterns replied there is proposal for shade structures.
- Mr. Kinney commented the enhancements seem to be predominately hardscape, equipment, furniture and lighting, benches etc. He didn't see much enhancements of the landscape in the park. Why is that? Mr. Sterns responded the priority was the playground for this project; but there are minor landscape improvements. He added the area that did need improvement there, will have landscaping installed. Mr. Shoenfisch added that one of the focuses of the grant related to affordable housing, which is to provide recreational equipment, recreational opportunities for the new residents in the community. It is a reflection of balancing input on the project from the community.
- Ms. Granowitz applauded the unanimity of the community on the project.
- Ms. Ocampo inquired if there will be a replacement for trees or plants that are taken out based on the recreation usage. Mr. Sterns replied there is no plan to remove existing trees. In the

Mercado del Barrio there are some dilapidated trees that will be removed and new landscaping installed.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the Chicano Park Recreational Improvement Project.

Approved unanimously (9-0-2) with two absences.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. California Tower Project Update

Presenters: Micah Parzen, CEO Museum of Man; Kitty Vieth, Architect, Architectural Resources Group

Mr. Parzen and Ms. Vieth presented a PowerPoint presentation on the California Tower update. Mr. Parzen advised this project has been three years in the making. Mr. Parzen wanted to recognize Park and Recreation staff, Stacey LoMedico, former Park and Recreation Director, Susan Lowery-Mendoza, District Manager, Charlie Daniels, Park Designer, Herman Parker, Director and Andy Field, Assistant Director; as well as other City staff in various departments. There are three main objectives: enhance the visitor experience, preserve historic resource and make the experience safe and accessible

The presentation outlined the following:

- Project Objectives
- Evolution of Project
- Project Timeline
- Operation Plan
- Historical Tour
- Accessibility
- Safety
- Major Improvements
- Preserving Historic Resource
- Overview
- Existing Stairs
- 8th Floor Balconies
- Guards and Handrail

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

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

Comments/questions from members:

- Mr. Brown inquired as to the tolerance/strengthening of the tower with regards to earthquakes. Ms Vieth replied the tower was retrofitted in the 1960's and advised another seismic retrofitting

is scheduled for 2016 as planned by the City; although her company is not involved with this process.

- Mr. Kinney added the Balboa Park Committee received a presentation as well earlier this month and there was enthusiastic support for it. All questions were focused on safety and security. He added that those questions appeared to be addressed.
- Vice Chair Stepner suggested the board members be given an inspection tour. Mr. Parzen acknowledged he would be happy to provide a tour.
- Ms. Granowitz inquired if visitors will be required to wear flats. Mr. Parzen responded that visitors will be strongly encouraged to do.

Additional comment from Mr. Parker:

Introduction of Deputy City Attorney Heather Ferbert who has replaced Deputy City Attorney Shannon Thomas as the Park and Recreation Board's representative.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Next Meeting: **October 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.**

**City Administration Building
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Submitted by,

Andrew Field
Assistant Park and Recreation Director