

City of San Diego  
Park and Recreation Board  
November 20, 2014

**Minutes**

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

**Meeting Location:**

Balboa Park Club (Location Change)  
2144 Pan American Road West  
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  
Bruce Brown  
Robert Chávez  
Vicki Granowitz  
David Kinney  
Hazel Ocampo  
Michael Stepner

**Members Absent**

Dennis Otsuji (Excused)  
Bobby Hughes  
Rick Bussell (Excused)

**City Staff Present**

Jennifer Casamassima  
Heather Ferbert  
Andy Field  
JoEllen Jacoby  
Jesse Luke  
Herman Parker  
Bonnie Pearson  
Mike Tully  
Jim Winter

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Diehl at 2:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2014

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Stepner to approve the October 16, 2014 meeting minutes with any necessary spelling and/or punctuation corrections as noted. The motion was approved (5-0-3) with two abstentions, Chair Diehl and Mr. Chávez.

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. Stepner /Ms. Granowitz**

A motion was made by Mr. Stepner and seconded by Ms. Granowitz to approve the adopted agenda. The motion was approved unanimously (8-0-3)

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee - None

Community Parks II Area Committee – None

## Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney stated the committee did not meet, thus no report. However, Mr. Kinney did invite everyone to attend December Nights on December 5-6, 2014 in Balboa Park. The opening ceremony will be exciting and will include a look back at the history of the park.

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.)

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Chair Diehl invited everyone to Hilltop Community Park and Recreation Center on December 6, 2014 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm for their Winter Wonderland event. There will be 70 tons of snow, rides, jumpers, swings, petting zoo, crafts for the children and Santa Claus.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Parker advised members of the Central Avenue Mini Park Groundbreaking Ceremony held on October 2, 2014. This project is scheduled to be completed in November 2015.
- A renaming ceremony for the Skyview Park site. It was renamed in honor of Officer Christopher Wilson on October 27, 2014. There was a great showing for this event.
- The Kellogg Comfort Station at the north end of Kellogg Park opened and construction is complete. The ribbon cutting ceremony in honor of John G. Watson was held on October 30, 2017. Mr. Parker added it is a great addition to the park site.
- Mr. Parker also invited everyone to December Nights on December 5, 2014.
- Mr. Parker added there are a variety of events and programs throughout the City for the holidays and he encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy.

Questions/Comments from members:

- Chair Diehl inquired about the outcome of the Parks Fit Program. Mr. Parker responded that the Parks Fit Program was a new program introduced to the Park and Recreation Department. It was held City-wide to encourage the community to come out and enjoy your parks and get fit in our parks. The goal of the department was to develop and advise the community that the parks are here for them to enjoy and participate in the various events and activities. He added it was the first pilot program which ran from June 15 – August 14. There were approximately 1,800 participants and the program was successful. Mr. Parker added the department will roll this out again either Spring or Summer of 2015.

ACTION ITEMS - None

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### **201. Drought Alert: New Restrictions and Programs**

Presenter: JoEllen Jacoby, Water Conservation Landscape Architect, Public Utilities Department

Ms. Jacoby reminded members that the City put into place drought restrictions and drought levels in 2009. She added there are five levels of restriction/drought. Ms. Jacoby provided a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the following:

#### 5 Levels of Drought

- Water Waste Prohibitions (Permanent)
- Level 1 – Drought Watch Condition (Voluntary)
- Level 2 – Drought Alert Condition
- Level 3 – Drought Critical Condition
- Level 4 – Drought Emergency
- Background
- Permanent Water Use Restrictions
- Drought Alert (Effective November 1, 2014)
- Alternatives for Large Landscapes (ALL)
- Water Waste Hotline
- Commercial Landscape Survey
- Incentives/Rebates (Metropolitan Water District)
- Public Agency Landscape Program (PAL) Incentives/Rebates
- San Diego County Water Authority Sponsored Rebates for Turf Conversion

#### Comments/questions from members:

- Mr. Stepner asked what are the watering hours during the day and what is the extent of the water that will be running through there for maintenance for Plaza de Panama and Everson Fountain? He added these fountains are not only ornamental but also recreational. Mr. Stepner feels the fountains should be on during busy hours in both places to serve the community better.
- Mr. Parker commented that staff did an intensive job in assessing and analyzing how long the fountains had to operate to be manageable and maintained so they don't deteriorate. Staff came up with specific hours for each fountain. Mr. Parker added the fountains will be running during peak time of attendance at the park.
- Mr. Mike Tully, District Manager, Developed Regional Parks confirmed Mr. Parker's comments and added the Bea Evenson Fountain will run for five hours (1:00pm – 6:00pm); Plaza de Panama will run for four hours (1:00pm-5:00pm). Bow Fountain will run during presentations when the Civic Theatre is open. Chicano Park to run during peak hours during the day, rather than early morning/late evening hours. Additionally, Mr. Tully added that because chlorine is used in these fountains, the health and safety of the people was taken into consideration when running the fountains.
- Mr. Diehl asked how close are we to Level 3 Drought. Ms. Jacoby responded it is up to the elected officials, but the City of San Diego is making preparations as is the County Water Authority. Ms. Jacoby added we should continue to conserve.

**202. Success in Connecting Parkland and MADs to Recycled Water**

Presenter: Jennifer Casamassima, Program Manager, Public Utilities Department

Ms. Casamassima manages the staff the work with customers in close proximity of our current recycled water distribution system or planned distribution system to go through the regulatory hurdles to get them connected. Ms. Casamassima’s presentation outlined the success the Public Utilities Department has had with the Park and Recreation Department get Parkland, Open Space and MADs connected to recycled water. The PowerPoint presentation outlined the following:

- Meters serving parks, Open Space and Street Medians, includes Maintenance Assessment Districts (MADs).
- The recycled meters described cover the periods in 2007 and 2013, and outlined the potable water savings for those years. In 2014, recycled water customer use increased by a 320% water connection from 2007.
- Map indicating Northern Service Area of Parkland & MAD Irrigation Retrofits that are connected to the recycled water distribution system.
- Additional map indicating proposed Park and Recreation recycled water meter; recent recycled water meter connection, existing recycled water pipelines, existing recycled water pipelines currently charged with potable water and planned recycled water pipelines.
- Planned Irrigation Retrofit Projects for 2015 (Penasquitos Creek Park, Park Village MAD, San Dieguito Rd MAD and Carmel Valley Rd MAD
- Map indicating South Bay Recycled Water System (no planned expansion of the distribution system in South Bay at this time)

Comments/questions from members:

- Mr. Diehl asked if the two parks off Black Mountain Rd would receive pipelines for recycled water. Ms. Casamassima replied there is no additional planned expansion of the distribution system other than what is planned along the 56 Corridor. It is extremely expensive to expand the distribution system.

**203. Park Playground Inspections**

Presenters: Andrew Field, Assistant Park and Recreation Director; Michael Tully, District Manager, Developed Regional Parks

Mr. Parker introduced District Manager for Citywide Maintenance, Mike Tully who provided updates on new inspection processes that Park and Recreation has put into place. Mr. Tully provided a detailed report and PowerPoint presentation which outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
  - Finding 1: Enhanced Oversight of the Playground Inspection Process
  - Finding 2: Performance Standards Related to Playground Inspection and Repair
  - Finding 3: Comprehensive Inventory and Assessment of Playground Equipment
- Implementation of two levels of inspections - “high-frequency inspections” (HFI) performed weekly and “low-frequency inspections” (LFI) performed quarterly

- New software Manager Plus will provide the ability to track playgrounds as a park asset, store and track data for all playground sites. It will be up and running early 2015.
- Summary

Comments/questions from members:

- Mr. Brown asked if the new high-frequency inspection forms are to be used by the local staff? Mr. Tully responded the on-site staff completes the forms and it could be several different staff i.e., Recreation Leader, Grounds Maintenance Workers for completion. Mr. Brown also asked if the forms are hard copy and need to be transferred into the software tracking system. Mr. Tully responded it is hard copy and high-frequency inspections will not be transposed into the new software. They will be kept at the specific facility. The low-frequency inspections are available electronically. Mr. Brown also asked how does staff ensure the high-frequency incidents reported do get into the system so that action is taken. Mr. Tully responded it corresponds with a work request that is submitted by the supervisor who counter-signs on a weekly basis.
- Ms. Granowitz asked for clarification as to which inspections are kept as hard copies vs. electronic. Additionally, Ms. Granowitz inquired and suggested an additional category that would provide detail maintenance issues that can't be repaired in 14 days. Mr. Tully responded that is the responsibility of the Citywide staff.
- Mr. Diehl asked if there are inspections that cover skateboard parks, sports fields, turf areas, buildings? Mr. Tully responded there are, but that these inspections are strictly for playgrounds. However, there is a separate facility form that is prepared.

Details of all reports and presentations can be found on the Park and Recreation Department website at:

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

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Next Meeting: **December 18, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.**

**City Administration Building  
202 C Street  
San Diego, CA 92101**

Submitted by,

Herman D. Parker  
Park and Recreation Director