

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
April 16, 2015

Minutes

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Location

War Memorial Building
3325 Zoo Drive
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
David Baron

Bruce Brown
Robert Chávez (Arrived
Late)
Vicki Granowitz
David Kinney
Hazel Ocampo (Arrived
Late; meeting was
adjourned)
Dennis Otsuji

Members Absent

Bobby Hughes (Excused)
Martin Moreno (Excused)

City Staff Present

Herman Parker, Director
Andrew Field
Council President Pro Tem
Marti Emerald
Mark Calleran
Alexandra Corsi

Anthony George
Rumi Doherty
Heather Ferbert

Patty Jencks
Jesse Luke
David Monroe
Chris Ojeda
Kevin Oliver
Bonnie Pearson
Brian Schoenfish
Rudy Vargas
Beck Yzaguirre
Sheldon Zemen

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Diehl at 2:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF March 19, 2015

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

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Otsuji to approve the March 19, 2015 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimously approved (7-0-2).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Brown to move Item 102 Linda Vista Community Park-General Development Plan Amendment to the consent agenda. The motion was unanimously approved (7-0-2)

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved. (7-0-2)

Chair Diehl welcomed and yielded the floor to Council President Pro Tem Marti Emerald. Ms. Emerald attended the meeting to show her support for the new skate park in City Heights. Ms. Emerald stated when she became the new District 9 representative on Council, she was approached by the young people of Mid City CAN (Mid City Community Action Network). She added this has been a top item on the District 9 list. Additionally, Ms. Emerald thanked Brian Schoenfisch, Program Manager, Planning Department for applying for grants. She added several community supporters as well as designers will be speaking to the board today. The project has had overwhelming support. Ms. Emerald also stated it is hoped that the project will break ground this calendar year and have the skate park built in 2017. Finally, Ms. Emerald thanked everyone for their support.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee - None

Community Parks II Area Committee - None

Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney advised that the committee did not meet this month. However, he advised that next Wednesday, April 22 there will be a launch and press conference in the Plaza de Panama, the “Living Room” unveiling. The Plaza area is being enhanced thanks to Park and Recreation, Balboa Conservancy and various stakeholders. Much work has gone into planning the event. There will be activities, food trucks and new amenities. Mr. Kinney invited all to attend.

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: Ms. Ileana Ovalle Engel, City Heights resident living near Park de La Cruz had questions regarding park maintenance expectations. She also requested an update on Cherokee Point Recreation Center.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

- Chair Diehl requested review of Park Board By-Laws in the near future. It appears that some items no longer apply. The changes would be minor. Ms. Granowitz volunteered to assist with reviewing and updating.

- The building for the Ranger Station at Black Mountain Open Space/Los Penasquitos was delivered on Tuesday. It is anticipated it will be set-up by the end of the week.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Parker advised that the Grand Opening of Solana Ranch Park took place on March 27, 2015. He added it is a beautiful new park with a great amenities.
- On April 1st, the Volunteer Recognition Program took place at the Organ Pavilion. Mr. Parker stated Park and Recreation honored some wonderful volunteers that have helped us throughout 2014 in maintaining our parks and helping to keep the canyon areas clean and painting some of the picnic areas. There were approximately 250 volunteers recognized. In addition, the department honored individuals from the USS Ronald Reagan who also provided a tremendous amount of support in the clean-up efforts and received the Captain's Award.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Park de La Cruz Neighborhood Park-General Development Plan Amendment

Ms. Alexandra Corsi,, Park Designer, Public Works Department and Mr. Jeff Justus, Principal, Schmidt Design Group and Mr. Kanten Russell, Skate Park Designer from Stantec provided and presented a report and PowerPoint presentation. This park is located in the City Heights community. Some of the features are outlined here:

- Background
- Review of Park and Community Center improvements
- Detailed presentation of proposed Skate Park design and features
- Improved path of travel to meet ADA compliance
- Parking lot improvements to meet ADA compliance
- Pedestrian ramp improvements from existing bridge to the park
- Bike path improvements
- Park is being expanded by .064 acres, which includes two picnic pavilions with tables and other accessories
- Adding walkway space and aligning a raised planter bed to separate parking lot and functional use; tying two parks together and keeping it safe
- Miscellaneous site improvements and amenities
- Skate park design and layout overview; scaled down the footprint to better integrate into existing site
- Utilized the existing hillside grades and slopes, with some features built into the hillside
- Similar colors of the existing area were incorporated into the new features
- Several youth skaters provided input on some of the design features
- Upper levels of the skate park have a classic backyard style bowl, with tiles playing off of the same color scheme
- Lighting is included for the skate park based on programming for the baseball/softball field. When those lights are activated on the fields, the skate park will also be lit.

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Mr. Baron inquired if seating/benches would be included inside the skate park rather than outside. Mr. Russell responded that some of the skate park seating area inside the footprint of the skate park is somewhat limited and there are constraints; the ball field, walkway and hillside slope. Mr. Baron stated he would like to see what can be done to incorporate installing a bench at this skate park and also in Linda Vista. Mr. Russell added that the design of the skate park does not provide a seating area that is safe for spectators. Mr. Justus stated the designers will look into that suggestion.
- Mr. Brown inquired as to the \$5 million funding and wanted to know if this covers both phases? Mr. Corsi stated it does. Mr. Brown also inquired of all the work to be done is it physically impacted by the storm water legislation effective January 2016? Ms. Corsi stated this is included in the first phase and improvements of the future City Heights Recreation Center will be tenants improvements and accessibility.
- Mr. Brown also asked for a break-down of the \$5 million funding. Mr. Brian Schoenfisch, Planning Department responded. Some funding was received from the State of California Housing Related Parks Program Grant - \$4 million (Linda Vista Skate Park and Mid-City Skate Park), the Tony Hawk Foundation - \$80,000 (Linda Vista Skate Park and Mid-City Skate Park) as well as funding from Mid-City Parks Fund; Development Impact Fee (DIF) \$250,000. Additionally, Mr. Brown inquired if there were any concerns from the State of California regarding qualifications? Mr. Schoenfisch stated yes and the formula is complex process for the City and is an annual grant for the next few years. Overall, the purpose of the program is to reward cities with approving affordable housing, providing money for park infrastructure in those communities with a high concentration of affordable housing.
- Mr. Brown inquired as to the length of the proposed skate park. Ms. Corsi responded it is .41 acres. The width is approximately 33 ft; widest point is approximately 50 ft. Mr. Brown stated he liked the design and feels it is a great addition to the community.
- Mr. Otsuji requested clarification on the storm water legislation impact. Ms. Corsi stated the portion of phase two for tenants improvements for the future City Heights Recreation Center is all inside; the park itself is designed to meet all requirements.
- Mr. Otsuji suggested there might be two different areas for spectator seating inside the skate park area. Additionally, Mr. Otsuji inquired if the lighting will be LED. Mr. Justus stated the lighting is not LED because the sports type lighting does not have an LED equivalent that works for sports lighting. Mr. Otsuji also asked how is energy savings being addressed. Mr. Justus responded the newest green division of lighting standard will be used.
- Mr. Otsuji asked if the irrigation requirement for all trees is controlled independently or a City standard? Mr. Justus responded Schmidt Design employs an office standard.
- Mr. Otsuji regarding landscaping and two turf areas. He agrees with the locations of the turf and recommends drought tolerant sod from S&S Seeds who carry six different types of sod which can save 40-60% of the water.
- Mr. Otsuji commended the work done on Items #101 and #102.
- Ms. Granowitz stated she is pleased with the park and that there is money generated to provide amenities for communities.
- Ms. Granowitz asked if the bench concerns would derail the process in moving forward. Mr. Justus responded he doesn't think it will and can make the minor adjustments as they move into the construction to accommodate seating.
- Chair Diehl also agreed that this is a good project.

Public Comment: (4) In Favor

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Chavez to approve the Park de La Cruz Neighborhood Park General Development Plan with a request to add seating inside the skate park. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-2) to include Mr. Chavez who arrived late.

Mr. Chavez asked Ms. Ovalle-Engel, one of the public speakers to submit for the record her recommendations in writing. Mr. Chavez also applauded the work done on the project.

102. Linda Vista Community Park-General Development Plan Amendment

Item 102 was moved to the Consent Agenda.

103. Park and Recreation Board – Standing Committee Assignments

Chair Diehl stated there are vacancies on two of the standing committees: Vice Chair for Community Parks I Area Committee and the board representative for Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee. The Vice Chair for Community Parks I Area Committee remains vacant at this time. Chair Diehl commented that Mr. Hughes may/may not be continuing as Chair of the Community Parks II Area Committee. So, he asked for an Interim Chair. Mr. Baron agreed to be the Interim Chair for Community Parks II Area Committee. Mr. Chavez agreed to be the board representative for Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee. Finally, Chair Diehl thanked the members for volunteering.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Park and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Budget

Mr. Field and Ms. Jencks presented the proposed FY 2016 budget. Mr. Field stated the Mayor's Proposed Budget was released at a press conference on April 13, 2015 and was held at the Skyline Hills Recreation Center & Community Park. Mr. Field added that the budget is very generous toward parks this year, including the restoration of Recreation Center hours at 16 sites throughout the department. Mr. Field informed members that there will be a Budget Hearing series that will occur the first week of May. The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budget will be heard on May 5, 2015; Park and Recreation's Operating Budget will be heard on May 6, 2015.

Ms. Jencks provide a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the following:

- Department background and overview
- Overall General Fund Budget is increasing by 29.35 positions and approximately \$5.4 million
- Non General Fund indicates positive changes in the Environmental Growth Fund, Golf Operations, Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve and Maintenance Assessment Districts (MADs)
- Details of General Fund changes are for park improvement projects, which include security lighting and playground upgrades; full time positions at 16 large recreation centers. Increase

in operating hours will be from 45 to 60 hours per week and will improve operations and programming

- New and/or enhanced facilities and annualizations
- Addition in expenditures for:
 - dredging at Old Mission Dam
 - rubberized surfacing and playground repair at 21 parks
 - condition/needs assessment of park assets
 - engineering services provided by Public Works Department
 - two biologists and the brush management program
 - complete one Natural Resource Management Plan
 - manage capital projects/contracts for downtown parks
 - sales tax for the Vulcan Barge Replacement
 - downtown public restrooms (Portland Loos)
 - consultant services association with mitigation of increasing life in the coastal areas
 - FTE positions to expand Friday Night Teen Program to 5 sites
- Reductions in the proposed budget (no service level impacts)
 - Adjustments to remove onetime funding from FY 2015
 - General benefit transfer to MADs
 - Removal of three positions that assisted with the Balboa Park Centennial (limited positions)

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Mr. Brown recommended that Park and Recreation begin now setting funds aside for the turf areas for reseeding after the drought ends. He is happy to hear the good news.
- Mr. Otsuji inquired as to how much was increased on maintenance. Ms. Jencks replied the department is adding grounds maintenance staff, but did not have an exact figure to provide.
- Ms. Granowitz thanked Park staff on behalf of the North Park Recreation Council.
- Ms. Angeles also thanked staff for the presentation.
- Chair Diehl inquired if the City is taking back the parks from contractors with the addition of maintenance personnel? Ms. Jencks stated not entirely as one of the new parks coming on line (Creekside) is a MAD park which will be funded through contracts and the remainder of the facility parks will be City staffed.
- Chair Diehl also inquired as to when does the union contract expire for City workers and will it be an issue next year? Mr. Field responded the current contract is a five year contract which has the built-in pensionable salary freezes built into it and the City is currently in the middle of the five year.
- Chair Diehl commented the City should be looking into connecting parks to the reclaimed water. He has noticed there are pipes near the new Los Penasquitos Ranger Station, but unsure if its connected. Mr. Field responded that whenever there is a purple pipe nearby, the City attempts to link up to it. There are some targeted sites on the short list to connect. Mr. Field added with regard to Mr. Brown's water question that the City is working on a process to arrive at a 20-25% reduction in water use at all of the parks, per the Governor's Executive Order. The City is examining all options in terms of reducing water use.
- Mr. Otsuji added that the use of reclaimed water has strict requirements.

Of Note: Member Bobby Hughes wife passed away earlier this week. A card is available for members to sign.

- Chair Diehl inquired of Mr. Field if an update report from the Municipal Golf Committee can be presented at the May Board meeting. Mr. Field stated yes.

Budget updates are available on the Park and Recreation Department website:
<http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/budget/index.shtml>

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

<http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/boards/index.shtml>

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Next Meeting: **May 21, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Balboa Park Club Ballroom (Note Location Change)
2144 Pan American Road West
202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101**

Submitted by,

Herman D. Parker
Park and Recreation Director