

City of San Diego  
Park and Recreation Board  
May 21, 2015

**Minutes**

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

**Meeting Location**

Balboa Park Club Ballroom (Note Location)  
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  
David Baron  
Bruce Brown  
Vicki Granowitz  
Bobby Hughes  
David Kinney  
Martin Moreno  
Hazel Ocampo (Arrived  
Late)  
Dennis Otsuji

**Members Absent**

Robert Chávez (Excused)

**City Staff Present**

Herman Parker, Director  
Andrew Field  
Heather Ferbert  
Scott Bentley  
Nancy Bragado  
Charles Daniels  
Ali Darvishi  
Samir Mahmalji  
Mark Marney  
  
Mark Nassar  
Sara Osborn  
Clark Ritter  
Kathy Ruiz  
Robin Shifflet  
Bonnie Pearson

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Diehl at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2015

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the April 16, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (9-0-2).

NON-ADOPTION AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Board. (Comments relating to items on today's Agenda are to be taken at the time the item is heard.) Comments will be limited to (3) three minutes and is not debatable.)

Ms. Granowitz inquired if Park and Recreation is still issuing Special Use Permits (SUP's). Mr. Parker responded that Park and Recreation is still issuing SUP's and he will put her in contact with the appropriate staff person.

REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair may entertain a motion by any Board member to approve any agenda item as consent when no speaker slips have been submitted in favor or in opposition to the item. Items approved on consent are approved in accordance with staff's recommendation as reflected on the agenda and described in the Staff Report to the Park and Recreation Board, unless otherwise noted in the motion.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Brown to move Item 103 Veterans Memorial Garden Commemorative Bust of General Robert Cardenas to the consent agenda. The motion was unanimously approved (9-0-2).

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Moreno to approved the agenda with Item 103 Veterans Memorial Garden Commemorative Bust of General Robert Cardenas being added to the consent agenda. The motion was unanimously approved (9-0-2).

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee

- Mr. Otsuji reported there was one item on the agenda the Proposed San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) changes that was presented to the committee by Civic San Diego. The item was approved and placed on the consent agenda.

Community Parks II Area Committee - None

Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney reported there were several items that the Park Board might be interested in. A workshop was held regarding the International Cottages expansion. The committee looked at detail, architecture and landscaping concepts. The International Cottages committee will return to the Balboa Park Committee at a later date as an action item for approval. Additionally, a new request was received for a new event in the park. It is a run event which is not an unusual request. However, the water that would be required to recover the lawn after the event is more than it takes to maintain the lawns. In light of Park and Recreation's water mandate to reduce water use, the committee did not recommend approval of the event because of the water use. The committee did recommend the event planners work with staff in moving the vendor village to a parking lot. Finally, Mr. Kinney commented on the activation of the Plaza de Panama. He hopes members have had the opportunity to stop by and see all that has been added to the area. Mr. Kinney added it is experimental and easily portable. He also provided some background as to how the "Living Room" became a reality. This is the first phase, which is fairly close to the Precise Plan and was privately funded and no City dollars went into the project. The committee welcomes feedback. Additional workshops are anticipated for the committee.

Design Review Committee - None

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee - None

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Chair Diehl reminded members that he will be on vacation June through August. Vice Chair Mr. Kinney will chair the meetings in his absence.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Parker also added comments regarding the opening of the "Living Room" in the Plaza de Panama and stated it was great and was well received. He added it is a great addition to the Plaza.
- May 1 was the Kick-off for a new Park and Recreation program called the BookNook! Park and Recreation has partnered with the Library Department. There are areas in several Community Centers where individuals can visit their local community center, pick up a book, read it and return it. It is a book exchange program to encourage reading in the community. Reading is recreation!
- May 9 was the Garden of the Century Party. There was a great wagon parade and was a great event. Mr. Parker thanked all staff who were involved in the process.
- June 20 will again kick-off Parks Fit San Diego this summer. The department wants to encourage the community to come out and use their parks, stay fit and get active; swim and walk.
- Mr. Parker added the department is working diligently to implement several drought measures. Watering in several park areas will be cut back; non essential turf areas or ornamental turf areas in park sites. The impact will be noticed over the next several weeks. In areas such as Balboa Park, Mission Bay and some of the areas visited by tourists, we are working to preserve those areas. Staff is still watering three times a week and not planning to cut back at this time. On the athletic field keeping them safe, we are watering three times a week. Mr. Parker emphasized to the board that many other areas in the City will see water reductions and cutbacks, with some areas browning out. This is mandated by the Governor and we are beginning to receive calls from citizens. Finally, Mr. Parker added that staff will be presenting status updates to the board in the coming months.

Comments/Questions from the members:

- Mr. Otsuji commented it is wise to know where the cut-off of water will be, based upon the use and type of material being watered at the time.

## ACTION ITEMS

### **101. General Plan Amendments-Recreation and Noise Elements**

Ms. Sara Osborn presented a report and PowerPoint presentation on the General Plan Amendments. There are three proposed amendments to the recreation element. The amendments incorporate Council Policy 600-17 and 600-11 and update the General Plan's Open Space and Park. Ms. Osborn stated the intent of these new policies is to further capture the Council Policy's within the General Plan. The changes being proposed are consistent with the California State General Plan Guidelines and most major California cities. Staff is seeking a recommendation to approve the amendments. Ms. Osborn's presentation outlined the following:

- Proposed Amendments (covers six elements)
- Outreach
- Recreation
- Element
- Noise Element
- Guideline Comparison
- Guideline Comparison (other cities)
- New Policy NE-B.9 (Noise Element)
- Recommendations

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Mr. Brown inquired why are regional parks listed as resource based parks and why are some of the resource parks currently there listed? Ms. Shifflet responded the overall category is for resource-based parks and within that category is regional and shoreline. Mr. Brown suggested that the type of parks be delineated for consistency and educational purposes in the terms used. List the parks in two different categories. Ms. Shifflet stated that would be something staff will look at the next time the General Plan is amended.
- Mr. Otsuji added the park master plan has been taken through the master plan process in sections. He suggested that an overall park master plan be conducted beginning with a scope of work for the park master plan, which could identify what type of scope would be in the park master plan and place a value on it. Mr. Otsuji also added staff could place a priority on what would be most important in the scope of work.
- Mr. Baron inquired if the decibel level changes impact concerts in the park? Ms. Bragado responded that it does not and the changes have to do with land use compatibility table, which is in siting of parks. Regulations of noise that is generated by operating parks is not changing.
- Mr. Diehl inquired about “Figure RE-1”, should that say dedicated parks? Ms. Osborn responded this report is about the land use designations and community plans. It reflects all of the lands designated as parks with the City’s Community Plans and compiled for one Citywide view.
- Mr. Diehl also inquired about cell sites and if it is an appropriate item to put into a neighborhood park? Ms. Osborn stated staff does not address the location of cell sites in the General Plan Recreation Element. She added there is some guidance on the location and design of cell structures in the Urban Design Element of the General Plan Recreation Element. Most of cell sitings are regulated by Federal Law. Ms. Osborn referred to Urban Design Element Section A-15, which has a policy related to minimizing visual impact of wireless facilities. This is reviewed by the Development Services Department.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the proposed General Plan Amendments-Recreation and Noise Elements as presented by staff. The motion was unanimously approved (10-0-1).

**102. Proposed SDMC Changes to Include Fault Line Park and Cortez Hill Park to be included on the lists having the midnight to 6:00 a.m. curfew and 24-hour alcohol ban**

Mr. Mark Caro presented a report and PowerPoint presentation for Civic San Diego’s proposed San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) changes to the above referenced parks, with

regard to the curfew and alcohol ban. The SDMC's referenced are 56.54(b)-Alcoholic Beverage Consumption Prohibited in Certain Areas; 56.54A- 24-Hour Ban; 63.0120(a) - Nighttime Curfew for Certain Downtown Public Parks and the Spruce Street Pedestrian Bridge. The report and presentation outlined the following:

- Summary
- Background
- Vicinity Map
- Fault Line Park (under construction – nearing completion)
- Cortez Hill Park (a.k.a. “Tweet Street” Park)
- Discussion
- Community Support
- Requested Action

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Ms. Granowitz provided brief background on this type of proposal stating this occurs on a regular basis. She commented these codes have been beneficial in banning alcohol in areas when citizens and/or police could not see what was happening in areas that are not open to the public . Additionally, Ms. Granowitz added when requests like these are brought forward it has been a good thing for the adjacent community or the park.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Kinney to approve the Proposed SDMC Changes as described and presented by staff from Civic San Diego. The motion was unanimously approved (10-0-1).

**103.    Veterans Memorial Garden Commemorative Bust of General Robert Cardenas**

*Item 103 was moved to the Consent Agenda.*

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**201.    Municipal Golf Course Committee Update**

Mr. Bentley, Golf Course Manager and staff liaison to the Municipal Golf Course Committee (MGCC) introduced the Chairman of the MGCC Mr. Michael Zucchet. Mr. Zucchet reminded members that this committee was created by the City Council in 2013. After appointments were made, the Golf Advisory Committee (GCC) held its first meeting in 2014. The original name was Golf Advisory Committee (GAC). The committee has been appreciative of the support and service of Mr. Parker, Mr. Marney, Mr. Bentley and the Golf Division staff. The committee has been focused on the following:

- Golf Enterprise Fund (use of funds for CIP at Balboa, 9-hole and 18-hole; Mission Bay and Torrey Pines North and South)
- More emphasis is centered on Mission Bay and Balboa Golf Courses, which is due in part to the structure of the committee appointments
- CIP improvements to Torrey Pines North Course

The North Course project average bids of \$18M is a concern for MGCC. The committee feels the higher price tag squeezes the other CIP's at Balboa and Mission Bay. Also, attempting to reduce the price tag by also reducing critical parts of that scope is a concern. Mr. Zucchet added that Public Works Department, Golf Division and Park and Recreation staff are working on this. Finally, he added the municipal golf system is in fantastic condition and he and the committee are pleased with the conditions of all. Compliments to Mr. Park and staff!

#### Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Mr. Diehl inquired if there are any youth programs coming emerging. Mr. Bentley responded there is a new initiative called P.L.A.Y. (Play, Laugh, Appreciate, Youth) Golf. It began earlier this year with pilot days at various Recreation Centers. The division is using snag equipment, which is a larger plastic golf club and tennis-sized golf ball. It's easy and fun for the kids to learn. Staff has introduced to several Recreation Centers with great momentum and positive support. This summer, P.L.A.Y. will be offered at the Recreation Center summer camps.
- Mr. Moreno inquired if this is offered at Colina Golf Course. Mr. Bentley responded that Colina Golf Course is not a course operated by the Golf Division. He added that the three courses offer a junior card for City residents to children under 17 years of age.
- Mr. Otsuji inquired as to the short and long term plans regarding water supply in light of the drought. Also, what is the status of the expansion of Torrey Pines? Mr. Bentley responded Torrey Pines uses reclaimed water, but will be reducing water usage on parts of the course. At Mission Bay and Balboa, some areas will be taken out of play and monitoring water usage closely and reduce down to the level required. Regarding the North Torrey Pines project, it will be going to bid later this month. The bid process has been changed to a fixed price best value bid. It is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2016.
- Mr. Otsuji inquired of the availability of reclaimed water on Balboa and Mission Bay, is there a possibility that the City could get some reclaimed water to those locations? Mr. Bentley respond not now. Mission Bay is set to receive a new irrigation system sometime in 2016 which will allow better control and more efficient watering.

#### **202. Proposed General Development Plan Streamlining Concept**

Mr. Nassar and Mr. Mahmalji presented to the members to inform them of the efforts to streamline the General Development Plan process in keeping with Mayor Faulconer's streamlining measures of the CIP program. The effort is in partnership with the Public Works Department, Planning Department and Park and Recreation Department. The three departments are collaborating on the process in the area of long-range park planning, existing parks and the implementation of all improvements associated with the parks. The report and PowerPoint presentation outlined the following:

- About the policy (Purpose of Council Policy 600-33)
- Recent Experiences
- Impact of the Above
- Objectives of this effort
- Community outreach options
- Timeline

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Ms. Granowitz commented if the option to go with an ad hoc committee would be selected, it does not mean there would not be public outreach. Additionally, standard operating procedures to amend Council Policies would remain in effect.
- Mr. Brown inquired if this process would affect Recreation Councils or community input? His concerns are with options that would omit community input. He requests that this process be kept as public as possible and obtain community input. Mr. Nassar added the intent would not be to omit the community and community is at the heart of the Council Policy and would be a part of the process.
- Mr. Otsuji stated if communication is solid with a strong team at the outset, the process works well.
- Mr. Diehl inquired in the streamlining process, are all the steps by the various committees needed?
- Ms. Granowitz added that the attempt of the process is to create efficiencies so that things can move along in a more timely manner.
- Mr. Otsuji suggested a 2-3 year timeline be established for a well planned GDP.
- Ms. Granowitz suggested a ad hoc committee be established and she would like to be a participant.
- Mr. Diehl agreed with Ms. Granowitz' suggestion.
- Mr. Nassar responded this is an informational item and the departments are starting this effort. He will continue to provide updates and preference of approach in order to move forward.

Of Note: Member Bobby Hughes thanked the members for their condolences during the loss of his wife.

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 3:08 p.m.

Next Meeting: **July 16, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.**

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

Submitted by,

Herman D. Parker  
Park and Recreation Director