

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
February 19, 2015

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
Bruce Brown
Vicki Granowitz
David Kinney
Hazel Ocampo
Dennis Otsuji
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

Rick Bussell (Excused)
Robert Chávez (Excused)
Bobby Hughes (Excused)

City Staff Present

Herman Parker, Director
Andrew Field
Meredith Dawson
Anna Del Rincon
Heather Ferbert
Jeremy Fonseca
Bruce Martinez
Kevin Oliver
Steve Palle
Bonnie Pearson
Kathy Ruiz
Robin Shifflett
Kristine Toft

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2015

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

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Stepner to approve the January 15, 2015 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimously approved (8-0-3)

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 101 Naming of the park site at 14th & Island Streets in the East Village Neighborhood of Downtown San Diego to the consent agenda. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-3).

Speakers: In favor (2) – Opposed (0)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – No Report

Community Parks II Area Committee - No Report

Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney yielded his committee report to City staff presenting Item 202 Balboa Park Centennial Update

Design Review Committee - No Meeting

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee - No report

COMMUNICATIONS

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

- Ms. Granowitz commented regarding Bird Park, located at Pershing, Upas & 28th Streets. She stated calls have been received stating work has been done without any community input. She was advised the work has disfigured the art project; mature vegetation was taken out and thinned on one side so you could see the project. It appears to have been done by a private organization that functions in Balboa Park with staff approval. Ms. Granowitz and community members are upset about this.
- Mr. Kinney thanked Ms. Granowitz for bringing this to the board's attention. He was aware work was going to be done, but not with those results.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Chair Diehl reported a passive neighborhood park in Rancho Penasquitos that has a men's soccer group playing every Sunday from 8am – 11am. Neighbors are complaining and the Police Department is unable to enforce rules/regulations because there is no signage. Chair Diehl added this should be addressed in the near future.
- Mr. Parker commented this issue will be taken back to staff to discuss operations. He also requested the specific location be given so staff can follow-up.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Parker reported a groundbreaking was held for the Los Penasquitos Canyon Black Mountain Ranger Station on February 4, 2015, which was well attended. Staff is excited about this project.
- This year Park and Recreation Department will be the recipient of two State Awards from the California Park Recreation Society (CPRS). We received an Award of Excellence for our Summer Lunch Program, which is held annually and also for our Civic Dance Program. This program has been in place for a long time and is receiving due recognition. Mr. Parker added that he, Assistant Director Andy Field and a few staff members will be traveling to Sacramento to attend the conference and receive these awards. He added that he thanks staff for all the hard work they put in to making this a reality and that the community played a huge part in making these programs happen.

- Tuesday, February 24, City Council will be confirming the appointments and reappointments to the Park Board. The reappointments include: Mr. William Diehl and Mr. David Kinney; new appointments Martin Moreno and David Baron.

Note: Chair Diehl advised the developer for Item 102 has been delayed, so this item is postponed until the developer arrives and the meeting will continue on with Item 201.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Naming of the park site at 14th & Island Streets in the East Village Neighborhood of Downtown San Diego

Item 101 was moved to the Consent Agenda and approved unanimously (8-0-3)

102. Approval of the Proposed General Development Plan Amendment for Hickman Field Athletic Area

Mr. Kevin Oliver, Project Officer II, Ms. Ana Del Rincon, Project Manager, Public Works Department; Mr. Mark Brenckick, Consultant, Landmark Consulting and Mr. David McCullough, Consultant, McCullough Landscape Architecture, Inc. presented a report and PowerPoint presentation which outlined the following, with a total estimated cost of \$22,484.461:

- General Plans, Community Plans and Financing Plans
- Funding History
- History of the General Development Plan
- Neighborhood City Operated Facilities
- Zoning
- Communities Served: Kearny Mesa, Serra Mesa and Clairmont Mesa
- Site Analysis
- Existing Site Conditions
- Site Photos
- Existing General Development Plan
- Hickman Field Lease History
- Design Program
- San Diego Aquatic Complex
- Preliminary Design Study
- Proposed General Development Plan
- Proposed Amended General Development Plan, September 2013
- Summary

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Mr. Brown inquired as to what the bottom line cost will be, cost to install a pool and where will the money come from? Mr. Oliver responded the cost is an estimated \$25,000,000. City staff and consultants are aware of funding issues. The current funding will allow staff to move forward with an initial phase at approximately \$1.5 million with modifications. Approximately \$6.5 million in current funding has been identified in current/ongoing proposed projects.

- Mr. Brown also inquired if the pool will be funded through the same mechanism or will it be a completely separate project? Mr. Oliver responded the estimate above did include the pool.
- Mr. Brown inquired if staff and/or consultant could summarize the reluctance of the community. Mr. Oliver responded some felt fields would be lost and users would be impacted. The ultimate goal is to provide the infrastructure improvements that will initially serve the youth association and recreational activities at Hickman Field.
- Mr. Otsuji commented this project is spending money to solve some of the situation on a short term basis but in the long term, he feels there will be additional issues arising that will require spending additional money. Mr. Otsuji inquired as to what issues will arise in the long run of the project. Mr. Oliver responded the proposed plan provides a dual ingress/egress situation as opposed to the current situation.
- Ms. Granowitz commented on the disconnect on financing plans. She inquired if there was any synchronicity that there was support on the Planning Committee. Mr. Oliver responded some communities had concerns.
- Mr. Granowitz inquired as to how will the maintenance be paid? Mr. Oliver responded that the pool would be separate, operated by the City. The remainder of the site would be maintained by the Hickman Youth Association in conjunction with the City lease. Ms. Granowitz inquired if there was an exception to the policy to approve this, since there is not a maintenance agreement on the pool. Mr. Parker responded that we do not have a maintenance agreement on the pool and see the pool as not being installed for some time. Mr. Park added this is a beautiful design that the community has embraced and support and agrees that it does need to be phased-in. The funding we currently have gives staff the ability to start the project, improve some of the infrastructure and ADA compliances. Ms. Granowitz was also concerned about installation of a pool during the City's drought conditions.
- Chair Diehl commented that pools must meet the City's General Plan; which is a pool for every 50,000 residents.
- Mr. Stepner commented he doesn't feel that the drought should deter installing a pool. He added we should look at the broader purpose of a pool, which provides healthful recreation for the community.
- Ms. Ocampo expressed the same concerns as Ms. Granowitz and stated the board should weigh the benefits of the pool with the cons and also considers the drought situation a very serious issue. She added the drought conditions and the unlikely usability of the pool weighs in favor of not having a pool.
- Mr. Brown supports the pool, however his concern is if the pool is built before all roads are completed. Then there could possibly be a dust bowl and the pool would be muddy. He recommends phasing in the pool toward the end of the internal improvements so dust won't be an issue. Mr. Brown added a benefit of having a pool teaches children and adults how to swim, which helps to reduce drowning incidents.
- Chair Diehl is in favor of a pool. Additionally, he inquired as to the number of parking spots. Mr. McCullough responded there are 600. Are there any tot lots and if so, how many? Currently planned will be two tot lots. How many restrooms? Approximately five additional restrooms.
- Mr. Otsuji stated infrastructure is the most important thing for this type of facility.

Speakers: In favor (2) Opposed (0)

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz to approve the General Development Plan Amendment to Hickman Field Athletic Area, with the provision that the pool not be built until there is a maintenance and operating agreement in place. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and unanimously approved (8-0-3).

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. FY2016 CDBG Funds for Parks

Mr. Andrew Field, Assistant Park and Recreation Director and Ms. Meredith Dawson, Grants Supervising Management Analysis presented an informational report and PowerPoint presentation regarding the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for various park capital improvement projects. Due to the Mayor's strong emphasis on infrastructure and neighborhood improvements, Park and Recreation has submitted a robust proposal for funding consideration. The report and PowerPoint presentation outlined eight park projects being considered for CDBG grant funding for FY2016 and they are:

- Colina del Sol Pool ADA Improvements (\$274,700)
- Chicano Park Comfort Station ADA Upgrades (\$740,000)
- Barrio Logan Youth Facilities Improvements (\$319,406)
- City Heights Youth and Community Center Improvements (\$187,950)
- Memorial Park Community Building Clearance Activity (\$650,000)
- Larsen Field Improvements (\$1,000,000)
- Chollas Lake Playground Improvements (\$750,000)
- San Ysidro Community Park Improvements (\$561,000)

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Ms. Granowitz commented this report shows what the City is able to do with these funds and thanked Mr. Field and Ms. Dawson for the report.
- Mr. Otsuji inquired regarding the playground equipment that will be replaced and if it will be accessible equipment or the normal equipment? Ms. Dawson replied that the playground equipment must also be ADA compliant.
- Mr. Kinney agreed with Ms. Granowitz that he was happy to see these improvements are taking place. Additionally, Mr. Kinney inquired about the Memorial Park Community Building being vacant since 2008 and wanted to know why it has taken so long to move forward. Mr. Field agreed that it has taken a long time, but that staff is enthusiastic to see this building approach its removal. Ms. Dawson added that the park has not been without a community center and there is one on the south end of the park by the new swimming pool.
- Chair Diehl inquired as to why there is an 18-month project period. Mr. Field replied that when granting agencies present granting deadlines, we must adhere to them. Also, the 18-month timeline is a City Council imposed deadline in City Council policies.
- Ms. Granowitz added that the 18-month timeline on City projects are "shovel-ready", have permits, and are aware of any environmental issues.
- Chair Diehl inquired as to how large is the project list and if more money was available, are there more projects the City could do? Mr. Field responded he and Ms. Dawson have

been creating a list for approximately 1½ years to identify projects that are or will be “shovel-ready” at time of application for CDBG opportunities.

202. Balboa Park Centennial Update

Mr. Bruce Martinez, Deputy Director and Mr. Michael Ruiz, District Manager, Developed Regional Parks provided a brief PowerPoint presentation updating members on the 2015 Celebration – “Elevate” “Celebrate” and “Promote”. Approximately \$46 million has been invested into the Park for public benefit. Highlights of the presentation were:

- Plaza de Panama Enhancements
- Adopt-A-Plot (approximately 30 gardens have been adopted)
- Volunteering (a 2015 commemorative pen is given to volunteers; also given to board members)
- Light the Park (Collaborative effort)
- Cabrillo Bridge Up Lighting
- Security Lighting
- Free Wi-Fi
- Food and Beverage Concessions for select areas of the park
- Way Finding and Informational Signs
- Accessibility Projects
- Centennial Walkway Project
- Old Globe Way Project
- Structure Improvements which include ADA improvements
- Art Restoration
- Botanical Building Enhancements
- Various Celebrations and Promotions will be held throughout the year
- December Nights 2015 will close out the year long Centennial Celebration of the 1915 Panama California Exposition

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Mr. Kinney commented that these are exactly the kinds of things needed in the park; creating legacies and enhancing the park. He added the museums and the Japanese Garden are planning for enhancements as well.
- Chair Diehl inquired if Park and Recreation is still under a building moratorium? Mr. Martinez responded that we are not. Additionally, Chair Diehl inquired if the Zoo parking lot is being constructed. Mr. Martinez responded the parking lot is under construction now. Chair Diehl also inquired about the walkway. Mr. Martinez responded that Old Globe Way is approximately 50% completed and the Centennial Walkway is very close to completion.
- Mr. Otsuji commended Caltrans for the Cabrillo Bridge up light improvements.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Next Meeting: **March 19, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.**

War Memorial Building (Note Location Change)
3325 Zoo Drive
202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,

Herman D. Parker
Park and Recreation Director