

City of San Diego  
Park and Recreation Board  
October 15, 2015

**Minutes**

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

**Meeting Location**

City Administration Building  
Committee Room, 12<sup>th</sup> 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  
David Baron  
Bruce Brown  
Robert Chávez  
Vicki Granowitz  
Bobby Hughes (Arrived late)  
David Kinney  
Martin Moreno  
Dennis Otsuji

**Members Absent**

Hazel Ocampo

**City Staff Present**

Herman Parker, Director  
Andrew Field  
Heather Ferbert  
Alex Bragado  
Nancy Bragado  
Laura Gates  
George Freiha  
Jeff Harkness  
Emillene Masurra (Intern)  
Chris Ojeda  
Sara Osborn  
Bonnie Pearson  
Robin Shifflett

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Diehl at 2:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2015

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Baron/Mr. Brown**

A motion was made by Mr. Baron and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the June 18, 2015 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimously approved (6-0-2) with one abstention.

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.)

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.

Chair Diehl advised that Item 101 30<sup>th</sup> Street & Island Avenue Mini Park Design will be tabled to next month as it was noticed and posted differently than addressed on the agenda, which is not in accordance with the Brown Act noticing.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Brown/Mr. Baron**

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to table Item 101 to next month and was seconded by Mr. Baron. The vote was unanimously approved (7-0-2).

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee

- Mr. Otsuji reported the committee had one action item East Village Green, which the committee approved.

Community Parks II Area Committee - No Report

Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney reported Rock-n-Roll Marathon wants to add an extra day in Balboa Park and must obtain a waiver. There appears to be concern regarding adding an extra day. However, Rock-n-Roll's waiver was approved.
- A workshop item regarding placing a statue of the explorer Balboa in Balboa Park was conducted with much discussion; however, no action was taken at this time.

Design Review Committee

- Chair Diehl reported the committee reviewed the East Village Green General Development Plan, which is anticipated to come before the Park and Recreation Board next month. The committee approved the plan unanimously.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee - No report

- However, Mr. Chavez requested approval to place all board members on the Mission Trails Regional Park's mailing list, so members can receive the latest information. Members in attendance agreed and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - No Report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Parker reported that the Park and Recreation staff welcomed President Barack Obama to the Torrey Pines Golf Course last week. He added he was pleased to have had the President here as it made for great marketing and public relations for Torrey Pines. He added KUDOS and thanks to all of the golf staff.
- Mr. Parker updated members on Park and Recreation's water reduction. He added staff has done an outstanding job in reducing water use at our park sites. The Governor's mandate

was for a 16% reduction between June 2015 to February 2016. In June, the department was at a 55% reduction, July 40%, August 37%, September 41%. Mr. Parker added because savings have been so great, staff has recently begun adding water back onto the parks. In the areas where staff was watering twice a week, we are now beginning to water three times a week. Additionally, Mr. Parker added with the anticipation of the El Nino season we should see even greater savings, as the sprinkler systems are turned off for 48 hours when there is any percentage of rain.

- The Makers Fair was held in Balboa Park on October 3 and 4, 2015; sponsored by the City of San Diego and Balboa Park Cultural Partnership and San Diego Makers Guild. The event was to highlight innovation and technology in the San Diego area. Mr. Parker added there were approximately 10,000 tickets sold on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and approximately 8,000 on October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Our Therapeutic Recreation Services co-sponsored the World Adaptive Surfing Competition at La Jolla Shores on September 24-27, 2015. This was a partnership between the Park and Recreation Department and the International Surf Association. This is the first year this world-class event has been done and we had approximately 100 participants. Teams were here from Brazil, Spain, France, Germany and South Africa. Kudos to staff on the work involved to host this event.

Comments/requests from members:

- Ms. Granowitz inquired of Mr. Parker if the board can have a conversation in the future regarding homeless in our parks? She has been receiving several complaints regarding the increasing number of homeless family camps in North Park. Mr. Park responded that yes we can. Mr. Chavez asked to add Chicano Park to the request. Mr. Parker responded that this is quite an issue facing all of our park sites. He added that a recent National Conference he attended with fellow Directors from all over the United States, the continuing theme from Director's of major cities was the homeless issues. He agrees dialogue is needed regarding this issue.
- Ms. Granowitz commented on the 5k Run at Liberty Station and how great it was. She added all in attendance had a great time. Congratulations to staff for a great event. Mr. Parker stated this event will continue.
- Chair Diehl inquired if there will be a ribbon cutting for the Los Penasquitos Ranger Station once completed. Mr. Parker replied that there will be, but we do not have a date as yet. Chair Diehl added that it really looks nice.
- Chair Diehl invited all to Hilltop Community Park's October Fest on October 23, 2015 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm.

## ACTION ITEMS

**101. *30<sup>th</sup> Street & Island Avenue Mini Park Design has been tabled until next month.***

**102. Southeast San Diego & Encanto Community Plan Updates PEIR**

Mr. Jeff Harkness, Park Designer and Laura Gates, Project Manager, Long Range Planning came before the board seeking recommendation of approval for the proposed recreation element. Mr. Harkness noted that a correction to the report was provided to the board members (hard copy provided to members at the meeting). The revised numbers reflect the

final draft of the recreation element for each community. Mr. Harkness presented a report and PowerPoint presentation which outlined the following details:

- Background
  - Southeastern San Diego Recreation Facilities  
(The community vision adopted as part of the Plan for the park and recreation facilities includes the following: “Enhance existing parks with improvements to landscaping, lighting, signage, walkways and play facilities, promote joint use schools, and provide new parks and gathering places”)
  - Encanto Neighborhoods Recreation Facilities  
(The community vision adopted as part of the Plan for the park and recreation facilities includes the following: “Calls for the acquisition and development of new parks and associated facilities, improving existing parks in order to promote a safe and attractive public realm, providing access to trails and open spaces, and restoring and enhancing the open space network formed by parks, canyons, and the Chollas Creek open space system”)
- Goals
- Population-Based Parks and Recreations Facilities Standards
- Existing Population-Based Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Existing Park Equivalencies
- Proposed Population-Based Park and Recreation Facilities
- Policies
- Summary
- Conclusion

The plans presented are for illustrative purposes only and will include community input as identified in Council Policy 600-33. Chollas Creek is the open space link to these two communities and has been identified as a community amenity that has potential to provide trails, passive parks and improved water quality through habitat restoration. There is a request for Chollas Creek to be designated as a regional park. The Community Plan Update recommends that a comprehensive study be prepared to determine if Chollas Creek should be designated as a regional park. In March 2015, the Park and Recreation Board recommended the creation of a comprehensive study for designation of Chollas Creek as a regional park. Mr. Harkness stated it is anticipated that the study will be heard by the Park and Recreation Board this winter. Mr. Harkness added that this update will be going before the Planning Commission next week and then to the City Council in November.

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Ms. Granowitz commented she was happy to see that the cemetery will remain a cemetery. She inquired as to why no votes were listed on the Encanto recommendations. Mr. Ken Malbrough, President of the Encanto Planning Group responded that in November 17, 2014, the planning group voted with an 8-3 vote for the entire plan which included the recreation element.
- Mr. Otsuji commented “nice job”. Additionally, Mr. Otsuji requested staff provide some studies on the two different cemeteries to include information on access trails through the area. He also asked if staff would note and inquire as to why there is no trolley in the middle of the cemetery.
- Mr. Brown thanked staff and the volunteers that worked on this project.

Speakers: In favor (1) Opposed (0)

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and was seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the Recreation Element for the Draft Southeastern San Diego and Encanto Neighborhoods Community Plans as presented. The motion was unanimously approved (9-0-1).

INFORMATION ITEMS

**201. San Ysidro Community Plan Update-Recreation Element**

Mr. Howard Greenstein, Park Designer and Robin Shifflett, Park Planning Section Manager and Sara Osborn, San Ysidro Community Plan Senior Planner are requesting input and feedback from the Park and Recreation Board members on their work to date.

Mr. Greenstein advised that updating the Recreation Element is a part of the Planning Department's larger effort to update the entire San Ysidro Community Plan. The plan was last updated in 1990, with the current version including approximately seven plan amendments. The recent amendment was in 2003. The report and PowerPoint presentation provided the following:

- Background
- Discussion
  - Goals of the Recreation Element Update
  - Public Outreach
  - General Plan Standards
  - Plan identifies 24 new potential park sites
  - Population-based parks: Proposed
  - Existing and Proposed Parks
  - Existing and Proposed Recreation Centers and Aquatic Complexes
  - Equivalencies
  - Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP)
  - Park and Recreation Facilities Summary
  - Conclusion

Mr. Greenstein advised that staff is working with the County of San Diego to explore opportunities of partnering with them on trail improvements or implementation of the active recreation sites; however, they have not been identified as equivalencies.

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Mr. Chavez inquired if there have been any discussions with the community about skate parks, skate plaza areas potentially in San Ysidro. Mr. Greenstein responded yes and there is an existing neighborhood park, Vista Terrace Neighborhood Park. There is a 1-acre site adjacent to the park that is owned by the City of San Diego but is undeveloped to date. Staff is proposing to expand the park by developing that site and the plan addresses that the site could include a skate park or other types of uses. That would be determined by the General Development Plan process by the community.

- Mr. Baron inquired if any Little League Fields are being proposed. Mr. Greenstein responded there are existing fields, such as Larsen Athletic Field but staff does not have specific proposals. Those types of uses are managed by the Park and Recreation Department.
- Mr. Brown inquired if there is an ideal size for skate parks or plazas that the City recommends for actual sizes of parks. Mr. Greenstein responded he didn't think the City does. Mr. Brown also inquired as to the varying sizes of existing parks within the City now. Mr. Greenstein responded it is a matter of what is available.
- Mr. Otsuji inquired as to the Tijuana River Valley connection. Is there an Otay Valley Regional Park and if there is a connection to The Tijuana River Valley. Mr. Greenstein noted on the map that the northern border of San Ysidro, there is the community of Otay Mesa-Nestor. North of that community is the Otay Valley. Mr. Otsuji suggested staff could look into the opportunity to make a connection in the future.
- Additionally, Mr. Otsuji inquired as to SDG&E's right-of-ways; what are the opportunities for public use of right-of-ways. Is there any type of agreement between the City of San Diego and SDG&E to utilizing right-of-ways. Ms. Shifflet commented it is a case-by-case situation. Staff would have to evaluate what part of SDG&E would be suitable for a park, access, ADA requirements etc. She added that in each community staff looks for opportunities with SDG&E.
- Mr. Moreno provided an update for Mr. Brown regarding sizes of skate parks. For proposed sites in City Heights, Mr. Moreno stated one lot identified was approximately 10,000 s.f. and per the Tony Hawk Foundation, that was too small. Mr. Moreno added that 15,000 – 20,000 s.f. would be the minimum.
- Ms. Granowitz really appreciated the preservation element of the presentation on page 7-16; 7.2.2 and wanted to know if it is in North Park. Mr. Greenstein will check and if it is not, staff will add something similar.
- Chair Diehl inquired once the plans are approved, is there a procedure that the plans will go forward and not get "shelved" as has happened in the past. Ms. Osborn responded there is an implementation chapter that is associated with all the plan updates. It outlines various funding sources throughout the City, State and the Region. It's also a tool the community planning group uses to review projects.
- Ms. Granowitz added it also goes into the Public Facilities Financing Plan. When money becomes available Park staff goes to that specific plan. Ms. Shifflet added the community plan is the basis for everything that goes into the financing plan. Staff will return to the Park and Recreation Board with the final draft for recommendations.

## **202. Golf Division Business Plan Update**

Mr. Paul Cushing, Assistant Deputy Director, Mr. Mark Marney, Deputy Director and Mr. Alex Bragado, Supervising Management Analyst presented the Golf Division's Business Plan Update. The report as presented was prepared as an "Action" item. However, as identified in the agenda, it is being presented as an "Information" item only. No formal action is required from the Park Board at this time. The Golf Division provides an update to the board every three years on golf operations. This update will also be presented to the Environmental Committee in November, 2015. The report and PowerPoint presentation provided the following:

- Background (on Balboa, Mission Bay and Torrey Pines Golf Courses)
- Discussion (to included recent additions: 9-hole FootGolf Course and 18-hole Championship FootGolf Course at Mission Bay and P.L.A.Y. (Play, Laugh, Appreciate, Youth) Golf and Snag Golf)
- Customer Satisfaction Survey
- Industry Recognition
- Golf Rounds FY 2011 – FY 2015
- Financial Position
- Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
- Fees
- Marketing and Business Development
- Accomplishments
- Future Items
- Financial Outlook

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Mr. Baron inquired as to how it works with ticket brokers and is there a way to keep it more affordable for residents who want to play at Torrey Pines. Mr. Cushing responded staff has worked diligently to keep ticket brokers out of the process. He added the new Point of Sale (POS) process is geared toward keeping brokers out of the process. Mr. Bragado added the new system will implement online reservation for customers and customers will register to the site and establish an account. Initially there will be no payment required when registering as customers will pay when they arrive at the golf course. If advanced reservations are made via credit card, the customer must show ID and the same credit card that the advanced reservation was made with.
- Mr. Baron requested explanation of FootGolf. Mr. Cushing explained it is a combination of golf and soccer. It has an oversized cup with a strategic course. Tee off is very similar to where golfers tee off, but individuals are kicking a soccer ball rather than hitting a golf ball. Costs can be from \$10 - \$18 depending when played and time of play.
- Mr. Brown inquired as to what President Obama shot while at Torrey Pines. Mr. Cushing stated that was unknown.
- Mr. Otsuji inquired if this movement of youth pro golf has affected more interest in golfing and has it affected future plans. Mr. Cushing respond yes it's to introduce the game in different manners. Mr. Otsuji also inquired if this has been considered as a teaching mechanism at various parks around the City. Mr. Marney responded that this is the goal with the P.L.A.Y. Golf program. Staff is taking it to the Recreation Centers as well as gymnasiums. In addition, staff is looking to create a second or intermediate program that would expose children to beginning golf and then transfer them to a golf course at different locations.
- Chair Diehl inquired if staff knew of how many golf courses in the county have gone “dark” besides the Doubletree in Rancho Penasquitos. Mr. Cushing and Mr. Marney responded there are three in North County. Additionally, Chair Diehl inquired if Torrey Pines is moving toward the same “desert” style course as Carmel Mountain Ranch Golf Course. Mr. Marney responded that in the proposal for the north course project, staff asked for at least a 5-acre turf reduction. However, the GDP shows 20-22-acres of turf reduction. Staff is looking at areas that are underutilized.

## WORKSHOP

Mr. Parker stated that staff has been preparing to bring forward to the board a CIP Streamlining Workshop. Mr. Field added that the “Special” meeting workshop will be Thursday, October 29, 2015 in the evening. Staff is finalizing the documentation for the boards’ recommendation. Mr. Field also added that members will have the opportunity to preview the documentation prior to the evening meeting.

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 3:16 p.m.

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

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

Submitted by,

Herman D. Parker  
Park and Recreation Director