

City of San Diego
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 20, 2024

“TO PROVIDE HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE, AND ENRICHING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL”

Meeting Held by In Person and Teleconference:

This meeting was held at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom and remotely using the Zoom Webinar platform and was streamed online. The public was invited to join the meeting by phone or computer, as well as invited to submit “Public Comments” in writing via a webform. The form was made available on the Parks and Recreation website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/boards>.

NOTE: Both verbal and written communication were used by Board Members, City staff, and presenters during the meeting. City staff also used the screen-share function to allow viewers to view content shared by the speaker which included PowerPoint presentations and websites.

Before the meeting was called to order, City staff read instructions to the public regarding technical procedures for making live public comment during the webinar.

Members Present	Members Absent	City Staff Present
Nick Anastasopoulos Marcella Bothwell Shaina Gross Rick Gulley Daniele Laman Dr. Judith Munoz Evelyn Smith Allison Soares Agatha Wein	Martin Armstrong Dr. Andrea Dooley	Ryan Barbrick Kathleen Brand (Virtual) Benny Cartwright (Virtual) Ling Chan Brice Ciabatti Charlie Daniels Karen Dennison (Virtual) Sarah Erazo Kristi Fenick Erika Ferreira Andy Field Darren Genova (Virtual) Maricris Lumibao Kaitlyn Porter (Virtual) Elvi Ricafort Jon Richards (Virtual) Park Ranger Chief Michael Ruiz Michelle Abella-Shon Andre Smith Tom Tomlinson (Virtual) Gabriela Verendia

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcella Bothwell at 2:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2024

MOTION/SECONDED:

Ms. Laman/Mr. Anastasopoulos

A motion was made by Ms. Laman to approve the minutes with correction from Lake Molly to Lake Murray and seconded by Mr. Anastasopoulos. The motion was approved 6-0-3 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Daniele Laman, Evelyn Smith, and Allison Soares. Recused: None. Abstained: Rick Gulley, Judith Munoz, and Agatha Wein. Not Present: Martin Armstrong, and Dr. Andrea Dooley.

Public Comments:

No public comments on the meeting minutes.

Board Comments: None

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

Grant White spoke about their desire for a Field of Dreams and the poor condition of restrooms at Morley Field. They noted the need for cleaning and tree planting.

Gary Blume spoke about the Altruism Project and recent efforts at Colina del Sol Park to install trash pick-up equipment, which have resulted in tangible reductions in litter at the park.

Nathan White is the parent of several baseball players at North Park Little League. He noted there are needs in Morley Field including infrastructure improvements. An architect prepared draft plans for dedicated soccer fields to help separate them from baseball fields.

Benjamin White spoke about playing baseball with North Park Little League at Morley Field and expressed interest in the Field of Dreams proposal.

Troy Degener expressed support for improvements to Morley Field.

Tom Mullaney from Uptown United expressed appreciation for the good work of the Board and thanked outgoing Board members for their stewardship of the park system. He suggested that park acreage should be updated and calculated routinely. He asked the Board to reconsider the Uptown/Hillcrest and University community plans next month, since City Council will hear those plans in July.

Ty Purtell Ioro, a 13-year-old baseball player, expressed interest in field improvements at Morley Field.

Sally Smull noted that some recreation center and community recreation group webpages need updating. She also noted that Chollas Valley Community Planning Group would like to

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have a Board member or Department staff member to attend an upcoming planning group meeting to clarify separation of duties between planning groups and recreation groups.

Katherine Hubeny (kphubeny@gmail.com) wrote that she enjoys recreational slacklining. She was recently informed park patrons are not permitted to affix objects to public trees. She found a set of slacklining guidelines, which makes an allowance for slacklines; however, it is prohibited along beachside parks pursuant to code 63.20.5k. "It is unlawful for any person to block off, fence, or erect any barrier" with the exception of open sided tents in beach areas. She urged the Department to permit more flexibility for slacklines, as the nature of the set-up is no less disruptive to free movement within a park as a couple folks having a picnic. Additionally, passers-by are often encouraging and are enthralled by the niche activity. She found the "slackline connections" area of Tecolote North Park. The beauty of slacklining is that it is portable, meditative, and flexible. If one finds a beautiful spot to enjoy it, a line can be set up and taken down within minutes. Experienced slackliners are familiar with which trees can withstand the activity and how to protect them. Slacklining is a magnificent hobby if we find a respectful and safe way to go about it.

AYSO North Park noted that for 31 years, their league uses Morley Field August through December with 650 kids participating in baseball with over 100 volunteer parents. They support the Field of Dreams concept including lighting needs. He posted a Get It Done for the light issues.

Manuela Ippolito noted her efforts to create a skate park in the Lincoln Park area near Porter Elementary. This would help reduce kids screen time and improve mental and physical health.

Amelia Anderson (amelia.c.anderson@gmail.com) wrote that Morley Field in Balboa Park needs help. The restrooms are outdated, dirty and, in a word, terrible. Morley Field needs updated restrooms and increased attention. There is a serious homelessness problem at the park, which is where our neighborhood kids play baseball and soccer, among other activities. She supports the Field of Dreams proposal for Morley Field. Thank you for your consideration.

Lauren Kimmons (info@popuppicnic.co) wrote that the current Parks and Recreation ordinance that restricts private use of parks and prohibits beach use is overly restrictive, it does not allow for equitable access to parks and beaches, and it does not reflect the desire of the community. Please consider a better permitting system that allows for beach access and opens park use to more parks and allows for more permits. There are currently only eight permits being issued per day in all of San Diego.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Area Committee –Director Field reported there was no meeting and that in the future, the Board will need to nominate new appointees to lead this committee.

- Balboa Park Committee – Ms. Soares reported that the committee met on June 6, 2024. She noted they received a presentation on the World Running Championships.
- Mission Bay Park Committee – Dr. Munoz noted additional fund allocations for playground improvements in Mission Bay Improvement Fund. Water quality of the bay remains a concern. She noted the committee is waiting for the dog hours at the bay to be implemented by City Council. Chair Bothwell and Director Field noted that discussion is currently at the Pacific Beach Planning Group and is slated to go to City Council at some point as the proposal receives additional public input.
- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – Mr. Gulley reported there has not been a meeting and thus no update.
- San Diego Parks Foundation – Chair Bothwell reported Come Play Outside is beginning. She invited Deputy Director Sarah Erazo to share information about Parks After Dark events, which begin today at five locations City Heights, Linda Vista, Memorial, Silver Wing, and Skyline Hills. Program sign-ups are available at <https://www.sdreconnect.com>. Ms. Laman asked about limiting access to summer camps to local neighborhoods. Ms. Erazo responded that this is not currently done, as it is typically first-come, first-served. She committed to investigate this proposal for next season. Ms. Laman asked for more in-person registration options and more fliers in other languages to improve outreach for recreation programs.

CHAIR COMMENTS:

Chair Bothwell thanked outgoing Board members for their service and welcomed the new Board members. She invited Ms. Wein and Dr. Munoz to introduce themselves to the Board.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Laman noted the Planning Commission did not ask about parks for the draft University and Hillcrest plans. Ms. Laman asked for a copy of the Porter Elementary Joint Use Agreement as it not on the City webpage.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Director Field provided the Board with the following updates:

This morning, he walked Lake Murray Community Park and used Gary Blume's pick-up sticks to clean up the park a bit.

Regarding the non-agenda public comments about Morley Field, he suggested the speakers attend the Morley Field Community Recreation Group meeting. He asked Ms. Smull to email him the details about the webpage updates. He asked AYSO North Park to email him the Get It Done report information for Morley Field lights.

Responses to Questions from May Meeting:

Last month, Ms. Smith asked about vendors without permits who appear at Emerald Hills Park on the second and fourth Sundays of each month leaving trash and debris. Director Field noted that Park Ranger Chief Ruiz is investigating the matter and can provide more information during Information Item 202 today.

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Board Appointments:

On June 11, 2024, the City Council took action under Resolution R-315616 (https://docs.sandiego.gov/council_reso_ordinance/rao2024/R-315616.pdf) to reappoint and appoint Board members.

This includes reappointment of five Board members: Mr. Anastasopoulos, Chair Bothwell, Ms. Gross, Mr. Gulley, and Ms. Laman. Both Ms. Smith and Ms. Soares are midterm, so they do not need to be reappointed currently.

The Department thanks four Board members whose term of service has concluded: Jon Becker, Dennis Otsuji, René Smith, and Maria “Pita” Verdin.

Today, the Department welcomes four new Board members:

- Martin Armstrong
- Dr. Andrea Dooley
- Dr. Judith Muñoz
- Agatha Wein

The Board now has 11 members and no vacancies.

Later this year, Director Field will schedule an overview of the Parks and Recreation Department. In addition, the Department plans topical updates for the park ranger program, animal services, joint use, and similar items over the next several months.

Budget Update:

- On June 11, 2024, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The approved budget, which was signed by Mayor Gloria on June 14, 2024, includes:
 - Proposed Budget (see <https://www.sandiego.gov/finance/proposed>)
 - May Revision to the Proposed Budget (see https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/fy2025-may-revision-report_final.pdf)
 - Independent Budget Analyst Report 24-14: “Recommended City Council Modifications to the Mayors Proposed FY 2025 Budget and Review of the May Revision” (see <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/24-14-recommended-city-council-modifications-to-the-mayors-proposed-fy-2025-budget-and-review-of-the-may-revision.pdf>)
 - City Council Resolution R-315627 (see https://docs.sandiego.gov/council_reso_ordinance/rao2024/R-315627.pdf)
- Some additional changes occurred in IBA Report 24-14 and Resolution R-315627 that impact the Parks and Recreation Department. Those include:
 - Add \$1 million in capital funding to project P-24002 to improve Officer Jeremy Henwood Memorial Park in City Heights

- Transfer \$500,000 in Infrastructure Fund from Project P-20005, Chollas Triangle Park, to a new project, Southcrest Recreation Center and Park Drainage Improvements (feasibility study stage)
- Add \$500,000 in Citywide Park Development Impact Fees to Project P-20005, Chollas Triangle Park
- Add Climate Equity Funds to the following projects:
 - S-22002 – Grove Neighborhood Park: \$4,505,720
 - B-22045 – Hardcourt Improvements at Emerald Hills Park and Encanto Community Park: \$800,000
 - B-23011 – Willie Henderson Lighting: \$350,000
 - S-00752 – Beyer Park Phase 1: \$216,680
 - B-20060 – Chicano Park Improvements Phase III: \$48,000
- Reduce \$1,498,000 for new facility fleet acquisition and shift that activity to debt financing under the City’s Equipment and Vehicle Financing Program (EVFP)
- Reduce \$974,000 by delaying the start date for Parks and Recreation Open Space environmental initiatives and San Diego River Park Rangers to January 1, 2025 (see memorandum from Director Field dated June 14, 2024, linked at https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/proposed_fiscal_year_2025_open_space_additions.pdf, for more information)
- Reduce \$724,000 for water expenditures given under-budget performance in Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 (between \$2.7 and 3.1 million in savings each year)

Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan Update:

The City Planning Department is hosting two workshops next week on Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan. Board members interested in attending should RSVP to one of the workshops by going to the main page at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/chollas-creek-master-plan> and scrolling down to the “Upcoming Community Workshops” section. Logistics are as follows:

- Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library, 5148 Market St., San Diego, CA 92114 on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Mountain View Community Center, 641 S. Boundary St., San Diego, CA 92113 on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

For any questions or comments, please email the City Planning Department at publicspaces@sandiego.gov.

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Coastal Resilience Master Plan: The City will hold two community workshops to share about the project purpose, planning process, and seek feedback from the community on the draft project designs for each of the sites. Workshops will be held in person. Feedback from community members will help inform the project designs. Please reach out to plntranslation@sandiego.gov if you will need translation services at this workshop.

Workshop 1: This workshop will focus on the Sunset Cliffs and Ocean Beach project sites.

- Date: June 24, 2024
- Time: 5 – 7 p.m.
- Location: Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica Avenue, San Diego CA 92107

Workshop 2: This workshop will focus on the La Jolla Shores, Tourmaline, and Mission Beach project sites.

- Date: June 25, 2024
- Time: 5 – 7 p.m.
- Location: La Jolla Riford Library Community Room, 7555 Draper Ave, La Jolla CA 92037

Employees of the Quarter: The employees of the second and third quarter of Fiscal Year 2024 have been announced and are posted on the Department webpage at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/employee-of-the-quarter>. Both quarters were announced simultaneously due to delays related to the winter weather response.

- Second Quarter EOQs:
 - Juan Avalos, Grounds Maintenance Worker II, Nobel Athletic Area
 - Armando Banuelos Angulo, Grounds Maintenance Worker II, Mira Mesa/Gil Johnson Recreation Center
 - Marlon Bautista, Park Ranger, Open Space/San Diego River
 - Mark Jennings, Associate Planner, Brush Management
 - Rosa Moore, Senior Management Analyst, Golf Operations
 - Donna Murphy, Recreation Aide, Carmel Valley Pool
 - Lamont Pargo, Irrigation Specialist, Balboa Park Golf Course
 - Theodore “Teddy” Scott, Recreation Leader I, Tierrasanta Recreation Center
 - Abdullah Idris Wahab, Grounds Maintenance Worker I, Linda Vista parks
- Third Quarter EOQs:
 - Adolfo Herrera, Recreation Center Director III, Cabrillo and Doyle parks

- Anthony Hicks, Grounds Maintenance Worker II, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park
- Joseph Johnson, Grounds Maintenance Worker II, Clairemont parks
- Luis Ochoa Goff, Pool Guard II, Martin Luther King, Jr. Pool
- Ricardo Rodriguez Santiago, Grounds Maintenance Worker I, Kate Sessions, Laureate, and Mt. Soledad parks
- Robert Tamayo, Assistant Recreation Center Director, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park
- Alexander Uribe Valenzuela, Pool Manager I, City Heights Swim Center
- Ronald Valenzuela, Recreation Leader I, Canyonside Park
- Latricia Williams, Recreation Center Director II, Skyline Hills Park

Find Your Happy Space Brochure: Last month, the Department released its new brochure that describes the offerings of the City Park System. It is available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/find-your-happy-space.pdf>.

Parks Master Plan Update:

- **Equity Forward:** The draft Environmental Justice Element (see <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/ej-element-draft.pdf>) will be presented to City Council on Monday, July 1, at 2:00 p.m. Public participation is encouraged at City Administration Building 12th floor or via Zoom.
 - Goals, policies, and proposed activities within the DRAFT Environmental Justice Element are categorized by the following seven topics, adapted from Senate Bill SB 1000 (Planning for Healthy Communities Act of 2016, see https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf):
 - Inclusive Public Engagement in City Decisions
 - Pollution Exposure and Air Quality
 - Active Play
 - Promoting Healthy Food Access
 - Safe and Healthy Homes
 - Climate Change and Resilience
 - Public Facilities and Infrastructure Prioritization
- **Parks Master Plan:** Staff is preparing a Status Update of Parks Master Plan Policies and Recommendations. This update will address 142 policies and recommendations, sorted by:
 - Access: 6 recommendations
 - Activation: 7 recommendations

- Arts and Culture: 14 recommendations
- Co-Benefits: 9 recommendations
- Community Building: 8 recommendations
- Conservation, Sustainability, and Resilience: 31 recommendations
- Equity : 11 recommendations
- Funding: 16 recommendations
- Mobility as Recreation: 4 recommendations
- Operations and Maintenance: 11 recommendations
- Parks and Programming: 14 recommendations
- Partnerships : 4 recommendations
- Regional Parks: 7 recommendations

The Parks Master Plan and related documents can be found at the Parks for All of Us webpage (<https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-for-all-of-us>) or <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/parks-master-plan>.

Recreation Programs: Summer programming has begun. Many sites are hosting summer camps, and the Department is hosting popular Come Play Outside, Parks After Dark, and Teen Nite programs at numerous sites. Check the recreation center webpages (<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/centers>) for more information on summer programs.

- **Juneteenth:** Yesterday (June 19, 2024) was Juneteenth, a City holiday. While park facilities were closed in observation of the holiday, several events took place, including one Director Field attended at the George L. Stevens Senior Center. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States back in 1865.
- **Cathy Hopper Friendship Center Open House:** On June 14, 2024, the Department celebrated the reopening of the Cathy Hopper Friendship Center in Clairemont, which is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Activities include Cathy Hopper Café, Meet the Masters Art Class, Creative Writing, Walking Program, Line Dancing, Mah Jong Open Play, Ukulele, Oil Painting, Bridge, Yoga, Chorus, and Bingo. Details available in the AgeWell Scroll Newsletter, which is posted here: <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/agewellservice Scroll-summer-2024.pdf>.
- **Parks After Dark:** A press conference to begin Parks After Dark for summer 2024 was held at Dolores Magdaleno Recreation Center in Logan Heights on June 13, 2024, in partnership with San Diego Parks Foundation and Price Philanthropies. Participating sites include City Heights, Linda Vista, Memorial, Silver Wing, and Skyline Hills. The events at these five sites will run every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening

between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. for the next several weeks, from June 20, 2024, to August 17, 2024, with no events on July 4, 5, or 6. This information is loaded onto the Department’s Event Calendar, which can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/event-calendar>.

- **Linda Vista Community Garden Grand Opening:** On June 8, 2024, the San Diego Parks Foundation, Bayside Community Center, and many partners celebrated the grand opening of the Linda Vista Community Garden. The Department is in the final stages of completing a special use permit for Bayside Community Center to operate the garden.
- **Chollas Play Day at the Lake:** Also on June 8, 2024, the Department joined Councilmember Henry Foster III and numerous community partners to welcome families to Chollas Lake for youth fishing, dances, singing, performances, food, and much more.
- **North Park Tennis Courts Plaque Dedication:** On May 31, 2024, the Department celebrated the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council unveiling three plaques featuring local tennis pioneers Maureen Connolly, Wilbur Folsom, and Ben Press at the recently renovated North Park Recreation Center tennis courts.
- **I Love My Park Day:** On May 18, 2024, this event brought hundreds of people together to participate in a wide variety of activities and food in partnership with the San Diego Parks Foundation at the Golden Hill Recreation Center.
- **Water Safety Proclamation Event:** To remind San Diegans about the importance of water safety as we enter the busy summer season and to highlight learn-to-swim classes at local swimming pools, the Department hosted the Water Safety Proclamation event on May 17, 2024, at the City Heights Swim Center.

Sidewalk Vendor Ordinance Update: The Department created a new section on the park permits webpage that is for yoga and other fitness practitioners:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/permits>

Fitness Permitting

The Parks and Recreation Department has numerous designated venues for instructors and activities like fitness and yoga classes throughout the Parks system. With over 60 recreation park locations like Liberty Station or neighborhood parks, fitness permits can be obtained by contacting the location directly at [Location](#), or fitness permits in Mission Bay Park can be obtained by visiting the [City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Permitting](#).

If a group exceeds 50 or more people, including fitness groups, a Ground Use Permit is required. If you have any questions, please contact the Permit Center at PRPermitCenter@sandiego.gov or 619-235-1169.

Permitting Guidelines:

- A park use permit is required.
- All permittees must follow Park Rules and Regulations
- Provide a copy of certificate of liability with the endorsement page.
- Parks and Recreation fees will apply.
- Two (2) hour minimum/four (4) hours maximum
- One (1) permitted class per day/per location.
- Not allowed on City beaches (sand) or beach parks.
- May not impede emergency access points.

Fees:

- Ground use fees will apply for all events 50 and over
- Special Equipment Fee: \$24.85/per day/per equipment
- Opportunity Fund Fee: (Less than 50)
 - Commercial: \$5.18/per hour
 - Non-Profit/Non-Commercial: \$1.04/per hour
- OR (Over 50) Opportunity Fund Fee:
 - Commercial: \$15.53/per hour
 - Non-Profit/Non-Commercial: \$10.36/per hour

Locations:

Mission Bay Park

- De Anza Cove (2)
- Playa Pacifica (3)
- Tecolote Shores North (2)
- Tecolote Shores South (2)
- Bonita Cove (2)
- Sunset Point (1)
- Ski Beach (2)

Balboa Park

- War Memorial South (1)
- Redwood Circle (1)
- Cypress Grove (1)
- 7th & Upas (1)
- Pepper Grove (1)
- Inspiration Point Turf West (1)
- Mission Hills/Pioneer Park (1)
- Westside Valley (1)
- 28th St. Park Turf (1)

Community Parks I

- Liberty Station

For additional recreation park locations: [Locations](#)

The San Diego Municipal Code Chapter 6, Article 3, Division 1 regulates the use of Public Parks and Beaches and defines Services within parks.

§63.0102 Use of Public Parks and Beaches Regulated

Definitions - For the purposes of this Division, defined terms appear in italics. The following definitions apply to this Division:

Services are activities involving the performance of work for others, the rental of furniture or equipment for an activity or event, or the provision of intangible items to a group of four persons or more at the same time that cannot be returned once they are provided. Examples include massage, yoga, dog training, fitness classes, equipment rental, and staging for picnics, bonfires, or other activities.

It is unlawful for any person within any park to do any of the acts listed in San Diego Municipal Code section 63.0102(c).

(14) Commercial Activity and Services. Except expressive activity authorized by Chapter 6, Article 3, Division 5 of this Code and sidewalk vending authorized by Chapter 3, Article 6, Division 1, it is unlawful to carry on or conduct commercial activity, to provide any service, or to solicit offers to purchase, barter, or to require someone to negotiate, establish, or pay a fee before providing a service, even if characterized as a donation, without the written consent of the City Manager. Written consent of the City Manager includes commercial activity and services allowed as part of a lease, permit, or other written permission from the City.

Skate Park near Porter Elementary School: On June 16, 2024, the *San Diego Union-Tribune* reported on a proposal from Manuela Ippolito, a fifth-grade teacher at Porter Elementary School, to build a skatepark on privately owned property on the west side of 47th Street adjacent to Interstate 805, with a possible second option at Chollas Community Park. Ms. Ippolito organized youth to call attention to the need for a skate park in the vicinity of Porter Elementary School, and she has been in touch with local advisory bodies, the City Councilmember's Office, the Mayor's Office, and the Parks and Recreation Department to learn more about the City's capital program and the public input process. The preferred choice for a skatepark is not owned by the City, no public workshops have been conducted, and there is no project funding currently. A link to the article is provided at https://enewspaper.sandiegouniontribune.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=453aa395-585b-4a46-9961-c374d898aa91&share=true.

Upcoming P&R Board Agenda Items:

- Open Space and Canyonlands Update – July

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- Animal Services Update – September
- Parks Master Plan Update – September or October
- Joint Use Update – fall
- Opportunity Fund – fall
- Mid-City Communities Plan Update – TBD

Other Topics for Discussion:

Ms. Laman stated a Mid-City Plan Update next week will be at the Joan Kroc Center.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE: None

CONSENT ITEMS: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

101. Gompers Neighborhood Park General Development Plan Amendment

A staff presentation was waived. Landscape Designer Brice Ciabatti and Project Officer II Charlie Daniels were available to answer questions about a proposed amendment to the general development plan for Gompers Neighborhood Park for an off-leash dog park.

MOTION/SECONDED:

Dr. Munoz/Ms. Smith

Dr. Munoz moved to approve the staff recommendation and was seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion was approved 8-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dr. Judith Munoz, Evelyn Smith, Allison Soares, and Agatha Wein. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Nick Anastasopoulos, Martin Armstrong, and Dr. Andrea Dooley.

Public Comments:

Ardele Matthews lives near the park and opposes an off-leash dog park at Gompers Neighborhood Park. She requested that the dog park not be installed. Ms. Matthews remembers when this park used to be an avocado orchard. She feels the park should remain for the kids with the playground.

Brian Matthews runs the Chollas Community Council for this area. He was informed when the process was three-quarters completed. He noted larger parks in the area do not have dog off leash areas (such as Encanto and Martin Luther King, Jr. parks). He opposes a dog park at Gompers Park.

Leslie Reynolds from Groundwork San Diego noted that 70 people attended an event advocating for a dog park at Gompers Park. She noted the placement of the dog park will be to the north, which avoids most active areas of the park and may displace some of the negative issues seen at the picnic tables at the north end of the park.

Sally Smull attended the event referenced by Ms. Reynolds. Ms. Smull had only heard positive feedback on the dog park proposal and thought it would keep the park safe, happy, and active. A small section of Emerald Hills Park will also have a dog park once its renovation project is completed (see Item 102).

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Manuela Ippolito drives by Gompers Park often and wonders why there is so much land at this park not used for other purposes. She noted a skate plaza with murals could also be considered for this location.

Board Comments:

Ms. Smith attended each event held in conjunction with Groundwork San Diego, and she noted overwhelming support for the dog park proposal at Gompers Park. At one of the outreach events, including one little girl who stated she would love to have a dog park because she has two older brothers who won't play with her, but if there were a dog park, she could play with her dog. Ms. Smith appreciates the opinion of Ms. Matthews as it relates to Gompers Park, but she feels a number of other negative issues suggest additional activation is needed to bring more people into the park. Ms. Smith stated that Encanto Community Recreation Group approved the Gompers Park dog park proposal and saw support from most.

Ms. Laman found a typo on page 2 noting that Gompers Charter School is on the east side, but it is actually on the west side of the park. She asked if there are plans to create a joint use. Director Field stated that there are no plans for joint use since this is charter school with more intensive use than traditional elementary and middle schools. Intensity of use is why the City does not joint use fields at high schools. Ms. Laman then asked if there are skate park standards? Mr. Ciabatti stated that there are no standards since each skate park is so unique. Most design work is done by consultants with an expertise in skate park construction.

Dr. Munoz expressed her support for the proposal.

Ms. Soares also supported the proposal and thanked Ms. Matthews for speaking out against the dog park even though the community appeared to be in favor the dog park.

102. Emerald Hills Neighborhood Park General Development Plan Amendment

Landscape Designer Ling Chan and Jeff Justus from the Schmidt Design Group presented a proposed amendment to the general development plan for Emerald Hills Neighborhood Park.

MOTION/SECONDED:

Mr. Gulley/Ms. Smith

Mr. Gulley moved to approve the staff recommendation and was seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion was approved 8-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Marcella Bothwell, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dr. Judith Munoz, Evelyn Smith, Allison Soares, and Agatha Wein. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Nick Anastasopoulos, Martin Armstrong, and Dr. Andrea Dooley.

Public Comments:

Ardelle Matthews expressed concern about the process used for this item as compared to Item 101.

Sally Smull is in favor and requested a copy of the slide show.

Giovanni wrote that as a proud resident of Emerald Hills and parent of a five-year-old, they think the improvement of our park would be a great boost to our community. They take pride

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in their neighborhood. Now that their child is out of school for the summer, they find themselves looking for activities to do and go to. Unfortunately, the current park they visit to play in the grass as the playground is outdated and can get really hot on sunny days. One of the last times they were there, they saw a kid trip and chip his tooth on a metal bar. They hope the board approves this item and the project can move forward. It would benefit all members of the community.

Jalen Hines wrote that the California Parks and Recreation Society said it themselves: Parks and Recreation strengthens community identity by providing facilities and services that reflect and celebrate community character, heritage, culture, history, aesthetics, and landscape. Parks and Recreation facilitates community problem and issue resolution by providing safe spaces to come together peacefully and serving as key points of service, helping communities heal both physically and emotionally.

Killian Serrano (Killian.fulton25@gmail.com) asked the Board to approve the upgrades to Emerald Hills Park. They love the neighborhood. but it is impossible to take kids to this park. The playground is unsafe, rusting, and metal. Families must drive to another part of town for a playground instead of being able to walk. The Emerald Hills neighborhood park needs to be approved for development. Currently the park is in a bad state and the playground is old and rusting. It is not a place where they can safely let their kids play. This neighborhood deserves a park that is clean and safe for its residents.

Emily Renda (emily.renda@gmail.com) lives on Tooley Street and would absolutely love to see any of these improvements made to this park. Their family uses the park every day, and it would mean a lot to the community to have some upgrades and a safe place for children to play, as well as adults to like to use the tennis and basketball courts that are crumbling. The neighborhood is growing, and a lot of new families are moving in. It would be wonderful to have an updated community park to take pride in. She thanked the Board for its attention to this matter.

Bethany Swanson (bloumena@gmail.com) wrote that she hopes the Board will approve the upgrades to Emerald Hills Neighborhood Park. These improvements proposed especially the improvement of the playgrounds would greatly enhance the park. She knows this would make such a positive impact on my own family and I'm sure on many others in our area. As the park stands now, she is more hesitant to take their children to the playground in our own neighborhood due to the condition of the way the equipment stands now. But if the playgrounds were to be improved, she could see it becoming a place we meet neighbors, make memories, and enjoy the beautiful outdoor space. She noted that it has been difficult watching other neighborhoods in higher income areas continue to get improvements and have amazing access to great playgrounds and outdoor areas while hers is left in poor condition. Emerald Hills Park is a place worth improving. She thanked the Board for thinking of the children here.

Andrea Serrano (aserrano1013@gmail.com) wrote that as an Emerald Hills resident, Emerald Hills Park is unsafe for her children to utilize. As an area of San Diego that is still affordable in terms of home ownership to families with children, an update to this park is desperately needed. She is a taxpayer and being resigned to drive elsewhere rather being able to walk to a community park is absurd. This community deserves better!

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McKenzie Obrien wrote to approve the plan for development of the Emerald Hills Park. The playground is terribly unsafe, and she needs a location her kids can play. This park has so much potential! The playground is rusty and dangerous. Please help the neighborhood!

Board Comment:

Ms. Smith is pleased with the proposal, noted the extensive interest in the community, and is hoping improvements can be made for her grandchildren to enjoy.

Ms. Laman noticed that Johnson Elementary School is in design for joint use. She asked if any connection will be made between Emerald Hills Park and the future joint use area. Ms. Chan responded that there is no specific plan to connect the two, but there is a second gate that could possibly be used for access to the joint use. The general development plan amendment does not contemplate a connection.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Age Friendly San Diego 2024

District Manager Kristi Fenick provided an update on the Age Friendly initiative and the work of the AgeWell Services Program.

Public Comments:

No public comments were received on this item.

Board Comments:

Dr. Munoz asked how the AgeWell staff are funded. Ms. Fenick stated they are funded in the ongoing budget.

Chair Bothwell asked about the age when participants are eligible to participate? The current age is anyone over age 60.

Ms. Gross asked if they work with the County's Aging and Independence Services (AIS)? Ms. Fenick stated that they do, and the County's AIS has provided tons of financial in kind to the City's garden program and other programs as well.

201. Park Ranger Program 2024 Update

Park Ranger Chief Michael Ruiz and Deputy Director Erika Ferreira provided an overview of the park ranger program including recent efforts with sidewalk vending, expressive activity, commercial activity on parkland, emergency response, natural resource management, and open space land management.

Public Comments:

Jean Walker from Beach Genie spoke about professional beach services and difficulty obtaining permits for on-sand events and activities. She noted that professional beach services are needed for older adults who cannot bring beach items such as umbrellas, chairs, and coolers onto the beach sand. She noted that State Parks appreciates the work of Beach Genie.

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Board Comments:

Ms. Smith indicated the vendors are present at Emerald Hills Park the first Sunday of each month. Chief Ruiz indicated that his team will return to the park to ensure vendors understand the regulations associated with vending in the park.

Ms. Laman appreciated the integrated staff report that includes park rangers and open space. She noted a successful integration of Chollas Lake into Open Space Division. She asked if Area 27 of Chollas Parkway Open Space will remain once Chollas Triangle Park is built. Director Field stated there will be open space to the south of the triangle park. She asked if Chollas Lake and North Chollas be added to the Open Space list. Chief Ruiz indicated that can be added to the list. Ms. Laman asked about Mission Trails Regional Park. Chief Ruiz indicated that Mission Trails Regional Park is an open space park that is largely undeveloped. Ms. Laman asked if the colored dots could be aligned by park ranger unit. She noted an error on the list of 20 community parks – Colina del Sol Recreation Center is the correct naming. Chair Bothwell indicated that additional questions from Ms. Laman related to the park ranger program can be forwarded to Chief Ruiz separately.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Copies of the reports, attachments, PowerPoint presentations, and audio–video recordings can be found on the Parks and Recreation Department website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/reports>.

Next Calendared Meeting: July 18, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Andy Field
Director
Parks and Recreation Department