

MINUTES

City of San Diego Boards and Commissions Parks and Recreation Department

MISSION BAY PARK COMMITTEE

September 3, 2024

Meeting Location

Paradise Point Resort
Mission Bay Room
1404 Vacation Rd.
San Diego, CA 92109

Mailing Address:

Balboa Park
Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Cindy Adams
Chuck Dunning
Giovanni Ingolia
Jeff Johnson
Cathie Jolley
Ryan Karlsgodt
Judith Munoz
Steve Pinard
Julie Roland

Members Absent

Bernadette Butkiewicz
Jim Gross

Guests

Jenn Montgomery
Michael Beltran

City Staff Present

Mike Rodrigues
Cris Amezcua
Mayra Medel
Carrie Munson
Vicky Joes
Kevin Nguyen
Leanne Kao
Kelsey Hall
Ryan Barbrick
Brian Brecht
Jessica Thrift

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – August 6, 2024

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by J. Roland and seconded by C. Jolley to approve the August 6, 2024 Mission Bay Park Committee meeting minutes as written. The motion carried 7-0 with 2 abstentions (J. Johnson & G. Ingolia)

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Nicki Zimmerman with Mission Beach Town Council commented about hazards associated with fire rings in Mission Beach, requesting removal/reduction and propane only

Denise Friedman with Pacific Beach Town reminded everyone about the PAESAN event scheduled for Wednesday, September 25th

Cristina Santa Maria with SD Bird Alliance, formally SD Audubon, provided a Least Tern update with breeding season ending 9/15

Jim Unger with Campland and Mission Bay RV Resort shared his concerns regarding illegal overnight RV parking near the resorts and appreciated assistance from SDPD and Park Rangers

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – Jeff Johnson shared some of his observations after hours at Mission Bay Park, including illegal dumping and RV habitation. He has brought these items up to CM LaCava’s Office and SDPD with enforcement at DeAnza Cove area as his primary concern. Jeff also shared rare history artifacts related to Mission Bay Park and the opening of the park

CITY COUNCIL OFFICES

Council District 1 – Vicky Joes with Council member LaCava’s Office thanked SDPD Northern Division for their efforts with recent unpermitted events along Sail Bay and enforcement of illegal RV overnight parking in the coastal communities. CD1 is supportive of nighttime parking lot closures requiring a Coastal Development Permit and angle parking along East Mission Bay Drive to curtail extended large vehicle parking (OVO and vehicle habitation)

Council District 2 – Carrie Munson with Councilmember Campbell’s Office reported the Ocean Beach Pier closure and replacement efforts, improvements to Bermuda stairs and the upcoming Clairemont Family Day event on 9/14. CM Campbell has been out on medical leave with shoulder surgery and is expected to return to the office on 9/12

STAFF REPORTS

San Diego Lifeguard Service – Brian Clark was on an emergency call during the meeting. No major updates.

- Lifeguard staffing will back off a bit now the summer is over
- The vessel accidents continue to trend down on Mission Bay
- In the spring LGs received 150K from the SAVE program and got rid of a bunch of abandoned vessels. https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28816

San Diego Police Department – Lt. Brian Brecht and Officer Jessica Thrift announced no major incidences during the “peaceful” Labor Day weekend in the beach areas. Shift changes to police staffing begins on September 14th. OVO and violation of signs enforcement has ramped up with over seven hundred parking violation citations issued the last two weeks in August

Parks and Recreation

Cris Amezcua, Mission Bay Park Maintenance Manager, provided updates on park maintenance and gearing up for the busy Fall special events season

Mission Bay Park District Manager, Mike Rodrigues reported that construction projects on hold during the summer moratorium will resume, with the Crown Point, Sunset Point, Hospitality Point improvements beginning mid-October. Upcoming special events include,

BayFair 9/13-15, Pacific Islander Festival 9/21 & 22 and MB Music Festival 9/27-29. Illegal fire signs were placed at Crown Point Shores with more to come in other sections of the park. Two play structures at Fanuel Street Park playground have been closed and will be removed due to unsafe assessments, P&R is looking into options with very minimal funding available. P&R continues to work with Lifeguards maintaining beach bars and moorings. Mike provided member updates and announced that meetings will resume at Santa Clara Recreation Center in October. He thanked Jim Gross and the Paradise Point Resort staff for hosting the summer meetings, they have been very accommodating

ACTION ITEMS

Consent (These items are adopted without discussion; they can be moved to adoption by any committee member)

101. none

Adoption (Each adoption item requires individual action; they can be moved to consent by action of the committee)

201. Mission BayFest September 27-29, 2024 – Michael Beltran provided an event update and requested to add an additional day for load-in at East Bonita Cove/Mariners Point on Tuesday, September 24th

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by R. Karlsgodt and seconded by C. Jolley to approve the additional day for load-in on Tuesday, September 24th after the weekly mowing. The motion carried 8-1 (C. Dunning)

202. Mission Bay Supplemental Environmental Project – Interpretive Signs, Kelsey Hall, Senior Planner, Public Utilities Department (PUD) requested approval for two new interpretive signs that PUD has developed with UCSD Reserve and Parks and Recreation Department as part of Public Utilities Department’s Supplemental Environmental Project. These new signs will replace two existing signs that are at the intersection of Crown Point Drive, Sequoia St, and Corona Oriente Rd. Estimated installation is early-October

Isabelle Kay with UCSD Natural Resources System reviewed and supports the signs as presented

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by J. Munoz and seconded by R. Karlsgodt to approve the signs as presented. The motion carried 9-0

203. Shall the Mission Bay Park Committee take a position and submit a letter to the City of San Diego and the California Coastal Commission supporting the cessation of fireworks displays in and over Mission Bay - Chuck Dunning provided the framework to gain support to write a letter to both the City and State taking a position to ban firework displays over Mission Bay

Mike Rodrigues read comment submitted from Cory Triglia supporting a ban on fireworks over Mission Bay based on fallout of debris and noise frightening dogs, people and wildlife

Mike Rodrigues read comment submitted from Alissa Gilles supporting ban on fireworks over Mission Bay due to environmental hazards, endangering wildlife and risk for fire. She supports drone shows

Lindsey Boyd with SeaWorld San Diego stated that firework displays re included in SeaWorld's Master Plan and lease agreement with the City. SeaWorld monitors all displays and cleans up after, adhering to all rules and regulations. SeaWorld is open to alternatives

Karen Zirk with Friends of Rose Creek shared concerns that fireworks impact wildlife and are a noise nuisance to dogs

Jim Peugh with SD Bird Alliance shared concerns that fireworks have to those suffering from PTSD and domestic pets

Lillian Barnes a Crown Point visitor dislikes fireworks due frightened dogs

Muriel Spooner with SD Bird Alliance shared concerns of noise impacting birds and pollution that fireworks create

Natalie Claseft shared water quality concerns that fireworks create and supports ban

Laura Schumacher supports ban on fireworks over Mission Bay based on science

Andrew Meyer with SD Bird Alliance opposes fireworks over Mission Bay due to impacts on wildlife

Christie Dunning stated that fireworks have no place in natural resource protected areas. Protect endangered birds and ban fireworks over Mission Bay

Ann Bowles a SeaWorld Marine Biologist stated that there are many other disturbances, such as vessel activity on the bay that have negative impacts on wildlife. Gather facts and take a second look at impacts that fireworks have to marine wildlife

Isabelle Kay stated that fireworks create stress to birds, she supports a ban

Member Comments:

Ryan Karlsgodt noted concerns that fireworks have on children and birds. He recommends cutting then number of shows and changing the ordinance

Giovanni Ingolia Loved fireworks going up however, he sees the impacts they have on dogs. 150 shows a year is too much. Recommends looking into drone shows to replace fireworks

Judith Munoz has enjoyed fireworks in the past, but things change. She shared concerns over lost dogs due to firework displays

Julie Roland loves birds, supports military displays and has concerns related to PTSD and fireworks

Steve Pinard has no issues with firework displays over Mission Bay, they bring people to the park to celebrate. Fireworks are getting the blame for many things, maybe a compromise is in order

Cindy Adams also loves fireworks, but it may be time for a compromise

Jeff Johnson is pro military and respects what fireworks represent. He recommends weighing the pros vs the con and come up with a happy middle, balanced approach. Perhaps reducing the number of shows annually is that compromise

Chuck Dunning is very passionate about air quality, wildlife and children's health concerns, he also thinks a compromise is the best approach

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by S. Pinard and seconded by J. Munoz for Mission Bay Park Committee to draft a letter to City and State Officials sharing concerns over impacts that SeaWorld fireworks create over Mission Bay. The Committee requests that City and State Officials investigate what detrimental environmental impacts permitted firework displays have to air/water quality, wildlife and quality of life for humans and domestic pets that have. The Committee supports reductions or cessation of on-going permitted firework displays over Mission Bay. The motion carried 9-0

A draft version of the letter will be presented at a future Mission Bay Park Committee meeting for review and approval.

204. Shall the Mission Bay Park Committee request in writing, that the San Diego

Police Department and Mission Bay Park Rangers actively enforce the city ban on illegal fireworks (per Municipal Code 511.5601) during the 2025 4th of July holiday – Chuck Dunning presented his proposal and shared his concerns related to illegal fireworks on big holiday weekends at Mission Bay Park.

Denys Horgan commented that noise from illegal fireworks impact the coastal neighborhoods and are difficult to enforce. Illegal fireworks are bad

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

A motion was made by J. Roland and seconded by C. Dunning to draft a letter stating safety concerns from unpermitted illegal firework displays at Mission Bay Park. The Committee respectfully requests increased education and enforcement by Park Rangers, San Diego Police and San Diego Fire and Life Safety to curtail illegal fireworks especially during holiday seasons. The motion carried 9-0

A draft version of the letter will be presented at a future Mission Bay Park Committee meeting for review and approval

Special Events (Special Events that require road or plaza closures or will potentially impact park and/or institution operation, are brought to the Committee for a formal recommendation. They can be moved to Consent by action of the Committee.

301. none

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. none

WORKSHOP ITEMS (No actions taken; discussed by the committee and staff)

501. Illegal RV/camper habitation in Mission Bay Park – Jeff Johnson
This item was tabled until the October 1st meeting

SUBCOMMITTEE

601. none

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – Chairperson, J. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Notice of Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at Santa Clara Recreation Center

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Rodrigues, District Manager, Mission Bay Park