

Parks and Recreation Department

Area Committee Meeting

November 6, 2024

Director's Report

Director's Report – Reported provided by Andy Field

Awards:

- The San Diego Architectural Foundation issued its annual orchids and onions awards on October 3, 2024. Orchids illustrate the promotion of outstanding architecture, planning, and urban design. Two projects won orchids in the 2024 awards:
 - E.B. Scripps Park (La Jolla Cove) Pavilion and Restroom – orchid for public architecture
 - Children's Park (Downtown) – orchid for landscape architecture



Budget Update: Recently released budget reports include:

- The **Fiscal Year 2025 CIP Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report** is available online at: <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/fy2025-cip-mid-year-budget-monitoring-report.pdf>. This can also be found on the Financial Reports page under Budget Monitoring Reports at: <https://www.sandiego.gov/finance/financialrpts>.
- Revised **City Council Budgetary Priorities** from the Independent Budget Analyst can be found online at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/24-30-rev-fy-2026-city-council-budget-priorities.pdf>. This can also be found on the IBA's 2024 reports list at <https://www.sandiego.gov/iba/reports/reports24>.
- The Independent Budget Analyst **Review of the Fiscal Year 2024 Year-End Financial Performance Report** can be found online

at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/24-31-iba-review-of-fy-2024-year-end-financial-performance-report.pdf>. This can also be found on the IBA's 2024 reports list

at <https://www.sandiego.gov/iba/reports/reports24>. The Department of Finance Year-End Financial Performance Report can be found here: <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/fy24-year-end-financial-performance-report.pdf>.

- The budget development process for Fiscal Year 2026 has begun. The **Budget Development and Monitoring Calendar** is available here: <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/24-27-rev-fy26-budget-development-and-fy25-budget-monitoring-key-dates.pdf>. This can also be found on the IBA's 2024 reports list at <https://www.sandiego.gov/iba/reports/reports24>.

City Parks in the News:

- **Balboa Park International Cottages Bomb Threat:** A bomb threat impacted operations at the International Cottages at Balboa Park on October 26, 2024. Park patrons were evacuated from the impacted area during that morning. San Diego Police Department responded and ultimately removed the device, which was hoisted onto a flagpole near several cottages. The device was found to be a hoax. No one was injured. News coverage can be found at: <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/san-diego-police-investigating-suspicious-package-found-near-balboa-parks-house-of-israel/3659567/> and <https://www.10news.com/news/local-news/suspicious-package-prompts-bomb-squad-response-at-house-of-israel-in-balboa-park>.
- **Balboa Park Village Grill Request for Proposals Issued:** As part of a larger undertaking to preserve Balboa Park as the City's crown jewel and make it an even more welcoming place, the City is looking for an organization or individual to rehabilitate and reestablish the former Village Grill. On October 28, 2024, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the lease and renovation of the restaurant located near the Spanish Village Art Center. In their proposals, interested parties must show how they plan to renovate, operate, and maintain the property. This includes offering high-quality food and beverage options for Balboa Park visitors. When selecting a lessee, the City will consider the proposer's experience and qualifications to operate a

restaurant, financial capability, detailed operating plan and their proposed plans for renovations. The exact terms of the lease will be negotiated after a proposal is selected. The RFP can be accessed through the City's website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/economic-development/real-estate/about-us/properties-for-sale>. Proposals must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Jan. 16, 2025. News coverage is available at <https://www.axios.com/local/san-diego/2024/10/30/village-grill-looking-for-a-makeover>, <https://fox5sandiego.com/news/business/city-of-san-diego-hopes-to-restore-former-village-grill-restaurant-in-balboa-park/>, and <https://www.nbcсандiego.com/news/local/san-diego-seeks-to-revive-vacant-village-grill-restaurant-in-balboa-park/3661545/>.

- **Fanuel Park (Mission Bay Park) Issues:** Two issues have been reported over the past few weeks at this location.
 - Playground: Unfortunately, due to substantial corrosion and deterioration of the play structures and footings, the Fanuel Street Park playground was deemed unsafe and unusable and was closed to the public on August 13, 2024. The Parks and Recreation Department is currently assessing a short-term solution to reopen the currently fenced off playground area. This short-term solution will involve removing the existing play structures and footings and replacing them with an open sand play area, small spring toys, and/or marine-themed animal statues. The short-term solution will be completed in-house by the Parks and Recreation Department. The timeline to implement the short-term solution is currently in development but is anticipated to take approximately three (3) months to complete. Removal of the obsolete structures will begin in the coming weeks. The long-term solution is to initiate a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project to replace and improve the playground, however, there currently is not any funding allocated to this project.
 - Restrooms: The Department is considering overnight closure of the permanent restrooms at night and is exploring options for modular restrooms to operate on site overnight. This site is particularly difficult as the restrooms are set back near the adjacent residences rather than closer to the sandy beach along the Mission Bayfront. See

<https://sdnews.com/city-acknowledges-cleanliness-of-fanuel-street-park-restrooms-an-issue/> and <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/city-deciding-next-steps-as-complaints-grow-over-pacific-beach-park-bathrooms/3653764/> for more.

- **Montezuma Fire (Fairmount Fire):** As reported in the media, a large area of private property near the interchange of Montezuma Road and Fairmount Avenue in the College Area near Talmadge burned on October 31, 2024. To assist with evacuations, park staff arranged a temporary evacuation site at Allied Gardens Recreation Center during the afternoon and evening. By late evening, all residents at the site had returned home or found temporary lodging for overnight. The recreation center returned to normal operations the next day, on November 1. News coverage includes <https://fox5sandiego.com/news/local-news/fairmount-fire-now-at-least-25-contained-mop-up-efforts-continue/>, <https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/fairmount-fire-started-in-or-near-homeless-encampment/509-4a6d7bba-1f66-4b6e-98b5-9bddd16c9ec0>, and <https://www.kpbs.org/news/local/2024/10/31/college-area-brush-fire-prompts-road-closures-proactive-evacuations-underway>.

Dog Bites Grand Jury Report:

The Independent Budget Analyst released its proposed response to the Grand Jury Report on Dog Bites. The report, which will be considered by City Council on November 12, 2024, can be found here: https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/24-29-proposed-response-to-grand-jury-report-dog-bites-in-san-diego-county_0.pdf. This can also be found on the IBA's 2024 reports list at <https://www.sandiego.gov/iba/reports/reports24>.

Grand Openings/Groundbreakings:

- Riviera del Sol Park Grand Opening was on October 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.
- Marcy Park Groundbreaking was today, November 6, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.
- Balboa Park Botanical Building will open to the public at December Nights, which begins December 6, 2024.

Mayor for a Day:

Mayor Gloria is excited to announce the 2024-2025 [Mayor for a Day Contest](#), an inspiring opportunity for K-12 students across San Diego to share their vision for our city! This contest invites young San Diegans to dream big and answer the prompt: *"What would you do if you were Mayor of the City of San Diego?"*

Students may submit either an essay or a video response, giving them a chance to showcase their creativity and passion for the community. The Mayor's Office welcomes all applications from K-12 students enrolled in any school within the City of San Diego.

Please encourage students to participate and help spread the word to those who would be interested in sharing their ideas for making San Diego an even better place to live, work, and play. For additional information, please reach out to Korral Taylor at taylorlk@sandiego.gov. Thank you for your support in empowering the next generation of San Diego's leaders!

Six-Month Event Calendar for Balboa Park, Mission Bay Park, and Shoreline Parks:

A new addition to the City's webpage is the six-month event calendar for Balboa Park, Mission Bay Park, and Shoreline Parks. This calendar offers a glimpse into upcoming events and activities throughout these parks, which frequently host large-scale events. It is available on the City's permits page, which can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/permits>. Events listed on the calendar are for reference only and subject to change.

Events shown on this calendar include events in Balboa Park with over 100 in attendance and in Mission Bay/Shoreline that are classified as a Citywide special event or as an over-capacity event that result in an exterior park impact to neighboring institutions due to traffic control, parking needs, music, or other miscellaneous factors. The calendar will be updated the first week of every month.

The PDF calendars can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/bpsixmonthcalendar.pdf> and <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/mbsixmonthcalendar.pdf>.

Safe Streets for All

Safe access to parks via various mobility options is important. Members of the public can attend the virtual open house for Safe Streets for All, which can be accessed at <https://ss4asd.com/>. This project, funded by a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) federal grant, is embarking on three distinct efforts to reduce traffic related injuries and deaths by lowering speeds and identifying safety projects in areas of acute need:



Upcoming P&R Board Agenda Items:

- Fees – November
- Area Committee Reform – November or January
- Opportunity Fund – November or January
- Brush Management Overview – January
- Council Policy 700-42 Community Recreation Group Reform – January
- Joint Use Update – January
- Parks Master Plan Update – January
- Chollas Creek Flood Mitigation Modifications – February

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Staff Reports

Community Parks I – Reported by Anna Sonnenburg

Division Wide:

- CPI will host multiple Winter events beginning in December and go through January. Including Breakfast with Santa, Snow Days and Winter Wonderlands. These events will be listed on the City of San Diego's website soon.

District 44:

- Mira Mesa Phase II is underway. The Gil Johnson Mira Mesa Recreation Center will close for construction on Nov 27, 2024.
- We had the groundbreaking for the Marcy Neighborhood Park Improvements today and it was well attended.
- Due to the damages of the La Jolla's Playground assessments and evaluations are underway to determine if the structure needs to be removed and replaced. Next steps will come once the assessments are completed.

District 40:

- Rancho Bernardo Law Bowling to Turf is on going currently.
- Rancho Bernardo Indoor Courts were ruined due to a water issue. We are working to find out if we can repair or do we need to replace.
- Carmel Valley's Turf Upgrades are moving forward and the GDP Amendment to convert the lower turf field into hardcourts is scheduled to go to Park Board this month.
- Jerabek Neighborhood Park Accessibility Upgrade project is expected to be completed in early spring 2025. The playground is current being installed.

District 45:

- Both the Esplanade at NTC and Canon Street Pocket Park are scheduled to open by the end of 2024.

Community Parks II – reported by Nicole McNeil

- Riviera Del Sol Ribbon Cutting was held October 24th. The event was successful and showcased gazebos, basketball courts, fitness equipment and 2 playgrounds.
- 1st Cheer Camp was held November 2nd at the Kearny Mesa Recreation Center. 60 participants attended. A cheer exhibition will be showcased at the December 14th Flag Football championship to be held at Robb Field
- Flag Football and Volleyball season is currently underway
- On November 14th a drone competition and obstacle course event will be held at the Mountainview Elementary School during the day in collaboration with local elementary schools
- On December 13 a holiday, swimming pool community event will be held at the Bud Kearns Pool, “Winter Wonderpool” from 4:00-8:00 p.m. A holiday movie will be played for spectators in the water, and hot chocolate and cookies will be served

Balboa Park – Reported by Anthony Harrington

- December Nights is happening on December 6 & 7 – traffic will be difficult, plan accordingly and give yourself time to get to the event.
- Botanical Building reopening the week of Dec. 2
- Balboa Park Activity Center:
 - Teen Badminton Night Nov. 9th from 4-8pm
 - Citywide Teen Center Volleyball Championships Dec. 4th
 - Gym resurfacing final week of December
- Municipal Gym:
 - Court resurfacing final week of December
 - Fall Programs Sept. 9-Nov. 7
 - Basketball for ages 5-12
 - Futsal for ages 5-12
 - Winter Programs Dec. 9-Mar. 5
 - Basketball League for ages 5-12
 - Futsal Class for ages 8-12
 - Hosting a Citywide Basketball Clinic Dec. 16 5:30pm-7:00pm

Citywide Recreation Services – Reported by Sarah Erazo

- Facility Closures
 - November 11, 28 and 29 (Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving eve and day)
 - December 24, 25, and 31 (Christmas eve and day)
 - January 1 – New Years Day
- Recreation Programs:
 - Fall programs are mid-season with 1,738 programs scheduled and 15,883 participants enrolled.
 - Winter registration begins on November 16 with programs and leagues kicking off in December. www.sdreconnect.com
 - **Winter Festivals:** Check the recreation center webpages (<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/centers>) for information on fall programming, including the Department’s Winter Event List at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/2024-fall-events-flyer.pdf>. This includes events centered around the upcoming Winter events around the City.
 - **Event Calendar:** <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/event-calendar>.
- Community Recreation Groups and Council Policy 700-42 Reform:

Preparations for an update to Council Policy 700-42 for Community Recreation Groups is still under development. Public input on the draft policy would include a workshop here at the Area Committee and at the Parks and Recreation Board, with the possibility of an ad-hoc committee for additional review and comment as needed.
- Reports Under Development - January
- Overview of the Opportunity Fund’s First Year
- Come Play Outside
- Age Friendly San Diego (Parks and Rec Update)

Open Space – Reported by Erika Ferreira

- Tecolote Sewer Canyon Project – this project started this week. Closures will start on the south end of the trail. Website, signs and phone message will be updated project progresses to the north

- Mission Trails Regional park – Old Mission Dam dredging will start next week. Closures will be for 8 to 12 weeks on the eastern part of the trails with minimal impacts in the area due to staging areas. Website will be updated with closure information for this project.