

Parks and Recreation Department

Area Committee Meeting

October 9, 2024

Director's Report

Director's Report – reported by Sarah Erazo

Director Field provided the following updates at the September 19, 2024 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting:

Area Committee:

The consolidated area committee has met twice over the past two months, on August 14 and September 4. The next meeting is on October 9, 2024. Agendas, minutes, and reports can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/boards/cp1ac> or <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/boards/cp2ac>.

Balboa Park Update:

- **Botanical Building:** The first phase of work is rapidly nearing completion. The prime construction contractor will transfer the building back to the Department in October 2024, and the hope is to open the building for San Diegans to enjoy in early December 2024, hopefully in time for December Nights. As the opening date and grand opening celebration becomes known, staff will provide this information to the Board. A second phase is underway currently, and that will include garden restoration in the area around the building.
- **Pershing Bikeway along Balboa Park:** The Pershing Bikeway project is complete and now open to the public for use. Find more information here: <https://www.sandag.org/news/sandag-celebrates-opening-of-pershing-bikeway-2024-07-27>.
- **Starlight Bowl Requests for Proposal (RFP):** The City of San Diego is looking for organizations or individuals interested in bringing the historic and famed Starlight Bowl in Balboa Park back to life. The request for proposal can be accessed through the City's website:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/insidesd/city-san-diego-seeking-rehabilitate-and-reopen-starlight-bowl>. Proposals must be submitted by 4 p.m. on November 14, 2024.

- **State of Balboa Park:** On August 8, 2024, Mayor Gloria presented his State of Balboa Park Address at the San Diego Natural History Museum. Click on the following link for more info and a video:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/insidesd/mayor-gloria-highlights-power-partnerships-second-annual-state-balboa-park-address>.
- **World Design Capital Exchange Pavilion:** The World Design Experience Opening Celebration, took place at the Exchange Pavilion on September 19, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- **Haunted Trails** The Haunted Trail is operating between September 27 and November 2, 2024 in the West Mesa of Balboa Park. Webpage link:
<https://hauntedtrail.net/>.
- **Balboa Park Committee:** The next scheduled meeting will occur on Thursday, October 3, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Find more information here: <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/boards/bpc>.
- **Balboa Park Events Calendar:** City of San Diego staff will soon be adding a link to Balboa Park's webpage to display a calendar of events that are permitted in the park. The calendar will not be for every activity in the park; however, it will display larger activities/events with 100 or more people in attendance. Look for this addition in October.

Budget Update:

- Director Field provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2024 Year-End Financial Performance Report:
 - October 9, 2024 – Department of Finance releases report
 - October 16, 2024 – Budget and Government Efficiency Committee reviews
 - October 28, 2024 – City Council reviews the report

- Five-Year Financial Outlook (Fiscal Year 2026 through 2030): The Department is preparing its initial submission for this effort, which will be released publicly later this fall.
- Fiscal Year 2025 First Quarter Budget Monitoring: The reporting period ends on September 30, 2024, so the Department will prepare its submission in October for a report that will be released before the end of the calendar year.

Childcare Updates: No new updates since last month. The latest information on cultivating a care-friendly city can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/child-youth-success/early-learning>. Resources for initiating a childcare business can be found on this landing page.

City Parks in the News:

- **Beyer Community Park Groundbreaking:** Construction of this new park in San Ysidro/Otay Mesa began the week of August 20, 2024. On September 5, 2024, the community celebrated a groundbreaking of this new park at 8:00 a.m. Both Mayor Todd Gloria and Councilmember Vivian Moreno attended, along with guests from various agencies and nonprofits that have supported this park through several grant awards and partnerships. The first phase of this project is anticipated to be completed in spring 2026.

Link: <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/after-50-years-city-to-begin-construction-on-beyer-park-in-san-ysidro/3602865/>

- **“Bubble Pirate” Cited for Littering:** A park ranger cited a performer for littering prohibited fluids at La Jolla Cove on August 24, 2024. The Department values the rights of community members to engage in expressive activity in City parks, including artistic expression. This requires those engaging in these activities to do so in accordance with other City codes and regulations, including those related to littering and disposal of waste.

Link: <https://fox5sandiego.com/news/local-news/bubble-pirate-cited-for-littering-during-public-performance/>

- **Clairemont Family Day:** On September 14, 2024, South Clairemont Community Park and Clairemont Pool hosted the 35th Annual Clairemont

Family Day, with AquaFest, a classic car show, food, games, and a variety of vendors available for attendees. Director Field helped to open the event.
Link: <https://www.clairemontfamilyday.com/>

- **Grape Street Park Renaming Ceremony on September 14, 2024:** Two San Diego police officers who died in the line of duty back in 1984 are being honored 40 years later. September 14, 2024, marked 40 years since San Diego Police Officers Kimberly Tonahill and Timothy Ruopp were both fatally shot by an armed suspect while issuing a citation at Grape Street Park. To honor their bravery, Grape Street Park in San Diego's South Park neighborhood at 28th Street and Grape Street was officially renamed as to "Officer Tonahill and Officer Ruopp Memorial Park" during a public ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on September 14, 2024.

Link: <https://fox5sandiego.com/news/local-news/san-diego-park-to-be-renamed-in-honor-of-officers-killed-40-years-ago/>

- **"Inside San Diego" Launches:** San Diegans can obtain daily news and updates from the City via email or text. Subscribe to Inside San Diego at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CASANDIEGO/signup/39972> or <http://sandiego.gov/insidesd> to receive the latest from the City. In addition, Mayor Gloria's weekly newsletters are available at <https://app.indigov.com/pub/b2625fa8-465a-43e8-a11b-26b72dcb31c8/subscriptions/new>.

- **Mira Mesa Community Park Phase 2 Expansion:** The official groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25th at 10:15 a.m. to celebrate the recently started construction of the renovations at Mira Mesa Community Park, including upgrades to the Gil Johnson Recreation Center. Board members and members of the public are welcome to attend this event, which will feature Mayor Todd Gloria and Councilmember Kent Lee.

With the start of construction at this park, an opinion piece from the Times of San Diego on August 29, 2024, noted that the project will remove numerous mature trees and questioned why the project design required so many tree removals. To accommodate the proposed improvements at the site, 68 trees will be removed, and four trees will be relocated to a different area of the park. To offset the tree removals, 75 new trees will be planted throughout

the park, increasing the total number of trees. There are also 81 trees that will remain in place, untouched.

Link: <https://timesofsandiego.com/opinion/2024/08/29/why-must-improving-mira-mesa-community-park-require-removal-of-mature-trees/>.

- **Ocean Beach Pier Will Not Reopen:** On August 23, 2024, the City indicated it will no longer work toward repairing the existing Ocean Beach Pier. The 58-year-old pier (built in 1966) has been closed since it was damaged by high surf in October 2023. The City has spent at least \$1.7 million on temporary fixes over the past five years, and the pier's been closed about 30% of the time since early 2019. Further damage occurred last December when a support bracket broke off and fell into the ocean. A report by Moffatt and Nichol provides a detailed analysis of the pier; it can be found at https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/08-22-24-final-ob-pier-2024-stabilization-concepts-memo-3_r3-compiled.pdf.

Efforts are focused on replacement options. Information on the proposed replacement is available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/cip/ocean-beach-pier-renewal>. A State grant in the amount of \$8.4 million is funding initial design work on the replacement pier.

Links: <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/ocean-beach-pier-wont-reopen-replacement-repairs/3604980/> and <https://www.axios.com/local/sandiego/2024/08/23/ocean-beach-pier-closed-storm-damage-new-structure>.

- **Olive Grove Community Park Improvements:** On September 12, 2024, Mayor Todd Gloria, Clairemont leaders, nearby residents, and local students from nearby Lafayette Elementary School celebrated the groundbreaking of Olive Grove Community Park. This small ceremony initiates a project that will be under construction through Fall 2025. Improvements will include new playground, upgraded restroom, field and court renovations, and accessibility improvements. Additional project information is available on the project webpage, which can be reached at: <https://cipapp.sandiego.gov/CIPDetail.aspx?ID=S15028>.
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LkcMvT13xA>

- **Rancho Bernardo Dog Park:** Recently CBS 8 ran a piece on planned improvements at Rancho Bernardo Dog Off Leash Area with concerns of the time taken to bring the project to completion.

The Rancho Bernardo Dog Park scope of work includes designing and constructing new sidewalks within the park and sidewalk along West Bernardo Drive, numerous accessibility improvements throughout the park and parking spaces in the parking lot. Within the dog park, the project will add an eight to ten-foot-wide strip of synthetic turf, new drinking fountains, and new site furnishings. Cost increases are related to community-requested amenities such as shade structures, improvements within the dog parks, and additional shade trees.

Currently, the project is in the Final Design stage, which is expected to be completed by the fall of 2024. The advertising and awarding processes are estimated to occur from winter 2024 through spring 2025, and construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2025, contingent on funding availability. Current funding sources are General Fund 100012 and Antenna lease funds, Impact Fees Funds 400099 and 400892, and a Grant Fund of \$157k.

▪ Funding to Date:	\$2.8 million
▪ Total Project Cost:	\$5.15 million
▪ Funding need:	\$2.3 million

The Department is examining all avenues to bridge the funding gap. That includes allocations of the Citywide Park Development Impact Fees (DIF), local DIF, and general fund allocations. This includes looking comprehensively at the Citywide DIF and will propose shifting funds between projects using cash flow principles to help this project become fully funded by mid-year.

Link: <https://www.cbs8.com/video/news/local/working-for-you/whats-going-on-with-the-rancho-bernardo-dog-park-repairs/509-d6a348fc-f807-4e33-9e60-da08eb52c114>

- **Swan Canyon Mural:** In City Heights, near the intersection of Quince Street and 45th Street, Senior Park Ranger Erika Weikel partnered with Canyonlands, the Office of Council President Sean Elo-Rivera, and local artist Shayne Osequera to paint a mural on a frequently graffitied retaining wall in Swan Canyon in City Heights. In August and September 2024, Mr. Osequera

sketched the artwork on the wall and is working alongside park rangers and volunteers to paint it. Murals often get tagged, which is why Mr. Osequera has offered to provide continued maintenance on the mural and work with the community on other art projects. Once the mural is completed, staff can provide Board members with a photo of the finished product.

Link: ABC 10 News provided a minute and a half report on the mural's ongoing progress. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wy0pUN38LSU> for more.

- **World Design Capital Exchange Pavilion in Balboa Park Opens:** On August 14, 2024, the new Exchange Pavilion opened in the Plaza de Panama in Balboa Park, next to the San Diego Museum of Art. Part of the World Design Capital designation shared by San Diego and Tijuana, this pavilion consists of a curving orange wall held by a white metal structure that mimics the border wall, with a gap at the bottom that lets people enter the pavilion. Lectures and other activations are planned through the fall, including "Envision Balboa Park" on Thursday October 3, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. The Exchange Pavilion will remain in place until around Thanksgiving.

Link: <https://www.kpbs.org/news/local/2024/08/14/pavilion-in-balboa-park-celebrates-san-diego-tijuana-as-world-design-capital>

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 Parks and Recreation Board and at the Area Committee, with the possibility of an ad-hoc committee for additional review and comment as needed.

Employees of the Quarter:

- **Employees of the Year:** The Department is proud to announce seven (7) employees of the year for Fiscal Year 2024, which ended on June 30, 2024:
 - Fabian Alvarez, Swimming Pool Manager I, Bud Kearns Pool
 - Ulises Alvarez, Tree Trimmer, Citywide Park Forestry Unit
 - Adolfo Herrera, Recreation Center Director III, Cabrillo Recreation Center
 - Rosa Moore, Senior Management Analyst, Golf Division
 - Tan Nguyen, Utility Worker II, Citywide Playground Repair Unit
 - Steven Smith, Senior Park Ranger, Tri Canyon Open Space (Tecolote Canyon, Rose Canyon, and Marian Bear)

- Maria Villegas, Senior Clerk Typist, Permit Center for Regional Parks

Their recognition is posted at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/employee-of-the-quarter>.

- **Heart of Service Award:** The Department is considering a recommendation from the Area Committee to create an application process for members of the community to nominate a City employee for good customer service in a manner similar to employee of the quarter. This is currently under development.

Parks Master Plan and City Planning Updates:

- **City Planning Work Plan:** The City Planning Department Fiscal Year 2025 Work Program includes all the major planning initiatives and year-round planning work underway, along with estimated completion dates and implementation status.
The work program includes ongoing work and as well as new planning initiatives that provide an actionable roadmap toward our mission to plan for an equitable and sustainable future with affordable homes, good jobs, infrastructure, and public spaces for the people of San Diego.
The work plan is available on the City's webpage at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/planning-work-programs.pdf> or <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/working-on>.
- **Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan Update:** Information on the development of the master plan is available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/chollas-creek-master-plan>.
- **Community Plan Updates:** The latest information can be found on the City Planning Department's webpage at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community-plans/updates>.
 - Mid-City Communities Plan Update
 - College Area Community Plan Update
 - Clairemont Community Plan Update x
- **Parks Master Plan:** As noted at the July meeting, Parks and Recreation Department staff is preparing a Status Update of Parks Master Plan Policies

and Recommendations for fall 2024. This update will provide the status of responding to the following 142 policies and recommendations (sorted by category):

- 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 Value Points (RVP):** The City Planning Department is finalizing calculations and will load all RVP calculations onto the City webpage. Once this occurs, staff will provide a link.
- **Trails Master Plan:** No update. The latest information can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/citywide-trails-master-plan>.

Recreation Programs: Summer programming ended with the completion of Parks After Dark, summer camps, and a variety of other programs. School is now back in session.

- **Come Play Outside:** Report to be released in January. This report is prepared annually in conjunction with data from the Performance and Analytics Department and UCSD to inform the impact Come Play Outside programs and events have on crime statistics and underserved communities.

- **Opportunity Fund:** A report on the first-year analysis will be presented in November to Area Committee, Park Board, Community and Neighborhood Services Committee.
- **Community Recreation Needs Assessment:** The Department will be launching the first ever CRNA this winter with the assistance of a consultant. The CRNA will be rolled out to the entire city in three phases with an anticipated completion date of December 2025. The assessment will be summarized in a report identifying the programmatic and communication needs for each of the City of San Diego communities as researched via community workshops, surveys, interviews and other outreach methods.
- **Fall Festivals:** For information on fall programming, visit the recreation center webpages (<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/centers>), including the Department's Fall Event List at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/2024-fall-events-flyer.pdf>. This includes events centered around the upcoming Halloween events around the City.
- **Event Calendar:** <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/event-calendar>.
- **Permits:** <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/permits> (information on permits, events, and special use permits)

Recruitment Update: The Department currently has a 21% vacancy rate and is hiring. Each department must submit a "request to fill" for each position hired, which has slowed hiring. Interviews are being conducted currently for several roles, including entry-level positions.

Here are some jobs currently open for application. Please pass this information along to interested parties/prospective applicants:

Position	Salary	Closing date
Aquatics Technician II	\$26.41 - \$31.46/hr	9/9/2024
Electrician	\$34.63 - \$41.57/hr	Continuous
Grounds Maintenance Worker II	\$22.28 - \$26.52/hr	Continuous
Heavy Truck Driver I	\$24.20 - \$28.85/hr	9/3/2024
Irrigation Specialist	\$25.92 - \$31.00/hr	9/16/2024

Management Trainee	\$26.14 - \$31.54/hr	9/9/2024
Pesticide Applicator	\$27.03 - \$32.24/hr	Continuous
Pool Guard I	\$18.51 - \$22.29/hr	Continuous
Pool Guard II	\$20.31 - \$24.47/hr	Continuous
Recreation Aide	\$18.70/hr	Continuous
Recreation Center Director I	\$24.95 - \$30.05/hr	9/3/2024
Recreation Center Director II	\$26.82 - \$32.26/hr	9/3/2024
Recreation Leader I	\$17.64 - \$19.29/hr	Continuous
Recreation Leader II	\$18.47 - \$22.25/hr	Continuous
Senior Management Analyst	\$42.03 - \$50.82/hr	9/16/2024
Senior Planner	\$48.51 - \$58.66/hr	9/3/2024
Seven-Gang Mower Operator	\$25.19 - \$30.17/hr	9/16/2024
Supervising Aquatics Recreation Specialist	\$34.77 - \$42.13/hr	9/16/2024
Supervising Management Analyst	\$45.06 - \$54.59/hr	9/16/2024
Swimming Pool Manager I	\$23.34 - \$28.07/hr	Continuous
Swimming Pool Manager II	\$27.30 - \$32.98/hr	Continuous
Swimming Pool Manager III	\$30.06 - \$36.29/hr	Continuous
Water Safety Instructor	\$18.51 - \$22.29/hr	Continuous

Two management-level unclassified positions are also open for recruitment:

- **Mission Bay Shoreline Deputy Director:** This position oversees, plans, and directs the maintenance and operations of parks located in Mission Bay and along the San Diego Shoreline.
- **Land Acquisition Program Coordinator:** This new position will develop a program to acquire parkland by identifying funding for and priority areas for building new parks and securing land rights, easements, and land contracts to build more parks.

Senior Affairs Advisory Board: Created in 2000, SDMC Section 26.15 authorizes the Senior Affairs Advisory Board to serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council on policy and issues relating to transportation, security at home, improved intergenerational interaction, meal delivery, housing, improved City-County cooperation, and other related issues.

The Board will make recommendations for improving communications between seniors and City government; review City employment policies for seniors; perform studies and surveys as requested by the Mayor and Council; advise on relevant issues and formation of laws, policies, or procedures which may affect seniors; and

report annually to the Mayor and Council on the “State of the Seniors” within the City.

Recently, the Board was constituted with new members and plans to meet later this fall. Information on the Board can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/boards-commissions/senioraffairs>.

Torrey Pines Golf Course Clubhouse Project: Over the past few months, the Golf Division has been working with the Engineering and Capital Projects (E&CP) Department to procure a design consultant for the Torrey Pines Golf Course Facility Master Plan and Phase I project.

Currently, E&CP has received proposals, conducted interviews, and identified the most qualified architectural consultant, prioritizing their specialized experience and engineering knowledge in renowned golf course facilities.

Under the agreement, the consultant’s scope of work can be summarized by two primary deliverables:

1. Prepare and build a comprehensive master plan for the Torrey Pines Golf Course Facilities and its ancillary structures.
2. Prepare bridging documents (30% design plans and permit packages) for the construction of a proposed Phase I of this master plan, which will include a new clubhouse and maintenance facility.

Prior to kicking off the scope of work, City project staff would like to meet with interested stakeholders, including Board members, to familiarize everyone with the project and hear concerns and priorities regarding the improvements to the overall facility. The goal is to ensure the project team can work collaboratively on the master plan components for the Torrey Pines campus and develop an agenda and roadmap for a successful project. On August 30, 2024, Director Field provided a copy of the RFP to the Board members.

Examples of the items for upcoming meeting agendas are, but not limited to, the following:

- Coordination and collaboration in design and construction
- Design Criteria
- Access and views
- Phasing schedules
- Timing of construction

- The first meeting has not yet been scheduled and a project webpage has not yet been created, but once the meeting date is known and webpage created, staff will provide that information to Board members.

Webpage Updates: Please visit <https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation> for all the latest information on the Department.

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Staff Reports

Community Parks I – Reported by Steve Palle (Deputy Director)

- We are getting ready to fill the vacant District Manager position for District 40 (Scripps Ranch/Rancho Bernardo/Carmel Mountain)
- We just conducted interviews for the following position: Ground Maintenance Worker II, Area Manager and Assistant Recreation Center Director will be filling at least 15 positions
- Parks and Recreation Staff will be hosting a handful of Fall events this month. Fall list of events is posted on the Parks and Recreation home page on the website.
- Mira Mesa Phase 2 project has started, and a large portion of the park is closed. The recreation center will be closing November 22, length of closure is unknown at this time.

Community Parks II – Reported by Nicole McNeil (Assistant Deputy Director)

- September 21st- A total of 732 youth participated in the Balboa Park Haunted Trail
- We have a variety of upcoming Halloween events scheduled to be hosted throughout Community Parks II, information available on the event calendar.
- Memorial Senior Center is preparing to open. AgeWell Services and Community Parks II will work together to run Senior and multi-generational programming, and community events.
- Flag Football Season kicks off this week (Ages 7-16); Championships will be held Saturday December 14th @ Rob Field
- Cheer Program is back in our Sports Program rotation (Ages 7-12). Clinics, weekly game performances, and a showcase will be organized for Saturday December 14h @ Rob Field.
- Sports committee is working with Therapeutic Rec and AgeWell Services to organize sports leagues, clinics and events.

- Planning is underway for the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration Event, which will be held January 25th at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Park.
- The Carmel Mountain Community Pool grand opening community celebration will be held this Saturday (October 12th) at 9am. Mayor Gloria, Councilmember von Wilpert, Director Field, members from the Carmel Mountain Sabre Springs Planning Group will be in attendance, along with Parks and Recreation Department staff. Following the press event, a water fitness class, pool activities and refreshments will be hosted, pool access will be free for the community until 2pm.
- The Allied Gardens, City Heights and Swanson Pools are currently closed for annual maintenance. The pool maintenance closure schedule is currently available on the Pools page of the Parks and Recreation Department website.
- The Colina Pool reopened this week, and I'm excited to announce that a fantastic swim collaboration with Crawford High School is currently underway. This includes a 10-week swim lesson program that will run through December 13th, which combines in-water and classroom instruction.
- Within the Aquatics District, Supervising Aquatic Recreation Specialist position interviews will be scheduled within the next couple of weeks. We have one opening for a position that will oversee 5 pools in the southern region of our City.

Balboa Park – Reported by Anthony Harrington (District Manager)

- Grape Street Park turf renovation on Thursday, September 12th.
- New lights scheduled to be installed at Morley Field.
- Sixth Street playground reopened last Wednesday, October 2nd after maintenance was completed.
- Natural History Museum hosting their 150-year celebration on Saturday, October 19th.