

**Parks and Recreation Board and Regional Park Improvement Fund
Oversight Committee
*Year-End Report***

January 16, 2025

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1. Executive Summary

The **Parks and Recreation Board** was created by the City Council under City Charter Section 43(a) and San Diego Municipal Code Section 26.30 to serve the following roles:

- Serves as an advisory board on matters relating to the acquisition, development, maintenance, and operation of parks, beaches, and recreation properties and facilities
- Reviews and considers adoption of new and amended General Development Plans for parks and recreation facilities in accordance with Council Policy 600-33

- Provides feedback on the operating/capital budget, the Parks Master Plan, various park master and precise plans, policies/procedures, recreational programming, maintenance, and operations
- Considers requests for new names for parks and park amenities in accordance with Council Policy 900-20

The **Regional Park Oversight Committee** serves the following roles under City Charter Section 55.2:

- Meets at least quarterly
- Reviews the implementation of Charter Section 55.2 and the annual audit
- Recommends priorities for expenditures and capital improvements in accordance with the regional park master plans

Receives reports to ensure the funds are collected, segregated, retained, allocated, and expended in accordance with the intent of City Charter Section 55.2

2. Mission Statement

The purpose and intent of the Parks and Recreation Board is:

- Advise the City Council through the City Manager on public policy matters relating to the acquisition, development, and maintenance and operation of parks, beaches, playgrounds, and recreational activities.
- Review recreational programs.
- Coordinate the work of such committees as may be established.
- Conduct investigations, studies, and hearings.

Effective July 1, 2009, the Park and Recreation Board shall also fulfill the role of the San Diego Regional Parks Improvement Fund Oversight Committee as described in San Diego Charter Section 55.2.

3. Overview of the Year

The **Parks and Recreation Board** had the following informational items over the past year:

- Come Play Outside Report 2023 (1/18/2024, Item 201)
- Developer-Built Parks Fee Schedule (1/18/2024, Item 202)

- Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Development Calendar (1/18/2024, Item 203)
- Introduction to Design and Development of Webpage (2/15/2024, Item 201)
- Five-Year Capital Outlook (2/15/2024, Item 202)
- State Grants Update (2/15/2024, Item 203)
- Torrey Pines Golf Course – Master Plan and Clubhouse Update (2/15/2024, Item 204)
- Balboa Park Botanical Building and Gardens Phase 2 Project (3/21/2024, Item 201)
- Balboa Park San Diego High School/Downtown San Diego Connections Update: Report from the Working Group (3/21/2024, Item 202)
- Experience Plan for the Balboa Park Cultural District (3/21/2024, Item 203)
- World Design Capital San Diego Tijuana 2024 (4/18/2024, Item 201)
- Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Operating Budget (4/18/2024, Item 202)
- Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed CIP Budget (4/18/2024, Item 203)
- Fiscal Year 2024 Recreation Center Fund Budgets, Opportunity Fund Budget and 2024 Recreation Report (5/16/2024, Item 201)
- Age Friendly San Diego 2024 Update (6/20/2024, Item 201)
- Park Ranger Program 2024 Update (6/20/2024, Item 202)
- San Diego Canyonlands (7/18/2024, Item 201)
- Open Space Natural Resource Management Overview (7/18/2024, Item 202)
- San Diego Humane Society Update (9/19/2024, Item 201)

- Chaparral Lands Conservancy Overview (9/19/2024, Item 202)
- Balboa Park/San Diego High School Connections Update: Report from the Working Group (10/17/2024, Item 201)
- 2024 Golf Operations Division Business Plan Update (10/17/2024, Item 202)
- Aquatics Update (10/17/2024, Item 203)
- Area Committee Reform (11/21/2024, Item 201)
- Opportunity Fund Comprehensive Report (11/21/2024, Item 202)
- Fee Update (11/21/2024, Item 203)
- Citywide Trails Master Plan (11/21/2024, Item 204)

he **Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee** had the following informational items over the past year:

- Performance Audit of the Mission Bay and San Diego Regional Parks Improvements Funds Fiscal Year 2022 (3/21/2024, Item 201)
- Regional Park Improvement Funds Project Semi-Annual Update (6/20/2024, Item 201)
- Regional Park Improvement Funds Project Update (9/19/2024, Item 201)

Board Member Leadership and Changes:

Marcella Bothwell served as chair of the Board throughout 2024, and Rick Gulley served as vice-chair of the Board in the latter half of 2024.

Mid-year, four Board Members left, and four new Board Members joined the Parks and Recreation Board as follows:

- Martin Armstrong replaced Dennis Otsuji
- Dr. Andrea Dooley replaced Jon Becker
- Dr. Judith Muñoz replaced René Smith
- Agatha Wein replaced Maria Pita Verdin

4. Key Accomplishments

The **Parks and Recreation Board** took the following actions over the past year:

- Adoption of Parks and Recreation Board Annual Report 2023 (1/18/2024, Item 101)
- Proposal for Bottom Scratchers Commemorative Plaque at EB Scripps Park (2/15/2024, Item 101)
- Robb Field General Development Plan Amendment (3/21/2024, Item 101)
- Kelly Street Neighborhood Park General Development Plan Amendment (4/18/2024, Item 101)
- Plaque Dedication Ceremony and Grand Reopening Celebration to Honor Three Tennis Legends (05/16/2024, Item 101)
- Request Approval of Signage at the Pasatiempo Park and Open Space Limiting Public from Dusk till Dawn (5/16/2024, Item 102)
- Hillcrest Focused Plan Amendment (5/16/2024, Item 103)
- University Community Plan Update (5/16/2024, Item 104)
- Gompers Neighborhood Park General Development Plan Amendment (6/20/2024, Item 101)
- Emerald Hills Neighborhood Park General Development Plan (6/20/2024, Item 102)
- Election of Vice-Chair to the Parks and Recreation Board (7/18/2024, Item 101)
- Election of Board Member to the Area Committee (7/18/2024, Item 102)
- Proposed Renaming of Grape Street Park to Tonahill-Ruopp Park (7/18/2024, Item 103)

- Parks and Recreation Board Chair Community Hero Award to Gary Blume, Total Altruism Project (9/19/2024, Item 101)
- Windansea Memorial Plaque Program (10/17/2024, Item 102)
- Adoption of Calendar Year 2025 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Dates (11/21/2024, Item 101)
- Proposed General Development Plan for Multipurpose Field at Carmel Valley Community Park (11/21/2024, Item 102)
- Proposed Jones Elementary Joint Use Facility General Development Plan (11/21/2024, Item 103)

The **Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee** took the following actions over the past year:

- Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Park Improvement Funds Proposed Allocations (1/18/2024, Item 101)
- Reallocation of Funds to Various Projects (1/18/2024, Item 102)
- Reallocation of Funds to Crystal Pier Emergency Project (4/18/2024, Item 101)
- Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Park Improvement Fund (RPIF) Budget May Revision (6/20/2024, Item 101)
- Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Park Improvement Fund (RPIF) Reallocation of Funds (10/17/2024, Item 101)
- Fiscal Year 2024 Mission Bay Lease Revenue Statistics (11/21/2024, Item 101)

5. Challenges Faced

The Parks and Recreation Board is seriously concerned by the lack of appropriate funding for the near-term implementation of required and agreed upon actions from the 2021 approved Parks Master Plan. It is also concerned about ongoing funding challenges at the City of San Diego as evidenced in the most recent five-year financial outlook.

Concerns remain about the application of Parks Master Plan principles and recreation value points scoring methodology for ongoing community plan updates. The Board did not approve the recreation element for several community plan updates in 2024, including Hillcrest and University. Similar concerns are emerging for other plan updates, including Clairemont, College, and Mid-City Communities.

The Oversight Committee desires more regional park funding to be utilized in Communities of Concern, focusing on the Chollas Creek Watershed.

6. Goals for Next Year

The Department plans to update the Board on the status of implementing the dozens of recommendations included in the Parks Master Plan, and it will continue the conversation about calculating recreation value points for various community plan updates in consultation with the City Planning Department.

7. Conclusion

Department staff appreciates the ongoing support of the 11 volunteers and countless City staff who help make the Parks and Recreation Board a success.

8. Appendices

Pictures of Parks and Recreation Board and Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee activities from 2024 follow on the next several pages.





Gary Blume, Recipient of the First Annual Community Hero Award



Left to Right: Shaina Gross, Andrea Dooley, Alison Soares, Judith Munoz, Marcella Bothwell, Gary Blume, Andy Field, Daniele Laman, Rick Gulley, Agatha Wein, Martin Armstrong



Capital Projects and Grants Program Manager Ryan Barbrick



Golf Operations Deputy Director John Howard



Michael Stepner, Balboa Park Connections Working Group





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