



Downtown Community Planning Council San Diego

Planning a Vibrant Downtown for All

Downtown Community Planning Council (DCPC)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2024, 5:30 PM

12th Floor Committee Room, City Hall,

202 C Street, San Diego, CA, 92101

- I. **Call to Order 5:38 pm**
 - A. In attendance (14): Rodriguez (Chair), Bargmann (V. Chair), Link (Scty), Barr, Eddy, Gu, Helmer, Hewitt, E. Schwarz, J.P. Schwarz, So, Tan, Werve, Winslow.
 - B. Absent: George, Villarina

- II. **Consent Agenda: Motion Rodriguez, 2nd Bargmann.** Approved Unanimously
 - A. July Minutes Approval
 1. Brief discussion re Margaritaville Live Entertainment minutes missing noise study, incomplete application, impact on residents vs favorable opinion by many of live events downtown, and minutes failure to record votes against motion to disapprove and abstentions. Weakness in minutes was noted. Discussion did not request removal of Agenda item A. from Consent agenda.
 - B. August Minutes Approval
 - C. Appointment to Operations and Budget (CPG) Committee
 - D. Public Notice for SEPT 18th Construction at Broadway and Pacific Highway

- III. **Non-Agenda Public Comment**
 - A. Pat spoke to prompt Larry Turner mayoral candidacy
 - B. An unidentified commenter spoke on a recent Grand Jury report

- IV. **Community Reports (Representatives from Elected Officials and Agencies)**
 - A. **Representatives from Elected Officials and Agencies**
 - A. Randy Reyes (Mayors)
 1. Randy Reyes, Community Representative, (*Council Districts 2 and 3*) RandyReyes@sandiego.gov
 2. Acknowledged new Fire Chief
 3. Welcomed Homelessness Shelter input
 4. Draft Arts and Culture Plan input is welcome online
<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/cultural-plan-draft.pdf>

- B. Emily Bonner (Councilmember Stephen Whitburn)
 - 1. Brief overview offering Infor Cards and Resource Lists. DCPC Board Interest from Helmer, JP Schwarz, Link..
- C. Robson Winter (Asm. Tasha Boerner)
 - 1. Rep Boerner supported CA Bills Governor is expected to sign include
 - a) AB2449 re Brown Act participation location amendments (signed)
 - b) AB2756 Post Partum Care pilot therapy program
 - c) AB2440 Parks and Rec funding
 - d) Infant Health Program
 - 2. Highlighted Hispanic Celebration program honoring DCPC Chair Manny Rodriguez
 - 3. Member (JP Schwarz) – support and requested assistance enforcing CALTRANS Encampment procedures including reporting and updates. Concern expressed with homeless transition corridors
- D. Clayton Fowler (Downtown Partnership)
 - 1. Highlighting upcoming 9/27/2024 0900 walkabout on 14th St with opportunity to interact with Clean and Safe
 - 2. RE Clean and Safe – noted that 4800 service tickets received focused on Maintenance (1500), Safety (2000+), 91% resolved within one hour others directed for attention / response
 - 3. Unsheltered count decreased 3% (150) from prior month. Since JUL 2024 outreach has accommodated 93 individuals, service provided to 255.
 - 4. Highlighted 10/6/2024 0930 community meeting
- E. No other reps at meeting

V. Discretionary Approvals

- A. Sprouts Conditional Use Permit (Presenter Terri)
- B. Highlighted as Horton Plaza 2nd floor, 26,000 retail SF
- C. CUP requested to sell beer and wine in less than 1% of retail area
- D. Hours consistent with the Downtown area and at all times the store is open.
- E. Intent is single sales (growlers) and packaged in both 4 pack and 6 pack
- F. Public input:
 - 1. Gary Smith, DRG – recommended consistency with other similar market hours and items/packaging
 - 2. Packaging to be enforced by SDPD and Code Enforcement
- G. Board Discussion focused on Public Convenience and necessity
 - 1. Presenter responded that intent is to collaborate with City Council
 - 2. Discussion re linking Sprouts approval to City resolution of Faultline Park failure corrections – item was withdrawn with respect to unrelated nature of the items and desire to not delay action
 - 3. Motion to approve by Helmer and 2nd Eddy – Unanimous approval

- VI. Faultline Park Update (Wendelien Anderson, Parks & Rec Area Manager)
 - A. Referenced Get IT Done app for concerns and comments
 - B. Confirmed maintenance including Electric Outlets covered, Playground condition funding and workload are driven in part by numbers of visitors and dogs, pics have been taken to document existing poor condition (cleanup promised by 10.30.234)
 - C. Expressed appreciation to Izola Bakery for community help as “Amazing”
 - D. Shared concern that there is lack of consequences impacting City ability to enforce Pinnacle compliance toward ‘beautiful green grass and playground’.
 - E. Drugs and paraphernalia is an acknowledged problem without obvious solution
 - F. No full time Ranger Downtown.
 - G. Public Comment
 - 1. Gary Smith, DRG – There have been recurring requests for Ranger, turned down four years ago
 - 2. In Park presence by Clean & Safe recommended after hours
 - 3. Prioritize Ranger in City Budget Request by Parks & Rec
 - H. Board input and (WA) responses –
 - 1. Investigate why no teeth in city agreement with Pinnacle.
 - 2. Invoice Pinnacle City staffing costs
 - 3. (WA) Collaboration amongst City Departments
 - 4. (WA) Formalize transparent process / letter with Pinnacle
 - 5. (WA) Provide transparent list of all City Departments required to approve Park actions
 - 6. Grade Pinnacle / Incentivize to perform
 - 7. (WA) Open Communications is highly valuable, While Pinnacle budget is respected, Pinnacle is using the Park to Sell condos
 - 8. Concern with enforceability of leash laws, after hours attention needed
 - 9. (WA) Agrees some type of presence is required
 - 10. Request to prioritize playground. Drugs, theft, criminality is newly ongoing, frustrations understood but leads to bigger problems. City not enforcing rules, use resources, be prepared for new parks to come on line. Use of cameras and (Pinnacle) front desk awareness and response
 - 11. Consider availability of Parks & Rec Grant
 - 12. (WA) SD Humane Society do cite people for droppings and highlighting Park of the Month based on reports
 - 13. Board member concern that Humane Society was not fielding and answering calls
 - 14. Chair summarized concerns as to how Clean & Safe can assist, maintain area streets, collaboration re new equipment, cameras to assist in challenge evaluation and responses
 - 15. (WA) In agreement re cameras but respecting surveillance controversies

16. Board conclusions: Prioritization, enforcement, transparency in city responsibilities, review of distributed written agreement, collaboration of shared rules and enforcement responsibilities.
17. Bargmann requested that Faultline Park action be formalized on OCT agenda. Chair concurred.
18. (WA) Concluding concerns: response re obligations, timeliness, city maintenance partnerships, EVA role, transparent chain of command for maintenance prioritization and approvals.

VII. Fiscal Year (FY26) Budget Requests

- A. CIP Operations and Capital Improvement budget (2025)
 1. Previously approved priorities included in the agenda
 2. Additional priorities discussed included Additional Park Ranger, Arts & Culture priorities, safe camping, crime reduction, harm reduction
 3. JP specifically recommended CA Proposition 36 issues
 4. Other board input – add, endorse Park & Rec priorities, collaborate with action agencies re Park and Rec, collaborate with other communities for downtown priorities, address issues of problems compounding issues, increasing harm reduction expenses, balance needle exchange priority with need, introduce Ranger shifts, manage metrics.
 5. Motion by Helmer to put forth CIPs as FY26 priorities as the primary request with an additional request for two park rangers. Second by JP Schwarz. Unanimous approval.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Public Spaces - Gary Hewitt
 1. Balboa Park Committee report - Chris Eddy – board responses
 - a) Updated status of Pershing Bikeway, Starlight Bowl
 - b) Promoted events – Park Dedication, Heart Walk (11/21)
 - c) World Design Pavilion opening.
 - d) Haunted Trail 9/27 – 11/2
 - e) Highlighted Balboa Park Committee presentation status

Public Comments Submitted for September 18th, 2024

Tim Weir

to comments ▾

Wed, Sep 18, 4:13 PM



Hello DCPC-

This is a non-agenda item public comment. I moved to Downtown San Diego in May 2023 and one thing I immediately noticed upon arriving is an excess amount of loud cars, motorcycles and trucks with what sound likes illegally modified mufflers and exhaust systems. I find this to be a detriment to the quality of life in the downtown to the point that I have considered relocating. It would be great if the DCPC and the City of SD would help to prioritize better enforcement of existing laws prohibiting excessive noise from modified cars, trucks and motorcycles.

One suggestion is the use so-called "noise cameras" that record and automatically ticket any drivers whose vehicle exceeds a certain decibel threshold. These have been used in other downtowns with much success. A link to a 2023 article from the SD Union Tribune about this technology is included with my comments. Thank you for your kind attention to this issue.

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/health/story/2023-03-14/lost-sleep-jangled-nerves-panicked-pets-the-rising-onslaught-of-noise-harms-mind-and-body>

Timothy Walter

'diana thompson' via Public Comment

to comments ▾

Tue, Sep 17, 10:32 AM



Dear Downtown Planning Council and City of SD,

I am writing to respectfully request your support in allocating funding for enhanced safety measures and improved maintenance at Faultline Park. I have lived in Park Blvd East since 2008. The promise this East Village community space originally held was incredible. Over the years it became a disappointment and a place to avoid. In the past few years the EV community members have gathered strength and a voice for improvement. Fault Line Park is high up on our list.

Our collective vision for Faultline Park is one of a clean, safe, and welcoming environment where we can host events like summer movie nights, lay out blankets on well-maintained grass, and enjoy picnics with loved ones and neighbors. This park has so much potential, but the ongoing issues with drugs, crime, and general decay have unfortunately made it an unsafe space for families and community members.

In order to realize this vision, I am requesting a budget for regular park ranger presence and professional maintenance services, similar to the standard seen in other parks across the city. Faultline Park deserves the same level of care and attention, and I believe that with the right resources, it can become a true gem for our community.

Thank you for your time and continued commitment to making our community a better place for all.

Diana Thompson

'Franco Vargas Gonzalez' via Public Comment

Tue, Sep 17, 10:58 AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

to comments ▾

Dear Downtown Planning Council and City of SD,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to respectfully request your support in allocating funding for enhanced safety measures and improved maintenance at Faultline Park. This beautiful community space has incredible potential to be a vibrant and safe hub for our residents, but it is currently falling short of that vision.

There is so much potential for this to be a great community resource but currently it is a park that has been left to the will of those who abuse it. Both Izola and Sovereign are left to deal with patio areas that are impacted by the terrible condition of something that should honestly be a big selling point for them.

The community as a whole needs the resources and with a larger park on the horizon down the street, what can one expect of the way that will turn into the same situation at faultline.

In order to realize this vision, I am requesting a budget for regular park ranger presence and professional maintenance services, similar to the standard seen in other parks across the city. Faultline Park deserves the same level of care and attention, and I believe that with the right resources, it can become a true gem for our community.

I know there has been around 100 requests through the getitdone app, so there is public record of issues.

'Rob Beachley' via Public Comment

Tue, Sep 17, 8:23 AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

to comments, Rob ▾

Dear Downtown Planning Counsel,

I am writing to request your support in allocating funding for enhanced safety measures and improved maintenance at Faultline Park. Our beautiful community space has incredible potential to be a vibrant and safe hub for our residents, but it is currently falling very short of the City of San Diego's vision.

We urgently need around the clock security here to keep this park safe. It is overrun at night with drug addicts and homeless persons. The children's playground is always trashed and often used needles are laying around. This is unacceptable to be treating our children this way with an unsafe environment. There is no where else for them to play in the East Village neighborhood that is always open. Gallagher Square has limited hours based on events at Petco Park.

The grass area is tough to lay out on for picnics because it is always overflowing with trash and dog poop. And the field grass is not kept up. I visited the park yesterday evening and noticed three lamp posts that were missing! They were stripped down to their base and had wires hanging out. This does not seem to be very safe nor maintained very well. I also noticed on the outside of the park dirt instead of the artificial grass. You will see a patch of artificial grass for about 10 feet and then patches off dirt where the artificial turf used to be. This looks horrible!

Additionally, the dog run is not safe for dogs's paws, it's not enclosed, and is always littered with dog feces. There are no gates to secure the dog park! How can you build a dog park with no gates? It just has an entrances on the East and West that are just wide open! And the dogs run around on stones? At least have dirt or artificial turf. This is not safe for their paws and is a breeding ground for disease because you cannot clean the stones efficiently. Every other dog park in our City is enclosed and does not have stones for the dogs to run on.

Contracting to a professional maintenance service will resolve this since Pinnacle is failing on their contractual responsibilities to the City of San Diego. This park has so much potential, but the ongoing issues with drugs, crime, and general decay have unfortunately made it an unsafe space for families and community members. In order to realize this vision, I am requesting a budget for regular park ranger presence and professional maintenance services, similar to the standard seen in Waterfront Park and the Children's Park. Faultline Park deserves the same level of care and attention as other parks receive within our City.

Thank you for your time and continued commitment to making our community a better place for all San Diegans.

Rob Beachley

Ashleigh Murray

to comments ▾

Tue, Sep 17, 10:08AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Dear Downtown Planning Council and City of SD,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to respectfully request your support in allocating funding for enhanced safety measures and improved maintenance at Faultline Park.

Whenever I go for a walk, I try to find a green space and connect with nature. Every time I get excited to go to Faultline Park, I'm sorely disappointed and sometimes afraid when I get there. Faultline Park has so much potential but also needs help and security.

I've personally been chased out of the park by a shirtless individual with a machete in the middle of the day. I saw the same individual chase a mother with her young child out of the playground area of the park and chase an individual walking their dog out of the park. While this was a singular individual/day, it is indicative of a larger problem and need at the park. Occurrences like this are not rare at the park, but they should be. Parks should be a safe, clean space for individuals living downtown and those visiting to take a moment to connect with nature and get outside and move their bodies. Unfortunately Faultline Park does not fit this bill at present. However, I believe that with funding for maintenance and security, Faultline Park could shine and be a jewel in East Village.

I would greatly appreciate your consideration of this request. Thank you for your time and commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

Ashleigh Murray

Deanna Ratnikova

to comments ▾

Mon, Sep 16, 5:47 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

I heard that the Planning Group was considering financial support towards the upkeep of Faultline Park. I'm writing in support of this as the park is and has been unsafe and unsanitary since I moved to East Village two years ago. I have an elementary school aged child, and it's been a huge disappointment to not be able to use the playground at Faultline on numerous occasions due to issues such as nearby drug use, off leash dogs, feces around equipment, and homeless encampments, to name a few. The property in charge of maintaining the area is failing to uphold their contract with the City, so it is time for another stakeholder to step in.

Deanna Ratnikova

Sent from my iPhone

'Kelli H' via Public Comment

to comments ▾

Mon, Sep 16, 4:42 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Hello,

Public Comment:

Please as a committee make a motion to request the City to take action on Pinnacle Building for not complying with their agreement to make the Fault Line Park a first-class park in East Village San Diego.

Best,

Kelli Hagan

East Village Resident

'cindy Cook' via Public Comment

Sat, Sep 14, 9:16 AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

to comments ▾

Dear Downtown Planning Council and City of SD,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to respectfully request your support in allocating funding for enhanced safety measures and improved maintenance at Faultline Park. This beautiful community space has incredible potential to be a vibrant and safe hub for our residents, but it is currently falling short of that vision.

I have recently requested the Get it Done requests that have been made for Faultline Park for the last 3 years from public records to help paint a picture of the issues we see on a daily basis, but unfortunately I have not received a response. My hope was to have that information ready for the meeting on 9/18/24. I have personally made around a total of 400 requests with probably 100 of those for issues at Faultline Park. So there is no shortage of documentation of the issues we face at Faultline.

Just last week, I witnessed a deeply concerning incident where an intoxicated individual was doing graffiti and inappropriate, pornographic materials were scattered throughout the park. This was in the middle of the day at 10:30 a.m., under a bright and sunny sky. Such incidents contribute to a growing sense of unease among those who wish to use the park as a place to gather, relax, and enjoy the outdoors.

My vision for Faultline Park is one of a clean, safe, and welcoming environment where we can host events like summer movie nights, lay out blankets on well-maintained grass, and enjoy picnics with loved ones and neighbors. This park has so much potential, but the ongoing issues with drugs, crime, and general decay have unfortunately made it an unsafe space for families and community members.

In order to realize this vision, I am requesting a budget for regular park ranger presence and professional maintenance services, similar to the standard seen in other parks across the city. Faultline Park deserves the same level of care and attention, and I believe that with the right resources, it can become a true gem for our community.

I would greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Thank you for your time and continued commitment to making our community a better place for all.

Warm regards,
Cindy Cook