

**City of San Diego**  
**Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 16, 2025**

*“TO PROVIDE HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE, AND ENRICHING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL”*

**Meeting Held by In Person and Teleconference:**

This meeting was held at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom and remotely using the Zoom Webinar platform and was streamed online. The public was invited to join the meeting by phone or computer, as well as invited to submit “Public Comments” in writing via a webform. The form was made available on the Parks and Recreation website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/boards>.

NOTE: Both verbal and written communication were used by Board Members, City staff, and presenters during the meeting. City staff also used the screen-share function to allow viewers to view content shared by the speaker which included PowerPoint presentations and websites.

Before the meeting was called to order, City staff read instructions to the public regarding technical procedures for making live public comment during the webinar.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>City Staff Present</b>
Nick Anastasopoulos Marcella Bothwell (Chair) Dr. Andrea Dooley Shaina Gross Rick Gulley (Vice-Chair) Daniele Laman Dr. Judith Munoz Evelyn Smith Agatha Wein	Martin Armstrong Allison Soares	Laura Ball Ryan Barbrick Benjamin Cartwright (Virtual) Karen Dennison Sarah Erazo Erika Ferreira Salome Martinez Danielle Nourie-Burns Elvi Ricafort Scott Sandel (Virtual) Shannon Scoggins Michelle Abella-Shon Andre Smith Tom Tomlinson (Virtual) Gabriela Verendia

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Bothwell at 2:05 pm.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

**MOTION/SECONDED:**

**Ms. Laman/Mr. Gulley**

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A motion was made by Ms. Laman to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Gulley. The motion was approved 6-0-2 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dr. Judith Munoz, and Agatha Wein. Recused: None. Abstained: Shaina Gross and Evelyn Smith. Not Present: Martin Armstrong, Dr. Andrea Dooley, and Allison Soares.

**Public Comments:**

No public comments on the meeting minutes.

**Board Comments:** None

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Gary Bloom** from Total All Tourism Project provided an update on the project, reporting that he only got yelled at once and it was by someone who designed the Easy Reacher 32 and was raving about the pick-up sticks being the best. Schools and Parks and Recreation Department love the sticks and are using them in their summer programs. Since the program started, Allied Gardens lost an average of 1.17 lost per month. In the last year, San Carlos lost 15, Del Cerro lost two, Lake Murray lost 129 which can be attributed to homeless issue. All four parks average 14 missing sticks per month, the program is going well overall.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Area Committee – Report deferred until discussion item 102 on today’s agenda.
- Balboa Park Committee – Ms. Soares is absent, no report given.
- Mission Bay Park Committee – Dr. Munoz was not at the last meeting but reported that there is a concern about fireworks. Dr. Munoz also had a question about how we will distribute money from SeaWorld. Assistant Director Dennison responded that the decision has not been made yet and we don’t have that information at this time, Parks and Recreation will receive the information from Mayor’s office and will be able to share it publicly at that time. Dr. Munoz asked the City Auditor to look at whether it would be retroactively applied back to 2020 or put into this year’s budget and what the impact would be on Mission Bay Park Improvement fund, because in 2020 the City received \$20M and Regional Parks received their funding, but Mission Bay Park did not. Dr. Munoz was told by the City Auditor that if the funds were applied retroactively, it would be to the benefit of Mission Bay Park. Assistant Director Dennison confirmed that the funding will not go anywhere else, the decision will come from the Mayor’s Office, and we will share more information as soon as it is available.

- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee - Mr. Gulley reported that the last meeting was Tuesday January 7, and the important issues were the remodeling the interior of the Mission Trails Visitors Center and landscaping of the exterior. The bridge for Max project is moving forward and the East County Advanced Water Purification Project will shut down a lot of Mission Trails once it gets started and won't be finished until 2027. The Old Mission Dam Dredging project is completed.
- San Diego Parks Foundation – Chair Bothwell reported that they just had their November and December report and thanked Kim Mathis who has done outstanding work. Impact report for Come Play Outside was 66,000 in total attendance for kids. They have started doing Citywide Sports programs including flag football and fall volleyball, there were 750 attendees. Enhanced winter events at Colina Del Sol, Paradise Hills, South Bay, Linda Vista, Cesar Chavez, Golden Hill, Martin Luther King, Southcrest, Mtn View Memorial, and City Heights and had 3,500 attendees at these events including snow days. Park ambassador program in November graduated 25 new ambassadors. Mountain View Gym floor was completed in 2024. Wi-Fi banners arrived in December 2024. Rancho Bernardo field renovations are in process. Southcrest outdoor court received a donation from Dick's Sporting Goods for fixing courts and putting up new backboards. When the Foundation funds projects, sometimes they use the funds to complete the project and in other cases the funding goes to the City to complete, depending on the project.

**CHAIR COMMENTS:**

Chair Bothwell reported Mayor gave State of the City address yesterday and Parks and Recreation Department is getting a 20% cut across the board. Wi-Fi is considered a utility for kids in communities of concern as well as in the north, considering removing Wi-Fi would be disastrous for the children in the long term who often need this resource for school. Bothwell stressed that parks and libraries are often considered easy to cut but parks are essential for health and encourages the Park Board members to go to Councilmembers on a regular basis and implore them not to look at cutting the Parks and Recreation Department as a first, second, or third option. The Parks Department is in the City Charter and that should be sacrosanct. Ms. Laman asked if Mayor's office is invited to Park Board meetings and that he should hear this discussion. Chair Bothwell reported that they have not been invited in her term on Park Board, but that she will be going to the budget meetings and encourages Board members to go to them as well, as the cuts will affect Citywide maintenance and capital improvement projects. She will send out budget meeting dates once available and they can be brought to Councilmembers offices.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Ms. Laman** shared that the College Area Community plan has been resurrected and has been dormant for years, 70 people attended the community planning meeting this week. The College Area is 90% deficient in park points and space so need to keep an eye on that. The Mid-City Community Plan just started to be updated. Mid-City Community Resource Officer (CRO) is now working with Fire Department Captain from Engine 17 to start clearing

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homeless encampments in parks, canyons, and campgrounds and hopefully other CROs and Captains can team up in order to keep fires out of canyons. City Heights Community Development Corporation (CDC) sponsored snow day along with Parks and Recreation, Ms. Laman attended and received an impromptu tour of Fern Street Circus headquarters building which was former Central Elementary School on Polk Ave and will eventually be turned into housing. If interested, Park and Rec Board may be able to have a presentation by them in the future, Fern Street Circus needs money, and she would like to pass their information on to San Diego Parks Foundation.

**DIRECTORS REPORT:** Assistant Director Karen Dennison (on behalf of Director Field) provided the Board with the following updates:

**Appointments:** The Department is pleased to announce that **Patrick Hadley** has been selected as the new Deputy Director of Mission Bay/Shoreline Parks Division in the Parks and Recreation Department effective January 18, 2025.

Patrick brings a wealth of experience and expertise that will be instrumental in supporting the Parks and Recreation Department's success. Patrick has over 16 years of experience in various roles and departments throughout the City, including the Business Office, as well as the Environmental Services, Public Utilities, and Transportation Departments. Patrick obtained a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from San Diego State University. Most recently, Patrick has served as the Deputy Director of the Streets Division in the Transportation Department for the past three years.

The Department is grateful for **Mayra Medel** for serving as the Interim Deputy Director of the Mission Bay/Shoreline Parks Division over the past six months. Mayra will return to her role as Senior Planner and continue the good work supporting the Division in that capacity. We are indebted to her for her service and leadership of the Division.

**Budget Update:** The City continues to grapple with financial concerns. The Five-Year Financial Outlook suggests a projected \$258.2 million deficit in Fiscal Year 2026.

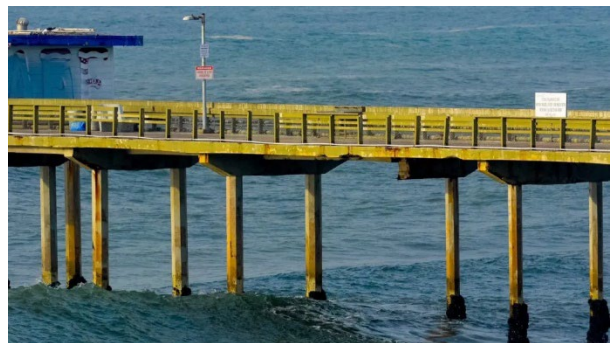
- Measure E, which would have raised sales taxes in the City by one cent, has failed. This would have provided approximately \$400 million in annual revenue to the City and would have addressed the growing deficit.
- On December 24, 2024, Mayor Gloria issued a memorandum outlining immediate actions necessary to address the growing budgetary shortfall within the City, as follows:
  - A strategic hiring freeze that will only allow the City to fill the most mission-critical roles.
  - Suspension of non-essential overtime and expenditures like travel and training.
  - Reduction of outside contracts for professional and consulting services.
  - Evaluating outside leases for opportunities to reduce General Fund expenditures.
  - Examining fees and fines to ensure they're adequately covering the cost of services.

- For the Fiscal Year 2026 proposed budget process, the Department has been asked to prepare a 20% budget reduction sheet. This proposal is currently in development and will likely result in significant service level impacts across the park system if implemented.
- The independent Budget Analyst issued a report analyzing the Mayor's Five-Year Financial Outlook: [https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/25-01-iba-review-of-the-mayor-s-fy-2026-2030-five-year-financial-outlook\\_0.pdf](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/25-01-iba-review-of-the-mayor-s-fy-2026-2030-five-year-financial-outlook_0.pdf).

### **City Parks in the News:**

- The City has not yet experienced extensive winter rains, and a **red flag warning** was issued during the first full week of January due to strong Santa Ana winds and low humidity. These high winds helped develop devastating fires that occurred in the Los Angeles area, reminding all of us in Southern California to be fire safe. Further, high winds can knock down trees and branches. The red flag warnings were covered by several news outlets, including Fox 5: <https://fox5sandiego.com/weather/potentially-strong-santa-ana-winds-prompt-weather-alert-heightened-fire-risk/>.
- The **Farmers Insurance Open** is January 22, 2025, through January 25, 2025, at Torrey Pines Golf Course. The San Diego Union-Tribune (<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2025/01/07/beyond-watching-golf-farmers-insurance-open-to-welcome-all-levels-of-fans-to-la-jolla/>) and other media outlets have begun publicizing the upcoming event, which is one of the most prominent PGA events conducted on a municipal golf course.
- **Golf Digest wrote about Torrey Pines Golf Course** in an article entitled, "You will be shocked by how much money these popular public courses rake in." The article states, "According to the City of San Diego's 2024 Golf Division Business Plan Update— which operates separately from the city's larger budget—the golf enterprise fund has amassed \$39.4 million in reserves. That's on the strength of making \$14.1 million in profit in fiscal year 2024 that ended in June. The golf unit made \$12.2 million in 2022 and \$14 million in '23." Much of this revenue is planned for the upcoming clubhouse replacement project at Torrey Pines. Additionally, the article states that "in a recent review for Golf Digest of its search analytics for the year, Google put it behind only Augusta National Golf Club." This was also reported by the Union-Tribune. Links: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2024/12/10/san-diegos-public-golf-courses-are-raking-in-millions-in-profits-and-helping-fund-some-major-upgrades/> and <https://www.golfdigest.com/story/torrey-pines-municipal-golf-courses-city-san-diego-revenues-profits-green-fees>.
- The Mission Bay Park Committee has written a letter supporting the **end of nightly SeaWorld fireworks in Mission Bay**. Council President Joe LaCava also opposes continued nightly SeaWorld firework shows but would support a smaller number of shows or alternate types of shows (such as drones). The Voice of San Diego covered this: <https://voiceofsandiego.org/2025/01/07/new-san-diego-council-president-wants-to-end-seaworld-fireworks/>.

- A general development plan effort is underway at **South Shores in Mission Bay Park**. The GDP will eventually come to the Parks and Recreation Board but is currently under review by the Mission Bay Park Committee. Some concepts may result in expanded recreational use and development, so long as any development is consistent with the landfill purposes. This was covered by the San Diego Union-Tribune: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2025/01/05/can-a-long-toxic-shoreline-solve-mission-bays-recreation-needs-san-diego-readies-rival-visions-for-south-shores/>.
- As a public safety measure, the City installed **new barriers on Sunset Cliffs** between Adair and Osprey streets due to new cracks found in the bluff area. NBC7 and KPBS covered this in late December 2024: <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/workers-erecting-barricade-on-section-of-sunset-cliffs-after-cracks-worsen/3711210/> and <https://www.kpbs.org/news/environment/2024/12/31/san-diego-will-install-new-barriers-on-sunset-cliffs>.
- On the evening of Christmas Day (December 25, 2024), someone drove in circles through **Pioneer Park** and left “donuts” in the turf of the park. Staff had to clean up the muddy mess left behind. This was covered by NBC7: <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/driver-doing-donuts-in-mission-hills-leaves-muddy-mess-behind-at-pioneer-park/3709575/>.
- During the king tides of late December 2024, the **Ocean Beach Pier** lost another piling. The pier has been closed to the public since 2023 and is not slated for repair. A replacement pier continues to be designed, but construction funds have not been identified. NBC7 covered this:



<https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/ob-pier-takes-another-pounding-from-high-surf-loses-another-piling/3709421/>.

- **Crystal Pier** is currently under repair with construction activity visible from the end of Garnet Avenue. Eight pilings are being replaced, with a goal to complete this work in January 2025. Another phase is planned to fix the substructure later this year so that the pier can reopen to the public. Link: <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/pacific-beach-crystal-pier-repairs/3693246/>.
- Dozens of winter carnivals, breakfasts with Santa, cookie decorating, toy distribution, and much more brought us through the month of December. Many great events were attended by thousands of San Diegans across the City. A major collaboration that brought thousands of people to Teralta Park was with the **City Heights CDC** for a **winter wonderland** complete with snow. It was held on December 14, 2024, and featured not only Santa but also entertainment and food. City Heights staff helped put

on this very successful event. There San Diego covered this event:

<https://theresandiego.com/event/annual-city-heights-cdc-winter-extravaganza/>.

**December Nights** was also very successful at Balboa Park, with hundreds of thousands of people visiting the park and experiencing the newly renovated Botanical Building. Links: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2024/12/02/december-nights-2024-expect-a-ferris-wheel-and-the-newly-renovated-botanical-building/> and <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/in-your-neighborhood/so-youre-going-to-december-nights-where-do-you-and-150000-others-park/3690468/>. Many park staff were involved in putting on these and so many more successful winter and holiday themed events.

### **City Auditor Update:**

The Office of the City Auditor issued two reports related to the park system:

- **Performance Audit of the Mission Bay and San Diego Regional Parks Improvement Funds, Fiscal Year 2023 (Report #OCA-25-04):**  
<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/performance-audit-of-the-mission-bay-and-san-diego-regional-parks-improvement-funds-fy2023.pdf>: This is an annual audit of Mission Bay lease revenues and improvement fund expenditures, and this year there were no recommendations for improved procedures. This audit report will be presented to the Regional Parks Improvement Fund Oversight Committee in early 2025 and to the Mission Bay Improvement Fund Oversight Committee either in December 2024 or early 2025.
- **Hotline Report of Boat Storage Permits (Report #OCA-25-05):**  
<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/hotline-report-of-boat-storage-permits.pdf>: A confidential complaint was received that the boat rack storage program needs procedural improvements, with ten recommendations:
  - Implementing reconciliation procedures to ensure all available permits are offered for sale.
  - Transitioning to online registration software.
  - Revising the permitting process to mitigate current problems of extensive waitlists and permits being renewed in perpetuity.
  - Basing permit fees on benchmarking of what other jurisdictions charge.
  - Considering more efficient storage options.
  - Considering charging more for catamarans or limiting the number of permits available for catamarans.
  - Considering replacing damaged racks and/or adding one or more racks.
  - Identifying racks that need repairs and prioritizing repairs.
  - Developing written policies and procedures for compliance activities.
  - Updating and posting current boat storage applications and permit “Specifications, Rules, and Regulations” sheets online, and ensuring consistency with Department of Motor Vehicles guidance.



This was presented to the Mission Bay Improvement Fund Oversight Committee on January 7, 2025. A summary of findings is available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/highlights-hotline-report-of-boat-storage-permits.pdf>.

### **City Planning Updates:**

- The **Coastal Resilience Master Plan** identifies nature-based solutions along San Diego's coast to improve the resilience of our communities against sea level rise, while benefiting wildlife, habitats and natural coastal resources. On November 18, 2024, City Planning held an **online community webinar** to share information about the planning process, provide an overview of the proposed concept designs and gather feedback from community members. The **Draft Coastal Resilience Master Plan** and **Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)** are available for review on the webpage. To provide feedback on the draft plan, please complete the **feedback form** for one or all project sites. Questions or comments can also be submitted via email to [ClimateResilientSD@sandiego.gov](mailto:ClimateResilientSD@sandiego.gov).
- **Community Plan Updates** – The City Planning Department continues its work on updating community plans as follows:
  - **Mid-City Communities Plan Update:** The City is updating the Mid-City Communities Plan for the first time in 25 years to identify opportunities for new homes, businesses and infrastructure to benefit everyone in Mid-City. The **Draft Mid-City Atlas: Existing Conditions Report** was released online, and feedback is welcome at [PlanMidCity@sandiego.gov](mailto:PlanMidCity@sandiego.gov). Visit [PlanMidCity.org](http://PlanMidCity.org) to learn more about the Plan Update and ways you can participate and subscribe to receive updates. We look forward to hearing from you!
  - **College Area Community Plan Update:** City Planning staff is continuing to work on a discussion draft of the College Area Community Plan Update. A discussion draft is anticipated to be released this winter, and the City Planning Department looks forward to hearing additional feedback from community members. Visit [PlanCollegeArea.org](http://PlanCollegeArea.org) to learn more and subscribe to receive updates.
  - **Clairemont Community Plan Update:** City Planning staff continues to work on a revised draft of the Clairemont Community Plan, incorporating input from the wider community and the Planning Commission. The City Planning Department will share the revised draft for feedback before it is updated and presented to the City Council for consideration. This is anticipated to happen in 2025. Stay updated on the Clairemont Community Plan Update at [ClairemontPlan.org](http://ClairemontPlan.org).

### **Grand Openings/Groundbreakings/Events:**

- Cañon Street Pocket Park opened to the public on November 27, 2024.
- Olive Street Park and the AIDS Memorial opened to the public on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2024.



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- Balboa Park Botanical Building opened to the public on the first day of December Nights, on December 6, 2024.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is coming on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park and Recreation Center. All are invited to attend.

**Upcoming P&R Board Agenda Items:**

- Brush Management Overview – January
- Council Policy 700-42 Community Recreation Group Reform – January
- Joint Use Update – January
- Chollas Creek Flood Mitigation Modifications – February
- Parks Master Plan Update – February or March
- Mid-City Communities Plan Update – To Be Advised

**Other Topics for Discussion:**

Board Comments on Director’s report: Ms. Laman asked Ms. Dennison to check into timeline for renaming Clay Park to Bertha O. Pendleton. Ms. Wein asked about attendance at December Nights event, Ms. Dennison confirmed that she did not specify an exact number but there are typically 350,000 attendees over the two-day event. Ms. Wein has heard that some patrons do not attend due to crowd size, she recommended to expand event to a second weekend or leave some installations/decorations up for viewing outside of event. Ms. Wein would like to lengthen the event and have some of the attractions available on additional days rather than expanding the footprint.

Public comment: Sally Smull of Emerald Hills sked to confirm correct wording for Chollas Creek Flood Mitigation for February meeting. Ms. Dennison confirmed that it is Chollas Creek Flood Mitigation Modifications, which will be included in meeting minutes.

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE:** None

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

**102. Area Committee Reform and Proposed Modification to Parks and Recreation Board Bylaws and seconded**

Mr. Anastasopoulos asked for Item 102 to be placed on the consent agenda, since there is no public comment, and it was discussed last year and today there are handouts with all items that were previously discussed.

Program Manager Salome Martinez was available to respond to questions about the Area Committee Reform and Proposed Modification to Parks and Recreation Board

**MOTION/SECONDED:**

**Mr. Anastasopoulos/Mr. Gulley**

Mr. Anastasopoulos moved to approve the staff recommendation and seconded by Mr. Gulley. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick

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Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Dr. Andrea Dooley, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dr. Judith Munoz, Evelyn Smith, and Agatha Wein. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Martin Armstrong and Allison Soares.

**Public Comments:**

None received.

**Board Comments:**

**Mr. Anastasopoulos** requested to put item 102 on consent agenda, it was discussed last year and today there are handouts with all items that were previously discussed.

**Ms. Gross** asked if the restructure will come with any simultaneous translation for participants and encouraged us to provide that if possible since it is online. Ms. Gross also wanted to ensure that if we are combining two area committees, we rotate locations to include communities of concerns that may have more barriers to access. Ms. Martinez confirmed that we can look into providing translation services and have the transcript on the meeting currently, and the videos are being posted for viewing to reach as large of an audience as possible. Ms. Martinez also confirmed that they will take into consideration rotating the meeting locations to engage participants in all communities.

**Dr. Munoz** asked if we will be modifying bylaws to exclude information on Community Parks I and II and bylaws will not include the combined committee. Ms. Martinez responded that that is going from a formal committee to an open informal information meeting so it will not be in the bylaws.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**101. Year-End Reports for the Parks and Recreation Board and Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee**

Assistant Director Karen Dennison presented the Year-End Reports for the Parks and Recreation Board and Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee.

**MOTION/SECONDED:**

**Ms. Laman/Dr. Dooley**

Ms. Laman moved to approve the Year-End Reports for the Parks and Recreation Board and Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee and was seconded by Dr. Dooley. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Dr. Andrea Dooley, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dr. Judith Munoz, Evelyn Smith, and Agatha Wein. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Martin Armstrong and Allison Soares.

**Public Comments:**

**Diane Ahern** asked if the reports will be posted to the webpage and be part of the minutes. Chair Bothwell responded yes that the reports are also posted to the Parks and Recreation Board website. Year-end reports are attached to the minutes.

**Board Comments:**

None received.

**103. Update on Council Policy 700-42, Community Recreation Groups and Formation of a Working Group**

Deputy Director Sarah Erazo presented the Update on Council Policy 700-43, Community Recreation Groups and Formation of a Working Group.

**MOTION/SECONDED:**

**Mr. Gulley/Dr. Dooley**

Mr. Gulley moved to approve the staff recommendation and was seconded by Dr. Dooley. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Dr. Andrea Dooley, Shaina Gross, Rick Gulley, Daniele Laman, Dr. Judith Munoz, Evelyn Smith, and Agatha Wein. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Martin Armstrong and Allison Soares.

**Public Comments:**

None received.

**Board Comments:**

**Ms. Laman** asked how we are going to implement Parks Master Plan into this because that was adopted after the 2018 working group time frame. Ms. Erazo responded that is something the working group will be receiving as a resource to move forward and look to see how that will impact the policy development process. Ms. Laman also asked what the timeframe will be for contacting previous working group members and how much time they have to respond with their desire to join or not, and if candidates will be taken from the same Council District for those who want to retire off the working group. Ms. Erazo responded that she is looking to get a communication out to the working group by Monday, they will likely be given two weeks to respond. Once vacant seats have been identified, Ms. Erazo will send another communication to the working group chairs to notify them of any vacancies in their Council Districts and accept application as was done in original process of identifying interested candidates, then review applications with existing members and take recommendations from Council offices.

One motion done in two parts: (1) Reinstatement of Group and (2) identification of members previously in group and if they are unwilling to serve then people in their council districts can apply and Councilmembers will be asked for recommendations.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**201. Open Space Brush Management Program Overview**

Deputy Director Erika Ferriera and Project Officer Laura Ball presented the Open Space Brush Management Program Overview.

**Public Comments:**

**Diane Ahern** from University City and active member of the Community Recreation Group (CRG) and Vice President of University City Fire Safe Council shared that Parks and

Recreation Department (P&R) is doing a great job and there is evidence seen of pruning and trimming, but there is a disconnect between community members expecting clear cutting in canyons and wanting more done outside of 100 feet from habitable structures. Dianne Ahern invites Ms. Erika to give this presentation to Fire Safe meetings.

**Anne Fege**, professional forester, retired forest supervisor from Cleveland National Forest, and former chair of Community Forest Advisory Board shared that the brush management regulations are sound but lack implementation as the audit found. For Open Space, work must comply with, Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) agreements, but it was not recognized in audit. When crews leave non-native shrubs and mistakenly remove natives, we lose habitat values, and the City is in violation of MSCP legal requirements. For private properties, the City Fire Department needs staff for inspections, instruction property owners on brush management, and conduct compliance checks. City only checks properties reported as non-compliant and as a result there are neighborhoods with high house ignition issues as a result. When brush management is implemented property, 50% vegetation is retained, and remainder is cut back to 6 inches keeping roots to reduce soil loss, erosion, and slope instability. Remaining vegetation doesn't burn hot enough or close enough to burn structures. If too much vegetation is removed, then nonnative grass takes over and spreads wildfire more quickly. Need more public education.

**Trisha Delgien** of City's Community Forest Advisory Board and Citizens for Responsible Wildlife Risk Reduction contributed to brush management guidelines. She has as generated funding and worked as a volunteer and contractor in watersheds for 25 years. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon in Golden Hill achieved a restoration including removing over 4 acres of invasive, nonnative, flammable plants. Replanting resulted in biodiversity that required minimal maintenance by City crews for over a decade. Evidence is now being recorded that brush management practices are accelerating fire fuel growth in the form of invasive, nonnative plants. The hope is audits will explain what is leading to this. The problem is not Open Space, rather funding, timing, contracting, and lack of City Fire Ecologist. This could possibly be funded through Fire Rescue Department. In partnership with San Diego Coastkeeper, requesting Right of Entry (ROE) for 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon maintenance pilot project to swap fire fuel for habitat to prove that properly vegetated conservation lands reduce fire risks.

**Board Comments:**

**Ms. Laman** asked if data from presentation will be put online with slides that were missed from presentation. Ms. Ferreira confirmed that it will be shared. Ms. Laman asked for the name of the meeting that occurs every three months. Ms. Ferreira responded that it is an internal Department meeting that was required by the audit and is held to discuss how to develop in-house programs, consolidate into Parks and Recreation's program, and establish acreage. The Open Space Canyon Advisory Committee is a separate meeting, Ms. Ferreira provides an update, but discussions of program development occur at internal meetings. Ms. Laman requested a link to join future quarterly Open Space Canyon Advisory Committee meetings. Ms. Ferreira confirmed that a link can be sent. In light of recent wildfires, Ms.

Laman asked if there are more aggressive approaches are proposed at areas that have eucalyptus or palm fronds hanging. Ms. Ferreira responded that Open Space works in collaboration with Fire Rescue and have done community educational events and are happy to do more. After Montezuma Fire, Open Space attended public outreach at local high school and introduced Senior Ranger for outreach and volunteer groups to come in and remove invasives. Park Rangers are happy to lead events with volunteers to clear non-natives and work that is outside of Open Space's brush management program. Open Space works with San Diego Canyonlands who have done three helicopter palm removals utilizing grant funding. Rules of San Diego allows removal of palms and eucalyptus as they are invasive.

**Chair Bothwell** asked how long it takes to get ROE for their own clearing. Ms. Ferreira responded that it could take up to 4 weeks and requires documentation of insurance if a contractor is used. City Attorney signs off on the ROEs.

**Ms. Wein** asked for schedule of efforts. Ms. Ferreira responded that bush clearing is occurring on a 21-22-month cycle. Ms. Wein suggests fire experts from City or County be involved in internal meetings and encourages Open Space to get updates on how experts are measuring how dry fire fuel is and other seasonal information which varies. Some communities in East County have become experts. Ms. Ferreira confirmed she did not speak to Fire Rescue's audit recommendations, but that they do attend Open Space's internal meetings and a request can be made for Fire Rescue to share their recommendations with the Park Board if desired. Fire Rescue looks more at policy whereas Parks and Recreation Department (P&R) works more on a program. Fire Rescue has a grant and they have been testing spraying as a mitigation effort but not everything can be sprayed. P&R is working with Fire Rescue to identify Open Space areas for spraying, there is a Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) that is taken into consideration when choosing locations.

**Chair Bothwell** requested this presentation to be extracted and featured on the P&R's website. Ms. Dennison responded that staff would do this.

**Ms. Laman** requested to have Fire Rescue present at a future meeting. Ms. Ferreira will request this from them.

## **202. Joint Use Program with School Districts**

Landscape Architect Shannon Scoggins presented an update on the Joint Use Program with School Districts.

### **Public Comments:**

**Sally Smull** from Emerald Hills has heard from people in District 4 that the contracts for joint use field in San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) can be as short as one year for community access, and asked if this is correct. Ms. Scoggins responded that the agreements are 25 years as standard and per Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SDUSD, Parks and Recreation Department(P&R) agrees to honor terms of agreement until a new agreement can be entered, so they are essentially in agreement in perpetuity. Synthetic turf fields are an exception because they require replacement sooner and have a 10-year agreement period with the expectation that the City will have the funding to replace the turf.

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Parks and Recreation Board Minutes – **DRAFT**

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**Board Comments:**

**Ms. Laman** asked what the procedure is for public input if agreement expires before entering into a new agreement. Ms. Scoggins responded that the goal is to never have an expired agreement, but in the case that there is a gap then the City would honor the terms of the expired Joint Use Agreement (JUA) until a new agreement can be entered. There can be temporary closures during campus improvements and construction. Ms. Laman asked when does public get input before new MOU is entered. Ms. Scoggins responded that there is no public input for this process when entering a new JUA. The agreements are consistent for all SDUSD sites, following a template that was approved by City Auditors. Agreements are simplified with no financial requirements and financial obligations are included in annual budget process instead. Ms. Laman asked if Community Recreation Group (CRGs) can be notified prior to entering JUAs so they can provide input, and if there is a way to calculate park deficiency for each Council District. Ms. Scoggins responded that she could work with Planning Department to provide park deficiency information and get back to the group about notifying CRGs.

**Chair Bothwell** asked which Joint Use fields have had to close due to dogs. Ms. Scoggins responded that most closures are not due to progressive signage warning program and are only closed at certain times due to impact on students.

**Chair Bothwell** requested a list and additional information via email. Ms. Scoggins added that a lot of facilities are going through whole site modernization, so we are looking at a significant partial closure of joint use facilities for construction. Every time a school district closes a facility, they send Parks and Recreation a formal letter, and these can be added to the joint use webpage.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Copies of the reports, attachments, PowerPoint presentations, and audio–video recordings can be found on the Parks and Recreation Department website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/reports>.

**Next Calendared Meeting: February 20, at 2:00 p.m.**

Submitted by,

Karen Dennison  
Assistant Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

ATTACHMENT – Year-end reports from Item 101



# STANDARDIZED REPORT OF CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

## ADVISORY BOARD NAME: PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AND REGIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

### 1. MISSION AND DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD



Authority for the Parks and Recreation Board includes:

- [San Diego Municipal Code, Chap. II, Art 6, Sec. 26.30](#), adopted 4-2-1964
  - Amended by [Ordinance O-15539](#), adopted 7-6-1981
  - Amended by [Ordinance O-19876](#), adopted 7-9-2009
- [Section 43 of City Charter](#) - amended 11-4-1969, effective 1-29-1970.
- [Section 42 of City Charter](#) - Membership Selection - addition voted 11-6-1973, effective 12-7-1973.
- [Council Policy 000-13](#). Resolution R-218871, 7-2-1977.

It is the purpose and intent of the City Council to establish a policy advisory board on matters relating to the acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of parks, beaches and recreation property and facilities and that the Parks and Recreation Board will, along with other duties, perform the functions of the former Park and Recreation Commission. Effective July 1, 2009, the Parks and Recreation Board shall also fulfill the role of the San Diego Regional Parks Improvement Fund Oversight Committee as described in Charter Section 55.2. In order to fulfill the responsibilities under Charter section 55.2, new qualifications are established to ensure each member is qualified to perform effective oversight.

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. OUTREACH

**i** The purpose and intent of the Parks and Recreation Board is to 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 the recreational program; 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 Charter Section 55.2.

Outreach by the Parks and Recreation Board and the Regional Parks Improvement Fund Oversight Committee was conducted by placing meeting agendas, minutes, reports, public comment, and related materials onto their shared webpage. See <https://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/meetings> for more information.

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.

### 3. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND LETTERS OF REQUEST

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

- Adoption of Parks and Recreation Board 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 (5/16/2024, 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's Community Hero Award (Mr. Gary Blume, Total Altruism Project) (9/19/2024, Item 101)
- Windansea Memorial Plaque Program (10/17/2024, Item 102)
- 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 (01/18/2024, Item 101)
- Reallocation of Funds to Various Projects (01/18/2024, Item 102)
- Reallocation of Funds to Crystal Pier Emergency Project (04/18/2024, Item 101)
- Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Park Improvement Fund (RPIF) Budget - May Revision (06/20/2024, 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)

#### 4. ADVISORY BODY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

**i** As indicated in City Charter Section 43, the **Parks and Recreation Board** is consultative and advisory to the Mayor, Council, and City Manager. It does not direct the conduct of any Department or Division. The Parks and Recreation Board provides recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Department Director for updates to the recreation element for community plan updates; new or modified park master plans, precise plans, and/or general development plans (including the Play All Day Program for joint use facilities with San Diego Unified School District); and naming and renaming park facilities. The Board met ten times in 2024, as follows:

- 01/18/2024
- 02/15/2024
- 03/21/2024
- 04/18/2024
- 05/16/2024
- 06/20/2024
- 07/18/2024
- 09/19/2024
- 10/17/2024
- 11/21/2024

See <https://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/meetings> for more information.

The **Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee** approved the Regional Park Improvement Fund Budget, approved reallocations of Regional Park Improvement Fund between capital improvement projects, and the committee received informational updates on the status of Mission Bay lease revenues and the annual audit of the fund. The Oversight Committee met seven times in 2024, as follows:

- 01/18/2024
- 03/21/2024
- 04/18/2024
- 06/20/2024
- 09/19/2024
- 10/17/2024
- 11/21/2024

## 5. MEETING CANCELLATIONS

**i** The **Parks and Recreation Board** followed its adopted meeting schedule. It had no meeting cancellations and no special meetings in 2024.

The **Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee** had meeting cancellations on the following dates:

- 02/15/2024 due to no agenda items
- 05/16/2024 due to no agenda items
- 07/18/2024 due to no agenda items

The Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee met its requirement to have quarterly meetings per City Charter Section 55.2.

**Both advisory bodies did not meet in August or December in accordance with the approved meeting calendar for 2024.**

## 6. COUNCIL NOMINATED SEATS

**i** **Appointment Process for the Parks and Recreation Board and Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee:** Each member is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Mayoral appointments are based on nominations from Councilmembers. For more information on current board seats, see <https://onboard.sandiego.gov/board/3406>.

	<b>Board Member Name</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>Term End Date</b>	<b>Term #</b>	<b>Council Resolution</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Nick Anastasopoulos <i>District 5, Rancho Bernardo</i>	6/21/18	3/1/26	4	R-315616	Active
2	Martin Armstrong <i>District 2, Clairemont</i>	6/13/24	3/1/25	1	R-315616	Active
3	Marcella Bothwell <i>District 1, Pacific Beach</i>	6/21/18	3/1/26	4	R-315616	Active
4	Dr. Andrea Dooley <i>District 7, San Carlos</i>	6/13/24	3/1/25	1	R-315616	Active
5	Shaina Gross <i>District 7, San Carlos</i>	7/21/22	3/1/26	2	R-315616	Active
6	Rick Gulley <i>District 1, Carmel Valley</i>	7/20/18	3/1/26	4	R-315616	Active
7	Daniele Laman <i>District 9, Talmadge</i>	4/25/23	3/1/26	2	R-315616	Active
8	Dr. Judith Muñoz <i>District 2, Clairemont</i>	6/13/24	3/1/26	1	R-315616	Active
9	Evelyn Smith <i>District 4, Encanto Neighborhoods</i>	6/14/21	3/1/25	2	R-315141	Active
10	Allison Soares <i>District 3, North Park</i>	10/4/23	3/1/25	1	R-315141	Active
11	Agatha Wein <i>District 9, Mountain View</i>	6/13/24	3/1/25	1	R-315616	Active

## 7. EXPIRED MEMBERSHIP

**i** No Board Members are on expired terms. For more information on current board seats, see <https://onboard.sandiego.gov/board/3406>.

## 8. TRAINING

**i** All Board Members are current on their training requirements including the Office of Boards and Commissions training session.

## 9. ASSISTANCE TO THE ADVISORY BODY

**i** Parks and Recreation Department staff set up the Balboa Park Club Ballroom, Department IT Staff set-up the audio-visual equipment, and other staff from Parks and Recreation, Planning, Engineering and Capital Projects, and other departments presented agenda items. The estimated staff hours of assistance to the Board takes approximately 80 to 120 hours per month or 800 to 1200 per calendar year depending on size of agenda and what issues/topics arise during the year.

Throughout 2024, Board and Oversight Committee meetings were hybrid, with options to attend either in-person at the Balboa Park Club or virtually via Zoom. Given this interface, each meeting requires extensive set up with the Department's IT and Administrative Services Division. Work is underway to acquire new audio-visual equipment for the Balboa Park Club to improve the hybrid meeting experience via PEG funding.

## 10. VOLUNTEER HOURS

**i** Board members are expected to attend meetings, review written materials in advance of the meeting, and respond to requests from staff to confirm attendance at meetings. Each meeting generally takes between one and three hours generally between 2 and 5 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month excluding August and December. Travel time to and from the meeting venue (Balboa Park Club) likely averages around an hour for each member (depending on where they live and time of day). Each member likely spends one to two hours reviewing meeting materials prior to the board or oversight committee meeting. In total, this would account for an average of about five to eight hours per month of volunteerism per member, or about 50 to 90 hours per month or 550 to 990 hours per year, assuming all 11 members are seated, and none are vacant.

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

*January 16, 2025*

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1. *Executive Summary*
2. *Mission Statement*
3. *Overview of the Year*
4. *Key Accomplishments*
5. *Challenges Faced*
6. *Goals for Next Year*
7. *Conclusion*
8. *Appendices (if applicable)*

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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
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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)
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- University Community Plan Update (5/16/2024, Item 104)
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- 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)
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- 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*





## **\*\*Contact Information\*\***

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