

CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ADAMS COMMUNITY RECREATION GROUP
MINUTES/PUBLIC MEETING
Tuesday, 28 May 2024
6:00 PM

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Baross – Chairperson
Nancy Lawler – NHCPG
Mark Lawler – Member
Connie Terwilliger – Ward Canyon Waggers

STAFF

Fernando Jumillas – Center Director
Sara Al-Agha – Council District 9
Jenny Hall – Community Relations Officer
Michele Chicarelli – Area Manager II

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cameron Fagundes – Member
Dennis Reiter – NHUA
Kim Emerson – Corresponding Secretary
Chandler Galt – Mid-City Little League
Ellen Stone – Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Jim Baross.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved/seconded (C. Terwilliger/N. Lawler) to approve February 2024 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously (4-0-0.)

COMMUNICATIONS

(limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to five (5) minutes and is not debatable.)

No agenda changes noted.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Minutes for January 2024 not yet available in printed form so approval was tabled. (They were, however, provided to members as an email attachment.)

ORGANIZATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

San Diego Police Department/Community Relations Officer – Officer Jenny Hall

- Follow-up about Gary (owner of a canyon house) reporting, over zoom, that an unknown person was in their backyard. Wife saw stranger. Jenny visited house, took pictures, and reported to CalTrans on their web site. Jenny determined that the event took place on CalTrans property, the complaint was already on CalTrans' web site, and the City would not be involved. Jenny met Gary's dog again. Jenny advised Gary's wife to call 911 if situation occurs again.

- Neighborhood Policing Units have been following-up on “a lot of Get It Done” reports, especially at Ward Canyon Park. Graffiti concerns have been discussed with Michele.
- On 29 April 2024, 6-10 juveniles reported to be drinking alcohol.
- Nothing major otherwise reported which impacts Normal Heights.

There were no questions asked of Jenny after this report.

*Jim mentioned that Business Association and Parks & Recreation are major players in addressing graffiti abatement. People have volunteered to clean graffiti. Specifically mentioned were steps at apartments on 35th Street.

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORTS

Michele Chicarelli, Area Manager

- Cinder blocks as debris from construction will be addressed.
- Graffiti removal supplies arrived: 6 bottles of graffiti remover, 1 spray bottle, a bag of rags. *Jim asked if remover is toxic. Michele said it is and offered to add latex gloves to removal kits. Michele reminded that remover safety directions are to be followed. Remover is intended for hard surfaces (cement, for example) but not anything porous. P&R can paint any tables which have been graffitied. Connie asked what other items are identified as “hard surface.” Michele said signs and wrought iron park benches are additional hard surfaces. Jim noted that murals appear to help discourage graffiti and to thank the Business Association and NHUA. Connie told personal anecdote about graffiti on her studio wall years ago. Connie said she painted a mural herself and there’s not be a graffiti recurrence.
- Michele very excited about opening front door of center. She mentioned new locks and being mindful about staff safety.
- They will install plexiglass “barricade/window.” Jim asked if front door could be open while staff was on the field.
- They addressed the challenge of relocating the center director’s I.T. equipment into a different location in the same room.
- Graffiti remains challenge and that Mark is doing a good job.
- Lydia Marshall’s note was referenced by Michele. Lydia is the engineer and planner for the tear-down of the vacant building on the corner of Ward Canyon Park. Should be demolished by the end of Summer. There might be a mural painted by children from Tijuana on the vacant building. Jim suggested including to NHUA. Connie offered NHUA emails to Michele.
- Demolition contractors will try to keep the ficus tree.
- Michele said the building has mold and is unsafe.
- Jim asked about any historical documents currently in the vacant building and opened a discussion about including community members or groups who collect historical documents and store them at the NH community center. Jim mentioned Pete Amaristo (spell?) and Suzanne Lenneber (spell?) and Paul.
- Nancy mentioned an old filing cabinet in the vacant building.
- Connie suggested Scott from Adams Post

- Michele says she has keys for the vacant building.

City Council District 9 Representative

Sara Al-Agha

- Sara encouraged members to sign up for council updates by using a QR code and passed around a paper with QR.
- Scott Wahl was named Police Chief and he takes office on 7 June 2024.
- P&R is monitoring the potential tearing down a building at Ward Canyon Park

Sara asked if anyone had questions.

Little League – No report.

NHCA – No report.

NHUA – Kim not present. Michele said Kim sent email about taking a hiatus, mentioned success of mural dedication, and is working on ongoing projects.

NHCPG – Nancy Lawler spoke about Benton Place ADU construction. Jim noted it's been many months since a building project brought before NHCPG. Nancy said they had a special meeting to approve.

ADAMS ELEMENTARY – No report.

WARD CANYON WAGGERS, Connie Terwilliger

Connie wants to continue to pursue the confusing relationship between CalTrans and the City on relinquishing the portion of 40th Street and learn who is using the street today. She is seeking information about who is using the street the last several years; noting dirt movers and clean-up. She mentioned the "ridiculous" amount of \$5,000,000 reported by CalTrans for the reconfiguration. She expressed concern about investigation of reconfiguration impeding the ongoing development of Ward Canyon Park. Square footage of dog park is a concern. Jim stated that he, Connie, and Paul (NHCPG) walked the site on Saturday, 25 May 2024. Jim's take-away is that CalTrans wants \$5,000,000 to give up their space. He understands that the City will continue to use the roadway and onramp. Michele mentioned that ramp might remain unchanged but the traffic light might become obsolete. Michele said that the park might be able to use the land up to the end of the wall. Connie noted that different agencies offer differing reports. Sara mentioned her office was included on an email about this. Connie asked if the \$5,000,000 quote means that it might be made of gold. Jim restated that the most square footage for park use is the goal. Sara asked for any emails Connie could share. Connie said she had "off thread" correspondence with Andy Field from Parks and Recreation. She said Andy re-introduced Jason. Connie told Sara she would send correspondence. Connie restated request for land use clarification and \$5,000,000 explanation. Jim reminded the group that irrespective of what CalTrans says, other entities/agencies might impact the final result. Connie restated that the price tag moved from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 without explanation. Connie says she has

emails and phone numbers as a result of her investigation. Nancy mentioned the residents are impacted by the dust.

CENTER DIRECTOR REPORT, Fernando Jumillas

- Springtime soccer season is wrapping up.
- They are getting ready for Summertime programming. There will be 9 weeks of camp with 3 sports: basketball, flag football, and futsal (indoor soccer.)
- They need tennis balls.

Jim asked Fernando where the play basketball. Fernando said North Park Gym. Connie asked Fernando about back-up coverage for this site when he might be away because of some closure occurrences under the previous director. Fernando says the basketball staff will be with the basketball team while, simultaneously, staff will be at this site. Jim expressed pleasure about this site having gate open and bathrooms available. Jim told anecdotal story about his time at City Heights Recreation Center. Connie recalled the secret password was swordfish.

ACTION ITEMS Adoption (Each item requires individual action) –

- Jim says Adam Shaemes (spell?) has attended meetings and wants to be a member. Under current bylaws, he has not attended enough consecutive meetings yet. Connie asked if Jim has Adam's email and to encourage Adam to attend more meetings.
- Prior to today, Michele spoke with Jim about bylaws being updated; specifically about attendance requirements for membership. Jim provided printed "boiler plate" draft bylaws which are similar to those adopted by NHCPG which have reduced the hurdle of becoming a member.
- Jim said he, Connie, Paul, and others visited Ward Canyon Park on Saturday, 25 May 2024, to address the larger (currently not in use) gated dog area on the Southern end to be repurposed as a community garden. A water meter was discovered and is being investigated for potential use for the proposed community garden. Michele asked to learn if meter owned by P&R or leftover from old residences. Paul will contact Lois Miller about community garden. Connie said that there is an 11' buffer along the residences. It appears the slope is good to keep overflow from impacting residences. Jim asked that temporary garden be addressed sooner rather than later. Jim asked for motion about temporary use of land as community garden. Connie so moved and Mark seconded. Motion passed unanimously (4-0-0.)

WORKSHOP ITEMS – None noted.

INFORMATION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim mentioned a new bridge proposed at the base of Mission Valley. It will be near the Fenton Park library. This new bridge will provide passage across the river.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – The next ACRG meeting will be on Tuesday 25 June 2024.

Submitted by Kenny Patrick (619) 300-5535

THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATE FORMATS UPON REQUEST BY CONTACTING
THE RECREATION CENTER DIRECTOR AT (619) 235-1149