

**City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 21, 2021**

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

Meeting Held by Teleconference:

This meeting was held remotely using the Microsoft Teams platform and livestreamed via the City of San Diego Public Meetings [YouTube channel](#):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-4gY2k1D1kzb25QM-O3eg>

NOTE: Both verbal and written communication were used by Board members, City staff, and presenters during the meeting. Board members and City staff utilized the chat function in Microsoft Teams to share comments and web links which were visible to those who viewed 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.

Members Present	Members Absent	City Staff Present
Katherine Johnston, Chair Dennis Otsuji, Vice-Chair Nick Anastasopoulos David Baron Jon Becker Marcella Bothwell Ron Cho Rick Gulley Noli Zosa	Bobby Hughes (excused)	Andy Field, Director Michelle Abella-Shon Marisol Aguilar Rick Bollinger Christina Chadwick Charles Daniels Karolynn Estrada-Sparlin Mike Rodrigues Scott Sandel Jennifer Scott Shelly Stowell Mike Tully Vicram Vettiyil Nancy Zamora-Hudson

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Johnston at 2:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2020

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Gulley/Mr. Baron

A motion was made by Mr. Gulley and seconded by Mr. Baron to approve the November 19, 2020 Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved 6-0-3 and passed with the following vote: Yea: David Baron, Marcella Bothwell, Rick Gulley, Katherine

Johnston, Dennis Otsuji, and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: Nick Anastasopoulos, Jon Becker, and Ron Cho. Not Present: Bobby Hughes.

NON-ADOPTION AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT – None

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Board. (Comments relating to items on today’s Agenda are shared at the time the item is heard.)

Note: No (0) Non-Adoption Agenda Public Comments

REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair may entertain a motion by any Board Member to approve any agenda item as consent when no public comments have been submitted in favor or in opposition to the item. Items approved on consent are approved in accordance with staff’s recommendation as reflected on the agenda and described in the Staff Report to the Park and Recreation Board, unless otherwise noted in the motion. At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as “Consent” items.

Note: No (0) Public Comments were received for Action Item 105 and Action Item 106

A motion was made by Mr. Otsuji and seconded by Mr. Baron to place on the Consent Agenda Action Item 105 Hidden Trails Neighborhood Park General Development Plan; and Action Item 106 Park and Recreation Board & Regional Park Improvement Fund (RPIF) Oversight Committee’s Annual Standardized Report of City Boards & Commissions.

MOTION: **MOVED/SECONDED** **Mr. Otsuji /Mr. Baron**

A motion was made by Mr. Otsuji and seconded by Mr. Baron to recommend approval of Action Item 105 Hidden Trails Neighborhood Park General Development Plan; and Action Item 106 Park and Recreation Board & Regional Park Improvement Fund (RPIF) Oversight Committee’s Annual Standardized Report of City Boards & Commissions. The motion was approved 8-0-1 and passed with the following vote: Yea: David Baron, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Katherine Johnston, Dennis Otsuji, and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: Nick Anastasopoulos. Not Present: Bobby Hughes.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMUNICATIONS – None

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee – Mr. Otsuji reported that no meeting had been held.

Community Parks II Area Committee – Representative not present

Balboa Park Committee

- Chair Johnston reported that the Balboa Park Committee had had a very productive meeting the night before discussing the framework for the future of Balboa Park. They had talked about long-term planning efforts.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – Mr. Zosa reported that no meeting had been held.

San Diego Parks Foundation

- Ms. Bothwell reported that the San Diego Parks Foundation (SDPF) had partnered with Feeding San Diego, Albertsons/Pavilions/Vons, and through a grant from "Nourishing Neighbors Community Relief," had provided almost 160 thousand meals to kids.
- She also noted that the Foundation had completed setting-up free wi-fi for 17 of the 25 Recreation Centers in most vulnerable SD Communities. The City will be picking up wi-fi for five or six of those Recreation Centers.
- There was no Tree Planting Ribbon Ceremony at Bay Terraces due to the current pandemic. However, she stated that the Foundation would be planting trees at Willie Henderson Sports Complex next.
- Ms. Bothwell announced that the Foundation would be partnering with UCSD and UCLA in a research study of green space and longevity. She expressed that the data would be useful for the Parks Master Plan. She recommended the public visit their website at SanDiegoParksFoudation.org

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Baron requested that a future Board Meeting include a report from Animal Control regarding recent activity and the number of citations issued at non-dog parks. He specifically requested information be provided about citations at Franklin Elementary Joint Use and information regarding the agency's response time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Andy Field greeted Board Members and meeting participants. He gave the following update on the Department's status:

- COVID-19
 - Health order 12/9/20 – regional stay at home order.
 - Southern California Region Triggers – case rate, ICU capacity, hospitalization rates.
 - Youth and Adult Sports Industry Guidance – 12/14/20 – assigns each sport a risk category based on indoor/outdoor, level of contact, and ability to sanitize.
 - Mayor Gloria Executive Order – 12/30/20 – calls for stronger enforcement of state and county public health orders.

- City Council approval of fee waiver – 1/12/21 – for brick and mortar businesses to conduct business in parks during duration of pandemic.
- Proposed FY 2022 Budget Development and FY 2021 Budget Monitoring
 - Council Budget Priority Memos issued and to Budget Committee yesterday 1/20/21.
 - 4/15/21 release of Mayor’s Proposed Budget
- Five-Year Capital Outlook at Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on 1/27/21.
- Mayor’s State of the City – held on 1/14/21.
- Letter to Community Recreation Groups regarding status of updates to Council Policy 700-42 – sent to Board members on 1/5/21.
- Balboa Park
 - Botanical Building – proposals will soon be received
 - Framework for the Future – Balboa Park Committee meeting of 1/20/21; focus on project prioritization, mobility, and funding/governance.
- Mission Trails Regional Park
 - Draft Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement between City of San Diego and County of San Diego was approved by Task Force this morning (1/21/21) and will go to the Committee on the Environment next week (1/28/21).
- San Diego Parks Foundation – thank you for all you do!
 - Wi-Fi expansion underway at multiple recreation centers
 - Food distribution program continues at multiple park locations in partnership with SDPF
 - SDPF continues to fundraise to assist the park system
- Unclassified Recruitments – Interviews in February for the following positions:
 - Deputy Directors for Community Parks II, Developed Regional Parks, and Open Space
 - Assistant Deputy Director for MADs
- Golf
 - John Howard Acting Assistant Deputy Director appointment while Scott Bentley is on assignment as Interim Deputy Director for Golf Operations.
 - Farmers Insurance Open coming January 27-31, 2021 but will be on TV only.
- Pickleball – analysis continues and will be an upcoming discussion item for the Board:
 - Inventory underway.
 - Conflict with tennis court striping.

- Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders by American Red Cross of Southern California to Victor Gomez-Cervantes
 - <https://timesofsandiego.com/life/2021/01/05/san-diego-parks-and-recreation-employee-earns-red-cross-award-for-saving-life/>
 - Victor Gomez-Cervantes, a Park and Recreation Department employee, was given the Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders, one of the highest awards given by the Red Cross.
 - “We’re proud to honor Victor for his quick thinking and immediate response,” said Sean Mahoney, regional CEO of the American Red Cross. “His willingness to put his training into action truly embodies the spirit and mission of the Red Cross.”
 - Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the San Diego Convention Center was established as a temporary homeless shelter.
 - Last June 18, Gomez-Cervantes was working when he went into the bathroom and noticed a man lying on the floor. He quickly put on his personal protective equipment and directed another individual to call 911 and to notify the onsite firefighters. He performed an assessment by checking the man’s pulse and breathing then immediately started performing chest compressions.
 - An on-site nurse arrived to assist and helped to administer two doses of Naloxone, but the man did not respond. Gomez-Cervantes, with the help of another bystander, resumed chest compressions until Emergency Medical Services personnel arrived on site to stabilize the man.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Proposed Adjustment in Hours for Leashed Dogs Access in Mission Bay Park

Presenters: Mike Rodrigues, District Manager, Parks and Recreation Department
Christina Chadwick, Assistant Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation

Department

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Requested Action

NOTE: No (0) Public Comments were received for Action Item 101.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Baron /Mr. Gulley

A motion was made by Mr. Baron and seconded by Mr. Gulley to recommend approval of **Item 101 Proposed Adjustment in Hours for Leashed Dogs Access in Mission Bay Park**. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos (via text), David Baron, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Katherine Johnston, Dennis Otsuji and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None). Not Present: Bobby Hughes.

102. Mission Gorge Neighborhood Park General Development Plan

Presenters: Scott Sandel, ASLA, Parks Designer, Planning Department
Glen Schmidt, FASLA Principal, Schmidt Design, Consulting Landscape

Architect

Darrell Malamut, Senior Vice President, G.H Palmer Associates

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Requested Action

NOTE: Six (6) Public Comments were received for Action Item 102.

Action Item 102 – Comment #1

Name: Kelly Moden

Comments: (Letter of Support was attached)

Dear Members of the Park and Recreation Board,

I submit this letter in support of the proposed 5.3 acre-population-based Mission Gorge Neighborhood Park General Development Plan (“Mission Gorge Park”) located within the Allied Gardens Community and associated with the Shawnee Master Plan project, a mixed-use community consisting of 996 multi-family residential units as well as commercial and retail opportunities in the Navajo Community Plan area.

As a resident of the community, I am pleased to see a variety of neighborhood park amenities provided by the Mission Gorge Park. The children’s play area and multipurpose turf provide an opportunity for families to utilize the park. I also appreciate the walking paths, multipurpose courts, and exercise nodes provided in the park that provide opportunities for exercise throughout the park. And of course, appreciate the dog park that accommodates our family’s pets.

I am very pleased with the design of Mission Gorge Park and respectfully urge the members of the Park and Recreation Board to approve the Mission Gorge Park.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kelly Moden

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Action Item 102 – Comment #2

Name: Rob Hutsel

Comments:

The San Diego River Park Foundation supports the Mission Gorge Neighborhood Park GDP as submitted. The plan strikes a balance of multiple interests while at the same time adhering to the City of San Diego's River Park Master Plan.

Importantly, this GPD provides for the required segment of the regional San Diego River Trail, a multi-use pathway, as well as the extension of the River Trail to the adjacent

properties. The plan respects the important natural resources of the River while providing a range of opportunities to serve the community. Many years ago, the San Diego River Park Foundation worked closely with the community to provide for this 5+ acre park. We worked with the applicant and fully support the plan as submitted. On behalf of our 40,000 supporters we thank you for your time and ask for your support. Thank you

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Action Item 102 – Comment #3

Name: Donna Warlock

Comments:

Council District 7 has pursued the installation of a dog park for many years. This is a sprawling district of single homes, town homes, and condos, with many residents having one or more pet dogs. There is no place suitable for dogs to run free, interact with other dogs, and just be dogs.

The “Mission Gorge Neighborhood Park General Development Plan” originally included a decent size dog park, but this has been scaled down to an almost useless size. Please help us obtain a functional dog park for this large council district.

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Action Item 102 – Comment #4

Name: David Smith

Comments: (Letter of Support was attached)

Dear Members of the Park and Recreation Board,

As a local business owner in the Grantville/Allied Gardens community, I submit this letter in support of the proposed 5.3 acre-population-based Mission Gorge Neighborhood Park General Development Plan (“Mission Gorge Park”) located within the Shawnee Master Plan project, a mixed-use community consisting of 996 multi-family residential units as well as commercial and retail opportunities in the Navajo Community Plan area.

The Mission Gorge Park provides a diverse range of neighborhood amenities that were developed in response to community input. In addition to the walking paths, river trails, and picnic areas, the Mission Gorge Park offers much needed community amenities like the children’s play area and off-leash dog park. The inclusion of the multipurpose courts and multipurpose turfs create the opportunity for a flexible use of space for a variety of activities to serve our diverse community.

We are very pleased with the ultimate design of Mission Gorge Park and we respectfully urge the members of the Park and Recreation Board to approve the Mission Gorge Park.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
David Smith

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Action Item #102 – Comment #5

Name: Terry Cords

Comments:

I am the chair of the Allied Gardens Rec Council which oversee agenda item 102. We held a series of public Zoom mtgs on the project and on November 23, 2020 voted in favor of the project as planned by the developer.

The single issue of contention was the size of a dog park within the park area. The council decided the planned development park was not the proper location for a full-size dog park. There are 2 other areas being looked at in the Navajo area for possible use as a dog park. The G.H. Palmer will be an asset to the Navajo community and will serve many community members. It is not a good or proper location for a full-size dog park.

I ran out of space in my previous comment. I want to add this is a good project for the Navajo Community (Allied Gardens, Grantville, San Carlos, and Del Cerro). This project will help the Grantville community with badly needed park and recreation space and activities. This project should be approved by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board.

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Action Item #102 – Comment #6

Name: Councilmember Raul Campillo

Comments:

As a neighbor in Mission Valley, I support the proposal for Mission Gorge Park. The green open space in this park provides a natural space for nearby families to enjoy. I believe this proposal will increase quality of life for all our neighbors and help us build community.

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There was a long discussion by the Board Members regarding the provision of a comfort station at Mission Gorge Neighborhood Park.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Zosa /Mr. Becker

A motion was made by Mr. Zosa and seconded by Mr. Becker to recommend approval, with strong Board advisement for provision of a comfort station and maintenance there-of, for Item 102 Mission Gorge Neighborhood Park General Development Plan. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos (via text), David Baron, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Katherine Johnston, Dennis Otsuji and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None). Not Present: Bobby Hughes.

103. Botanical Building Naming Opportunities & Donor Acknowledgement

Presenters: Christina Chadwick, Assistant Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department

 Jackie Higgins, Director of Planning, Design, and Programs, Balboa Park Conservancy

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Requested Action

NOTE: No (0) Public Comments were received for Action Item 103.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Otsuji /Mr. Baron

A motion was made by Mr. Otsuji and seconded by Mr. Baron to recommend approval of Item 103 Botanical Building Naming Opportunities & Donor Acknowledgement. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos (via text), David Baron, Jon Becker, Marcella Bothwell, Ron Cho, Rick Gulley, Katherine Johnston, Dennis Otsuji and Noli Zosa. Nay: (None). Recused: (None). Abstained: (None). Not Present: Bobby Hughes.

INFORMATION ITEM - None

WORKSHOP - None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 pm.

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

The meeting can be viewed via the City's Public Meetings [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-4gY2k1D1ikzb25QM-O3eg) (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-4gY2k1D1ikzb25QM-O3eg>).

Next Calendared Meeting:

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Submitted by,



Andy Field
Director
Parks and Recreation Department