

MINUTES

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

November 14, 2007

Meeting Held at:

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Department
202 C Street, M.S. 35
San Diego, California 92101-3860

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Wilbur Smith - Chair
Fred Blecksmith – Vice Chair
Vincent Marchetti
Dennis Otsuji
Michael Theilacker
Rodger Utt
Stuart White
Marian Marum
Don Leonard
Dann Mallec
Jim Winter – Staff Representative

Absent:

Kathryn Fulhorst (Excused)
Simon Andrews (Excused)

CALL TO ORDER–The meeting was called to order by Chair Smith at 8:40 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY, 2007 MEETING

Approved: Vote: 9-0

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

COMMUNICATIONS – None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Chair Smith introduced himself since this was his first meeting as Chair of the DRC. He was appointed to the position by the Park and Recreation Board. Mr. Smith worked for the Park and Recreation Department from 1980 to 1992.

STAFF REPORT – Mr. Winter passed out the new roster of Park and Recreation Board members, the new roster of the Design Review Committee members and a listing of the various committees of the Park and Recreation Board. He also passed out organizational charts for the Park Planning Section within the City Planning and Community Investment Department, the Architectural, Engineering and Parks Division within Engineering and Capital Projects Department and the Administration Division of the Park and Recreation Department. Mr. Winter announced the appointment of Gary Stromberg to Assistant Director of the Park and Recreation Department, David Monroe as the Deputy Director of Community Parks II Division, Clay Bingham as Deputy Director of Community Parks I Division and Andy Field as the Assistant Deputy Director of the Maintenance Assessment Districts. A flyer regarding the Poinsettia display within Balboa Park was distributed to DRC members.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

ACTION ITEM 1:

Fiesta Island – General Development Plan (GDP)

City Staff: Paul Jacob, Associate Engineer, Park & Recreation Department

Presenters: Mike Singleton, Principal, KTU+A

Public Speakers: Judy Swink

Mr. Jacob gave a general overview of the project and discussed the history to date of the project. He reported that the project was approved by the Mission Bay Park Committee on September 11, 2007 by a vote of 9 in favor and 5 opposed. Mr. Jacob then introduced Mr. Singleton to make the presentation.

Mr. Singleton gave a PowerPoint presentation and briefly discussed all aspect of the proposed GDP. Since this is a rather complicated project, Mr. Singleton's overview was general in nature and he did not go into the details of the proposed plan. The presentation lasted about 30 minutes.

Ms. Judy Swink spoke in favor of the proposed plan. Although Ms. Swink is a member of the Mission Bay Park Committee, she made it clear she was not there to speak on behalf of the committee. She was there as a member of the community that has been following the development of this plan over the past few years.

Upon completion of the GDP presentation, the DRC members asked questions and received clarification of several aspects of the proposed plan. The questions and comments were generally:

- The overall impression of the proposed plan by the DRC members was positive and they support making regional park type improvements to Fiesta Island.
- Questioned why there wasn't any revenue generating development proposed. The answer given had to do with the 25% limit of the land area within the park that can be leased for private use as well as the fact that this would not be in conformance with the Master Plan for the park..
- A concern was expressed regarding the large areas set aside for off-leash use. Mr. Singleton explained that the plan tries to accommodate existing users as much as possible. The current fenced off-leash area is about the size of the proposed fenced off-leash areas. It is not the intent of the plan to set City-wide off-leash policy. Since dogs on-leash or off-leash are not permitted anywhere else in Mission Bay Park, off-leash areas on Fiesta Island are considered to be an appropriate use.

A question was brought up about joint use of the fenced off-leash area and how well would the turf survive. Mr. Singleton explained that the area is large enough for the off-leash activities to be spread out and that a salt tolerant turf type would be used to help mitigate the typical turf problems found in smaller off-leash parks. He also explained that even though the area is fenced for off-leash activities, that wouldn't preclude use of the turf area and facilities by non-dog owners. It is not the intent of the plan to for the off-leash areas to be used exclusively by dog owners.

- A question was raised about use of the over-the-line (OTL) area during non OTL tournament play. Mr. Jacob pointed out that the OTL area is currently used for casual play, other OTL tournaments sponsored by different organizations and the model rocket club. The plan adds sand volleyball to the OTL area which will attract more use to the area.
- At one time, the Mission Bay Master Plan included a bridge at the north end of Fiesta Island and it was questioned why that bridge was eliminated from the proposed plan. Mr. Singleton explained

the this bridge was eliminated from the 1978 version of the Mission Bay Master Plan and was not included in the Fiesta Island GDP proposal because it would not conform with the current Master Plan. He also discussed constraints of placing a bridge at the north end of the island. It would create traffic problems on East Mission Bay Drive, impact the least tern nesting area and that a bridge at this location could not have a high enough span over the water to allow boats to have access to and from the eastern side of the island. Even with these constraints, Mr. Marchetti would still like to see a bridge be considered in the plan to help with traffic flow to and from the island.

- A concern was expressed about the amount of turf proposed due to San Diego's potential water shortage and the City's limited resources for maintenance of the turf. Mr. Singleton agreed with that statement and clarified that turf would only be placed in areas where it would be needed to accommodate casual play. There wouldn't be any "ornamental" turf areas. As the plan is refined, the turf areas could be reduced. It was suggested to limit the turf even in play areas and let the play activities occur on sand.
- All development on Fiesta Island should be sustainable by using reclaimed water for irrigation and following LEED guidelines for comfort stations and any other structures. The final designs should look for ways to conserve resources.
- There should be interpretive signage for the whole island.
- It was clarified that the selected alternative for the causeway design onto the island is the flapper gates and culverts proposal because it will improve tidal water flow to the east side of the island as opposed to the original bridge design proposed in the Mission Bay Master Plan.
- The Fiesta Island GDP should include the intersection design shown in the Mission Bay Master Plan for the intersection at Sea World Dr.
- The 10' wide walkway within Mission Bay Park should be enhanced and safe where it intersects with the causeway leading to Fiesta Island at the East Mission Bay Dr. intersection.
- An attempt should be made to re-establish the previous mitigation areas that failed.
- It was suggested that the off-leash areas on Fiesta Island be phase reduced as more off-leash areas are developed within the City and the need for a regional off-leash area diminishes.
- The roadway system on the island should include 2-way traffic on the crossovers so traffic isn't forced to circle the entire island to exit.
- The views into Fiesta Island from surrounding areas should be considered.
- Although artificial turf is typically used on athletic fields, its use shouldn't be precluded from the open play areas proposed for Fiesta Island.
- The design of the comfort stations should be left open and not necessarily follow the same design used in other parts of the park. However, shade shelters should be similar to others used on the eastern side of the park.
- Fiesta Island should be designed for regional use, not just specific users.

Due to the size of the project and the limited time to discuss the proposed GDP, the item was continued to the December meeting. Design elements, such as signage, that were not presented or discussed will be brought forward at the December meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS: None

WORKSHOP ITEMS: None

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The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Next meeting: Wednesday December 12, 2007 at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Winter

Staff Representative, Park & Recreation Department