

MINUTES

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

December 12, 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
Marian Marum
Don Leonard
Kathryn Fulhorst
Simon Andrews
Jim Winter – Staff Representative

Absent:

Dann Mallec
Stuart White

CALL TO ORDER–The meeting was called to order by Chair Smith at 8:35 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF November 14, 2007 MEETING

Approved: Vote: 9-0

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - Fiesta Island General Development Plan

COMMUNICATIONS – None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – No report given due to the Park & Recreation Board meeting of November 2007 had been cancelled.

STAFF REPORT – Mr. Winter passed out a revised version of the DRC member roster. Errors were noted and the roster will be revised.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

ACTION ITEM 1:

Fiesta Island – General Development Plan (GDP) – Continued from the November 14, 2007 meeting.

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

Presenters: Mike Singleton, Principal, KTU+A

Harmon Nelson, Harmon Nelson Design

Alison Whitelaw, Platt Whitelaw Architecture

Public Speakers: Paula Lynn, representing FIDO (Fiesta Island Dog Owners)

Ms. Lynn spoke in opposition to the proposed GDP. She distributed a letter to the Committee members which outlined the specific reasons FIDO is opposed to the project (see attached). She also explained that FIDO is a grassroots organization that formed primarily due to the lack of attention that dog owners received in the approved Mission Bay Park Master Plan. During discussion of the project in the November 14, 2007 DRC meeting, a suggestion was made that the off-leash areas identified in the Fiesta Island GDP be phased out as more off-leash areas are developed within the City. FIDO does not support this suggestion.

Mr. Jacob introduced the project as a continuation from the November 14, 2007 DRC meeting. Mr. Jacob then introduced Mr. Singleton to make the presentation.

Mr. Singleton began his presentation by reminding the DRC why the public beach was located where it is in the GDP. It basically came down to a process of elimination due to other uses on the bay such as water skiing and personal water craft, habitat areas for the least terns and water quality issues along the eastern shore. This comment was made in reference to FIDO's recommendation that the public swimming beach be relocated in the GDP.

Mr. Singleton then presented more detailed designs of specific areas based on the supplemental handouts he distributed at the November 14, 2007 meeting. Most of this presentation centered on regional parkland areas where uses such as group picnics, playgrounds and open play would occur. These areas would also contain the comfort stations and parking. After his presentation, he turned the floor over to Alison Whitelaw to discuss the architecture proposed for the comfort stations and ranger stations.

Ms. Whitelaw discussed the comfort station designs and the input received from Park & rec. staff. Based on staff input, the comfort stations would be designed with an open design rather than the individual 'family friendly' type facilities. It would be possible to add the individual 'family friendly' restrooms to any of the comfort stations. The comfort station for the campground would contain showers. All comfort stations would be designed for sustainability, low maintenance, safety and security. She also touched on the shade structures for the picnic areas and storage facilities for the different clubs or organization that needed on-site storage.

After the architectural presentation, Mr. Singleton introduced Harmon Nelson of Harmon Nelson Design to present the proposed signage for Fiesta Island. He gave a brief overview of the major signage types, entry, regulatory, directional, interpretive and mileage markers. The signage was designed to stay in conformance with the Mission Bay Park Master Plan.

Upon completion of the presentations, the DRC members asked questions, received clarifications and discussed several aspects of the design elements presented. The questions, comments and discussions were generally:

- Regional parkland areas do not necessarily have to contain turf for open play. A suggestion was made to include language in the GDP that ties turf use with the availability of recycled water. Water use for landscaped areas will continue to be an issue and should be addressed by more than simply stating in the GDP that low water use, salt tolerant turf types will be used and turf will be limited to actively used areas.
- The roadway through the off-leash area will have fence on both sides which would not be acceptable.
- Sand maintenance operations should not occur on the island due to conflicts between users and truck traffic. This area should be studied and suggestions made on how the area should be used if the sand maintenance operations cease to exist.
- It was suggested that prefabricated comfort stations be considered. Reference was made to a workshop the DRC participated in to develop city-wide standards for comfort stations. Prefabrication methods may also work for the shade structures.
- The use of shade structures should be limited. The use of trees to provide shade in picnic areas should be considered.
- The sight lines into the comfort stations should be reviewed, particularly the campground comfort station and the shower location. A dry-off area should be provided at the showers in the campground comfort station.
- The architectural roof styles, colors and materials should key off other structures in Mission Bay. It was pointed out by the consultant that the architecture of Fiesta Island was intended to be rustic in character.
- The entry monument sign should be placed in a location that is not vandal prone.
- Suggestion to prioritize the regulatory signs, maybe by color, at the entry into the island. If the regulatory signs are placed near the trail onto the island, they should be double sided so trail users can read them as well.
- The regulatory signs at the entry should be simple so people don't stop to read them. The consultant agreed and suggested secondary regulatory signs be placed at kiosks and parking lots.
- Lighting for signage will be confined to the campground area where nighttime use is proposed.
- The regulatory signs should be worded in a more positive manner instead of "NO....."
- With close to 200 acres of "native" parkland, the signage doesn't appear to match this natural character. The post looks too much like a wharf or boat dock. Consultant stated the signage was meant to be in substantial conformance with the design guidelines of the Mission Bay Park Master Plan. In early community workshops, more modern signage layouts were rejected and the community members present wanted the signage to be simple. However, the signage could be modified to pick up on patterns in nature.
- Fiesta Island is manmade and there is nothing natural about it, so the signage should celebrate Fiesta Island. It is not a natural park. (counter point to the comment above)
- Question was raised about how Fiesta Island will be identified. Signage materials should be integrated into the island's identity. The signage should be kept simple.
- Flags shown on one entry monument design could be a maintenance issue.
- If locations are provided for event signs, consideration of who will maintain those areas must be given.
- Decorations on bridge abutments are a good idea and could be expanded to the slopes adjacent to

the abutments.

- Fiesta Island signage should be recognizable and not blend into nature too much.

Due to the size and complexity of the project and the limited time to discuss the proposed GDP, the item was continued to the January meeting. Staff will work with the consultants to break the GDP into logical pieces that the committee can review and discuss before taking any action. Therefore, multiple actions may be taken when the committee is to make motions and vote.

INFORMATION ITEMS: None

WORKSHOP ITEMS: None

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

Next meeting: Wednesday January 9, 2007 at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Winter
Staff Representative, Park & Recreation Department