

MINUTES

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

February 13, 2008

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
Dennis Otsuji
Michael Theilacker
Rodger Utt
Simon Andrews
Don Leonard
Vincent Marchetti
Jim Winter – Staff Representative

Absent:

Dann Mallec (Excused)
Marian Marum (Excused)
Stuart White (Excused)
Kathryn Fulhorst

CALL TO ORDER—The meeting was called to order by Chair Smith at 8:30 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 9, 2008 MEETING

Approved: Vote: 7-0

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

COMMUNICATIONS – Mary Coakley addressed the committee about her concerns regarding the designs of the restroom buildings shown in the proposed General Development Plan for Fiesta Island. Ms. Coakley called for the Park & Recreation Department to reinstate the standardization for comfort station design within city parks. She passed out a letter provided to Committee members (see attached) gave the committee a brief statement of her background and involvement in restroom design around the country. She also emphasized how unisex restrooms provide greater safety than gender-specific style restrooms. She asked the Committee to revisit their approval of the conceptual restroom designs indicated in the Fiesta Island GDP and consider unisex style restrooms as a viable option.

Mr. Bill Paul spoke on behalf of the Friends of Rose Creek. He would like to see lower Rose Creek, between Grand Ave. and Garnett Ave. in Pacific Beach be made into a park. The Friends of Rose Creek have planted some trees in the area already. He would also like to name the bicycle trail the Rose Creek Bike Trail and would be willing to work with the Park & Recreation Dept. to make this happen.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None

STAFF REPORT – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

ACTION ITEM 1:

Fiesta Island – General Development Plan (GDP) – Continued from the January 9, 2008 meeting.

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

Presenters: Mike Singleton, Principal, KTU+A

Cheri Blatner, Senior Associate, KTU+A

Two speakers in opposition of the project spoke:

Mr. Bill Paul indicated that he liked the proposed Fiesta Island GDP overall, but had concern regarding:

- The causeway design should have three lanes, an entrance lane and two exit lanes. The exit lanes should be one for left turn only and one for right turn only. He did like the proposed valves under the causeway to improve water flow.
- He asked how horses will be addressed. He suggested a staging area be included in the design to allow equestrians the opportunity to load and unload their horses.
- Fiesta Bay is an open beach and should stay close to what it is currently.
- Signs need to be posted around the off-leash area that precludes aggressive dogs from using the facility.
- Supports the access road to the southwest beach area because it will help less mobile people and pets get to this area.
- Believes that the swimming beach in the off-leash area should be for swimming with pets, not used for retrieving play or practice. He would like to see retrieving activities be restricted to the area near the off-leash dock. Dog retrieving objects can be disruptive and possible dangerous for people who may be swimming in the same area.

Mr. Don Gross is opposed to the proposed design of the causeway leading onto Fiesta Island. He proposed moving the entry to the north which would allow better flow of tide water from Tecolote Creek area.

Mr. Singleton and Ms. Blatner gave a brief description of the changes that were made to the developed park areas based on comments from the previous meetings of the Design Review Committee. They included:

- A revised roadway design at the campground.
- A previous comment asked that roads into parking lots be sweeping in nature. This change was not made because right-angle intersections help to slow traffic before entering into a parking lot and it provided more safety for bicyclists and other non-motorized users of the roadway.
- As much fencing was removed as possible without sacrificing safety at the off-leash area.
- Turf usage was reduced wherever it could be.
- The picnic shelters are now surrounded by turf, decomposed granite or a combination of the two. All shrub beds adjacent to the picnic shelters were removed.
- The use of paved and decomposed granite walkways was minimized.
- The play areas will incorporate the concept of universal play.
- Trails into the native areas were added to encourage the public to enter these areas.
- The picnic shelters were pulled back from the shore and reduced in size per the previous meeting.

- The graphic size of the boat ramp at the South West Beach Park was reduced so it clear it is intended from non-motorized watercraft only.
- A floating dock was added at the boat ramp which can also be used as a dog jumping platform.
- All small picnic shelters were removed per discussion in previous Committee discussions.
- Benches, tables and picnic shelters were added to the off-leash area.
- Areas for overflow parking were identified in order to keep paved parking areas to a minimum.
- Additional access gates were added to the off-leash areas.
- Amphitheater seating was increased.
- More detail was added to the campground area which will now accommodate day use. A ranger station will be located at the campground. An amphitheater was added to the campground.
- Total developed park is at about 95 acres (including parking), 75 acres without including parking, and about 85 acres of off-leash area. The 85 acres of off-leash is about 7 acres less than currently exists.

Committee comments regarding the developed regional parklands that are to be incorporated into the GDP:

- If equestrian activity is going to remain a use on the island, a staging area and signage should be included in the design.
- Mr. Singleton explained that if the entry to Fiesta Island were moved to the north as suggested by Mr. Gross, it would have a significant impact on the wetlands at the mouth of Tecolote Creek due to the amount of grading that would be necessary. The grading would also be very expensive. Moving the entry north would also require the removal of the Tecolote Shores play area. In order to address the traffic flow onto and off the island, the bicycle path will not be marked on the pavement. Then, during special events, temporary lanes could be established to improve traffic flow.
- The GDP should provide options on the type of comfort stations to be used. Both single gender and unisex should be included.
- It was suggested that an acceleration lane be added to facilitate traffic onto Sea World Dr. from Fiesta Island. A traffic study will have to evaluate the proposal because it could have adverse impacts on bicyclists. If feasible and recommended by the traffic engineers, it is to be included in the GDP.
- Comfort station locations should be moved away from primary views upon entering parking areas. The comfort station in the campground should be moved to a more central location among the camping spots.
- Some pull-through parking for vehicles with trailers should be provided at the non-motorized boat dock area.
- The number of trails and walks through open turf areas should be reduced even further.
- Language should be incorporated into the GDP that encourages the use of recycled water.
- Language should be incorporated into the GDP that calls for a phased reduction in the off-leash acreage to encourage the development of more off-leash opportunities throughout the City in the future. The language should also recognize the unique features of Fiesta Island off-leash usage.
- Parking lots should be more curved.
- The planted islands between the rows of parking within the parking lots should be reduced to just islands for the trees.

- At the South East Park parking lot, the entry drives at each end should direct vehicles to a drive lane and not to a planted median. Then people won't have to decide which way to go.

Upon completion of the presentations and discussions by the Committee, two motions were made. These motions and votes were:

Motion 1 (Andrews, second by Theilacker) – The proposed regional park layouts are acceptable and are to incorporate those items discussed at today's meeting (see above).

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion unanimously approved

Motion 2 (Marchetti, second by Utt) – To amend motion #7 of the January 9, 2008 meeting to accommodate the recommendations made by Ms. Mary Coakley at today's meeting and to keep the comfort station design options open by incorporating floor plans and language for unisex comfort stations.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion unanimously approved

INFORMATION ITEMS: None

WORKSHOP ITEMS: None

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday March 14, 2008 at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Winter
Staff Representative, Park & Recreation Department