

Comments and Questions noted by KTU+A at the July 6, 2010 Mission Bay Park Committee (these notes are not the official minutes for this meeting):

Mission Bay Park Committee Member Comments and Questions

Topic- Parking Areas:

Judy Swink: What type of surfacing are you going to propose for the parking area at the entrance to the island?

Mike: Permeable concrete paving is possible, but regardless if it is permeable, the runoff will be handled appropriately and will not end up back in the bay untreated. All runoff will run through at least a bio-swale.

Topic- Tecolote Wetlands:

Judy Swink: Will the new wetlands work as formal mitigations and be both true habitat and water quality enhancements? Will they qualify under the Mission Bay lease Charter 55.2?

Mike: Yes, I believe they will provide real habitat, will work for improving water quality and should qualify for the Charter amendment, but that may be for others to answer.

Topic- Parkland Acreage:

Judy Swink: I assume that most of the South West corner of Fiesta Island will not be counted as a regional park. How will the Coastal Commission likely view this reduction in acreage?

Mike: Though the acreage of formal regional parkland has come down from the Master Plan 100 acres and the previously approved Alternative 4h of 65 acres, the low 28 acres of parkland is not telling the whole story. The native vegetation around the regional parklands are no longer counting towards regional parks. The day use / overnight use group camping and picnicking area is counted under the primitive campland acres instead of regional park, even though it will be used as a regional park. Also, the front entry parkland area for the fenced leash free area will function as a regional park, though with leash free dogs in it. Some of these acres probably should count towards regional parkland. However, the numbers have come down substantially. Any more erosion of this regional parkland designation should be avoided. There have been good reasons to reduce this number (cost, traffic, change of character, preservation of existing uses, turf/water use, as well as the general public's opinion that this parkland is not needed that much), but any more reduction could prove to be a problem with the Coastal Commission. We will need to show how multi-use areas will be able to contribute to the regional parkland total numbers, without double counting acres.

Topic- Turf and Water Conservation:

Not sure on Committee member who asked, might have been Lani Lantar. Given the current water shortage and campaign by the Mayor to save water, we should consider minimizing the amount of turf areas on the island.

Mike: Agreed, which is the primary reason for reducing the 100 acres of turfed parkland down to 28 acres and the more extensive use of drought tolerant plant material and areas of the island that will be left as is.

Topic- Paddling Site Alternatives

Lani Lantar asked if we could provide cost comparisons of major features that would need to be added for the top priority paddling areas in order to compare and contrast the alternatives.

Mike: We will add cost comparisons (rough order of magnitude) for the top 4 ranked sites.

General Public Comments

Speaker Dr. K. Henderson: San Diego Triathlon Club:

Please limit the number of cars on the Island. There is a heavy use by tri-athletes and cyclists and since they are seriously training they are often going fast and can have conflicts with cars. Having the ability to have parts of the island controlled for weekly linear sports would be good, but please don't increase the traffic and use of the island so intensively.

Speaker for San Diego Bicycle Coalition, Kathy Keehan, the Executive Director:

The clubs have reviewed the plans and would like to emphasize that they currently use the island very frequently; the preference would be to limit traffic as much as possible. The Master Plan recommendation for two lanes and more extensive roads and intensive parkland is not appropriate. This Precise Plan is definitely better than the Master Plan, especially with the emphasis on non-vehicular uses, changing directional flow (if it is safe and allows for continued use for special events), and the entry lane and path improvements. However, our membership needs to look at this closer and provide better input at the next meeting.

Speaker Charlene from Texas: Keep the Island the way it is... Rustic...

Presentation FIDO: Alicia Huff

- Cited City Ordinance 10843 dated 1972
- Almost 7,000 current members, most of which have signed petitions
- Use Fiesta Island from Sun-up to Sun-down
- FIDO would prefer to be the only users at the Southwest Shores area but realize that compromises may be needed
- 700,000 dogs in the Greater San Diego Area, with substantial increase over the last few years
- FIDOA has worked for preserving this area for 3 ½ years and will continue to do so, however, as currently shown, Alternative 5c (maybe with some modifications or hybrids that include a cut through area like Alternative 5b) may be acceptable to FIDO, but they wish to hold full support for these options until the project moves forward for action by the MBPC

- Paddlers will create some conflicts in this area and would prefer to see paddlers located at one of the other sites in Mission Bay already recommended

Presentation Paddling Club: Les Hopper

Les provided an overview of the clubs and their activities and reiterated that the clubs have identified this location for many years and has been providing input on these options since the initial workshop. The paddlers need a home to launch from and store limited items. The clubs are scattered around the bay, most without permanent homes. They need to be part of this Park Precise Plan, especially since this is the best location in Mission Bay for the majority of our activities.

Speaker Chance Adair:

The paddling clubs support a variety of programs including children programs and scholarships. Paddling builds teamwork and team building. Paddling Groups support the wounded warriors, children with spina bifida, and Cancer Survivors. The paddling groups are and have been important frontline ambassador's for San Diego and United States of America.

Speaker Wendy Dewitt:

- The clubs support the current plan
- They appreciate FIDO's research on finding them a place to paddle but Fiesta Island at the southwest corner is the best location for them to be.
- The 1,000 meter course is very critical for the dragon boats, and the one next to Fiesta Island's southwest corner would be ideal.
- Mariner Point is not the #1 place for the paddle groups since the adjacent water is not calm, boat traffic is high, the distance from current facilities to the beach is too far, the site is too deep within Mission Bay traffic to be practical and the site already accommodates other special events and group permitted activities. This site would take away valuable parkland and beach areas that the public is already using.

Speaker Steve Jewell: Dragon Boat Events generate revenue for the City of San Diego. The Paddling groups are good for the city of San Diego economically as well as for building community relations and activities for its residents.

Speaker Shawn Pangiolini: I am a member of KAI ELUA Outrigger Canoe Club. It's not just about paddling a canoe, it's a way of life. We teach this through our youth programs and we emphasize respect for the environment and for other people. Please don't take the Southwest Shores option off of the table.

Judy Swink provided some follow on questions and comments:

- Do we submit questions about tonight's Fiesta Island Presentation to Stacey at the City of San Diego?

- Purple Pipe: How close are we to having reclaimed water on the island?
Mike: Reclaimed water lines are on the island, but they were never hooked up to reclaimed pipelines since they were never extended down from SR52 to Mission Bay as was originally thought. We would continue to suggest that the City look at using reclaimed water for all of Mission Bay Park and Golf Course area, including future areas on Fiesta Island.