



Parks Committee October 1st, 2020 Minutes

Peninsula Community Planning Board
Parks Committee
October 1st, 2020 meeting

Zoom conference

General

Meeting called to order by Mandy Havlik at 6:13 pm.

Present: Mandy Havlik, Don Sevrens, Margaret Virissimo, Dalana Pursel, Cameron Havlik, Angela Vedder

Introduction of Committee Members- Mandy Havlik, Margaret Virissimo, Don Sevrens

Approval of the previous meeting minutes- Motion made by Mandy Havlik. Margaret Virissimo seconded the motion. Don Sevrens approved the motion. Motion was approved. 3-0

Non Agenda Public Comments

None.

Board-Initiated Informational Items

Don Sevrens discussed his intention to send a bulleted list of interest items to this district's deputy director of parks and recreation. There will be communication between Don and the deputy director regarding this, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Approval of meeting minutes from January meeting.

Discussion of Action Item- Letter of Support for the Sunset Cliffs natural park counsel

Review of a letter addressed to Andrew Field, approved by the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council.

Mandy shared photos depicting infractions experienced at Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. Images featured parties, including nighttime parties at Garbage Beach, which occurred after the park was "closed." Photo of campsite set up in the park. Photo of graffiti and tagging on signs, stairs, and on the actual cliff faces inside the park.

Mandy shared a draft of a letter of support to present to the mainboard. The letter contains similar information as that in the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park counsel letter. Mayor Kevin Faulkner, Councilwoman Jen Camble, Colin Stowell, Chris Webber, James Gartland, David Nisleit, Albert Gudarrama, Tom Underwood, Laura McLean, and Gene Berger will receive the letter.

Angela suggested recommending a park closure of 10 o'clock, rather than the listed recommendation of two hours post-sunset.

Dalana Pursel introduced herself and addressed Angela's comment on the 10 o'clock closing time. Two hours after sunset, as opposed to a flat time of 10 pm, was proposed to accommodate daylight savings time in the winter, with sunset being significantly earlier in the winter than summer. The suggested two hours would accommodate the length of sunset and daylight. Closure time adjustments also mirror that of other parks.

The hope is that this will discourage illegal activities that commonly occur in the park after dark. This new timeframe will give local authorities and park rangers a tool to combat parties, night camping, vandalism, and other disruptive activity.

The proposed closing time will apply to parking lots along the west side of Sunset Cliffs but will not affect resident parking.

Cameron Havlik highlighted the tax liability of Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. Sunset Cliffs is an unregulated park, and specifically with COVID, people have been frequenting Sunset Cliffs Park because there is a lack of enforcement. The San Diego taxpayers will be responsible for any incidents that occur within the park.

Mandy made a motion to approve the letter of support for the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council as is. Motion passed unanimously, seconded by Margaret Virissimo. Don Sevrens voted in favor of the motion. 3-0

The letter is approved at the subcommittee level, but it still requires approval from the mainboard. On Thursday, October 15th, this meeting will occur. The final vote for the proposed letter will take place at this time.

First Informational Item- Community updates for the Famosa Canyon site

Cameron defined Famosa Canyon, a five-acre lot on the corner of Nimitz and Famosa Blvd. It contains a freshwater wetland, a pump-track, and has served as an open space for the community for over 40 years. It is currently being considered a site for the development of affordable housing by the housing department.

Famosa Canyon serves as a habitat for birds, monarch butterflies and contains species of endangered trees. Proposed developments threaten the natural wildlife and habitat of the canyon and result in the loss of a longtime community asset.

The proposal timeline has been extended on three different occasions and has still not received a developer's proposal. It has now been extended through November. Cameron discussed Complete Communities and its correlation to the open space of Famosa Canyon.

Don added that this space was given to the city to be used as a park. Don has been in communication with Bruce Martinez, a deputy director, who has agreed to respond with information to Don's questions regarding Famosa Canyon.

Margaret challenged the committee to come up with a plan to take action to combat development on Famosa Canyon. She mentioned that the protection of public open space/park space had been a hot topic issue mentioned in meetings across several different San Diego areas and neighborhoods.

The RAG (Recreational Advisory Group) for the city of San Diego has plans to have this as an action item for an opportunity of support.

Dalana expressed her full support and added that the Point Loma/Ocean Beach community historically has less community parkland than any other community within the city of San Diego. Regional park space is not the same as designated community park space. She calls attention to the bicycle/pump-track and questions its inclusion consistent with terming Famosa Canyon, a natural park.

Margaret mentioned that the pump-track had not been included as a focal point within the dialogue with the city, as it may be a liability. She focused on the potential of tree planting initiatives and community support in park beautification with local organizations' involvement.

Famosa Canyon serves as the last piece of "non-recreational" park space. The goal is to rezone the area and then put control into the hands of the community.

Dalana suggested researching Harbaugh Seaside Trails- a park that was purchased by the community after facing similar developmental threats.

Final informational Item- Opportunity for proposed improvements to existing parks within the Peninsula community boundary.

Mandy points out concerns over Cleator Park playground equipment, as a lot of the structures are older, and there is room for improvement. She also mentions the opportunity to provide more shade structures at parks. Lastly, she suggests the possibility of exploring an outdoor splash-pad/water playground in Liberty Station.

Mandy additionally would like to ask the city to be involved in the Kate Sessions Tree planning initiative to see if new trees can be added to the existing parks within the Point Loma/Ocean Beach communities.

Next meeting will be held on December 3rd at 6pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 pm.