

Peninsula Community Planning Board
1220 Rosecrans Street PMB 549
San Diego, CA 92106
pcpbsd@gmail.com

September 20, 2021

To: Mayor Todd Gloria, City of San Diego
Michaela Valk, Community Engagement Director
Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Councilmember District 2
Venus Molina, Chief of Staff, Councilmember District 2
Andrew Field, Director of Parks and Recreation Department
Steve Palle, District Manager of Parks and Recreation
Tyler Canales, Area Manager of Parks and Recreation
Kevin Nguyen, Project Manager of Public Works Department
Kevin Oliver, Public Works Department
Christine Jones, Commission of Arts and Culture
Katherine Johnston, San Diego Parks Foundation
Martha J. Phillips, San Diego Parks Foundation
Linda Weber, Point Loma Association Board of Directors
Clarke Anthony Burlingame, past president of Point Loma Association

Re: Canon Street Pocket Park Project

Encl: Chronology of Point Loma Pocket Park

Adoption of new rating priorities for San Diego parks may have the unintended consequence of wasting seven years of volunteer and city staff effort and throwing away \$1 million on an unfinished pocket park.

The City of San Diego recently adopted a new master plan for the city's park system, an admirable accomplishment. Unfortunately, it may stop a three-quarter acre pocket park in Point Loma from being completed. Highest priorities under a point system will go to large, recreation-oriented parks, not small passive ones.

Point Loma's pocket park is on city-owned land at the upper end of Avenida de Portugal. Starting in 2014, volunteers did a massive cleanup, found the money and obtained all necessary approvals. The park has been designed, construction issues have been resolved and is it ready to go to bid. Except, the cost of the park, estimated at \$844,000 in 2014, has tripled over seven years, the city believes.

Despite seven years of work and the money spent, this park may be shoved to the end of the line and never built.

The Peninsula Community Planning Board voted unanimously (10- 0) on Sept. 16th to ask the mayor's office to:

- 1) Grandfather the pocket park under the old rules,

- 2) Find the funds to fill the gap and devote staff resources to get the park built,
- 3) Identify how much money was spent and what money remains for the project, given a lack of transparency by the City.

The Park and Recreation Department has said that it takes six years to build a park. Unfortunately, for underserved communities south of Interstate 8, including Point Loma, no park before its time means that that inflation soars and contractors get too busy to bid on city projects.

Mayor Gloria, in announcing the “Parks for All of Us” Master Plan, you said, “I’m committed to ensuring that all San Diegans have access to high-quality parks.” This ready-to-go park, given an infusion of inflation-eroded funds and staff resources, can provide the opportunity to show the city is indeed serious about meeting its goal.

Sincerely,



Fred Kosmo,
Chair, PCPB