

January 30, 2021

Re: Recommended Revisions to Master Parks Plan

At its January 4 meeting, the La Jolla Community Planning Association heard a presentation from PARC (Parks and Recreation Coalition), a citizens' advocacy group comprised of retired city park planners, landscape architects, architects and activists. The presentation outlined deficiencies in the Draft Master Park Plan and decried its rushed adoption that was artificially linked to election cycles.

Because the Master Parks Plan has not been updated in over 50 years, it is important that its update be visionary and flexible enough to serve San Diego and its projected population expansion for the next several decades. PARC-identified areas of concern include:

- the proposed new and untested "points system" to identify park sufficiency standards;
- the reliance on Development Impact Fees to both fund new parks and to address chronic park undersupply and maintenance deficiencies;
- the potential for inappropriate commercialization of our parks;
- the lack of planning and training for appropriate maintenance/repair and use of historic resources in city parks;
- recreational uses that are not in compliance with requirements of the MSCP protected habitat program;
- devaluation of passive open space and mature trees that can be replaced with "all weather shade" canopies.

PARC is also advocating for acquisition of new park land to support a growing population and new funding sources to acquire, design and maintain future city parks. Finally, PARC requests that revisions to the Draft Master Park Plan begin with consulting recognized Community Planning Groups and Recreation Advisory Council, that were purposely omitted from public review and comment once the draft was released.

The La Jolla Community Planning Association supports PARC's findings and invites the Planning Department to collaborate with Community Planning Groups and Recreation Advisory Councils to address the Draft Master Parks Plan's shortcomings.

Sincerely,

Diane Kane, President
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