La Jolla Parks and Beaches, Inc.
July 27, 2026 - Meeting Minutes
La Jolla/Riford Library

Directors in Attendance: Beth Murray, Ann Parode Dynes, Chas. Dye, Rev. Tim Seery, Tom Brady, Ken Hunrichs, Marie Hunrichs, Bob Evans, Seonaid McArthur, Diane Kane, Sally Miller, Melinda Merryweather, Kurt Hoffman

Directors Absent: Alexandra Corsi, Brenda Fake

Guests Present: Joaquin Quintero (Council Member La Cava's Office), Ashley Mackin-Solomon (media), Elisabeth Frausto (media), Barbara Dunbar, Patrick Ahern, Selena Heras, Dr. Nile El Wardani, Melissa Studer, Cathy Zvetina, Michelle Klein, Cinthia Plaza, Eric Fletcher, Torry Alpizar, Angeles Leira, Solange Jacobs, Jan Brunsting, Gimina Klein

Meeting Called to Order by President Ann Parode Dynes at 4:04 pm with a quorum of 9 directors present. (Directors Diane Kane joined immediately thereafter and Sally Miller, Melinda Merryweather, and Kurt Hoffman joined shortly thereafter)

Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda by Seonaid McArthur, and seconded by Ken Hunrichs and was approved 10-0

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the June meeting minutes by Chas. Dye and seconded by Marie Hunrichs and was approved 10-0

Financial Report

Chas. Dye presented the financial report, highlighting the month's expenses and the two donations that were received in honor of Phyllis Minick. He highlighted the new interest baring money market account at US Bank that earns 4.00% interest. Chas. Dye made a motion for the approval and it was seconded by Tom Brady, it was approved 10-0

Report of Council Member Joe La Cava

Joaquin's report will be rolled into a later agenda item.

Presidents Report - Ann Parode Dynes

Ann thanked the executive team for their work in keeping the organization moving forward.

Non-agenda and Public Comments

Selena Heras, a local seventh grader, referenced attacks to seals in La Jolla and mentioned that importance of standing up for ocean-life.

Dr. Nile El Wardani mentioned that in her early life there were only a dozen seals in La Jolla. Now we have over 1,000 seals and sea lions. As a doctor of public health she mentioned that it is not good for the mammals to be in such a high concentrated environment. She outlined the proliferation of pinnipeds that has taken over the Cove since they have become protected in a little one-mile stretch of California's expansive coastline.

Ashley Mackin-Solomon mentioned she has been promoted to editor of the LJ Light and she is still around if not at meetings.

Mellisa Studer mentioned she is a strong advocate for wild-life protection and is related to her profession working with beach ecosystems with the California Grunion. She noted that the sea lions and the seals are different species and that is important distinction. She expressed the position that the current issues are the result of a failure of City and community leadership. She noted their protected status by law. She noted the right to beach access guaranteed by California as well as the complexities surrounding the Children's Pool. She mentioned that pinnipeds were hunted to almost extinction before the Marine Wildlife Protection Act. She mentioned that we often hear the "way back when" comment when discussing pinnipeds and that no community has stayed the same. She believes we should be celebrating our biodiversity and embracing it—as the most biodiverse county in the contiguous United States.

Tom Brady mentioned that these three public comments were important and essential and drew special attention to Dr. El Wardani's comments.

Agenda Items

1. Authorize Payment from LJPB General Sub-account for $108.15 to Bill Robbins for Support of City Projects at Scripps Park, Bob Evans

Bob Evans provided a commendation of Bill as well as guest Eric Fletcher seconded that endorsement. There is a group appreciation for Bill Robbins.

Motion made by Bob Evans, Sally Miller seconded, Approved 13-0

2. Approve Scripps Park Picnic Grove II Project Scope and Payment Schedules, Tim Seery, Alexandra Corsi, Bob Evans

Tim Seery presented the project and the project costs associated with it and a bit of the background. He mentioned Alexandra's hard work in managing the ROE process with the City and their delays that added to the costs, and all of the work that she had been doing while in Brazil. He outlined the construction initiation dates, the project being fully funded, authorized contractor payments, and noted the general timeline the project should be completed within.

Motion made by Tim Seery and seconded by Sally Miller, Approved 13-0

3. Authorize Reimbursement from LJPB Windansea Sub-account to Jim Neri for Two Invoices ($181.78 and $1,159.35) Paid to City DSD, Melinda Merryweather, Bob Evans

These are two invoices that Jim Neri paid to the City for continual processing. **Motion made by Melinda Merryweather and seconded by Sally Miller, Approved 13-0**

4. Discussion on Current Parks and Beaches Issues to Include Sidewalk Vending and Pinnipeds/ Beach Closures, Chas Dye, Bob Evans

Chas. Dye kicked off a discussion on this complicated topic. He outlined the different levels of government at play (NOAA, which has no intention to enforce the Marine Mammal Protection Act at the Cove), San Diego Authorities, (park rangers not empowered to enforce MMPA, San Diego Lifeguard's responsibilities do not include the protection of wildlife). Under MMPa local eunicplaite are authorized to relocate animals for protection, nuisance and public health. The California Coastal Commission regulates coastal access and any closures require a Coastal Development Permit.

Joaquin Quintero was invited to comment on behalf of the Office of Joe LaCava. He mentioned for this instance (the abuse of a pinniped captured on social media) NOAA has opened an investigation and that rangers will continue to issue warnings. Some pressed Joaquin about the volume of pinnipeds at the Cove and asked about the safety of this for them and for human life. A discussion unfolded about deterrent methods, some NOAA approved. It was mentioned that this issue is at a stalemate and with too many animals and unfortunate and immoral individuals acting against them, we are at an unfortunate state of affairs. It was expressed that we have the preeminent oceanographic institute in our community and why are they not involved. Public comment included that there is a risk that the CCC throws their hands up and closes the entire Cove. The question was asked as to why the City cannot enforce the Marine Mammal Protection Act. There was a belief expressed that keeping the beaches open comes down to the City enforcing this law.

President Ann Dynes expressed the desire that even though we come from wide divergences in opinion, it would be nice if this organization could come up with a consensus that keeps animals and humans happy. Joaquin reported that La Cava will always be supportive of keeping the Cove open. Joaquin mentioned that because NOAA is a federal law, the City cannot enforce it. Several members mentioned that this issue has been so enormous that these discussions have been ongoing for 30+ years.

The conversation then shifted to the proliferation of vendors in Scripps Park and coastline. Chas. Outlined the City's requirements for vendors (fictitious business name, seller's permit, business tax certificate etc.). Joaquin commented that the City received a judicial update on how the sidewalk vending ordnance can be enforced and that the City is still issuing administrative citations but that they cannot impound. It was asked if rangers can enforce the vending regulations. Joaquin stated that park rangers can enforce the sidewalk vending ordnance. The rangers can issue citations but they currently are not. Bob Evans mentioned that during budget talks there was the Councilmembers and Mayor's decision to disband those rangers who performed sidewalk enforcement and that those responsibilities and program were not re-delegated to the rangers who are currently at the park. Joaquin stated that this was not his understanding of what transpired.

Kurt Hoffman mentioned one solution is 6 concrete pads throughout the park that could be permitted and designated vendor areas. This idea, a decade old, has never been appropriately implemented.

5. Approve New Project La Jolla Bluffs View Platform, Kurt Hoffman

Kurt Hoffman kicked off a discussion about a coastal bluff viewing platform pilot project below Brockton Villa. He outlined the history of the railing that currently sits in this area and the gate that appeared there with no due-process. He offered a mockup of the platform and mentioned that this concept could yield shared use (pinnipeds and humans) and that helps control the humans who need guidance on how to appropriately interact with animals and deters erosion. This also assists with the public health issue and the spraying that the City is undergoing on the bluffs. Kurt answered questions about the fact this would be modern development in a historic location.

Kurt Hoffman made a motion and Sally Miller seconded that LJPB adopt the resolution to pursue this coastal bluff viewing platform in concept and endorse this development pilot project as well as the cessation of the City's spraying of the bluffs. Kurt withdrew the motion due to lack of support among directors for the plans of the viewing platform as they currently stand.

Kurt put forward a replacement motion stetting that revised resolution will address only the spraying of the bluffs and its cessation and opening the gate that currently exists on the bluffs under Brockton Villa. Kurt Hoffman made the motion and Melinda Merryweather seconded, it was approved 12-0, with Ken Hunrichs abstaining.

6 Support of La Jolla Historical Society letter to the City regarding the notice to appeal for Red Rest and Red Roost Cottages demolition permit.

Seonaid McArthur mentioned that the Red Rest and Red Roost are among La Jolla's most significant historical buildings. There is currently a request for demolition on the table. She outlined the historical significance of these structures that create a sense of atmosphere and place and represent important coastal architecture. She provided a timeline of the preservation efforts from 1975 to present. The structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1976. In 2006 Johnson & Johnson Architecture was hired for preservation efforts and to research and document the structures. In June 2026 the City issued a notice of appeal to pursue demolition as a result of the 2020 fire. The LJ Historical Society issued an appeal and included the reasons which included the fact that Johnson & Johnson provided the ways forward for rebuilding. A letter was circulated from the LJHS that asks the city to reconsider the position of allowing demolition. The letter signals that demolition by neglect should not become an acceptable path to removing designated historic resources.

A motion was made to **not** support sending this letter, by Beth Murray, and seconded by Tim Seery, it was voted 3 in favor, 8 opposed, 1 abstention. The motion failed.

A motion was made to support endorsing the letter by Tom Brady and seconded by Bob Evans, it was voted 9 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention. The motion was adopted.

LJPB Working Group Updates

La Jolla Bike Path

Has been working smoothly with Park and Rec Department. Huge dumpsters of dry brush were removed. Challenges persist related to the bike path including e-bikers and motorcycles. Signs and repairs still needed.

La Jolla Coastal Trail

A meeting needs to be had with Andy Field and Parks and Recreation and they are currently on summer vacations. More information is forthcoming.

Whale View Point

A bid was attained to repair the stairs and it is within budget. Waiting on final word on the Coastal Development Permit

Commercial Use of City Parks

Group has not had a chance to meet

La Jolla Coastal Conservancy

LJCC will present at the next meeting as Brenda is traveling.

Bylaws Working Group

The working group has met and has a couple pages of recommendations to suggest in an upcoming meeting.

Adjourned at 6:08 pm to Monday, August 24, 2026 at 4 pm, La Jolla Riford Library