

UPTOWN PLANNERS
Uptown Community Planning Group
Approved Motions
Feb 24, 2015
Special Meeting regarding the draft Recreation Element

The agenda item:

UPTOWN COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE – DRAFT RECREATION ELEMENT: The public draft of the **Recreation Element** of the Uptown Community Plan Update has been released. All comments will be reviewed and considered as part of the comment period after the release of the full public draft of the updated community plan. A copy of the public draft of the Recreation Element may be found at:<http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/uptown/index.shtml>

The following motions were approved. (The original numbering system was retained)

1. We support the inclusion of two Recreation Centers and an Aquatic Complex, as important amenities for Uptown.
2. We support the addition of a Neighborhood Park on Reynard Way.
3. We support the addition of Pocket Parks/Plazas at Golden Gate Drive, Laurel St., Olive Street, and West Maple Canyon.
4. We support joint-use agreements with Florence Elem. School and Grant K-8 School, for existing and new facilities.
5. We support the addition of a community park/ sports complex on Pershing Dr., if Uptown DIF money is not used. This area is currently occupied by City Operations, and not used for park purposes.
[Explanation: This project is supported because it would create a new recreation facility, and is not merely a reclassification of existing park space.]
6. We support the Normal St. Linear Park.
- 6.5. We request that Mystic Park be included in the table for planned Neighborhood Parks. And that the Reynard Way Park and Mystic Park be considered top priorities.
7. We recommend that substantial new parkland be listed in the Recreation Element, whether the location is specific or “to be determined”. We request clarification of the 66.72 acres of “Population-based park deficit at full community development”, specifically, how that deficit will be addressed in this element.

8. We reject the inclusion of canyons as meeting park requirements.

- a. Canyons are part of the Open Space system.
- b. As in the past, the city should inventory and plan Open Space areas of our community separately from the Park and Recreation areas.
- c. There is no direction in the General Plan to regard open space or canyons as parkland.
- d. The open space canyons in Uptown consist of slopes and natural vegetation. Most of the canyon land is privately owned. The canyons are accessible only by foot trails. In summary, the open space canyons in Uptown have none of the characteristics of a park. They are suitable as passive open space, not parks.

9. We reject the counting of portions of Balboa Park as part of the park acreage requirements for Uptown.

The reasons are:

- a. Balboa Park is a regional park, already used by people from the entire metro area, plus visitors. It has about 10 million visitors per year. It has none of the characteristics of a community or neighborhood park.
- b. Balboa Park is very busy on summer days and during special events like marathons and parades. It's not accessible to residents as a neighborhood park at those times.
- c. The Balboa Park Committee reviewed this issue in 2006, and recommended against it. (minutes dated 12/7/2006). In later years, the Balboa Park Committee stated that they will oppose any efforts to allow Uptown to program or control portions of Balboa Park.
- d. The Uptown Planners has consistently opposed any proposals to use DIF funds to improve Balboa Park, which is a regional asset.

11. Regarding park access to residents:

- a. We support the addition of the goal which was stated in the current Community Plan: To locate new park sites so that all residents have access to a park within one-half mile of their homes.
- b. We support in concept the addition of a provisions in the Community Plan and zoning, which are equivalent to Section 151.0253 in the Central Urbanized Planned District. This includes special provisions for "Facility Deficient Neighborhoods". According to Planning Dept staff, this was originally intended to be adopted in Uptown, but was overlooked.