

## Martha Alvarez

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**From:** Gary Osterhout <garyosterhout@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 5:28 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Commission Work Plan Comments  
**Attachments:** Sand Dune Sign.JPG

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Councilmembers:

Comments on the Work Plan Staff Report:

### 2) Nature Trails - Sand Dune Park.

I have no idea why this has even been proposed, who it is meant to serve, what it is meant to accomplish, and why the current trails don't substantially meet any of those objectives. All I see is a likely result of adding to the current erosion at the park that has been going on for years without City attention.

Further, in contrast to what is stated in the staff report, I could find no sign that says "Unmaintained nature area. Enjoy at your own risk. Parents should supervise children at all times." I did find signs at the open gates saying "This is an unmaintained wilderness area. Park users are advised to stay on designated paths." See attached. Also, there are no "designated paths" in these now-open areas, that I could see.

If staff is to "monitor usage, enjoyment and issues to evaluate risks and rewards through objective data and analysis" then such data points and collection mechanisms should be articulated in advance (i.e., now) before any further authorization, to prevent "revisionist history" and foster transparency and accountability. Before all this, get grass to grow on the greenbelt and stop the erosion where it currently exists.

Also, there has been no real outreach to the area community about this program. As a 30 year member of this community, I remember the pre-2000 meetings of the community, with door-to-door notices, on park proposals.

### 3) Parkettes and Dog Runs.

I don't think we need any more dog runs (particularly if as ugly as the dog run at Live Oak--and dogs don't "see" the green screening). We do need parkettes. I really doubt the assertion that "staff are constantly looking for new sites." There should be a park or parkette at least 1/4 mile from any resident (which is not subject to shutdown at the whim of city staff). We have needed that for years. We have had a \$4M unneeded reserve during recessionary periods when land prices were lower. You need to develop a funding mechanism for such acquisitions. One way to do that is to responsibly fund park facility replacement on a continuous, depreciation basis (such as the Polliwog Playground equipment) instead of using supplemental County money for such recurring replacement, but instead use such funding for park land acquisition.

This is even more important when you allow mansions to be built without decent yard space.

Regardless of the NIMBY ("fear of other") opinions of adjacent residents, I still believe that utilizing appropriate non-trail sections of the Veterans Parkway for playgrounds (ala Europe) would be appropriate. Replacing ice plant would also encourage water retention instead of water runoff. "Manhattan Beach has little open space, therefore it is important to make the best of what we have currently."

**2. Replace Sand Dune Building.** First you need to define what this building is to be used for. Per the report, the "stakeholders" are merely "staff and members of the public who visits the staff." Pretty limited to staff usage, isn't that?

At one time, there was proposed an after-school location at Sand Dune, which was deemed unavailable because there was no enclosed building that would serve for adverse weather conditions. This new building could be used for arts and crafts, or a nature center, or a neighborhood meeting center, and for after school activities. Just recently a \$5M and a \$6M homes were sold in this area--shouldn't there be amenities consistent with the neighborhood (than a repurposed cargo container).

**4. Aquatics Facility.** This needs to be a top priority of the council and community. You've kicked it down the alley as long as you can. Also, the staff analysis leaves out the many backyard swimming pools, which might not be environmentally sustainable in the future. I still think the best location is to the south of MBMS (I think the noise factor is over exaggerated by those in opposition). It's too bad that the Sr. Center and scout house isn't adjacent to the pool, but that's what happens when you let donors call the shots.

**6. Donation Policy.** I dislike our donation policy. Mainly because a city of our resources does not need to rely on donations, and staff uses this program as a surrogate for responsible annual funding. Also, donations begin to invest the donor with certain feeling of privilege, or demands for recognition (the Rotary Club sign for Joslyn Center obviously had the donor name in the front for advertising the donor, where it should have been in the back. Same with the benches).

I particularly believe that we need a responsible tree program, one that is built from first assessing where and when and how often and how many we want to put up trees, and then funding to that level immediately (without staff moratoriums). Climate change is an existential crisis, and trees are vital part of meeting that challenge. Also, a palm tree isn't a true tree.

We don't need community pavers, or a military wall. We do need more foliage and trees on Veterans Parkway and Sand Dune Park. Esp. need more beautification across from Shade Hotel.

We don't need the city to form a 501(c)(3). We don't need a Legacy Gift Policy. We don't even need tscotchkes to "brand" our city. We do need to keep our current assets well maintained.

If you want to funnel private money to public assets, I suggest humanitarian bus/transit shelters and benches. And more aesthetic trash receptacles on our public medians.

**Library Commission** Entertainment. A lot of this was once discussed for the Metlox courtyard, yet sort of petered out. No problem with this, but as with so much else in this report, I am very concerned that staff will turn their attention to these new, shiny projects, when currently there is so much in respect to basics that isn't being done.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Gary Osterhout

Attention Sand Dune Patrons

THIS IS AN UNMAINTAINED  
WILDERNESS AREA. PARK USERS ARE  
ADVISED TO STAY ON DESIGNATED  
PATHS.

