

Stephen Nunez ([00:00](#)):

Good to have everyone here. I'm going to be the moderator in this room. I'm working with KTU+A. So I work with Mike and Jacob, who have been presenting the beginning of the workshop here. So I think maybe move on a little bit and see if that everyone arrived here. Looks like we have a good amount of people here. Great. Really good to see the participation and all the good chat comments coming from everyone. So thank you for that, and for, for being here tonight. Yeah, it looks like we have 27 of us in this room. So I think we can kind of get started to just start sharing some thoughts, and you know, Jacob did a good job of kind of laying out the outline of this discussion. So we're kind of going to look at those different areas of the park improvements, and we can always go into some other areas too, if you guys have other thoughts that are beyond those. So we can start with the wellbeing and active improvements, and you guys can feel free to just visually raise your hand if you'd like, and, or just unmute yourself. If you can, you can bring up what you'd like to say about those.

Stephen Nunez ([01:13](#)):

I can also bring up the images that Jacob did present as well. That's helpful for anyone. A skipper, did you raise your hand? I thought I saw you raise your hand.

A skipper? ([01:25](#)):

I did

Stephen Nunez ([01:26](#)):

Perfect. Go ahead.

A skipper? ([01:27](#)):

I think everything sounds great that Jacob's showed, but I would love to see a community garden, which might also fit in educational, but I'm just throwing that out there.

Stephen Nunez ([01:39](#)):

uh uh, yeah. That's a great idea. Thanks for sharing that. Anyone else? Any thoughts?

Antonio Blas ([01:54](#)):

Yes. My name is Antonio Blas. I'm a long-time resident of National City. Welcome to everybody. I'm glad everybody's participating was here. When Mayor George Waters tried to start the marina back then, I'm glad it happened.

Stephen Nunez ([02:12](#)):

Alright.

Antonio Blas ([02:12](#)):

Pier 32 and one of my concerns would be parking. It's always been a problem. And I hope you guys are thinking about it. I have owned boats since 1987 and I am not fighting for parking for the boats. That's okay. But a lot of times people encroach into the parking for the boats, and when we have a trailer is very, very hard to go and look for parking, even away from the area on the outside, on the streets, because it's not easy to park a boat with the trailer, but I understand that people come to the park

specific when it's on Sunday or special events. Special events like Fourth of July or, you know, holidays like that is very, very hard to be combined the parking for the park and the parking for the boaters.

Stephen Nunez ([03:05](#)):

Yeah. Okay. Thank you. I appreciate you bringing that up. Definitely. Definitely a valid concern there and yeah, I think Jacob and Mike both brought that stuff in the in the presentation, but just to reiterate the boat parking will not be removed. It will be, it'll be retained in any changes that are made. So that's definitely a priority to keep, keep the parking that we have. But if I hear what you're saying, that it seems that there may be even as a need for some additional parking. So what you're saying there,

JoAnn Fields ([03:35](#)):

I agree with Antonio. My name is JoAnn fields from the API initiative and Filipino Resource Center. Especially when we have special events going on, parking is always the issue and I know that emergency lane needs to be available. So if there is a redesign of the parking, some way, somehow if we can keep that in mind, the emergency lane, but also for our boaters, that how the traders can come in and out, I was just there this afternoon and someone couldn't get their boat out with their truck and somewhat. So it was two trucks pulling a boat in on the boat ramp. So I can just imagine if it was on a Sunday when it's more full, there isn't much space to move around with the cars and the boats. So again, if there's some kind of redesign in the parking, if we can be mindful of that.

Stephen Nunez ([04:41](#)):

Definitely thank you for that comment. I appreciate that.

Antonio Blas ([04:48](#)):

Can I add up one more thing? Just one more thing, please. The channel, as it comes to the end of the channel under freeway five, the bike lane lowers and drops almost to the low tide and whenever the high tide goes up, it cannot be used by the bikers because it's full of water, but it's not a complaint about that. My idea I've always had this idea. Would it be possible to incorporate out of the channel as these redevelopment? Because if you were able to put locks at the end of the channel, you could contain water on the high tide and through the same access for the bikers have kayakers canoes, paddle boarding to be used in it when it's high tide, by closing the locks and be part of the entire system of the park, because people can walk, come around, drop their kayaks, and enjoy while the water is contained on that portion of the channel and release it, let's say certain hours when they high tie begins to go out, close it, people we have to retrieve their toys and the one it can be released, but for a few hours. Even people who have paddleboards and kayaks will be able to use it.

Stephen Nunez ([06:14](#)):

Yeah, that makes sense.

Antonio Blas ([06:15](#)):

That's the idea, but it's a clean water when it comes in and it's clean water when it goes out.

Stephen Nunez ([06:27](#)):

Hmm. Interesting. Yeah. That's a really interesting idea. Thank you for sharing that.

Antonio Blas ([06:31](#)):

Okay, thank you.

Stephen Nunez ([06:34](#)):

Tom, I see you have your hand raised there. Would you like to say anything?

Tom Lemmon ([06:39](#)):

Well, I think Antonio is onto something and that's exactly what I put in the chat earlier and want to actually address it a little bit deeper. You know, I have the hysterical background of remembering when the Sweetwater River was just a marsh and when 805 didn't exist, nor the obviously the 52, it seems to me like that is wasted real estate. And as, it was addressed by Antonio, there could be some amazing connectivity between Pepper Park, as a destination and National City, Chula Vista coming through that way and under the freeways. You know, you literally, you have the potential of having a world-class rowing venue there because of the way it's situated and viewing corridors, paddle boarding unlimited. And it's just not a utilized piece of real estate.

Stephen Nunez ([07:59](#)):

Uh huh.

Tom Lemmon ([07:59](#)):

Actually remember when that was the spoils for the as they built 805 and that was literally a mountain where, what is now where the water is. It was literally a mountain and it was connected to South Bay Yamaha and literally off-roading. And of course I do remember the off-roading long before the marina was in, that was definitely dune buggies and ATVs. Those days aren't coming back I realize that, but there is opportunities within that water corridor that I believe should be looked at for connected with.

Stephen Nunez ([08:41](#)):

Okay

Stephen Nunez ([08:42](#)):

Great, great comment. Let me get to some of the other hand raises here. Sylvia, it looks like your hand up as well.

Stephen Nunez ([08:52](#)):

Did, the unmute yourself there.

Sylvia ([08:53](#)):

Yes, sorry I was trying to type also.

Stephen Nunez ([08:56](#)):

Oh okay.

Sylvia ([08:58](#)):

That's okay. I just want to share that, I love the idea of adding the community garden specifically as an educational perspective. That's a big thing. So I hope you can support that as well, because we do need also green spaces. Why trees definitely would help, not only the feeling of being along with that, but also in our air quality. We need to improve our air quality, and I know who the port side of San Diego is very active in that. So that will be a great idea as well. There are other things that I'm very excited about. But one thing that the community has requested is fountains. One good one that I seen a beautiful image would be musical lighted fountains. It that will be great for any type of age, from little ones to adult seniors. So that would be an awesome thing to include.

Stephen Nunez ([10:00](#)):

Yeah. Great idea.

Sylvia ([10:02](#)):

More ideas, but I know there's more people that want to participate, so thank you.

Stephen Nunez ([10:06](#)):

Thank you. Appreciate that. I'm going to go give it to you, Zach. I think you were the next one with the hand raised there.

Zach ([10:14](#)):

Thank you. I'm Zach, I'm a resident here in National City. I do want to ask you if you can put, you know, whatever breakout room we're in, if you can put that image up so that way we're, we stay on that topic. But just wanted to remind y'all and everyone here that we got to remember that parks should be designed around people. And also, have you made a, have you done a survey of actually, how many boats are launched out of Pepper Park and you know, do we need that many parking spots for the boats? And, and yeah, just that does concern me. We've got to have a healthy balance of making that park for people and pets or whatever it is more than, and also have equal opportunity to have access to, that boat launch as well.

Stephen Nunez ([11:13](#)):

Yeah. That's definitely a good point balancing those users and, and yeah, I think that would be a valuable study if hasn't actually been performed. I am actually not personally aware of whether that has been performed, but yeah, I think that's a great point. Great thought. So, thanks for sharing that. Also, this breakout room, all the breakout rooms are discussing each of those different topics. So it's any of them, they're all fair game right now, just so you know, and I can bring those images up if anyone would like, it's just going to kind of hide everyone's faces. So it's a little harder for me to track, like whose hands are up or you know, so that's kind of why I've been doing that, but you know, I can definitely do that if that's what everyone wants to see.

Lesley ([11:53](#)):

With Port staff, I'm also taking notes at what is, what everybody's saying. So I think towards the end is when we were planning on having the screen share with that. So you know, if people want to see that sooner, we could always do that as an option too.

Stephen Nunez ([12:05](#)):

Okay, great. Yeah. Sorry. I should have introduced Lesley she's with the board of San Diego and taking notes for us. So I thank you for doing that, Lesley. And yeah, go ahead and let me know when you want to, when you feel it's the right time is to share those, but we could definitely do that.

Lesley ([12:20](#)):

Yeah. I'm typing live as we write. So I'll follow your lead, Stephen, if you want to see everyone's faces or have the words up on screen, you just let me know.

Stephen Nunez ([12:31](#)):

Okay. All right. I think maybe we keep everyone's face up for now. And if anyone is really against that, just, you know feel free to unmute yourself and let me know and we'll keep going. I think grabbing some pretty good discussion right now. So I see a lot of hands up on trying to get to some other folks

Antonio Blas ([12:47](#)):

I couldn't even put my face up. So you don't know me cause I cannot put my face up, I don't know how to do that.

Stephen Nunez ([12:51](#)):

Yeah.

Lesley ([12:51](#)):

We see your photo so.

Stephen Nunez ([12:55](#)):

Yeah, we see your photo, yeah.

Antonio Blas ([12:59](#)):

Next to my girlfriend. Ex, girlfriend.

Stephen Nunez ([13:02](#)):

Oh, thanks. All right, Jennifer, I think you had your hand up for quite a while. You want to speak next?

Jennifer ([13:10](#)):

Yeah. Hi everyone. My name is Jennifer. I'm a student from Sweetwater High School. And so I thought that keeping some of that grass area would be really nice. You know, it would complement having picnics and, you know children running around and also dancing and doing Zumba or really stretching. It could be really helpful. And also I really liked the kiosco idea. I think it could be a nice feature. I don't think I've seen one here in National City and along with the community garden you know, they could be near each other and it's just, it would really bring more life to the park. And one more thing I wanted to say was having the performance areas. I know my school, I'm in several clubs that and extracurriculars where we always perform and we're looking for a nice place and also having Pepper Park that's really close by would be really cool for middle schools and yeah. Also having artwork displayed around the park. I think that'd be really cool.

Stephen Nunez ([14:28](#)):

Great. Thank you for that. Do you have any thoughts on the existing art out there? Or just curious?

Jennifer ([14:37](#)):

I definitely think that we should add in more, oh, and advocate for mental health. I think it's really important. And having some art that shows that some reminders, remember to love yourself would be really nice.

Stephen Nunez ([14:55](#)):

Great. Thank you for the comment.

Stephen Nunez ([14:59](#)):

All right. I think Randy, I think you were next there in line.

Randy ([15:04](#)):

Yeah. Thanks Steven.

Stephen Nunez ([15:05](#)):

Yeah, absolutely

Randy ([15:06](#)):

Everyone. My name is Randy and I'll go ahead and just share several different ideas that I have. One of the, I love Pepper Park, but it's really isolated. You could see that easily, but I'm looking at the map. It's a lot of folks don't even know it's there. It's extremely isolated, surrounded by a bunch of private property storage - cars, boats, it's landlocked. And I think in building ideally, this would be difficult to do, but I think we should, you know, think big and think boldest having either a pedestrian bike bridge directly from the Bayshore bikeway that lands right on the Pepper Park, making it really accessible to get in and out of there may be using that little jetty feature somehow that the pier has Pier 32 has.

Randy ([15:54](#)):

You can kind of see the land leans over kind of like a finger going to goes in there. But creating that experience for people to roll into and onto Pepper Park could be huge directly from the Bayshore Bikeway. I think that having activities for folks to get on to the water and into the water for those that don't own boats would be great. So I think having a beach area would be amazing. I love the idea of the ferry down the road planning for that is going to be important. I think that I love the kiosco idea of having like a place for music and bands to perform and like in the summertime and whenever like Imperial Beach does and other cities do.

Randy ([16:35](#)):

I think that if you look at the map, there is a lot of, like I said, it's private property storage, parking lots. The whole thing is surrounded by giant parking, lots of storage for boats and cars. So you're maybe utilize promoting the parking that already exists on 32nd street Marina, and honestly expanding the park beyond what's currently being proposed in the previous presentation. I think we should think about, reclaiming more space for people in the area and, South Bay's access to the bay. You know, I

think that's a legacy that you recognize to recognize that we have been excluded from the bay and that I think the park could be even bigger than originally proposed and yeah, again, I think just highlighting to the Kumeyaay history in the area in relation to water would be.

Stephen Nunez ([17:26](#)):

Great. Wow. Good comments. Thank you, Randy. Appreciate that. All right. I'm going to keep moving here because we're getting close on time. So Andrea, you want to go next? Oh, could you unmute yourself real quick? Andrea.

Stephen Nunez ([17:43](#)):

There you go.

Andrea ([17:44](#)):

Thanks, Yeah. I live in Southeast and I guess I'll go into some of the issues I do want to see some recognition for indigenous communities [inaudible 00:17:59] other folks there. I think maybe as the prior speaker was commenting, what we notice in South Bay is a lot of lack of access to the bay. We don't have beaches. We have a lot of industrial and working waterfront. So anything that can help just give us that little patch of beach is great. I do a lot of cycling on the Bayshore Bikeway and more connectivity as one other person mentioned, like having that connect the National City and Chula Vista. I think would add value to the community and bring people into the park or make them feel like they have access to the water. I do like the idea of the bike, the boat tours and the fairies and how that could be an educational component.

Andrea ([18:48](#)):

I've often thought that. You know, a lot of that conservation marshy area around there is fantastic, but maybe some built walking platforms or bike platforms to allow people to go through there would be great that wouldn't affect those areas in an adverse way, but that would be fantastic. And you know, the one thing I want to say is that I don't want to see is some of the same things we've seen the Port develop in Central San Diego, where a lot of the parking is paid ACE parking contracts for a lot of hotels or restaurants or things that are just, you know, private businesses. I understand that brings in rents for the Port and it helps to pay for things. But what I would like to see is just more along the lines of Chicano Park or these park areas that allow people to congregate in ways that are the most accessible, that are free. That don't, feel like a restaurant or a mall or that you have to pay to access these spaces. And, that where people can just bring their families because I do go down there a lot. I kayak down there, I ride bikes down there and I see people bringing their families just to ride bikes around and I'd like to preserve that element to it.

Stephen Nunez ([20:13](#)):

Yeah, definitely. Great comments.

Andrea ([20:15](#)):

Thank you.

Stephen Nunez ([20:17](#)):

Yeah. Great, great, Alex, I think you're next there. You want to jump in?

Alex ([20:23](#)):

Yeah. Hi. So I've pretty much lived in National City all my life. And you know, I see the, great ideas that you guys have here. It's just, you know. Last time I checked that the park is really small and even people that I knew who you know, living in, in San Ysidro area, they did not know this park exists. So one is, it's a nice way to shed some light into park for more people in our community, not just the people in National City, but you know, people in Chula Vista and anybody up north as well.

Alex ([20:55](#)):

What the problem is with access. You know, the one is the, the limited amount of space and how are you going to put on how are you going to cram all of these, these ideas into this tiny park? And the other part is, you know, and at the same time, if you're drawing in more people, you're going to draw more people that are going to be driving.

Alex ([21:14](#)):

And there's a lot of people that are, you know, car enthusiasts or just everybody's driving nowadays, but how, are we going to switch that culture as well as appeal to the people that, you know, they need to drop their, things off at the park or whatever the case may be. You know, and one example, I believe when we had the beer garden a couple of years ago and they did an amazing job, right? I didn't realize how much space the city utilized to have every vendor out there and to, you know, get to know the businesses that are around San Diego, around San Diego. And the strategy that we played a role was we just took an Uber, right. And you're seeing that in downtown where they're blocking certain streets, or there are, there's dedicated Uber drop-offs and lifts.

Alex ([22:05](#)):

Like we're, we kind of also have to realize that we have to be inclusive with all types of transportation. So how do we make a convenient for people that can buy a couple of minutes because they parked it at a designated area away from the park, or how do we have areas where we can a suitable location for these ride sharing businesses, right? Because we have to have that balance of opening up to the community, but as, as well as making it a business friendly. You know, how can we have designated spots for, vendors coming in, where we can imagine where there's different food vendors, different beer vendors, whatever the case may be, but also be inclusive with all those different types of transportation. I think that for me is my, my biggest concern is not just to back up with all of these great ideas, but also how to, how to make it convenient and accessible for the people to how to get there with its limitations. Do we need to expand on this part, you know. To have all these great ideas.

Stephen Nunez ([23:10](#)):

That's a great point and good comments. We are actually expanding the park, or if you in a presentation, they mentioned this to you, but there is going to be a certain amount of area that's added to the park. You're right. It is a pretty small park as it is. But with those added areas, we get potential for some other things to bring into the parks. And that's kind of why we're looking at these new things, but those are great points though. And there definitely will be space limitations where we can't get everything we want into the park, but also great points about creating a drop-off space or maybe space for food trucks. It's not like you're kind of bringing up that kind of a thought so great points and good comments. Thank you for sharing.



Alex ([23:49](#)):

Thank you.

Stephen Nunez ([23:52](#)):

So, all right, Ana, I think you're next there?

Ana ([23:54](#)):

[inaudible 00:23:54], thank you [inaudible 00:24:06] a Kumeyaay person, you know, I will love to see more community education there because a lot of people, they didn't even know that Kumeyaay was still here. You know, they're like, oh, the people from us, but you know, we're still here. So I would love to see like a Kumeyaay name to honor our people, you not to name a Kumeyaay name. And also, I really liked what somebody was saying about to have like free traders and stuff like that. So everyone can share their own culture because it's important to together. So, everyone it's important to everyone can share their own culture so we can know each other be united, you know, the culture. I think that's a beautiful thing to be having like a multicultural event so we can only show them. Thank you.

Stephen Nunez ([24:59](#)):

Yeah, absolutely. Great. Thank you for sharing that. Lesley. I was seeing, I think Carlos sent me a message that there's three minutes remaining. So I don't know if maybe this might be a good time to share the notes we have so far on the screen and then we can, and then if anyone else wants to add any thoughts that would be great. Are you able to oh, okay, perfect.

Stephen Nunez ([25:26](#)):

So.

Lesley ([25:26](#)):

I'm sorry, I was trying to unmute and multitask, so I'm hoping people can see, I can enlarge also. And I just, sorry, Stephen, just start to keep up with everyone. Just listed them all under this first topic, even though I know it crosses over all of the different topics. So I can kind of leave these up. We can let people scroll through and we could read them. However, you like to make sure we facilitate how you'd like to move forward and making sure everyone's thoughts were captured.

Stephen Nunez ([26:01](#)):

Yeah, definitely. I mean, I think this is, mainly just so you can all see we're paying attention here. We you're, you're being heard and we're definitely documenting everything you're saying. And we're going to take that into consideration in the planning of the park. I think this is a good time for those who haven't spoken. If, you see that maybe you've kind of seen most of the comments here. If you have any other thoughts outside of these, if you have anything to add, now's the time

Lesley ([26:27](#)):

And there is a page two I could scroll down after we give people a little bit of time here too. So. And I apologize for spelling errors.

Stephen Nunez ([26:37](#)):

Oh, no worries. This is a very difficult juggling all the screens. So yeah.

Randy ([26:45](#)):

I just had a question. The chat to a lot of folks have been putting ideas into the chat.

Lesley ([26:53](#)):

We will make sure we capture those and incorporate them all. Stephen, I wasn't able to read those while typing and double capture, but I, I do know we're looking at those too.

Stephen Nunez ([27:04](#)):

Yes, definitely.

Stephen Nunez ([27:07](#)):

Yeah. That's a good question. I think, I think Carlos may be capturing all of those, but I think we're, we're making sure to grab those and yeah. We're happy to see all those comments. Its great discussion. So yeah.

Ada ([27:22](#)):

I have a quick question.

Stephen Nunez ([27:26](#)):

Yep. Sorry, I think you might be frozen Ada.

Ada ([27:35](#)):

Can you guys hear me National City to the sentiment [though 00:27:40] ? I don't know. Can you hear me? Hello?

Stephen Nunez ([27:43](#)):

Yeah, I can hear you. Yeah, I think it might be a little lag, but yeah.

Ada ([27:45](#)):

Sorry about that. So in regards to the comment that was just shared about more education on the Kumeyaay and other tribes in the area, are we totally not able to change the name or the actual part? Like why is it called Pepper Park, for example, is there a way that we can change the name to make it more inclusive to communities in the South Bay? Is there any way that we can connect that to a more culturally relevant or appropriate name? I was kind of thinking about that out loud. I didn't know if that was allowed or not?

Lesley ([28:22](#)):

What was a suggestion? Go ahead, Stephen. And then I'll yeah, it's fun if you, if you'd like,

Stephen Nunez ([28:28](#)):

Oh, You know what? Go ahead, Lesley. Actually, I don't actually know the answer to that question.

Lesley ([28:32](#)):

I did capture that idea. There is absolute opportunity to consider the names of parks. So I think it's a good idea. We'll include it here then. Ultimately when we, you know, advance a design and take something to our board, that could be definitely one of the things you recommend. So.

Ada ([28:50](#)):

Great. I love it. Thank you.

Antonio Blas ([28:55](#)):

If anybody knows why it's called Pepper Park to begin with?

Lesley ([28:58](#)):

I'm sorry. I'm not aware of that history, but I'm sure.

Sylvia ([29:03](#)):

I saw on social media, they said it was named after a family member. So it may be somebody prominent back in the day. But I, I saw that somewhere on social media, I think.

Stephen Nunez ([29:18](#)):

Really quick I got to interrupt here. We're going to be the breakout room. We'll be closing in two seconds here.