

MINUTES

**City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
November 2, 2023**

Meeting Location:

Balboa Park Club Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road West\
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address:

Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Allison Soares
Molly Chase
Howard Blackson
Dang Nguyen
Brer Marsh
Kathy Vandenheuvel
Makeda Cheatom
Chris Eddy

Members Absent

William Aaron Jr
Micah Parzen
Mary McKenzie

Staff Present

Christina Chadwick
Tyler Canales
Johnny Chou
Victor Johnson

CALL TO ORDER

Allison Soares called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES September 7, 2023

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Eddy / Ms. Vandenheuvel

A motion was made by Mr. Eddy and seconded by Ms. Vandenheuvel to approve the September 7, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

In-Person:

Kohta Zaiser – Welcomed Allison Soares as new committee president. Thanked Molly Chase for her service.

Daniele Laman- Announced the last HPR Lawn Program for the year for House of Lebanon. Thanked Kohta for his involvement with talks with House of Israel.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Requested to move January 2024’s meeting from the 4th to the 11th.

STAFF REPORT

Emily Bonner, Council District 3 – A budget survey is live on their website they would like public input on. Councilmember Whitburn and staff will attend the Plant It Forward event on 11/3/23 at Balboa Park.

Michael Bravo, 78th Assembly District – All 9 bills sent to the Governor’s desk were signed. Assemblymember Ward attended the Latino Lawn program at Balboa Park. They obtained \$500,000 for the Spreckles Organ Pavilion, \$5.6 million for the Fleet Science Center and \$1.275 million for the San Diego Natural History Museum. They are currently looking for interns as well.

Christina Chadwick, Interim Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation – Will provide report electronically.

Natasha Collura, Director, Office of Special Events – Provided updates on December Nights. Will expand family zone this year into Muni Gym and all activities will be free. They are working on an access and mobility plan to get people to the event easier. Some layout changes will happen such as relocating the beer garden to accommodate a skating rink in the Plaza de Panama.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Forever Balboa Park – Elizabeth Babcock – Congratulated the new committee appointments. Announced the Plant It Forward event for 11/3/23 and a park cleanup for the following day.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Peter Comiskey – The National Arts and Economic Prosperity Study noted San Diego Arts and Culture Industry generated \$1.1 billion with over \$775 million being generated by Balboa Park alone. They are looking to create a statewide committee to highlight the importance of Cultural Districts within cities. They look forward to presenting a new experience plan at an upcoming meeting.

Committee of 100 – Robert Thiele – No updates.

Save Starlight – Steve Stopper – Looking to participate in December Nights. Waiting on an SUP with City.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

Consent (These items are adopted without discussion; they can be moved to adoption by any committee member)

Item 1-3. Approve Consent Items

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Blackson/ Mr. Eddy

A motion was made by Mr. Blackson and seconded by Mr. Eddy to approve Items 1, 2 and 3 on consent. The motion carried (7-0-1). Ms. Vandenheuvel abstained.

Item 4. San Diego Wave Parade and Rally – November 14

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Blackson/ Mr. Nguyen

A motion was made by Mr. Blackson and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to approve the San Diego Wave Parade and Rally for November 14. The motion unanimously (8-0-0).

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 5. “O” Lot Preparations for Safe Camping Site: Kohta Zaiser, Deputy Director of Community Engagement, Mayor’s Office

Public Comment:

In Person:

Peter Comiskey – It’s been a fantastic project. There were initial concerns, but they were taken care of by City staff. Encouraged the Committee to visit the site. It is fully supported by the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership.

Committee Comment:

Makeda Cheatom – Toured the site and feels it is a good solution.

Kathy Vandenneuvel – Still some concern with 20th & B site. Would appreciate more security and more receptacles in that area. Believes the program overall has been successful.

Howard Blackson – More shade is needed. Suggested an Artisan’s Residence on the site after it ends as a safe sleeping site.

Chris Eddy – Inquired if people were able to transfer between the 20th & B and O Lot sites.

Kohta Zaiser (Responded) – People are able to transition between sites.

Molly Chase – Thanks Mayor’s office and everyone who came together to work on this solution. Would like to evaluate how everything has worked once it is over.

Brer Marsh – Requested that projects like this come before the Committee in the future to give the opportunity to assist.

Kohta Zaiser (Responded) – Apologized and agreed going forward.

Item 6. Committee of 100 – Municipal Gym, Mural, Ornament & Lighting Reconstruction: Robert Thiele, Project Architect, Committee of 100

Public Comment:

None

Committee Comment:

Howard Blackson – Inquired about the awning to see if it was designed for staying in place long term.

Robert Thiele (Responded) – It should distribute weight better.

Chris Eddy – Like the sandblasting for the light poles. Inquired about the long strip of hanging ivy that is not being replicated.

Robert Thiele (Responded) – Will take the request back to the Committee. Chose to only display work that they know they will be proceeding with at this time. Can be revisited in the future.

ADJOURNMENT -7:37 pm

Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting:

January 11, 2023
6:00 P.M.
In-Person

Respectfully submitted,

Tyler Canales
District Manager