

# MINUTES

City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Board

BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE

April 5, 2018

**Meeting Location:**

Balboa Park Club  
2150 Pan American Road  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Mailing Address:**

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

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members Present**

Victoria Curran  
Sarah Dawe  
Katherine Johnston - Chair  
Andrew Kahng  
Luanne Kanzawa  
Don Liddell  
Dang Nguyen  
Johanna S. Schiavoni

**Members Absent**

Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair  
James Lawson  
Micah Parzen  
Rob Steppke

**Staff Present**

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
Mario Llanos  
Jeff Van Deerlin

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 1, 2018**

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED      Mr. Liddell/Ms. Dawe**

A motion was made by Mr. Liddell and seconded by Ms. Dawe to approve the March 1, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (8-0-2) with Mr. Kahng abstaining.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES** – None

**NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations stated that topics at the safety and security meeting included drones, rental bikes and buskers. Tartan Day will be held next Saturday.

Daniel Gebreselassie, resident of North Park is pursuing a ballot measure to allocate TOT funds benefitting Balboa Park deferred maintenance and future upkeep and would like to be placed on an upcoming agenda.

Jesus Benayas noted the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination. Next year is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Vasco Nunez de Balboa. Mr. Benayas told the Balboa Park Committee they were being ignorant of history, and were not bringing the community together due to greed, power and hate, and that the Committee has done the Mayor, City Council and Community a disservice.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Johnston sought input regarding the non-profit updates given monthly which are of great value and exploring other frequencies of reports that might be helpful such as quarterly reporting to ensure that business of the committee is addressed and that the meetings conclude in a timely manner.

#### **Committee comments:**

- Many projects have long time frames and overlap is substantial, however quarterly may be too long, it should be based on urgency or importance.

### **STAFF REPORT**

#### **Molly Chase, City Council Third District reported the following:**

- Budget season is beginning April 13
- Councilmember Ward is advocating for Park and Recreation to keep the Department whole and looking at implementation of the General Park Plan
- New restrooms are funded on the West Mesa and exploring funding for minor improvements
- Requesting additional night time patrols of park by the Police Department
- Council approved a new storage facility in Sherman Heights to assist the homeless which should open by July

#### **Jeff Van Deerlin, Program Manager reported the following:**

- Update on the Plaza de Panama project which is delayed due to legal challenges
- Two new West Mesa comfort stations should be completed by the end of the year

#### **Susan Lowery-Mendoza, District Manager, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events, reported the following:**

- Busy spring break season in the Park – hosted traditional egg hunt last Saturday for children at Morley Field
  - Encouraged all to attend the Civic Organist's first full concert on Saturday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Organ Pavilion
- Upcoming events:
- Sunday, April 22 – Earth Fair – Central Mesa
  - Saturday April 28 – March for Babies – West Mesa

**Mario Llanos, District Manager, Balboa Park Operations, reported the following:**

- Last Month we finished the mulching and fertilizing of the Rose Garden with the Rose Corps. Please take a moment to stop by and check out the Rose Garden, it is loaded with blooms.
- 157 transients contacted throughout balboa park (illegal lodging, encroachment, drinking, smoking, disturbances and sleeping in the comfort stations) This resulted in 12 citations being issued ( Smoking, illegal lodging, encroachment, tents, destruction of plants, glass containers)
- Three cleanups with the Environmental Services Department were conducted at Golden Hill Park (24th and Russ), Florida Canyon (Morley and Florida), Nate's Point (Adjacent to dog park)

**BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES**

**Balboa Park Conservancy**

Mr. Tomas Herrera- Mishler reported the following:

- Thanks to the Cohn Family Restaurants for selecting the Conservancy as their charity of the month for February and sponsorship of the dinner to celebrate the park's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 24.
- Grateful to present the Economic Benefit Study to Councilmember Ward
- Update on the partnership with Park and Recreation Department for a Park Docent program
- Tree inventory and tree planting update
- Cultural Landscape report presentation at stakeholder meeting on May 10
- Cinco de Mayo and Fiesta Botanica events update
- San Diego Youth Symphony will perform on the first Friday of Food Truck Program
- Signage Plan – seeking public input

**Balboa Park Cultural Partnership**

Mr. Michael Warburton provided updates regarding the following:

- Partnering with Velo Youth Program and providing access passes
- 2017 Annual Sustainability Report distributed
- One Park One Team and Trustees Connected updates
- Park wide Communication- Balboa Park section created on SD.Org
- Brand ambassador guide creating consistency in Balboa Park, leveraging communications
- Balboa Park summer campaign – pulling all park events together in one place

**Committee of 100**

None

**Balboa Park Online Collaborative**

None

**Friends of Balboa Park**

Mr. John Bolthouse shared the following:

- Fig Tree project update
- Lily display April 1 in the Botanical Building through April
- Texas Roadhouse BBQ volunteer clean-up event with 600 persons at Morley Field April 16,
- April 18, Rock 'n' Roll Marathon folks volunteering again and will clean up around the Carousel
- Arbor Day is April 27 in the Park, thanks to the Conservancy for support. Only nine trees left to adopt.
- Butterfly release in Zoro Garden at Fiesta Botanica
- Celebrate National Carousel Day on July 25
- Two new blue historical signs on the way in the Carousel area

**Save Starlight**

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- Creating a fiscally sustainable program
- Funded and installed outside video kiosk and night lighting
- Installed temporary platform stage and green room
- Concern about lack of WIFI in Palisades area and large trees adjacent to Starlight

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Consent**

101. None

**Adoption**

201. None

**Special Events**

301. Environmental Systems Research Institute “ESRI” User Conference Closing Event,  
Presenter: Michele Cole, ESRI Head of Events Marketing

Ms. Michele Cole requested a waiver to the summer moratorium for their closing event on Thursday, July 12, 2018.

Committee Comments:

- Long standing event
- Doesn't adversely affect the park
- Best run event have attended in the park, well-coordinated

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Schiavoni/Ms. Kanzawa**

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve staff's recommendation, requesting that the Park and Recreation Director extend a waiver to the summer moratorium for the ESRI event. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0).

302. 2018 American Heart Association – San Diego/Balboa Park – Heart and Stroke Walk

Susan Lowery-Mendoza noted the issues raised at their 2017 event regarding noise – pre-event and day of event, equipment left behind and start time. Amanda Ferguson of the American Heart Association noted the benefits of the walk which allows them to run programs for healthier living, provides over 12 million invested in research in San Diego, raised \$1.1 million in 2017 with 10,000 participants and is appreciative to Balboa Park for hosting the event. She introduced Mr. David Flourney of Renegade Racing, event organizer who noted that they are changing their event layout with a 50 ft. set-back from the sidewalk, implement sound monitors, working with Caltrans to start the event later at 7:45 a.m., and ensure that all equipment is removed from the park.

Committee Comments:

- Inquired about the orientation of the stage and set-back (facing east and 50 foot set-back)
- Inquired about previous year's issues (not since moving event from War Memorial Lawn)
- Thanked organizer for taking community complaints seriously

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Liddell/Mr. Nguyen**

A motion was made by Mr. Liddell and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

**WORKSHOP ITEMS**

401. None

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

501. Palm Canyon Honeymoon Bridge Reconstruction, Presenter: Mr. John Bolthouse, Executive Director, Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. John Bolthouse, Executive Director of the Friends of Balboa Park presented a conceptual idea of recreating the Honeymoon Bridge also known as the Sweetheart Bridge or Rustic Bridge across Palm Canyon. He provided the history of the 150 foot long bridge designed by Richard Requa that used log trusses. The original cement stairs and landings still remain today. The Friends of Balboa Park are in the exploratory phase of this project.

Committee Comments:

- Awesome project – nice to have found original plans
- Asked about estimated cost (only have rough estimate)
- Inquired about materials used (steel clad with wood)

502. DecoBike Stations in Balboa Park, Presenter: Mr. Don Liddell, West Mesa Subcommittee Chair

Mr. Liddell noted that the West Mesa Subcommittee has brought forward public safety concerns for pedestrians and special events. The rack is located a distance away from the crosswalk. The advertisements on the stations inside the park also are not consistent with park plans, but are able due to special agreement with the City.

503. Velo Youth Program, Presenters: Mr. Jim Benedict, Mr. Matt Hoffman, and Ms. Tanya Landry.

Mr. Benedict presented an overview of the good work being done by the Velo Youth program at the Velodrome in Balboa Park which is both exciting and impactful for at-risk youth. They have been working primarily with 120 – 140 Monarch School and Hoover High School students over the course of the last ten years. He encouraged all to visit their website to view their PSA and on online articles to see how they are improving the lives of local youths.

### **SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS**

601. Land-Use and Policy –No report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS**

Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council: Mr. Kahng reported the following:

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- The Balboa Park / Morley Field Rec Council met yesterday. Council members were surprised to be presented with a “spend-down plan” that was apparently submitted by staff on April 1, as well as a statement of funds to be retained by the Rec Council’s 501(c)(3). It was requested that the minutes of the meeting reflect that Rec Council members were not allowed to correct clear errors in the “spend-down plan”, and that it was agreed that members and member organizations could submit records of donations so as to potentially revise upward the amount of funds to be retained by the 501(c)(3) entity.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting:  
Thursday, May 3, 2018  
6:00 P.M. Balboa Park Club  
2150 Pan American Road West  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
District Manager