

# MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board  
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE  
March 3, 2016

**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**

Amy Bernal  
Andrew Kahng  
David Kinney – Chair  
Don Liddell  
Micah Parzen  
Rob Steppke

**Members Absent**

Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair  
Luanne Kanzawa  
Dang Nguyen  
Johanna S. Schiavoni

**Staff Present**

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
Casey Smith  
Jeff Van Deerlin

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2016**

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED   MR. KAHNG/MR. PARZEN**

A motion was made by Mr. Kahng and seconded by Mr. Parzen to approve the corrected February 4, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES** – None

**NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Ms. Danielle Laman, liaison for House of Pacific Relations (HPR), reported the following:
  - Campfires on the east side of the Hall of Nations near the big slab and stolen electric meters at the HPR cottages, prompted a safety and security meeting at the Hall of Nations. The meeting was led by Morgan Fox of the Conservancy and SDGE replaced the stolen meter.
- Ms. Betty Peabody, Friends of Balboa Park, stated the following:
  - Thanked the BPC, especially Chairperson Kinney and Mr. Kahng for their efforts. The Friends of Balboa Park received a nice pledge donation from the Rock-n-Roll Marathon.
- Mr. Tomas Herrera-Mishler, Balboa Park Conservancy, reported the following:
  - Selected a consulting team for the design work at the Botanical Building.
  - Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects, Inc. (RNT) will spearhead the design aspect of the project.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

- Chairperson Kinney's Park and Recreation Board report:
  - The San Diego Improvement Fund Oversight Committee distributes fees that have been collected from the for profit tenant's leases in Mission Bay. The first part of the money goes back to Mission Bay and the remaining funds are dispersed into other Regional Parks. Some of the funds have been used in Balboa Park for the California Tower Seismic Retrofit, Hall of Nations Foundation Reconstruction and the Balboa Park West Mesa Comfort Stations' replacement which is estimated to cost \$1 Million.
  - Several parks requested to be added to the municipal code for 24 hour alcohol ban.

### **STAFF REPORT**

City Council Third District, Council Representative Stephen Hill (Not Present) – Chairperson Kinney Reported the following:

- Budget process will be ongoing and there will still be opportunities for advocacy or comments.

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

- The Park has experienced vandalism the first week of March, primarily in the House of Pacific Relations cottage area. Last Saturday, the SDG&E meter and electrical circuitry was stolen from the Hall of Nations. Locks were cut off the House of Hungary and a fire was ignited on the cement area on the east side of the Hall of Nations. Staff have been working with SDPD on these issues.
- Events for the month of March 2016:
  - March 5 - Finish Chelsea's Run
  - March 12 and 13 – Thursday Club Rummage Sale at the Balboa Park Activity Center
  - March 12 – St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival
  - March 19 – Race for Autism
  - March 20 – Hot Chocolate 5K and 15K
  - March 31 – All City facilities will be closed in recognition of Cesar Chavez Day

Casey Smith, District Manager, Balboa Park Operations, Reported the following:

- Staff will be wrapping up the Grounds Maintenance Worker I and II interviews; we have a total of seven vacancies to be filled.
- Mulch was placed in the Rose Garden.
- Staff began working on the Persian Carpet Garden and plan to wrap it up this month.
- On April 16, 2016, the park will host 500 Navy Sailors as part of the "Day of Service".
- Staff continues to clean up from the February storms and several tree stumps still need to be grinded and removed.
- Emailed the 2016 Unfunded Park Improvement List earlier this week.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Chairperson Kinney stated he was sad to see the loss of the Coastal Redwood Trees. Mr. Smith responded that a lot of the trees had succumbed to disease and the drought probably increased their susceptibility to disease. The good news is that there are four or five Coastal Redwoods that are thriving along the creek bed between Morley Field Drive and Upas, to the west of Florida Drive, because they have year round access to water. Along Morley Field Drive, the Department is planning a tree planting event to plant native Englemann and Coastal Live Oaks which are more adaptable and drought tolerant.

**BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES**

*Balboa Park Conservancy*

Mr. Tomas Herrera-Mishler shared the following:

- House of Hospitality's alarm horn and visitor counter laser were stolen
- Heavily engaged in data collection as it relates to cultural landscape
- Partnered with Park and Recreation Department to conduct a tree inventory
- Working on undertaking an economic impact study of the Park
- Partnered with Park and Recreation on the following Park Activation Programs:
  - Food Truck Friday's...with the first one launching April 1, 2016
  - Next phase of the Living Room Project will be to expand and improve the living room in Plaza de Panama
  - Botanical Building Project work will be done by R & T Architects

*Balboa Park Cultural Partnership*

Mr. Parzen shared the following:

- Held third annual trustee celebration at the Japanese Friendship Garden
- Several museums have committed to staying open later during the summer till 8:00 p.m. on Friday nights; in addition individual institutions will be deciding on other specific days they would like to remain open to at least 8:00 p.m.
- Food Trucks will be centrally located in Plaza de Panama, as well as other areas in the Park.

*Committee of 100 - None*

*Friends of Balboa Park*

Mr. John Bolthouse shared the following:

- Pledge from Mr. Bruce Walton, Rock-n-Roll Marathon, is a reflection of his wanting to help facilitate getting school children to the Park. Friends of BP plan to designate the contribution towards the school field trip programs to the Park.
- Applauded DM Casey Smith and Park and Recreation Department staff for their work with the Persian Carpet Garden.
- Re-evaluating and upgrading software for the Kiosks in the Park.
- In the morning on April 6, 2016, there will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the medians along Park Boulevard.

- Park and Recreation Department received a \$50,000 rebate for the water savings from the Metropolitan Water District. DM Smith further commented that the funds will be used to repurchase plant material, soils and fertilizer for the Park.
- Collectively the organizations along with the City will be bringing back the Annual Garden Party on May 28, 2016.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Consent** - None

**Adoption** - None

### **Special Events**

**301. Mingei International Museum's Bazaar Under the Stars.** Presenter: Ms. Jessica Hanson-York, Director of External Relations

Ms. Hanson-York requested approval to use the area directly in front and to the east of the Mingei International Museum for their first bazaar under the stars event on May 7, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser to support the museum's exhibitions and education programs.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Parzen expressed total support for the event.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. BERNAL/MR. KAHNG**

A motion was made by Ms. Bernal and seconded by Mr. Kahng to approve the event as presented. Motion was unanimously approved (5-0-1) with Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

### **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

**401. Pershing Bikeway Project.** Presenter: Chris Carterette, AICP, Project Manager, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Mr. Chris Kluth, Senior Active Transportation Planner, SANDAG, and Mr. Josh Clark

Mr. Carterette presented a slide show of the Pershing Bikeway Project. It is part of SANDAG's original bike-path early action program. The bikeway will provide north-south connectivity for people riding bikes and walking between North Park and Downtown. For more information, see attached frequently asked questions article.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Steppke expressed that he's really glad about the project.
- Ms. Bernal inquired about parking spaces being removed at Upas Street. Mr. Carterette responded that three parking spaces would be removed.
- Mr. Liddell inquired about the grade and speed limit. Mr. Carterette stated it's around five percent and the speed limit is 50 mph for cars. The City may propose lowering the speed limit.
- Mr. Liddell was concerned about traffic calming. Mr. Carterette added that by virtue of reducing the road to a two-lane roadway should calm the traffic a great deal. The perceptual changes of having the buffered bike lane on the left, a median, landscaping, and a roundabout will all serve to give people cues to drive more slowly.
- Mr. Liddell further asked about stop signs. Mr. Carterette responded there not proposing any stop signs.
- Chairperson Kinney inquired about the steep grade. Mr. Carterette stated he's optimistic and believes it will get a lot of use.
- PM Van Deerlin asked if the separated bike bath on the east-side was two-way. What's the reasoning for having a bike path on the west-side that isn't actually separated from vehicles? Mr. Carterette responded that it will give riders another option, if they prefer to go down the hill faster.
- Mr. Kahng stated he's more interested in the riders that have been traveling down the two-way bike lane very quickly. Mr. Carterette stated there is no barrier proposed. He feels the concern is valid.
- DM Smith added there will be improvements that will be made to the intersection at 26<sup>th</sup> and Pershing. It will also improve access to Golden Hill Community on 26<sup>th</sup> Street.

The Pershing Bikeway Project will to return to the Committee in April or May of 2016 as an Action Item.

Chairperson Kinney called for a break at 7:18 p.m., to look at the project boards. Meeting resumed at 7:35 p.m.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Steppke stated he would like to speak with people in Bird Rock to find out about their experience with the traffic circle. Mr. Steppke would like more information about roundabouts.
- Mr. Parzen thanked the presenters for the amount of effort and care they put into the landscaping and wanting to beautify the area.
- Mr. Tomas Herrera-Mishler, landscape architect and regional planner with a specialization in urban design stated he's in favor of the roundabouts. There has been tremendous benefits in other park settings. He echoed Mr. Parzen's comments in congratulating the presenters for their thoughtful design. Mr. Tomas Herrera-Mishler suggested there could be an opportunity at 26<sup>th</sup> and Florida and Pershing to incorporate a roundabout there that could accommodate a significant amount of traffic more efficiently than a traditional intersection.

**INFORMATION ITEMS** - None

