

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
April 7, 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
Kenneth Davenport – Vice
Chair
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney – Chair
Don Liddell
Dang Nguyen
Micah Parzen
Johanna S. Schiavoni (arrived
6:06 p.m.)
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Casey Smith
Jeff Van Deerlin

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 3, 2016

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. BERNAL/MR. STEPPKE

A motion was made by Ms. Bernal and seconded by Mr. Steppke to approve the March 3, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (5-0-4) with Mr. Davenport, Ms. Kanzawa, Mr. Nguyen, and Mr. Kinney abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Danielle Laman, liaison for House of Pacific Relations (HPR), reported the following:
The Environmental Impact Report for the new cottages is delayed at the Development Services Department. At their safety and security meeting, homeless issues were discussed. Many Saturday lawn programs are planned in addition to the Sunday programs this year. On Saturday, March 2, the traffic in the park was particularly congested with all of the events.
- Ms. Betty Peabody, Friends of Balboa Park, stated the following:
The Thursday Club Rummage Sale was a success with the highest number of sales to date.
- Mr. Stan Rodriguez of the Santa Ysabel reservation urged the Committee to look at past history, is opposed to the Balboa statue and asked the Committee to hear what is said.
- Mr. Jamie La Brake of Kumeyaay Tipaay thanked the Committee for allowing him to speak. Extended discussion is needed on the Balboa statue subject and he would like to see Balboa Park renamed to Kumeyaay Park.

- Ms. Ana Gloria Rodriguez stated that the Kumeyaay are still here, don't agree with the statue, and that they don't need a representative to speak for them.
- Mr. Steve Banegas, representing the twelve Kumeyaay Bands on repatriation matters is strongly opposed to the statue, which needs to be discussed with the Nation and would like to work towards changing the name of the park.
- Mr. Steven Newcomb stated some history of the domination of non-Christians in the world by Spanish Monarchy. The Kumeyaay Nation has never ceded, relinquished or surrendered its lands or territory by treaty. There is a need to acknowledge and respect the Kumeyaay, is opposed to the statue, the House of Spain should never request to bring it forward again and provided a copy of an article he published for Indian Country Today, "A Vasco Nunez Balboa Statue in Kumeyaay Territory? 'Hell, No!'"
- Ms. Lorena Hodgins stated that she is from Oaxaco, Mexico and is in solidarity with her brothers and sisters from the entire continent. She is opposed to the statue of Balboa as it is a disgrace to the human race and glorifies a murderer.
- Mr. Nobiletti stated that he is in support of the Kumeyaay Nation and their arguments. He asked that the meeting agendas be posted earlier. Balboa was not a humanitarian and the historians remark that he was the best of the Conquistadors is incredulous. We are not a society who glorifies the values of dominance over others.

Chairperson Kinney thanked all for coming to the meeting.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report presented

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District, Council Representative Stephen Hill

- A number of projects have been completed. The center medians were re-landscaped along Park Blvd., a project of the Friends of Balboa Park and the Park and Recreation Department. A ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the beauty of the project and the water it will save, and is appropriate landscaping for San Diego.
- Along with the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, Councilmember Gloria was please to present awards for six buildings that received LEED Silver certification in Balboa Park, making them as efficient as possible.
- The curb was replaced along 26th Street that caused flooding of the trails.

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

- This Saturday, the Park is hosting the Park and Recreation Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Ceremony. We are expecting 900 at the event in the Organ Pavilion, and have the Municipal Gym reserved in case of rain.
- Elevator Modernization has begun at the Old Globe, a CIP project for two on-site elevators.
- Park and Recreation staff just hosted a spring egg hunt at Morley Field on March 26, the event is growing in popularity every year and our staff is doing a fantastic job interacting with the community at these type of events.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, April 16 – Earth Fair – held in the Central Mesa

- Saturday, April 23 – March for Babies

Jeff Van Deerlin thanked the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership for donating the museum passes for the Department Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

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

- Offers have been made and accepted to fill the 7 GMWI and GMWII vacancies
- On April 14th the park will host 500 Navy sailors as part of the “Day of Service”
- First Food Truck Friday event was held on April 1 in the Plaza de Panama
- May 6, next Food Truck Friday event
- Garden Party on Saturday, May 28
- The landscaping in the Persian Carpet Garden is almost finished

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Mr. Tomas Herrera-Mishler shared the following:

- Complimented the Friends of Balboa Park and staff for the Park Blvd. median project
- The Conservancy is in favor of the Pershing Bikeway project and the Friends of Balboa Park Entry Monument project.
- A meeting will be held on April 18, 2016 to talk about priorities of the Conservancy.
- Invited all to rediscover Balboa Park on walking tours and find out what the Conservancy is about.
- Food Truck Friday was a success with approximately 5,000 attendees. The next date will be May 6, 2016.
- Jimmy Parker of Productions by Parker was selected to produce December Nights and the hope is to better activate the children’s area. Sue Varga, Director of Marketing is the point person for December Nights on the Conservancy staff.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Mr. Parzen shared the following:

- BPCP is continuing their search for a marketing director
- Organizing for the 2016 Makers Faire and collaborating with San Diego Arts Project to bring local artists and makers to showcase their work
- Looking forward to Strategic Planning for next year
- The Partnership released its annual sustainability report highlighting water and energy savings, LEED certifications and education provided.

Luann Kanzawa shared the following:

- Balboa Park Learning Institute is officially launching the Balboa Park Online Learning Portal, a platform to distribute professional development courses and programs to arts and culture organizations.
- Along with the portal, the Learning Institute is premiering the Balboa Park Guest Experience Training. Developed from the Customer Service Initiative, the Guest Experience Training established the principles for exceptional guest experiences in Balboa Park.

Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. John Bolthouse shared the following:

- Thanked Jim Hughes for his leadership on the median project and water wise projects
- The Guard houses should be complete in the summer
- April 29, 2016 is Arbor Day event in Pepper Grove and at least 14 trees will be planted.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

None

Adoption

201. Pershing Bikeway. Presenter: Chris Carterette, AICP, Project Manager, San Diego Association of Governments

Mr. Carterette is bringing back a condensed version of the project and answer any questions. The project outreach has been extensive and overall supported. The approval process was reviewed, and the project will have a CEQUA review and is in spirit with the park's master and precise plan.

Committee Comments:

- Asked about the funding source (local funding)
- Why this route was considered? Not heavily trafficked (part of the region's bike facilities, choose to ride bike instead of using an automobile to go downtown and connect in the network)
- Concerned about downhill speed, doesn't see any design changes (traffic engineer stated that the width and grades are safe)
- Concerned about the process and lack of community planning group approval
- The solid barrier seems more dangerous (two examples given along highways that have the solid barrier bike lane)
- The community plan is being updated currently and input is needed from the surrounding communities before approval at this committee.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. STEPPKE/MR. NGUYEN

A motion was made by Mr. Steppke and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to defer the item until a recommendation is received from the North Park and Golden Hill Community Planning Groups. Motion was unanimously approved (9-0-1) with Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

202. Balboa Statue– Item was removed from the agenda.

203. Naming of "Joe Schloss Way" at Morley Field. Presenter: Susan Lowery-Mendoza, District Manager, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department

Susan Lowery-Mendoza noted the location of the un-named park road within the Morley Field Sports Complex and North Park Little's League's desire to honor Mr. Schloss who passed in November, 2015. She introduced Mr. Dan Bennett of North Park Little League who stated that during the course of Mr. Schloss' 57 years of volunteering with the organization, thousands of children were taught character along with the game of baseball. Currently, there are close to 500 boys and girls playing for North Park Little League.

MOTION: MOVED AND SECONDED (NGUYEN/BERNAL)

A motion was made by Mr. Nguyen and seconded by Ms. Bernal to recommend approval of naming the road “Joe Schloss Way.”

Discussion: Mr. Steppke stated that he would support the motion, but was disappointed that there wasn't community outreach in North Park. The motion carried (7-0-2) with Ms. Schiavoni and Mr. Kinney abstaining.

Special Events

None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Park Blvd. Entry Monuments. Presenter: Jack Carpenter, Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. Carpenter stated that the design has changed since the last presentation to a walk through design. The first location planned for installation is along Park Blvd. near Presidents Way and will create a grand entrance to the park with permanent structures.

Committee Comments:

- Asked about the cost of the pair (first pair will be approximately \$100,000.00 due to the cost of the mold, landscaping, irrigation, etc.)
- Like the mosaic tiled roof
- Conveys a sense of place
- Like the fact that you can walk through them
- Funding source? (Friends of Balboa Park with assistance from Park and Recreation for irrigation and landscaping.)
- Funds available yet? (No, but hope to get the project done this year.)
- Precise Plan Compliance (Mentions entry. Only one monument in National Landmark Historic District which will be reviewed by HRB.)
- Thank you for taking this project on

402. Mingei Museum Expansion Proposal. Presenter: Jennifer Luce, LUCE et Studio Architects

Ms. Luce stated that she and Rob Sidner, Director of the Mingei Museum have been studying museum trends and uses in order to improve the entire building called the House of Charm that will benefit all three tenants of the building. An overview of the project was presented and several goals are to open itself up to the Plaza de Panama and Alcazar Garden, create a new multi-purpose space, add a public landscape, and connect museum visitors to the Plaza de Panama by opening the terraces that exist on the gallery level. Public access would be improved through revitalizing entrances. The ground floor will be accessible to the public, the loading dock area will be filled to grade to create a multi-purpose theater space and the roof of this space will become a landscaped garden.

Committee Comments:

- Love everything about the project and the ways it will invite people inside
- Great project
- Will Multi-purpose room be available for public use (programming not determined yet)

- Any solar tube use? (skylights are in building now and windows will be uncovered)
- Requested clarification on the connection to the Sculpture Garden (referred to roof space, not what is across street)
- What is the reference to the Alliance Plan? (new term for the previous Plaza de Panama plan)
- Plan for exterior lighting? (yes and building will glow when light can emanate through windows)

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Balboa Park Unfunded Park Improvements – Tabled until next meeting by consensus.

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

- 601. Land-Use and Policy** – Chairperson Kinney stated that he, Mr. Liddell, Mr. Steppke, Ms. Schiavoni have agreed to serve on this committee. Mr. Bolthouse and Mr. Herrera-Mishler are also interested. Members of the public may also be involved and the meetings will be publically noticed.
- 602. West Mesa Subcommittee** – Mr. Liddell stated that they have been in discussion regarding the big belly trash receptacles on the West Mesa and whether or not there should have been public discussion before installation. A motion was moved and passed to request public review by the West Mesa Subcommittee and the Balboa Park Committee prior to installation of any additional big belly trash receptacles on the West Mesa.

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, May 5, 2016
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager