

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
September 1, 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
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney – Chair
Don Liddell
Micah Parzen
Johanna S. Schiavoni (arr.
6:12 p.m.)
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair
Andrew Kahng
Dang Nguyen

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Mario Llanos
Jeff Van Deerlin

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2016

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

A motion was made by Mr. Steppke and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve the July 7, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved (5-0-1) with Mr. Kinney abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – Chairperson Kinney noted that Item #201 is tabled and will be heard at the next meeting.

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations gave an update on the individual who was picked-up by the Police Department and noted a new transient issue at the north end of the park. In September, the lawn programs will be held at alternative locations as staff are renovating the turf in the center of the cottage area. There are two Saturday events in September. The Moon Festival will be held September 10 and a Korean Veterans program on September 17.

Jamie Edmonds, resident, is interested in volunteering to establish a public labyrinth in Balboa Park. He noted that many parks, hospitals, and churches are establishing them. He is working with the Commission for Arts and Culture to establish a painted labyrinth on the West Botanical Building Lawn.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report presented

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District, Council Representative Stephen Hill

- City Council has been on recess during the month of August
- Councilmember Gloria's final community coffee will be held on September 17 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. at Communal Coffee in North Park
- The City is making efforts to ensure that the City is more user friendly with the Get It Done App which works with the GPS on your phone

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

- Tonight is the last night of the Twilight in the Park Concerts. The season was a success and we were fortunate that there were no rainouts this year. Special thanks to the Friends of Balboa Park for hosting the ice cream social tonight and supporting the program.
- The Elevator Modernization Program, a Capital Improvement Project, is continuing to modernize elevators at designated locations. The two elevators at the Old Globe have been completed with only punch list items remaining. Work will begin on the Air and Space Museum elevator next Tuesday.
- The ADA curb cut improvement in front of the Mingei is nearly complete with application of the coating of the asphalt.

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

- Food Truck Friday is extremely popular and is extended until the end of September.
- There is an ongoing phased project in the Rose Garden that started up again this week. It is part of a series of renovations to existing beds and adding new raised beds along the canyon rim to allow for more roses to be planted. It is being paid for by the Lilyan B. Frank Memorial Rose Garden Endowment Fund at the San Diego Foundation. The grant was approved by the Balboa Park Trust and the Friends of Balboa Park are assisting with the project and are the fiscal agent.
- Maintenance staff has ongoing irrigation retrofits and water-wise plantings going on at: The median in front of Bud Kearns Pool at Morley Field, The Cabrillo Gate Houses, International Houses, North Carousel Lot right-of-way and Bird Park.
- Six light standards were removed from the Cabrillo Bridge for restoration last week. They will take 2-3 weeks to restore. They will be put back up and six more will be taken down. The project is a collaborative effort between City of San Diego's Park and Recreation Department, Friends of Balboa Park, Committee of One Hundred, Balboa Park Conservancy, San Diego Foundation and -the Office of Councilmember Todd Gloria.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Mr. Tomas Herrera-Mishler shared the following:

- The Cultural Landscape report is underway with extensive collaboration with many organizations
- Met with those interested in Nate's Point dog off-leash area improvements
- The Conservancy is in support of the following projects: House of Charm improvements; Pershing Bikeway project; Proposed amendments to Charter Section 55.2; and the Plaza de Panama project

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Mr. Parzen shared the following:

- The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, represented by 30 institutions are in support of the Plaza de Panama project which will create a better visitor experience.

Ms. Kanzawa shared the following:

- The Smith Leadership Symposium will take place on September 14 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the San Diego Museum of Art.
- This fall, October through December, BPCP is going to be hosting a Sustainability Studio in the annex of Gallery 21 in Spanish Village. It's a first attempt at broad community outreach within Balboa Park and we are planning fun and creative ways to engage with visitors.
- Our annual Partner's Breakfast will be held on October 17 with green museum expert, Sarah Sutton. BPCP is accepting Sustainability Award applications through September 16 and are encouraging park organizations to apply.
- Maker Faire is scheduled for October 1 – 2 and they are seeking more makers and volunteers.

Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. Bolthouse shared the following:

- Reminded everyone that their annual awards luncheon will be held on October 18 and will recognize excellence in the park, the Zoo's horticultural collection and present a new award, the Betty Peabody Emerging Young Leader of Balboa Park Award.
- The gatehouse project had a bit of a delay and is expected to be completed later in the year
- The Gateway Monuments will be reviewed by the Historic Resources Board's Design Assistance Subcommittee and concurrent presentations are being made to neighboring community groups
- The Friends of Balboa Park also stand in support of the Plaza de Panama project

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

None

Adoption

201. House of Charm Modifications and General Development Plan
Park Designer Charles Daniels noted that the Park and Recreation Department is requesting a recommendation regarding the proposed House of Charm modifications and General Development Plan.

He introduced the project and its location and how it would connect with the Plaza de Panama plan. One item in the plan not supported by staff is the removal of the arcade railings that front the Plaza de Panama due to potential trampling of the landscaping. Mr. Rob Sidner, Executive Director of the Mingei Museum, and Kei Tsukamoto of LUCE et Studio presented the project with more developed renderings. If successful in raising the funds needed, the museum will close for ten months, beginning January, 2018 and reopen in November, 2018, during their 40th anniversary of the museum. The project has been developed with the Plaza de Panama plan and all conflicts have been resolved. The museum has four major public aspirations with the project; open the museum to the park, add new programs, add public landscape to Balboa Park, and engage with exterior public spaces. Mr. Sidner further described the project's open commons level with an indoor/outdoor restaurant, new theater space and garden courtyard added where the loading dock is currently located.

Committee Comments:

- Excited about the project and vision
- Is the project contingent on the Plaza de Panama Project? (no, but would be better with it)
- How significant is the removal of the railings? (it is a barrier and the project was desiring to simplify the landscape, but they can accept it)
- Asked for a description and location of the railings
- Any changes to the exterior other than the loading dock (Yes, there are some changes to the exterior of the building archways and doors)
- Will construction be phased? (no)
- Will scheduling be coordinated with the Plaza de Panama project (yes)

Public Comments:

- A presentation was made to the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership's board where it was well received.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. BERNAL/MS. SCHIAVONI

A motion was made by Ms. Bernal and seconded by Ms. Schiavoni to approve the project with staff recommendations.

Discussion – a clarification was made that the motion is to support the staff recommendation
The motion carried (6-0-1) with Mr. Kinney abstaining.

202. Pershing Bikeway Project General Development Plan

Park Designer Charles Daniels stated that the Department is seeking a recommendation regarding the project's consistency with the Balboa Park Master Plan, East Mesa Plan and approval of the proposed General Development Plan. Chris Carterette, Project Manager, SANDAG presented additional information about the project and traffic studies that were completed.

Committee Comments:

- Inquired where the pedestrian path is located. It was identified on the map.

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED MR. LIDDELL/MS. BERNAL

A motion was made by Mr. Liddell and seconded by Ms. Bernal to approve the project.
Motion carried (6-0-1) with Mr. Kinney abstaining

Special Events

301. Big Food Festival, LLC, Aspen Decker, Coordinating Producers

Mr. Decker presented a new layout due to consolidation of the tents into a larger tent. The date of the event is Saturday, February 25, 2017 and will feature a three-hour session where participants will sample tater tots and beer options. Load in will occur on Friday, food preparation Saturday morning and the event will run from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. They will be out of the park by 10:00 p.m.

Committee Comments:

- Asking if this is the first event in San Diego (yes)
- Clarifying that they are a for-profit organization, who partners with a non-profit
- Suggested a donation to Balboa Park
- Questions the appropriateness of this type of event in the park
- Concerned about impact to the turf
- Inquired about the cost of admission
- Consider off site-shuttling

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. SCHIAVONI/MS. BERNAL

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Ms. Bernal to approve the one-time event per the staff recommendation. The motion carried (4-2-1) (Mr. Kinney abstaining).

WORKSHOP ITEMS

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Brown Act Refresher, Heather Ferbert, Deputy City Attorney

Ms. Ferbert provided a brief summary of the Ralph M. Brown Act, as it pertains to the Committee and meetings. Subcommittees are also subject to the Brown Act. The Brown Act ensures public participation at meetings. Discussions must take place at the meetings. The public can make comments on items on the agenda and those not listed on the agenda. Helpful resource pages were also provided.

Committee Comments:

- Do vacancies on the Committee count towards a quorum?(no)
- If a meeting is started with a quorum, can it continue if members left and there was no longer a quorum? (will check into it)
- Is notice required to audiotape or videotape a meeting? (will check into it)

Public Comment:

Kevin Swanson expressed concerns of members discussing items not on the agenda, getting together to discuss park operations and is concerned that the Committee is mostly comprised of institutions and investors that are not looking after the park's interests.

502. Proposed Amendments to Charter Section 55. Presenter Katherine Johnston, Director of Infrastructure and Budget Policy

Ms. Katherine Johnston provided background information on Charter Section 55.2 The proposed initiative (Measure J) would extend Section 55.2 30 years until 2069, allowing projects to happen

concurrently and more quickly. It would also increase the funding allocation designated to other regional parks from 25% to 35%. Long term bonds could also be leveraged over the 30 years.

Public Comment:

Kevin Swanson stated that the reality is that the expected increase of funds is one million dollars, split between the five regional parks will not be enough to address Balboa Park's problems.

503. Update on the Plaza de Panama Project. Presenter: Katherine Johnston, Director of Infrastructure and Policy

City is moving forward on this project. It has been presented to the Infrastructure Committee and will be presented to City Council on September 19 to amend the FY 2017 CIP budget to include this project and allocate \$1 million dollars so that plans and costs can be updated. There will be subsequent Council action where a final financing plan will be presented.

Public Comment:

Mr. Swanson noted that when the Cabrillo Bridge was closed to vehicles for bridge work, the data showed no decrease in visitation. Why not use the Zoo parking garage at night? Why is the City going to tear up the park when there are other solutions?

Mr. Comiski noted that the Cabrillo Bridge closure started in the fall, after peak visitation period. There was impact on all institutions, even with a \$300,000.00 marketing program in addition to Caltrans public relations program. The Zoo's parking garage is designed for employee use only. The Plaza de Panama plan adds park acreage, removes vehicles from the Plaza de Panama while maintaining full access to the park and that is the reason why the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, Friends of Balboa Park, Balboa Park Conservancy, Balboa Park Online Collaboration, San Diego Foundation all support the project.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – No Report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No Report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS –

Mr. Van Deerlin noted that on Saturday, August 13, 439 volunteers helped clean-up Starlight Bowl, which was sponsored by Save Starlight and the Park and Recreation Department.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, November 4, 2016
6:00 P.M.

Balboa Park Committee
September 1, 2016
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2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager