

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
November 2, 2017

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

Sarah Dawe
Katherine Johnston - Chair
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
James Lawson
Dang Nguyen
Micah Parzen
Johanna S. Schiavoni
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

Victoria Curran
Kenneth Davenport - Vice Chair
Don Liddell

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Mario Llanos
Jeff Van Deerlin

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. She re-ordered the agenda to hear Item 501, then Item 401. She introduced Ms. Sarah Dawe, our new Committee member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2017

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. KAHNG/MR. LAWSON

A motion was made by Mr. Kahng and seconded by Mr. Lawson to approve the October, 2017 meeting minutes with corrections. The motion was unanimously approved (5-0-4).

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations noted upcoming safety training at the San Diego Museum of Art for park staff and volunteers. She reported that the aggressive homeless person is back in the park around the cottages and Spanish Village demanding food and use of phones. She requested power washing of the hardscape areas at the cottages and removal of the tree stump at the House of USA.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report presented

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District, Molly Chase – Chief of Staff, reported the following:

- Excited the Ms. Dawe has joined the Committee
- Gave an update on the maintenance yard and the safe temporary camping facility
- The three sprung structures are being erected and will replace the temporary camping facility
- Bleach solution sanitizing is taking place on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays
- The park and public restrooms continue to be impacted by homeless and their office is working to assist park staff
- The Police Department has agreed to a 30% increase in pay which will hopefully help with recruitment and retention

Jeff Van Deerlin, Program Manager, Balboa Park/Mission Bay Park reported the following:

- Noted the successful Halloween Family Day event
- Provided an update on the Save Starlight Special Use Permit
- Noted the beautiful murals on the Automotive Museum
- Thanked the Friends of the Balboa Park for providing the much appreciated park staff picnic

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

- Thanked Steve Stopper and his associates for designing the sound system in use at the meeting tonight.
- Our recreation staff were happy to be a part of the Halloween Family Day. Staff from the Municipal Gym and the Balboa Park Activity Center provided for games for all to play and costume contests for all ages. Our Civic Dance Arts staff performed to a Thriller Mix and then taught the chorus moves to all who wished to participate. At the end, our dancers and the public all performed together which was much fun.
- We are preparing for Balboa Park December Nights, which will take place for the 40th consecutive year on Friday, December 1 from 3-11pm and Saturday, December 2 from noon-11pm. We hope you will come and join in the festivities.

Other upcoming Events:

November 5, Race for the Cure – starts at 6th and Laurel

November 11, JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes – 6th and Laurel North Lawn

November 12, Walk in Remembrance with Hope – 6th and Laurel South Lawn

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

- Last month I reported BP Maintenance staff planted 12 trees in Golden Hill Park. This month we have planted an additional 52 trees along Morley Drive between Florida Drive and Park Blvd. All trees are native and will receive drip irrigation. Additionally a walking/ jogging path will be placed connecting Park Blvd to a major trailhead in Florida Canyon.
- Rangers Report: SDPD and Park Ranger continue to with selective enforcement of the Balboa Park and the canyons. For the second month in a row Rangers cleaned up three truck load of debris from

Florida canyon and had 3 camp abatement details with Environmental Services Department removing an estimate 3-4 tons of debris.

- On Wednesday October 18, Ranger Staff assisted San Diego Fire along with Medics and drove around Balboa Park (including the canyons) to provide the HEP A Vaccine to 23 at risk subjects out 50 transients they contacted.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Ms. Jacqueline Higgins reported the following:

- Provided an update on the Cal Fire Grant
- The Cultivate Wonder breakfast was a great success and exceeded capacity
- The first meeting of the Signage and Wayfinding Committee was held
- Halloween Family Day was a huge success
- Working in collaboration City to host the December Nights event
- Will be presenting the application for the tree inventory at the next meeting

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Mr. Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- Noted the Sustainability Partners' Breakfast which was successful. Congratulations to this year's award winners: Balboa Park Conservancy, San Diego Natural History Museum, and the San Diego Zoo.
- Maker Faire San Diego completed its 3rd year in Balboa Park on October 7-8, 2017
- One Park ♦ One Team hosted over 60 Balboa Park teams for a Ranger-led tour with Ranger Kim.
- Our newest Director – Michael Warburton – is developing the strategic plan for enhanced park-wide marketing and communications.
- The Community Access Pass program continues to engage with new partners in an attempt to further broaden our reach in the community.
- The Military Appreciation Pass (MAP) program, is now 6 months old. MAP has served 1,068 active duty military families in San Diego County, with requests and referrals coming in daily.

Committee of 100

Mr. Mike Kelley shared the following:

- The Committee of 100 has been working with the San Diego Automotive Museum to bring back four replicas of the murals that existed on the California State Building representing what the state was most proud of: commerce, industry, agriculture, and scenic beauty. They are installed now and illuminated at night. Their goal is to raise the funds needed to produce ceramic tile murals to replace the vinyl murals. It is a small step towards the goal of restoring the entire building and Palisades area.

Balboa Park Online Collaborative

Mr. Nik Honeysett shared the following:

- Noted that BPOC has moved from the Federal Building to the House of Hospitality. The new tenant of building has agreed to allow BPOC to keep the key networking infrastructure in the building.
- The Wifi network security has been updated and he advised those with old devices to update them for increased security.
- An essay was submitted highlighting BPOC's work done in the park which may be published in a book within a year.

Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. John Bolthouse shared the following:

- Gave accolades to Mr. Stopper for his assistance with his consultation for the sound study of the speaker replacement in the California Tower and many other in kind services he has provided in the park.
- Pleased to announce a milestone in their Carousel Capital Campaign of one million dollars.
- Thanked all who joined them to celebrate park volunteers at their annual luncheon where the carousel was featured.
- The Friends hosts seasonal displays in the Botanical Building and are soliciting donations for the poinsettia display.
- Balboa Park was listed as a top attraction in California by USA Today, something we can all be proud of.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Balboa Statue. House of Spain. Presenter: Jesus Benayas, President of the House of Spain
Mr. Benayas provided his background information and noted that he has presented the statue of Vasco Nuñez de Balboa in concept in 2015 and 2016. Mr. Benayas spoke about the artwork of Theodor de Bry and the harmful effects caused by engravings which were a myth. Panama's currency is a Balboa and the greatest honor is to receive a medal of Balboa.

Public Comment:

- Statues are not a good way to tell a story, say more about who put it up
- Not in favor of a statue, feel the Kumeyaay story should be told rather than the Spanish story
- Plenty of statues for the Spanish exist, it was a brutal invasion
- Insult to have a statue here on land where the Kumeyaay's were moved to make way for the exhibition
- Not in favor of statue, need more critical thinking

- Shouldn't honor someone who subjugated the native people
- Do not honor a history of greed, genocide, murder and rape of native people
- Need to value inclusion of all cultures, statue is a reminder of the oppression of colonialism
- There is ample information in the history text books which is not fabricated, stating that the Spanish believed the native people deserved death for their behavior and for killing of Christians.
- Europeans wanted sugar plantations and slaves, anyone not a Christian would be killed
- 12 bands of Kumeyaay oppose this statue, now and forever. Statues depicting oppression are being taken down across the country.
- San Diego has a rich ethnic mix and there is no sense in celebrating with a new statue in a public park, a leader of the deprivation of native peoples of the southwest of their homeland, and often their liberty and their lives.

Committee Comments:

- Dr. Parzen thanked all for coming to express their views tonight. This Committee is designed to advise on land use issues related to the Park, not to weigh the evidence presented to determine what type of person Balboa was. It is clear that the proposed statue is a lightning rod in our community and for many, Vasco Nunez de Balboa represents hundreds of years of colonial oppression, pain and suffering, all of which live on today in the form of structural racism. Continuing to pursue a statue of Balboa knowing how upsetting and offensive it is to many evidences a commitment to division. It is unthinkable that the Committee would deem bringing a new lightning rod as an appropriate use of public parkland. We are better than that as a community.
- Mr. Kahng, Ms. Johnston, Mr. Nguyen, Mr. Steppke, Ms. Schiavoni and Mr. Lawson supported Dr. Parzen's statement and stated that they would not support the statue.

Ms. Johnston stated that the item will have to come back at a later date as an action item as it is only a workshop on the agenda.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. The Bike Share Program. City of San Diego Transportation and Storm Water Department.

Presenter: Ahmad Erikat, Associate Engineer – Traffic

Mr. Erikat provided an update of the Bike Share Program which has been operating since 2015 and its goals. A number of locations will be relocated in areas surrounding Balboa Park. In early 2018, some of the lower performing stations will be removed. Feedback on locations was received and there will be a total of 31 stations; (14) stations in Uptown, (10) Downtown, (6) in North Park and (1) in Greater Golden Hill. There will be new stations installed on the street at 6th and Nutmeg and 6th and Fir in red curb areas.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – No report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

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The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, January 4, 2017
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager