

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
September 6, 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
Vicki Granowitz
Katherine Johnston – Chair
Luanne Kanzawa
Don Liddell
Dang Nguyen
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Members Absent

William Aaron
Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair
James Lawson
Micah Parzen

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2018

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

A motion was made by Mr. Liddell and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve the May 3, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-2) with Ms. Curran and Ms. Granowitz abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON -AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations noted that at safety and security meeting this month an active shooter scenario class was offered. There are now four police officers dedicated to Balboa Park. Regarding the new cottages, hopefully they will get underway this fall. House of Mexico will have their lawn program on September 14, 2018 in the Organ Pavilion.

Hal Goforth, retired Navy Captain stated that he is representing many local running clubs. He gave background information about distance runner Meb Keflezighi who moved to San Diego at age 12, has done what no other marathoner has accomplished. They are seeking to honor him by funding and maintaining a statue in the park.

René Smith presented a report of his analysis of the facilities conditions assessment report that he had previously presented to the City's Infrastructure Committee. He evaluated the assessment data and the City standard FCI is a score of 15. 71% of Balboa Park buildings have an FCI of 40. There is a need to have a

revenue stream to bring these buildings up to and FCI score of 10 for the world class destination that Balboa Park is.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Recognized and thanked Mr. Steppke for serving on the Committee for eight years. Mr. Steppke thanked the North Park community for supporting him, the park's non-profit organizations and City staff for all they do. He recognized the Committee members for always having respectful dialog when discussing difficult issues which should serve as a model for how committees should be run.
- Introduced Ms. Granowitz, representing North Park. She is an active member of the community and Planning Board. Ms. Granowitz has served as previous chair of the Balboa Park Committee.

STAFF REPORT

Molly Chase, City Council Third District reported the following:

- Councilmember Ward introduced a styrofoam ban that will be heard on October 15 and recognized the sustainability efforts in Balboa Park
- Councilmember Ward and community members planted trees along 28th Street in Golden Hill and are looking to provide more opportunities for tree cover for neighborhoods
- Great to be able to have the additional police officer assigned to the park
- Addressing the need with Nathan Fletcher and other community leaders for recuperative care facilities for the homeless
- Council has applied for 14 million in state funding aid for homeless outreach workers and service providers

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

- Thanked Mr. Steppke for his service to the Committee, welcomed Ms. Gronowitz and announced the reappointment of Mr. Davenport
- Noted the timeline for the two new comfort stations on the West Mesa
- The Mingei Museum is now closed for twelve to fourteen months for their 45-million-dollar project
- The seismic retrofit of the California Tower will begin in January 2019
- Provided an update on the Plaza de Panama project
- Noted an SDG&E project to replace the gas main and meters at facilities along El Prado and south to the International Cottages
- Commented on communication strategies

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

- Twilight Concerts in the Park have concluded. The volunteers and staff pulled together after the loss of Mike Waggoner had a season close out meeting yesterday and all agreed it was a great season.
- Staff and security personnel are performing fire watch at the Museum of Photographic Arts until the alarm system is replaced. The CIP project is being expedited by the Engineering Dept.
- San Diego Pride Festival was conducted in July on the West Mesa. Several issues including amplification, parking on the turf and alignment of fences were discussed at a post event meeting with the Office of Special Events so that they can be addressed before the next festival.
- Upcoming events:
 - Saturday September 15 – Heart Walk – West Mesa
 - Saturday, September 20 – Alzheimer's Walk

- Sunday, September 21, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

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

- In August 22nd approximately 70 trees were planted at 28th street Park. Special thanks to The Balboa Park Conservancy, Urban Corps, and Cal Fire for coordinating the tree planting. Funding for this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as part of the California Climate Investments Program. This is made possible by the Tree Balboa Park grant award in partnership with the Balboa Park Conservancy, City of San Diego Parks & Recreation, Urban Corps, and Tree San Diego. The next planting area will be at Grape Street Dog Park.
- Now that it is cooling off, we plan to spruce up the Park Blvd median plantings in the upcoming weeks.
- In the month of August, 250 transients contacted throughout Balboa Park for things like illegal lodging, encroachment, drinking, smoking, disturbances and sleeping in the comfort stations.
- Rangers have been working with SDPD conducting selective enforcement details in the early mornings to clear the transients from the interior of the Park (arcades, gardens, and park benches). There have been three (3) arrests made.
- 12 citations were issued (Smoking, illegal lodging, encroachment, tents, destruction of plants, glass containers)
- 24 abatements conducted between Rangers/GMW's and SDPD

There was Committee discussion about the number of contacts with homeless in the park and a desire to visit the issue at a future meeting.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

No report presented

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Mr. Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- The annual Balboa Park Sustainability Forum will be held on October 17 from 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM.
- For Park-wide Communications, the Balboa Park Summer campaign is over and we are evaluating performance to inform the next park-wide communication program, as we continue our effort to position the park as one destination.
- Maker Faire San Diego returns October 6-7, 2018. We have over 250 makers and 10 participating institutions in the park. This multi-museum event showcases innovation in San Diego.
- This month One Park ♦ One Team will host a get-together at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion with a tour led by San Diego Civic Organist Raul Prieto Ramirez and Organ Curator Dale Sorenson, Organ Curator. Our signature program, Mix Up Meet Up, is in full swing with paid and volunteer team members from all over the park meeting each other.
- Finally, the Community Access Pass program received a \$10,000 grant from Wells Fargo a multi-year supporter.
- The Community Access Pass and the Military Appreciation pass CAP and MAP have now served more than 10,000 families in our community - including almost 2,500 active duty military families.

Committee of 100

Mr. Mike Kelley shared the following:

He updated the Committee regarding their mural project at the San Diego Automotive Museum, the former California State Building. Eleven months ago, they installed four temporary vinyl murals and began raising funds to replace the vinyl murals with tiles. All of the tiles have been ordered and they have raised funds for three- fourths of the project. They hope to begin installation early next year.

Balboa Park Online Collaborative

No report

Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. Bolthouse shared the following:

- Recognized the efforts of Reñe Smith who put a lot of time into his analysis and heard the call for action
- Completed the installation of the new speakers in the California Tower
- The Morton Bay Fig tree decking project which should be completed by the end of the year
- 2109 marks their organization's 20th year and they are planning 20 milestone projects
- Update on the 2nd Annual Carousel Day
- Recognized Steve Stopper who will be an award recipient, along with Spreckels Organ Society and the San Diego Youth Symphony at their upcoming luncheon.

Save Starlight

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- Thanked the Committee and noted the passing of Steve Carol, former Chairman of their board
- Introduced Michael Kinsman, their new Chairman of the Board who provided his background information

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. Golf Course Drive Improvements Project. Presenter: Amy Mills, Program Manager, Public Works Department

Ms. Mills provided a presentation describing the project; to provide a pedestrian pathway and bicycle facilities along Golf Course Drive from 26th Street to the intersection of Date Street and 28th Street. A feasibility study was prepared to evaluate alternatives to meet the project goals. Two alternatives were presented for the Committee to state their preference.

Committee Comments:

- Mr. Nguyen asked about the source of funding (study conducted with DIF fees, funds available for design only as grants are being sought for the project)

- Ms. Curran stated that the modification to Alternative 2 is important
- Ms. Schiavoni inquired about the project trajectory (only enough funds for the design)

Public Comments:

- David Swarens of the Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee stated their preference for a modified version of Alternative 2 that includes an enhanced separation of the bike lane
- Cheryl Brierton stated that they have been waiting for a sidewalk to access the recreation center and prefers also a modified Alternative 2 to include a barrier to separate the bike lane from pedestrians.

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED MS. GRANOWITZ/MS CURRAN

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Ms. Curran to accept Alternative 2 with the modification proposed by the Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee for the barrier. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-0)

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. City of San Diego Parks Master Plan: Presenters: Joe Webb, Director of Park Planning for AECOM, Shannon Scoggins, Park Designer, Planning Department

Ms. Scoggins introduced the consultants and is following up after her May 3, 2018 presentation to the Committee. She highlighted the Parks Master Plan schedule and asked the question: What are the current strengths and weaknesses of park system?

Committee Comments:

- The cultural assets are a strength with historical significance. A weakness is insufficient funding for preservation and repairs. Maintenance funds are insufficient in Regional Parks and there are inequities for participants in recreation center activities.
- Weakness in security and safety
- Too many recreation councils had too few members, spent a lot of time attending meetings with less than five people, recommended consolidation of councils
- Food Trucks are a strength – innovative and a strategic way to bring people to the park which benefitted the institutions too. Be receptive to innovation and place making to activate the park as an organic gathering place
- Weakness is lack of a volunteer program in the park as the public wants to be involved
- What will be relevant to Balboa Park in the report?
- Equivalencies are controversial in regional parks and are not being spoken to

Public Comments:

- Mr. Comiskey stated that Balboa Park is so unique, and the cultural assets are not included on the survey and deserve separate treatment.
- Mr. Smith stated that a public input session should have been held in Balboa Park as there would have been high attendance – an opportunity missed

- Joseph Sfeir of the House of Lebanon, former member of House of Pacific Relations noted that the houses are being dismissed and need to pay attention as to how they are running their business
- Steven Schindler, involved in cultural institutions planning has worked for many of the Balboa Park's institutions stated that there needs to be a long-term vision and planning with greater respect for the 1915 and 1935 periods. The trends show decreasing visitor ship by the younger generations.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. No report presented

502. Better Balboa using the Litterati App. Presenter: Rubi Baricuatro, Sustainability Program Manager, Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Ms. Baricuatro introduced the Litterati app. This app can help to involve all to keep the park clean, identify where the waste comes from, track it and identify the litter zones. It is an interactive tool in which people take a photo the litter and upload it on the app, then dispose of the litter. The Committee stated their support of the pilot program.

Ms. Baricuatro also encouraged the Committee register to attend their Sustainability Forum on October 17 from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the NAT.

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy –No report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, October 4, 2018
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager