

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
January 3, 2019

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

William Aaron
Victoria Curran
Sarah Dawe
Kenneth Davenport – Vice
Chair
Vicki Granowitz
Katherine Johnston – Chair
Luanne Kanzawa
Don Liddell

Members Absent

James Lawson
Dang Nguyen
Micah Parzen
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Staff Present

Mario Llanos

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2018

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. DAWE/MS. KANZAWA

A motion was made by Ms. Dawe and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve the November 1, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion carried (5-0-3) with Mr. Liddell, Mr. Davenport and Mr. Aaron abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON -AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

John Stump expressed concern about climate change asked the committee to consider the advancement of the City's Climate Action Plan when making decisions about programs and projects the park and to reduce carbon, stormwater, water and resource use and solid waste.

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations introduced Gary Jones as HPR's President for 2019, announced Heather Wilson is now Secretary and Eugenie King is leading the New International Cottage Committee. At the Safety and Security meeting, Senate Bill No. 946 was discussed allowing for buskers and those that want to sell items. The Police Department also reported an uptake in vandalism in the park.

Jesus Benayas noted that January 2019 is the 500th year anniversary of Vasco de Nuñez Balboa for which this park is named after. Balboa fought for natives' human rights. Martin Luther King Jr. has a statue at his memorial in Washington D.C., but Balboa has no statue in a park that carries his name.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Johnston wished all a happy New Year and holiday. Ms. Johnston stated last month she talked about forming an Ad-hoc committee to identify items to be accomplished this year and she is working with City staff on the best way to accomplish this to provide a formal letter with recommendations at the budget review hearing. Ms. Granowitz graciously volunteered to be the Chair of the Land Use and Policy Subcommittee.

STAFF REPORT

Molly Chase, City Council Third District reported the following:

- Thanked Ms. Kanzawa for inviting Councilmember Ward to the new statue dedication ceremony in the Japanese Friendship Garden which is a beautiful addition
- 14 million was received by the City for homeless services and outreach. Councilmember Ward is asking for additional outreach teams and reunification services
- Working with Parks and Recreation staff on items needed in the park

**Jeff Van Deerlin, Program Manager, Balboa Park/Mission Bay Park reported the following:
No report**

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

- Happy New Year to all.
- The 2018 December Nights event, was the largest holiday event yet and was held successfully. Estimated attendance was 375,000 people over the course of the two -day event. Kudos to all staff involved in the planning and execution of the event.
- Balboa Park facilities have been the target for break-in and theft:
12/15/2018 Municipal Gym Overnight break-in through side door – items stolen: recycling bottles; trash can; containers of candy and four containers of green frosting meant for the Breakfast with Santa activity that day. Staff to pursue additional security systems for both the Municipal Gym and Balboa Park Activity Center
12/26/2018 Spanish Village Studio 9 broken into (glass smashed) with thousands of dollars of merchandise stolen. Spanish Village would like to pursue installation of gates at the entrances to the village to help prevent some of the vandalism and theft.
- **12/29/2018 Fleet Science Center** Around midnight, front door smashed, PD had apprehended the person inside museum.
- California Tower Seismic Retrofit to get underway in late January.

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

- January 21, 2019 we will host our annual MLK Interfaith Day of Service Cleanup day with an estimated 500 volunteers. We will focus in the canyon behind the Automotive Museum, Old Desert Garden, Starlight and Palm Canyons doing trimming and clean up and minor planting.
- Ranger Report: 210 transients contacted throughout Balboa Park (illegal lodging, encroachment, drinking, smoking, disturbances and sleeping in the comfort stations).

- Three (3) ranger and Environmental Services Department (ESD) cleanups were conducted Behind Balboa Park Club with 3.2 tons of Trash removed; Florida Canyon along Florida Drive with 1.2 tons of Trash removed; Golden Hills Park (canyons)1.2 tons of trash removed

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Tomas Herrera-Mishler shared the following:

- After two years of effort, The Conservancy is now recognized by the Points of Light Foundation as a certified service enterprise for best practices and stewardship
- Audrey Tomayo is their new volunteer coordinator
- He reflected on their progress with the Park Ambassador program, tree steward program, tree inventory, cultural landscape report, and Park activation programs. Halloween Family Day was the fourth busiest day in the park last year. Look forward to authentic San Diego celebrations with Cinco de Mayo and significant projects in 2019.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- Access Programs: Response to the Military Appreciation Pass program continues to be strong, with more than 2,600 families served by the end of 2018
- Visit by the City of Denver: In September, the city of Denver brought many of their business and city leaders to San Diego including about 50 people who visited Balboa Park to learn from our park
- For Sustainability, a huge thanks to the team from Parks and Rec for the successful launch of the Better Balboa effort towards litter abatement using the Litterati app. 120 SDG&E volunteers on Friday, December 14 held a phone in one hand and a grabber in the other. It was a joint effort by BPCP and Parks & Rec. The results of the clean-up event being that 283 pounds of trash, recycling, cigarette butts, and hazardous waste were collected in the Park. 1,752 Litterati app entries were made showing the top five litter items found to be: plastic, wrappers, paper, cigarette/butts, and bottles
- For Park Wide Communications, in 2019 the San Diego Tourism Authority will be conducting its biennial San Diego visitor study which, for the first time, will include Balboa Park. The cultural partnership will be assisting SDTA with the collection of data within the park as well as at park institutions
- On March 14 from 6pm to 8pm, the 5th annual Trustees Connected event will be held here in the park. As key leaders for the park, we encourage you to join trustees from many other park organizations

Committee of 100

Mike Kelly shared the following:

- Focusing their efforts on the Palisades area for the last three years
- The Municipal Gym and the Automotive Museum have lost most of the Maya styled ornamentation as the material was not made to be lasting
- Permanent ceramic tiles for the Automotive Museum are in production and beginning design on ornamentation
- Pan American Plaza can be restored and made beautiful again so that Balboa Park can truly be a world class destination

Balboa Park Online Collaborative

No report presented

Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. Bolthouse shared the following:

- The Friends are now in their 20th anniversary year
- Hope to begin work on the Morton Bay fig tree viewing platform in the next 90 days
- Thanked Parks and Rec. staff for the Poinsettia display
- The Online Collaborative and SDG&E partnered on the creation of a webpage featuring native birds of the park on Balboapark.org which is very impressive
- Honeymoon Bridge – beginning fundraising for the project
- Received a \$7,000.00 grant for field trip programs and are reaching out to East County schools.

Save Starlight

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- Tough year last year with their board president passing
- Had a December Nights photo booth, enchanted land and other activities which was successful. Had doors open so that people could view the bowl.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. Rock'n'Roll San Diego 5K. Presenter: Brian Ulery, Race Director

Mr. Ulery requested a waiver to the summer moratorium on June 1, 2019 to conduct the Rock'n'Roll 5 K. The route is the same as last year.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. WILLIAMS/MR. DAVENPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Davenport to request that the Parks and Recreation Director extend a waiver to the summer moratorium for the 2019 San Diego Rock'n'Roll 5K. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-0).

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. San Diego Zoo: Children's Zoo Project. Presenter: David Rice, Corporate Director of Architecture and Planning, San Diego Zoo Global/San Diego Zoo Safari Park

Mr. Rice provided an overview of the next major project at the Zoo, replacement of the Children's Zoo and some facilities located around it.

Public Comment: Mr. Stump stated a real hearing should be held on this before this project proceeds by an advisory body and that Zoo Global is behind the times environmentally and with climate change. Need to reduce car trips and stormwater.

Committee Comments:

- Asked about the timeline of the project – summer 2019
- Solid waste disposal – have best management practices in place
- Will there be another entrance? Yes, for construction and animal ambassador program – not public access
- All within the leasehold? Yes, and replacing hummingbird and kimono dragon exhibit
- Congratulations and good luck with the project

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – Vicki Granowitz is Committee Chair and noted it will be a Brown Act noticed committee consisting of less than a quorum of members of the Balboa Park Committee. She will have more information next month.

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, February 7, 2019
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager