

# MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board  
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE  
February 7, 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  
Sarah Dawe  
Vicki Granowitz  
Katherine Johnston - Chair  
Don Liddell  
Dang Nguyen  
Micah Parzen

**Members Absent**

Victoria Curran  
Kenneth Davenport - Vice Chair  
Luanne Kanzawa  
James Lawson  
Johanna S. Schiavoni

**Staff Present**

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
Mario Llanos  
Jeff Van Deerlin

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2019**

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED   MR. AARON/MS. GRANOWITZ**

A motion was made by Mr. Aaron and seconded by Ms. Granowitz to approve the January 3, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion carried (6-0-1) with Mr. Nguyen abstaining.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES** – None

**REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED   MS. GRANOWITZ/MR. NGUYEN**

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to move Item 301 to the Consent Agenda. No speaker slips have been submitted in favor or in opposition to the item. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).

**NON -AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin Swanson noted that his car was broken into at the Organ Pavilion parking lot and the crimes in the park are increasing. He would like to know what the City is doing to increase cameras in the parking lots?

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations noted that security concerns are being discussed with Community Relations Officers. The House of Pacific Relations is requesting to keep the cottage area closed at night during construction. The park rangers are now fully staffed, and their old office phone is now forwarded to a cell phone for better communication. An arrest was made in the Zoo parking lot of a person checking car door handles. The House of China having their Lunar New Year celebration this Saturday and Sunday.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Johnston is working on the parameters for the ad-hoc committee to articulate budget priorities to City Council.

### **STAFF REPORT**

**Molly Chase, City Council Third District reported the following:**

- Distributed Newsletter
- Referred to Councilmember Ward's 27 pages of budget priorities listed on his website
- City vacancies are an issue and positions need to be filled City-wide
- Starting Monday, a team of outreach workers will focus on individuals experiencing homelessness in Hillcrest and in areas that touch on edge of the park
- Penny for the Arts and funding is a priority, hoping not to see a reduction of funds.

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

- Electriquette operations are on hold as a new lease is being re-negotiated. Their kiosk will be removed in the Plaza de Panama until such time as the new lease is in place.

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

- Parks and Recreation staff contracted work to repair the ornamentation at the Organ Pavilion and the Casa de Balboa. Spectra, the contractor started on the Organ Pavilion yesterday.
- The Seismic Retrofit of the California Tower at the Museum of Man is mobilizing. Solpac Construction will begin working on February 25 and take about 8 months to complete the project. During days that steel is being moved by a crane, traffic control will be in place and El Prado will be closed from 7 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Monday – Friday. Pedestrians access will remain open and is being routed under the arcade. Signage about the project and access to the museum which will remain open is being erected. Thanks to the Museum of Man for being a great partner to help facilitate the project.
- Encourage everyone to attend our Civic Dance Arts Collage 2019, "Dream Big" now performing in the Casa del Prado Theater Friday, Saturday and Sundays through February 17. Breathtaking costume, imaginative set pieces, gorgeous theatrical lighting and 75 professionally trained dancers performing in various dance styles such as tap, jazz, hip hop, modern, lyrical, contemporary, musical theater and Bollywood. Come experience the power and joy of dance at its finest.

**Mario Llanos, District Manager, Balboa Park Operations**

No report

### **BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES**

**Balboa Park Conservancy**

Tomas Herrera-Mishler shared the following:

Provided project updates:

- Botanic Building – developing a case for support of restoration
- Casa del Prado courtyard enhancement and activation – have a \$60,000.00 budget from private donors
- Rose Garden Enhancement project – received a grant for \$175,000.00 and also a donation of a master plan for the garden
- Alcazar Garden project – received a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation which was matched by private donation
- Tree inventory and planting projects – plugging away at the 500 trees goal with tree steward program thriving
- Park Ambassador program – volunteers receiving training and radios

### **Balboa Park Cultural Partnership**

Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- BPCP member organizations have begun working together to collect and share source of residency data on visitors with new survey devices in the park. This data will be helpful in understanding the mix of locals and tourists and be useful for marketing, grant writing, and advocacy efforts for individual institutions and for the park as a whole.
- The Sustainability Program offers Sustainability Walk-Abouts for a behind-the-scenes look at sustainability in Balboa Park, we have two this month with I Love a Clean San Diego, and International Facility Management Association members. We are Excited to continue our partnership with SDG&E this year and implement many more energy efficiency projects in the Park.
- The Community Access Pass program has engaged two new partners – Kitchens for Good and the Family Justice Center – to distribute passes in the coming months. To date, more than 2,700 active duty families have now received the free annual Explorer passes through the MAP program.
- Balboa Park has taken a leadership role in engaging a coalition of the State Designated Cultural Districts. Called the California Cultural Districts Coalition, this group will both collaborate and advocate for further support of the California Cultural District Program.
- Finally, the 2019 Trustees Connected event will be held on March 14 and invitations are provided for you. At the event this year, a number of the significant capital projects that are in the pipeline will be highlighted.

### **Committee of 100**

No report presented

### **Balboa Park Online Collaborative**

No report presented

### **Friends of Balboa Park**

No report presented

### **Save Starlight**

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- Progress with their board and advisory growth
- Moving forward with concession stand preparation and permitting and hope all to be completed by May.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Consent**

101. None

#### **Adoption**

201. None

#### **Special Events**

301. Walk in Remembrance with Hope, Presenter: Kim Bozart, President, Survivors of Suicide Loss

**MOTION:            MOVED/SECONDED MR. AARON/MS. GRANOWITZ**

A motion was made by Mr. Aaron and seconded by Ms. Granowitz to approve the change of date as requested. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-0).

### **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

401. None

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

501. Balboa Park Bud Kearns Aquatic Complex Improvements, Presenter: George Freiha, Senior Civil Engineer.

Mr. Freiha provided an overview of planned upgrades to this historic facility which will meet the Department of Health Services requirements and Accessibility standards. The scope of work includes upgrades that include: recirculating water system; overflow gutter system; piping; steps; riser; mechanical systems; accessibility from the parking area to the pool deck and locker rooms and site upgrades to perimeter fencing and gates. Total project cost is approximately \$3 million, will take six months to complete and will begin in September/October 2019.

502. International Cottages Expansion Update. Presenter: Eugenie King, Vice President

Ms. King, current Vice President of the House of Pacific Relations and President of the New International Cottage Committee, following the death of Mr. Novinger, noted that the new cottages have been in planning for ten years. The project is being advertised for bidding on February 12 and 19 and bids are to be returned on March 15, 2019. The cottages will represent the following cultures: Houses of Chamorro, India, Korea, Mexico, Palestine, Panama, Philippines, Peru, and Turkey. There are two construction locations – two cottages on north end (Philippines –stand alone, Mexico/Panama) and three cottages on the south end (Korea/India; Chamorro/Peru; Palestine/Turkey).

Committee Comments:

- When starting construction? Hopefully in May, but project may be phased. Construction will take approximately one year.

- Congratulations on the progress and hope all goes well

#### **SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS**

601. Land-Use and Policy – Vicki Granowitz, Committee Chair, contacted Joel Day, Director of Boards and Commissions regarding bylaws formation, which will be based on Park and Rec. Board bylaws. She also spoke with Christine Jones, Commission for Arts and Culture regarding pop-up art exhibits with a short time turnaround as the current policy doesn't allow for these types of exhibits. A project was proposed for suggestion to Councilmember Ward's office as a budget recommendation is to address the archival of the park's historic documents upon the retirement of Ranger Kim Duclo.
602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting:    Thursday, March 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