

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
April 4, 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

Sarah Dawe
Kenneth Davenport – Vice
Chair
Vicki Granowitz
Katherine Johnston – Chair
Luanne Kanzawa
Don Liddell
Dang Nguyen
Micah Parzen (arr.6:08 pm)
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Members Absent

William Aaron
Victoria Curran
James Lawson

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Mario Llanos
Casey Smith
Jeff Van Deerlin

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2019

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. DAWE/MR. NGUYEN

A motion was made by Ms. Dawe and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to approve the February 7, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion carried (8-0-0).

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON -AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations noted from the Safety and Security meeting that new police officers for the park have been hired and are being trained. There were two reported fires in the park – near the Museum of Man and Old Globe. The House of Pacific Relations will be closed on Easter Sunday and Earth Day. Tartan Day at the House of Scotland is upcoming and the House of England is sponsoring a Beatles tribute band.

Jesus Benayas noted that he traveled to Panama City where the currency is in Balboa. There are monuments and paintings of Vasquez de Balboa and streets named after him. It is the 500th anniversary of his passing. Why is there a misconception of Balboa? Why do all the community and park groups erroneously blame Balboa for things he did not do? Is it because of politics, money, ignorance or greed?

REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. JOHNSTON / MS. GRANOWITZ

A motion was made by Ms. Johnston and seconded by Ms. Granowitz to move Item 301 and 302 to the Consent Agenda. No speaker slips have been submitted in favor or in opposition to the item. The motion carried unanimously (9-0-0).

Hearing no objections, the following motion was made:

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

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to support the staff recommendation to recommend that the Parks and Recreation Director extend a waiver to the summer moratorium for both the ESRI and Ethnic Food Fair 2019 events. The motion carried unanimously (9-0-0).

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Johnston requested that Committee members provide their contact information on the roster and note if they are interested in a leadership position and a reappointment. The Ad hoc Committee will be forming to focus on budget priorities in April to provide input by May 2 to the Council, before the public hearing is scheduled.

STAFF REPORT

Molly Chase, City Council Third District reported the following:

- Budget process schedule, advocating for your priorities
- Homelessness, from the Connect Hillcrest work, evaluating the data from the outreach workers who connected people to services. Trying to get one team assigned to District 3 Hillcrest area in the new fiscal year.
- Family reunification program– starting in areas adjacent downtown and Balboa Park
- Distributed Newsletter

Casey Smith, Deputy Director, Developed Regional Parks Division

Mr. Smith informed the Committee that a Request for Proposal (RFP) is being released for the development of Inspiration Point which is approximately 25 acres of land, including the parking lot. The goal is to direct funds to Balboa Park. A committee will be formed, and the proposal selected will be brought forward to the Committee.

Committee Comments:

- Noted the Inspiration Point Plan existence, which was not approved.
 - Any new plan will have to go through the planning process.
- Who will be on the review committee?
 - Committee will be comprised of a range of folks – City and non-City, working with the Mayor's office
- Possible time line?
 - Can be three to five years before any movement
- Will the solar panels remain?
 - Will be either retained or relocated

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

- Provide a Mingei Museum renovation update
- California Tower seismic retrofit project update
- On Tuesday, April 23, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., a visionary workshop for the Parks Master Plan will be held in the Balboa Park Club's ballroom.

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

- Thanks to all of the park institutions who donated entrance passes for our Department's Annual Employee meeting. Your generosity is much appreciated and employees who won them were very excited.
- Preparations being made for our annual Spring Egg Hunt at Morley Field scheduled for April 1. The event is from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. with egg hunts beginning at 11:00 a.m.
- The Twilight Concerts beginning June 18, Movies in the Park on July 20 and August 17 and free Summer Lunch Program at Morley Field.
- Major events this month:
 - Saturday April 6 – Race for Autism – Festival at 6th and Laurel south lawn, route on Balboa Dr., El Prado and Pan American Rd.
 - April 11-12 Art Alive Events – Plaza de Panama
 - April 15-19 Spring Food Truck Festival
 - April 27 March for Babies – Festival at 6th and Laurel South Lawn, route on El Prado, Village Place and Balboa Drive
 - April 28 Earth Fair – Central Mesa and Palisades Parking lot.

Mario Llanos, District Manager, Balboa Park Operations

- Join the City of San Diego in its first annual Citywide Arbor Day San Diego on Friday, April 26 on the West Mesa of Balboa Park, at the Southwest corner of Quince Drive and Balboa Drive. Come out and help us plant a tree! Volunteer check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with work commencing at 9:00 a.m. Activities for all ages, pop-up nature play, educational displays, food and vendor fair from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The official Arbor Day program with Mayor Faulconer begins at 11:00 a.m. Scheduled entertainment, including live music, wildlife viewing, tree climbing demonstration, story time with Ranger Kim and more from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Tomas Herrera-Mishler shared the following:

- By Arbor Day, all 500 trees as part of the Cal Fire Grant should be planted
- Casa del Prado courtyard enhancement – planning some improvements to the building in conjunction with Parks and Recreation and the building tenants.
- Botanic Building restoration project will be presented later in the meeting
- The Chair of the Volunteer Engagement Committee will also be presenting later in the meeting
- Excited about the Spring Fling Food Truck Festival and invited all to the opening of Food Truck Fridays where the San Diego Youth Symphony will perform on the steps of the Museum of Art.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- Highlighted the efforts of the Sustainability Program in Balboa Park and presented their Annual Report
- Community Access Pass Program – encourage and engage new partners
- One Park One Team connected welcomed over 300 trustees and stakeholders at the Trustees Connected event on March 14. Nine significant capital projects were showcased. Over the last nine years, Cultural Partnerships have invested over 18 million capital improvements to City buildings in the park.

Committee of 100

No report presented

Balboa Park Online Collaborative

No report presented

Friends of Balboa Park

John Bolthouse shared the following:

- Working to bring the Morton Bay Fig fence and deck project to fruition but costs keep rising and delays keep coming due to the compensatory prevailing wage
- Palm Canyon Bridge is estimated at 1.4 million - will be launching a campaign in the future
- Two incidents of vandalism at the carousel has occurred – Parks and Rec. helped out
- 23 wrought iron sconces at Museum of Man will be a future project
- Seasonal floral display of Easter Lilies in the Botanical Building
- Arbor Day and Trees to Treasures – ReGreen IPA made with trees from Balboa Park with proceeds coming back to the park – Friday, April 26.
- National Carousel Day is July 25 when they will activate the carousel with free rides and entertainment.

Save Starlight

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- Board is growing with three new members
- Concession stand is near opening
- Had a successful event called “Beyond Starlight”
- Thanks to Parks and Recreation staff for assistance
- An Economic impact study being done for Starlight by a SDSU professor

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. Environmental Systems Research Institute “ESRI” User Conference Closing Event
Moved to consent agenda
302. House of Pacific Relations Ethnic Food Fair
Moved to consent agenda

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Engaging Volunteers as a Service Enterprise. Presenter: Glenn Rossman, Trustee, Balboa Park Conservancy and Chair of the Volunteer Engagement Committee

Mr. Glenn Rossman noted that the Conservancy was recognized as a service agency by Points of Light, a prestigious designation. The Conservancy has a standing board committee to coordinate volunteer efforts. He described their newest volunteer programs, the Park Ambassadors and Tree Stewards which were created with Parks and Recreation Department assistance. The return on volunteer investment was stated as \$1.00 in investment in volunteers results in \$6.00 of benefits with over \$900,00.00 in volunteer benefits received in 2017. Volunteers can be used to extend all of the park’s missions.

Chairperson Johnston thanked Mr. Rossman for his work and noted that he received a Millennium Award for his volunteer work in the park last year.

502. Botanical Building Restoration Concept Plans. Presenter: Kotaro Nakamura, AIA, Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects

Mr. Nakamura noted that they have been working on plans for the Botanical Building, grounds and visitor experience since 2016. They asked visitors about their expectations and received valuable input along with other means of gathering input. They learned that many visitors don’t know the history of the park, that there is no central information place to learn about the park’s gardens or even where they are. They studied how people move in the building, what they experience, ADA access, and how they arrive at the site. They looked at the history of the building, which was condemned in 1956, windows removed in 1957 and the lath was extended to the ground. There had been a green house in the rear of the building and an arcade on the west end. They are trying to bring back the 1915 conditions and preserve the site while meeting today’s visitor’s needs.

Committee Comments:

- Beautiful design
- Estimate to keep from falling down?
It was reinforced in 2002, but redwood lath is in dire condition. Best solution is to replace it.
- Projected cost?
Now at 10.8 million and applying for grants and bringing on a capital campaign manager in the future
- Condition of irrigation system?
Hand watering

- Can it be built in phases?
Yes, front gallery first.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – No Report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No Report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, May 2, 2019
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager