

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
May 2, 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
Kenneth Davenport – Vice
Chair
Vicki Granowitz
Katherine Johnston – Chair
Luanne Kanzawa
Don Liddell
Dang Nguyen
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Members Absent

Victoria Curran
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 APRIL 4, 2019

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. SCHIAVONI/MR. DAVENPORT

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Mr. Davenport to approve the April 4, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion carried (9-0-0).

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 were introduced. The new international cottages will start construction soon which will take ten months to complete. She provided the program schedule and noted that the Ethnic Food Fair is May 26.

Jesus Benayas noted some important dates in the history of Spanish explorer's history and noted that it is the 500th anniversary of Vasquez de Balboa passing.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Johnston noted that it might be of interest to move Item 502 to Adoption as there will be a press conference regarding the park restrooms.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Aaron to move Item 502 to Adoption (201). The motion carried (8-0-0).

STAFF REPORT

Molly Chase, City Council Third District reported the following:

- Budget process schedule, advocating to keep 9.4 million in Balboa Park
- Press Conference with Balboa Park organizations calling for an upgrade to Balboa Park's restrooms
- Distributed Newsletter

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

- Next month Public Works will provide an update on the construction of the two new public restrooms on the West Mesa
- A public workshop will be held on June 6 to gather input for consideration for request for proposal for Inspiration Point

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

No report

Mario Llanos, District Manager, Balboa Park Operations

- The City of San Diego had its first annual Citywide Arbor Day SD! Friday, April 26th on the West Mesa of Balboa Park, at the SW corner of Quince Drive and Balboa Drive. Special thanks to many City departments, and park stakeholders such as: San Diego Zoo Global, The Balboa Park Conservancy, The Friends of Balboa Park, Tree San Diego, Cal Fire, and Urban Corps. It was a successful and informative event with lectures, vendor and information booths, and food vendors. Over 100 trees were planted, and surrounding areas were cleaned and mulched by volunteers.
- Ranger Report for April: 29 citations/arrests for overnight camping primarily in the central mesa, 32 parking citations. Spring break food truck event Ranger assisted with load in and monitored the event throughout. Ranger and Grounds Maintenance staff have been using a new material to patch potholes and have patched approximately 400 potholes in Balboa Park in the last couple months. Patches have held up, compared to cold patch previously used.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Tomas Herrera-Mishler shared the following:

- Provided an update from the Project for Public Spaces meeting held April 25, 2019.
- On Arbor Day, completed the painting of all 500 trees as part of the Cal Fire Grant
- 30 tree stewards are monitoring the trees
- Update on Nate's Point fence project
- Cinco de Mayo event to be held this Saturday

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- Our One Park ♦ One Team program recently greeted over 140 Balboa Park team members for a morning coffee at Daniels Coffee Cart in Spanish Village celebrating Earth Day with our Sustainability Program.
- Our Community Access Pass and Military Appreciation Pass update as of May 1, the CAP and MAP programs have provided free annual Balboa Park Explorer passes to more than 11,600 families - more than 2,900 of which are active duty military families in San Diego County.
- Stressed the importance of capital improvement funds staying in Balboa Park and is designated for needed capital reinvestment versus starting new projects. Many buildings require infrastructure work like roofs, as well as major structural and mechanical repairs that only the city can do.
- The outdoor park restroom near the Air and Space Museum are embarrassing, dysfunctional and very tough for Parks and Rec to maintain to their usual high standard While this is the oldest, there are numerous similar toilet blocks throughout Balboa Park. The overhaul of the public restroom network in Balboa Park is a priority.

Committee of 100

Mike Kelly shared the following:

- The restroom by the Air and Space Museum is absolutely disgusting.
- Their annual luncheon will be held on June 7, 2019 featuring Ranger Kim Duclou as the guest speaker. The Friends of Balboa Park will be receiving the 2019 Gertrude Gilbert Award.
- At the Automotive Museum, they expect to have the tiles installed by the end of the year.
- Thanks to the City for painting the front of the Automotive Museum

Balboa Park Online Collaborative

No report presented

Friends of Balboa Park

John Bolthouse shared the following:

- Supports what was said by Mr. Comiskey regarding the restrooms and has joined the comfort stations/restroom coalition, calling themselves the "Potty Mouths."
- Distributed their latest bi-annual newsletter
- Congratulations to the Conservancy and Parks and Recreation for Arbor Day and meeting the goal of planting 500 trees. He noted that the Friends have planted 246 trees over the years. A fundraiser, the Re-Green event was held after Arbor Day with proceeds going to Balboa Park.
- The Annual Butterfly release will be held on May 25, 2019
- Providing funding to Park Rangers for refurbishment of the Plaza de Panama with the purchase of new bollards, light posts and benches.

Save Starlight

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- Will be the hub for the International Fringe Festival
- Plumbing work needed to open the concession stand
- At their "Beyond Starlight," event, City staff did an excellent job cleaning the restroom near Air and Space. The City staff is cleaning, but because it is open all night, the restroom gets trashed.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. Review of Restroom Facility Report. Presenter: Vicki Granowitz, Balboa Park
Ms. Granowitz presented the restroom facility report prepared by Rene Smith which is an analysis and makes recommendations on what to do prior to putting together a program for the existing facilities. The report states that now is the time to decide how many public toilet facilities are necessary in Balboa Park, their configuration should be and where they are located and how to fund the replacement, operation and maintenance requirements. Graffiti, vandalism and misuse of the facilities is an issue. Ms. Granowitz stated that the analysis has to be studied and questions answered so that funds are best utilized to address the issue.

Committee Comment:

- Important that the resources need to stay in the park
- A policy is needed to address facility use by transients for homeless services and park visitors
- Mission Bay's comfort stations are not as dirty as Balboa Park's
- Parent's are afraid to let children use restrooms at Morley Field

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED SCHIAVONI/DAVENPORT

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Mr. Davenport to support the retention of the \$9.4 million for Balboa Park infrastructure with a focus on restrooms, have additional discussion of the analysis and to join the other park institution's coalition supporting the cause. Motion carried unanimously (9,0,0)

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Review and Budget Priorities. Presenter: Molly Chase, Chief of Staff, Office of Councilmember Chris Ward – Council District 3

Ms. Chase thanked those who came to Council hearings regarding the Parks and Recreation and CIP budget sessions and noted that they are examining the Mayor's the budget currently. She encouraged everyone to contact councilmembers about their priorities. The budget is 1.57 Billion for General Fund, there is a net increase of 62 employees, but there is a high number of vacancies. She provided a budget overview, causes of the deficit, and commented about excess equity. On May 13, 2019, a public meeting will be held and a great way to make your voices heard. On June 10, 2019 the budget will be finalized.

502. Moved to 201

503. Balboa Park Committee Bylaws. Presenter: Vicki Granowitz, Balboa Park Committee

Ms. Granowitz and Ms. Dawe used Parks and Recreation Board bylaws as a template. They have some questions that the board needs to address. There was discussion about the need for their comments to appear on the draft bylaws. Mario Llanos will re-distribute the document with the

comments prior to the next meeting, where the item will be listed as an action item. Comments can be sent to Ms. Granowitz for compiling.

Public Comment:

- List adopted date of bylaws and allow for members of the public to sit on ad-hoc committees

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – No report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

Ms. Schiavoni provided a Pershing Drive update as she attended a SANDAG presentation. The plans are 95% complete and they are ready to advertise. The project is scheduled to begin April, 2020 and be fully completed by August, 2022. There will be two summers of impact from this project. Staff will request an update presentation by SANDAG.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, August 1, 2019
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager