

# MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board  
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE  
July 11, 2019

**Meeting Location:**

War Memorial Building  
3325 Zoo Drive  
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  
Vicki Granowitz  
Katherine Johnston - Chair  
Luanne Kanzawa  
Don Liddell  
Dang Nguyen  
Johanna S. Schiavoni

**Members Absent**

Kenneth Davenport - Vice Chair  
Sarah Dawe  
James Lawson  
Micah Parzen

**Staff Present**

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
Mario Llanos  
Casey Smith  
Jeff Van Deerlin

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2019**

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED   MR. AARON/MR. NGUYEN**

A motion was made by Mr. Aaron and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to approve the May 2, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion carried (7-0-1) with Ms. Curran abstaining.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES** – None

**NON -AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations thanked Senator Atkins for the State funds for the new international cottages. The House of Peru is having a fund raiser in the Balboa Park Club on August 10, 2019 and she provided a lawn program update. The House of Czech and Slovak is hosting a day camp in which many forms of art are explored.

Kevin Swanson suggested an updated comprehensive, integrated park plan for Balboa Park that looks at how to remove cars from the park while encouraging electric vehicles and shuttles at a transportation hub as a way to access the entire park for activities.

Charles Kaminski asked how the workshop agenda item came to be as it is like the Jacobs Plan, coming from top down.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Johnston thanked everyone for their interest and Parks and Recreation staff accommodating this public meeting. She explained the format of the meeting which is aimed at getting diverse opinions on the broad proposal. She introduced Ms. Danell Scarborough, meeting facilitator.

## **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

### 401. Discussion of Draft Inspiration Point Request for Proposal

Ms. Danell Scarborough noted that there will be a presentation on the Draft RFP followed by a workshop to gather feedback. She introduced Mr. Casey Smith, Deputy Director, Developed Regional Parks Division thanked everyone for attending, provided an overview what the RFP is, described the limit and scope of the RFP; the goal of creating a sustainable park; restoration of the Administration Building; the plan amendment process; public input and additional Balboa Park Committee workshops; and described the process and panel formation for evaluating proposals. Documents and workshop information will be available on the City's website under the Balboa Park Committee.

Speakers (3) – In favor

Duane McGregor (ceded time to Jenni Prisk)

Jenni Prisk in favor of Inspiration Point land use for a Women's Museum

Jennifer Thorn in favor of Inspiration Point land use for Moxie Theatre/Women's Museum

Speakers (23)- opposed

Kathy Hunyor – volunteer in park, priority is repair of park facilities and a large parking structure

Susan Baldwin- No commercial use of Inspiration Point – other ways to generate funds

Arv Larson (ceded time to Judy Swink)

William Van Dusen (ceded time to Judy Swink)

Nicole Larson (ceded time to Judy Swink)

Judith Swink – free and open park land per the park plans, will not generate revenue needed for many years after rent credits, a tiny TOT increase is needed

Kimberly Dodson- support future museums but do not support a hotel or commercial business

Kevin Swanson- support a multi- use building for rehearsal spaces and tunnel under Park Blvd. to a transportation hub, support activities, not commercial use.

Charles Kaminski – asked who is running the City, need better planning – only support park land

Dorothy Gesick – no more structures or commercial development, it is not Mission Bay

Jean Samuels- Don't add more concrete and asphalt, property tax addition is needed or charge for parking in the park, museums do not generate revenue

Gary Johnson – preservation of park, support green solutions, small increase in TOT needed

Michael Thomason (ceded time to Vonn Marie May)

Vonn Marie May – preserving the park as a park, no more structures or commercial use, why do we have to beg for money for this park – leadership problem.

Dianne Combs – taking park land for Navy Hospital, agreement was for open park land

Steven Hunter (ceded time to David Lundin)

Bonnie Bekken (ceded time to David Lundin)

Linda Lahmann (ceded time to David Lundin)

Deborah Gostin (ceded time to David Lundin)

Suzie Ditmars (ceded time to David Lundin)

David Lundin – preserving Balboa Park, oppose commercialization. Referenced George Marston’s letter about tearing buildings down so that a park can exist. Increase taxes to support park.  
Diane Cullins – opposed to commercial use of the park, don’t want to see park land taken away  
Tommy Hough – no commercial development, instead increase TOT or parking fees

Speakers (3) – Neutral

Tomas Herrera Mishler – supports activation of Inspiration Point while balancing the need for open space  
Alan Spector – suggested constructing a fountain for children to play similar to that at County Building  
Andrea Zimo – Not Mission Bay, take care of the park first before commercial use

**Workshop Item:**

401. Discussion of Draft Inspiration Point Request for Proposal.

Ms. Scarborough encouraged everyone to talk with community members at the tables and answer the questions posed as a group and individually. She asked that someone scribe the responses to report out to the larger group in twenty minutes.

The scribes reported on the discussions around the tables.

Mr. Smith reported that the information gathered tonight will be compiled and posted to the website; the RFP will be advertised for three – six months; a panel put formed which will review proposals with community input and make recommendations to the Balboa Park Committee; and there will be several additional workshops held at the Committee for input. Additional questions can be sent to Jeff Van Deerlin, Program Manager at [jvandeerlin@sandiego.gov](mailto:jvandeerlin@sandiego.gov).

Ms. Johnston thanked all for participating tonight, Ms. Scarborough for facilitating the meeting and Park staff for being open to public input.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 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