

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
October 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

Kenneth Davenport – Vice
Chair
Vicki Granowitz
Katherine Johnston – Chair
Don Liddell
Dang Nguyen
Micah Parzen
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Members Absent

William Aaron
Victoria Curran
Sarah Dawe
Luanne Kanzawa
James Lawson

Staff Present

Charles Daniels
Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Mario Llanos

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2019

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

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Ms. Granowitz to approve the July 11, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion carried (6-0-1) with Ms. Schiavoni abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON -AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman noted at the safety and security meeting held on October 17, two people were mentioned to be on the lookout for. On November 7, an active shooter training will be held at the Museum of Art. She noted upcoming lawn programs, House of Austria on October 19 and House of Czech and Slovak Republics on October 20.

Adrian Kwatkoski, candidate for District 3 provided his background information and desire to work with stakeholders Balboa Park to address deferred maintenance.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Johnston noted that the materials from the public meeting held on July 11, 2019 regarding the Inspiration Point Request for Proposals (RFP) are now on the City's website. When the RFP is posted, it will be added to the website also.

STAFF REPORT

None

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Tomas Herrera-Mishler shared the following:

- Received an America's Treasures Grant for the Botanical Building
- Central Park Conservancy partnership – four- day training and leadership opportunity
- Halloween Family Day, Saturday, October 26

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- San Diego Tourism collaborative advertising campaign – Spring and Fall 2020.
- Sustainability – four buildings in the park undergoing LEED re-certification
- Thanks to the San Diego Zoo for hosting the one park one team event
- Learning Institute cultural equity statement training workshop on Monday, November 4 at the Fleet Science Center. All nonprofits are invited to the two- part workshop.

Committee of 100

No report presented

Balboa Park Online Collaborative

No report presented

Friends of Balboa Park

John Bolthouse shared the following:

- Annual awards luncheon tomorrow
- Refurbishing the exterior light fixtures at the Museum of Man
- Improving lighting of the footbridge between Alcazar Garden and the Organ Pavilion
- Purchasing painting supplies for repainting park bollards, light poles and benches
- Secured funding for the purchase of a Polaris vehicle for police officers to use in the canyons

Save Starlight

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- City repairing damage to façade caused by the fallen tree
- Hosting small events and hoping to get access to the bowl

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. North Park Main Street Wayfinding and Signage, Jake Romero, Assistant Director

Mr. Romero presented the North Park Wayfinding sign program and goal of supporting businesses, economic development and help people to find parking. There are two signs that they desire to erect on Balboa Park property near the intersection of Upas and Pershing (A1 and B8).

Committee Comments:

- How do the signs fit with the Balboa Park signage? (there is no East Mesa sign manual)
- Disagree with North Park signage being placed in Balboa Park
- Should be consistent with Park signage
- What about the Park Gateway project and blight of too many signs?
- Signs are large and could possibly support with modifications
- Preference for signs not to be on park land

Charles Daniels offered some recommendations to make the signs more consistent or possible alternative locations.

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED MR. LIDDELL/MS. SCHIAVONI

A motion was made by Mr. Liddell and seconded by Ms. Schiavoni to respectfully reject the application, encourage applicant to work with City staff and return to the committee at a later date. Motion carried (4,3,0.) In favor – Liddell, Granowitz, Johnston, Schiavoni. Opposed Nguyen, Parzen, Davenport.

202. Signage and Wayfinding Initiative, The Balboa Park Conservancy, Presenters: Charles Daniels, Park Designer, City of San Diego and Jeffrey Hertzler, Senior Associate, RSM

Charles Daniels stated that essentially, this is a Balboa Park Signage Manual update which is an appendix to the Central Mesa Precise Plan. He stated the department is asking for two recommendations:

- 1) Advise the proposed update to the Balboa Park sign Manual is consistent with the Balboa Park Master Plan and Central Mesa Precise Plan
- 2) Recommend approval of the proposed Balboa Park Sign Manual update

Mr. Daniels noted the new logo, font, district identification, map updating, signage colors and sign organization.

Jeffrey Hertzler noted that they started the project in 2016 by inventorying all of the park's signs, seeking to improving the sign manual, reducing the number of signs, and to providing clear signage that gets visitors out of their cars and to the location they wish to visit. He described the process that was undertaken by the steering committee and how public input was gathered.

Public Comments:

- Connie Matsui – excited about signage proposal, significant improvement, funding is available for implementation
- Tomas Herrera- Mishler – acknowledged steering committee's efforts, Charles Daniels' work and the Legler Benbough Foundation's support of the project.
- Joyce Gattas – in support of the needed project
- Alan Spector – park visitors are always lost and asking for directions, want to see signs start in Hillcrest
- Vicki Estrada – Public outreach and listening was part of the process – great project
- Pamela Hartwell – Committee of 100 is in support of the project, commend the process
- Michael Warburton – on behalf of the Cultural Partnership, expressed thanks for the invitation to be a part of the steering committee which was collaborative and engaging
- John Bolthouse – support the initiative and glad the landmark signs will remain

Committee Comments:

- Congratulations on getting through the process which will have an enormous impact

- Would like the institutions identified on the signs – who decides which ones get named?
- Would have preferred receiving a hard copy of the strike out changes to the sign manual
- Advised the Conservancy to try not to put too much information on signs

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED MS. SCHIAVONI/MR. LIDDELL

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Mr. Liddell that the proposed update to the Balboa Park Sign Manual is consistent with the Balboa Park Master Plan and Central Mesa Precise Plans and recommend approval of the update. Motion Carried (6,0,1) with Chairperson Johnston abstaining.

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Plaza de Panama Pipeline Replacement. Presenters: Jericho Gallardo, Project Manager, Kenny Anderson, General Superintendent, KTA Construction, Catherine Smith, Outreach Partner, Cityworks.

Mr. Gallardo noted that this project was planned to coincide with the Plaza de Panama project construction and will provide needed infrastructure upgrades. The project will replace water and sewer mains, add/replace curb ramps, resurface streets and is scheduled to begin in January 2020. A fact sheet was distributed showing the area of work. The project will take 14 months and will be phased. The goal is to leave existing services operational as long as possible and to minimize service interruption and impacts. Outreach will take place over the next three months and during construction, there will be e-blasts, presentations and one to one coordination.

Committee Comments:

- Noted that the SANDAG Bikeway Project will be occurring at the same time – has there been coordination of projects outside the park? A local and larger awareness is needed.
- Asked about staging areas which will be located within the fenced area.
- Suggest surveying the stakeholders to specify hours to close or be without water
- Fact sheet is lacking information, should include linear feet of work, cost of project, phasing and dates
- Signage and publicity is needed stating that the park is open during construction
- Suggest meeting with Mr. Comiskey of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership as soon as possible to outreach to the institutions.
- Should have more than a three month notice of this critical, but disruptive project
- Suggest night work
- Overlap with the Palisades project and impact during the summer months
- Coordinate with the Cultural Partnership, House of Pacific Relations project, Council District 3, the Visitors Center. There shouldn't be construction between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

- 601. Land-Use and Policy – No report
- 602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, November 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