

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
January 9, 2020

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
Sarah Dawe
Vicki Granowitz
Katherine Johnston – Chair
Don Liddell
Dang Nguyen
Micah Parzen

Members Absent

William Aaron
Victoria Curran
Luanne Kanzawa
James Lawson
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Staff Present

Charles Daniels
Mario Llanos
Marie Wiggins

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2019

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. DAVENPORT/MR. LIDDELL

A motion was made by Ms. Dawe and seconded by Mr. Davenport to approve the November 7, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried (6-0-1) with Mr. Nguyen abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON -AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman noted that the rangers worked extended hours on patrol on December 5 and at the last Safety and Security meeting, the Police Dept. provided statistics for 2019. New cottage construction going well, but there have been electrical issues identified in the old cottages. Four cottages have all their funding while one does not. Gary Jones has been elected HPR President.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Johnston noted that she has been working with Vicki Granowitz, Micah Parzen, the Mayor's and Council offices and sent a letter to park stakeholders and the public, inviting all to a year-long process to provide input for Balboa Park. The goal of this effort is to utilize a highly inclusive, transparent process to identify the vision and values for Balboa Park, and the park's short, medium, and long-term capital and maintenance needs. A professional meeting planner will help to determine the scope of the project after the first meeting on February 6, 2020.

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District – Molly Chase reported the following:

- Last year’s focus continued to be the homeless and partnering with the County for services
- January 23, the homeless count will take place to help secure federal funding
- Excited to move forward with the Balboa Park Committee, Park and Recreation, Planning and the Mayor’s office on a robust public planning process for the park.

Balboa Park District Manager – Mario Llanos reported the following:

- No report

Balboa Park Area Manager Marie Wiggins reported the following:

- At the Casa del Prado, improvements are being planned such as painting of the courtyard, lighting and landscaping with the Balboa Park Conservancy.
- The Casa del Prado was re-certified as LEED Silver. Thanks to the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership for their help in achieving this status.
- Invited all to Civic Dance Arts’ Collage 2020 entitled “Why We Dance” performance in the Casa del Prado Theater January 31 – February 16.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Tomás Herrera-Mishler shared the following:

- Thanks to Councilmember Ward, Katherine Johnson and Vicki Granowitz for their leadership on putting this planning process together the scoping of Balboa taking place next month
- Provided updates on the Casa del Prado enhancement project that is privately funded
- Botanical Building project update– delivered 60 percent construction drawings to the City and met with many City Departments
- Historic stone walls and trails are being restored in the historic Desert Garden by the California Conservation Corps – another privately funded project
- Activations in the Plaza de Panama have drawn 800,000 people to the park and there is a synergy when the cultural institutions participate and collaborate together

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- The opportunity for the scoping work and the outcome is something the they would like to be involved with.
- It is budget time and Arts and Culture funding is extremely important for the park institutions
- Trustees Connected will occur on Wednesday, March 11, Committee members were asked to save the date
- Smith Leadership Symposium will occur on February 26 at the Comic Con Museum
- Access to Awesome – possible to enter and win a year of access to cultural institutions of which there are 50 participating currently

Committee of 100

Roger Showley reported the following:

- Announced that he is the incoming President as Mike Kelly is stepping down after leading the organization for the past 13 years
- The tile murals should be installed in April at the Automotive Museum
- Working on details of the Firestone fountains

Balboa Park Online Collaborative

Nik Honeysett shared the following:

- Legler Benbough Foundation is sunsetting and was a significant contributor to BPOC. Mr. Honeysett has had to offset their contributions by consulting with Microsoft and museums across the U.S. and the United Kingdom
- WIFI use is used to measure park attendance and has decreased over the past three years
- December Nights Wi-Fi activity was down 20 percent on Friday and 40 percent on Saturday due to the weather
- BPO's Park data center is being moved from the Comic Con Museum
- Kiosk installations in the institutions will gather data

Friends of Balboa Park

John Bolthouse shared the following:

- The footbridge lighting installation is nearly completed between Alcazar Garden and the Organ Pavilion
- Secured funding for the lights in the California Plaza, just waiting for the seismic retrofit of the tower to be completed
- Secured funding for the purchase of a Polaris vehicle for police officers to use in the canyons
- Have secured three quarters of the funding needed for the Morton Bay Fig Tree decking project
- Secured funding for the next landmark interpretive sign – the grotto at Golden Hill Park

Save Starlight

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- There is nothing to report about theft at Starlight yet
- Looking forward to the Palisades project and activation of the area

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. Patrons of the Prado Proposal for Permanent Recognition Plaque in Balboa Park. Presenters: Charles Daniels, Park Designer, City of San Diego and Micki Olin and Patti Judd, Patrons of the Prado.

Mr. Daniels provided a staff report and requested a recommendation regarding the installation of a commemorative plaque for honorees of the Icon Award; each year a new name would be added to the plaque. The Historic Resources Board Design Assistance Subcommittee and staff have reviewed the plaque and state that it is consistent with preservation standards and recommend alternate site location number two be used which is in the arcade (north side of El Prado, west of the Plaza de Panama). He reviewed the Parks and Recreation Board Policy No. 1002 which is the criteria for evaluating the plaque. Ms. Olin thanked the Committee and provided information about their organization which started in 1997, has raised 4.4 million for the cultural organizations on the Prado in addition to providing funds to bring 200,000 school children to the park. They will take full responsibility for the plaque and continue to work with staff on the design of the plaque.

Committee Comments:

- General public won't care about the donors' names, but do care about the Patrons' mission and accomplishments
- Why did the HRB subcommittee choose the 2nd location? (for the symmetry)
- Thank you for the contributions and efforts for the park

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

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Davenport to recommend approval of the proposed limited commemorative plaque at the secondary location. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).

202. Balboa Park Committee Bylaws. Presenter: Vicki Granowitz

Chairperson Johnson thanked Ms. Granowitz for all the work she has done on the bylaws. Ms. Granowitz made the requested changes that were suggested at the last meeting and reviewed those changes with the committee. The bylaws will be routed for City approval.

Committee Comments:

- Discussion of number of votes needed to approve a motion.
- Design review should be a citywide discussion
- It would be difficult to choose non-members to serve on a subcommittee and to get volunteers
- Lack of training and orientation for members is an issue

Public Comments:

- A design professional should have a permanent role on the Balboa Park Committee
- Allow for the appointment of non-members to subcommittees which allows for a design review by professionals to give advice or recommendations to the Committee
- Recommend seven as the minimum number needed to approve an action instead of six

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. NGUYEN/MR. DAVENPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Nguyen and seconded by Mr. Davenport to recommend of the bylaws as presented. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Fiscal Year 2021 Priorities. Presenter: Katherine Johnston, Balboa Park Committee Chair

Chairperson Johnson stated that the City Council now considering the budget priorities. Her goal is that after the meeting in February, there will be clarity on park projects and budgetary needs.

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 7:28 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, February 6, 2020
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager