

# MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board  
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE  
March 5, 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**

William Aaron  
Sarah Dawe  
Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair  
Vicki Granowitz  
Luanne Kanzawa  
Don Liddell  
Dang Nguyen  
Micah Parzen  
Johanna S. Schiavoni

**Members Absent**

Katherine Johnston - Chair  
Victoria Curran

**Staff Present**

Mario Llanos  
Susan Lowery-Mendoza

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairperson Kenneth Davenport called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

**MOTION:        MOVED/SECONDED        MS. GRANOWITZ/MS. KANZAWA**

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve the February 6, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously (9-0-0).

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES** – None

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT** -

Bo Maximova spoke in support of using the Palisades parking lot until an alternative parking structure is built as walking at night after attending dance activities is not safe

Blake Lawless spoke in support of using the Palisades parking lot until an alternative parking structure is operational and close by.

Lief Hendrickson stated that too much money is being spent on the Palisades parking lot when there is deferred maintenance in the park. Questioned the width of new parking spaces.

Dorothy Jennison – lives in Chula Vista and is concerned about preserving parking for 200 dancers on Monday and Friday evenings.

Tim Waldowski questioned loss of spaces in Palisades and that women are walking to cars at night alone

Michael Klarrich – the park provides hundreds of people to socialize at the dance activities. They won't come if they can't park close by.

Peter Dodge – the park is being inhospitable by taking parking away

Barry Hynum only recently found out about the loss of parking. Concerned for safety of women and the tram doesn't run at night

Michael Markow- concerned about safety, especially the senior women walking to their cars alone.

Karla Ober – Balboa Park dancers provides cultural activities at a low cost, available to all

James Ungricht – wasn't aware of the project

Dorothy Jenison –need sufficient parking for 200 for the dance clubs

Mr. Davenport noted that the project is part of the Park's Master Plan and comments should be directed to the City Council as this Committee did not have input on the project, it was presented as an information item.

Daniele Laman noted that at the Safety and Security meeting, Coronavirus best practices were discussed. All are encouraged to call the Police Department when vandalism or crime is occurring in the park. The House of Ireland is presenting the next lawn program.

A representative of the Office of the City Clerk, reported that she is dropping in on all community planning meetings to note the at census is about to begin and also redrawing of the Council Districts boundary lines. Nominations for nine independent, non-partisan individuals and two alternates are will be appointed to the process. Sign up for interest forms at the City Clerk Department's site on sandiego.gov.

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Ms. Granowitz provided Ms. Johnson's report in her absence. Ms. Granowitz was asked to follow up with the Planning Department for an update on the scoping project. Planning Department staff are organizing the comments and noting the frequency of every item discussed. At the April meeting, the data will be presented along with identifying the way to move forward with a public process.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

**City Council Third District – Molly Chase – Not present**

**Balboa Park Program Manager – Jeff Van Deerlin – Not present**

**Balboa Park District Manager – Susan Lowery-Mendoza reported the following:**

- The Carillon and speakers have been reinstalled and are operational. Gina Seashore programmed the noon time concerts today so that the park visitors and staff can once again hear the carillon.
- One of our youth basketball teams in 12 and under division is progressing to the City Wide Basketball Tournament starting this Friday at 7:00 p.m. Championships being held at the Municipal Gym this Friday and Saturday.
- In January through mid February, the wood floor at the Municipal Gym was completely renovated by sanded down to the bare wood. Staff took this opportunity to diversify facility use by adding Pickleball court lines on the floor due to the popularity of the sport and demand for it on days that the Balboa Park Activity Center is not available. The Municipal Gym is now averaging 50 Pickleball players every Monday and Wednesday from 12:00 – 3:00 pm.

Upcoming events:

- March 7 – 8, Thursday Club Rummage Sale – Balboa Park Activity Center
- March 14, St. Patrick's' Day Parade and Festival – West Mesa
- March 22, Hot Chocolate 5 and 10K – East Mesa
- March 28, Race for Autism – Festival on the West Mesa, walk crosses the Cabrillo Bridge
  
- On April 24, at 6:30 p.m. our Department is co-sponsoring the Airmen of Note, the official United States Air Force Band from Washington D.C. at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion.

**Balboa Park Operations District Manager – Mario Llanos – No report**

**BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES**

Balboa Park Conservancy – Tomas Herrera-Mishler

Mr. Herrera-Mishler has been working with the Friends of Balboa Park and Parks Department leadership to better understand the budgetary needs for the coming year, calling it a Clean and Green budget request and to advocate for a greater police and ranger presence and additional custodial staff. He provided updates on the improvements are being made at the Casa del Prado building, the signage and wayfinding program, and noted that construction documents were provided to the City for the Botanical Building.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Peter Comiskey

Mr. Comiskey announced the Access to Awesome drawing, a full year of arts and culture activities; the institutions are increasing hygiene frequencies with the Covid 19 outbreak; encouraged all to advocate for funding of cultural organizations during this budget season.

Balboa Park Online Collaborative – Nik Honeysett – No Report

Committee of 100 – Roger Showley – No Report

Friends of Balboa Park – John Bolthouse

Mr. Bolthouse noted that on March 26, a press conference will take place unveiling the new Polaris for use by the Police Department in the park; they are waiting for staff to schedule lighting removal in the California Plaza; lighting has been replaced as well as some planks on the footbridge over Palm Canyon; the next landmark sign will be at the Grotto in Golden Hill Park; and is working on historic designation of the Balboa Park Carousel.

Save Starlight – Steve Stopper

Mr. Stopper noted that on March 11, their board will hold their first meeting on site and they are very excited about the architectural drawing and plans for the Palisades area.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Consent**

101. None

**Adoption**

201. None

**Special Events**

301. House of Pacific Relation Ethnic Food Fair. Presenter: Gary Jones, President

Mr. Jones provided some background information about the event that occurs annually. This year's event will be held on Sunday, May 24, 2020. They serve ethnic cuisine and provide cultural entertainment and are seeking a waiver to the summer moratorium.

**MOTION MOVED/SECONDED MS. SCHIAVONI/MR. NGYEN**

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to recommend that the Park and Recreation Director extend a waiver to the summer moratorium for the 2020 Ethnic Food Fair. The motion carried unanimously (9-0-0).

**WORKSHOP ITEMS**

401. None

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

501. Balboa Park Tram Operations Contract. Presenter, Mario Llanos, District Manager  
Mr. Llanos noted the times and routes of the tram operations which is a three shuttle operation provided by an outside vendor since 2013. The City has requested bids twice for a new contract, but only received one responsive bid. The multi-year contract will be presented to the Environmental Committee on March 12, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. and then proceed to the full Council in April as the contract will exceed 3 million which is largely funded by TOT funds.

502. Palisades Study and Suggestions. Presenters: New School of Architecture and Design  
Mr. Showley, President, Committee of 100 noted that discussion of the Palisades area began in 1957 to remove parking and restore it to park land. The Mayor of Councilmember Ward proposed a two phased plan, the first phase to begin this spring. The New School of Architecture and Design was asked to generate ideas which would promote activation of the plaza. Mike Steppner noted that the idea is to stimulate discussion and introduced Tommy Hernandez, student who presented the existing conditions and presented solutions. Some ideas focused on: vegetation, lighting for safety, transportation system, bike racks, public restrooms, seating areas, fountain, interactive spaces, art, food halls, night garden, and potential farmer's market. The House of Pacific Relations also plays a part of the need for activation to tie connections to the other parts of the park.

Committee Comment:

- What is the next step? See what happens with the first phase while The Friends, Committee of 100 and the Conservancy are working together on the plan for activation and vision.
- Like the work that the students did, but don't want a parallel project occurring while a public process is occurring

503. Florida Canyon Enhancement Project. Presenter: Alan Bennett  
Mr. Bennett noted the importance of habitat and wildlife in Florida Canyon. Untreated water drains into Switzer Creek, homeless campsites and invasive species devastate the canyon. The canyon is home to many native species which need protection. Volunteers are willing to help. A sidewalk is needed on the south side of Upas Street and Morley Field Drive.

### **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Balboa Park Committee  
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Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday , March 5, 2020  
6:00 P.M.  
Balboa Park Club  
2150 Pan American Road West  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
District Manager