

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
January 6, 2022

Meeting Location:

Online Meeting

Mailing Address:

Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Molly Chase - Chair
Katherine Johnston
Howard Blackson
Dang Nguyen
Allison Soares
Brer Marsh
Victoria Curran
William Aaron Jr
Micah Parzen
Makeda Cheatom
Sarah Dawe
Chris Eddy

Members Absent

Staff Present

Codi Vierra
Christina Chadwick
Victor Nava
Johnny Chou
Araceli Dominguez

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Molly Chase called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Johnny Chou read the statement listed on the agenda that this Committee meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the California Executive Order 29-20 which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES November 4, 2021

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. EDDY / MR. PARZEN

A motion was made by Mr. Eddy and seconded by Mr. Parzen to approve the November 4, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion carried (7-0-1) Victoria Curran abstained.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Web Form - Mike Bullock, Balboa Park should stop promoting driving to the park. People that walk, bike, or use transit deserve fair treatment. Parking is never worth nothing. Pretending that car parking is worth nothing causes people to drive more than they would otherwise. It is not fair. More driving results in more greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Cars emit more GHG than any other category, by far. We have a climate emergency. Here's what you should know. Human survival requires climate stabilization. The first-occurring climate stabilization requirement is for year 2030 and, for the industrialized world, it is to reduce emissions to be at least as low as 80% below our 1990 emission value. Because 2030 is so soon, and because internal combustion engine (ICE) cars last, on average, 15 years, we must

both quickly phase out the sale of petroleum cars and reduce driving. The Zoo management claims to support species survival. But their poor car-parking system is used everywhere, and it increases driving. The Zoo and other attractions in Balboa Park are expensive. But parking is free. There is a car-parking system that is peer reviewed that will fix this problem. I have attached files. Contact me at mike_bullock@earthlink.net, for details.

Daniele Laman HPR International Cottages reported a longtime member of the House of Israel and the House of United States passed away and they are looking to make a small plaque by the House of Israel's Rose Garden in her memory and have started that process and thanked Christina for her assistance. Sunday a vote will be held during a delegates monthly meeting to see whether HPR will be closing for a short time and thanked Johnny Chou for his help.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – No report

STAFF REPORT –

City Council Third District – Codi Vierra reported working on submitting 2022 budget priorities, their office created a form so folks can submit their top concerns for their communities, not just for Balboa Park but anywhere in the district. Asked to submit concerns by January 7, 2022.

Assistant Deputy Director – Christina Chadwick reported that updates will be in the presentation.

District Manager – Johnny Chou reported Marie Wiggins is retiring on January 7, 2022. Victor Johnson will be filling her role at this time. Victor's email is VGJohnson@sandiego.gov Committee of 100 is awaiting final signatures.

District Manager – Victor Nava thanked Bobby Morris, staff, and Forever Balboa Park for the Poinsettia installation. Maintenance staff are preparing the Botanical Building for construction. Plantings at Alcazar Garden and Plaza De Panama Fountain were completed with the help of Garden Stewards. Scheduled to plant the 2 larger garden beds within Alcazar Garden later this month. Tree plantings at Grape Street Dog Park will be taking place this month. We are currently working with SANDAG and other City departments to prepare Pershing Drive for the bikeway installation. We are working on proposed lighting solutions to increase safety and security for the park.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES (Time allotted to each speaker is determined by the Chair; however, comments are limited to no more than three (3) minutes)

Forever Balboa Park – Jackie Higgins thanked Parks & Recreation for the beautiful Poinsettia Display. So many members of our community enjoyed the display and event. Forever Balboa Park (FBP) continues to work with the City on the scope of Phase 2 of the Botanical Building & Gardens Project as well as fundraising. FBP Volunteer Programs Tree Stewards, Garden Stewards, Rose Garden Corps, Visitors Center, and Park Ambassadors. Volunteer hours have contributed a total of \$648,000.00 of service for 2021. Forever Balboa park was awarded the Best Tree Health Care program for 2021 by The San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council, which maintains the Park Tree inventory and monitors and maintains over 800 newly planted trees across the 1200 acres of the park. Las Patrons awarded Forever Balboa Park a grant to procure a pick-up truck to support our volunteer park improvement programs.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Peter Comiskey thanked Marie Wiggins who has been instrumental in the successful operations of so many of the Balboa Park organizations. Recognized and credited the Balboa Park Cultural District Advisory Board – an extremely diverse group of 31 individuals from our transborder region who have been helping guide the selection of the expert experience planning organization to help develop the Balboa Park Cultural District Experience Plan. Balboa Park Cultural District Experience Plan looks forward to announcing the successful firm at a future meeting. In addition to the Advisory Board, thanks to Mike Warburton from the Cultural Partnership who is helping steer this extremely important initiative. The process is now underway for the consideration of the FY 23 budget. Encourages members of the committee and any member of the public to become engaged in advocacy associated with both Parks and Recreation and also for Arts and Culture. Ensuring a strong and cohesive voice in add advocacy matters is extremely important.

Balboa Park Online Collaborative – No report.

Committee of 100 – Roger Showley reported that they are awaiting approval of a right of entry permit to do exploratory work on the Municipal Gym as part of the restoration of the exterior. They are also awaiting approval of a building permit to install the grizzly bear statues and flagpoles on the Auto Museum. They hope to complete Phase 2 of the building's restoration in the first quarter of the year. They are meeting with San Diego Unified School District representatives next week to talk about setting a multiagency panel of representatives to consider how to maximize the rebuilding of San Diego High School to link it better to the park and surrounding neighborhoods, including the downtown central business district. They are waiting patiently for the city attorney to approve the one-year experimental design assistance committee to help the BPC.

Save Starlight – No report.

ACTION ITEMS

101. None

ADOPTION

201. Balboa Park Quick Build Roundabout: Julio Fuentes, Senior Traffic Engineer, City of San Diego and Philip Rust, Associate Engineer, City of and San Diego

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. MARSH / MR. AARON JR.

A motion was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Aaron Jr. to approve the Balboa Park Quick Build Roundabout. The motion carried unanimously (11-0-1)

With the understanding that construction of the Pershing Drive Bikeway will take approximately two years and that Florida Canyon will be an important alternative route. Also, understanding that the Balboa Park Master Plan calls for the closure of Florida Canyon from Zoo Drive to Morley Field Drive. I motion for approval of item 201 Balboa Park Quick Build Roundabout with the following conditions.

- Upon final completion of the Pershing Drive Bikeway, Florida Drive between Zoo Drive and Morley Field Dr. be closed to vehicle traffic as is consistent with the Balboa Park Master Plan.

- The city of San Diego utilizes the two-year construction window to conduct the necessary studies and designs related to the closure of Florida Canyon and provide progress reports to the BPC.
- A marked pedestrian crosswalk be installed at the intersection of Zoo Drive and Florida Canyon Drive connecting the Zoo Drive pedestrian path to hiking trails to the east.

Committee Comment: Mr. Marsh, Ms. Curran & Mr. Blackson

- Mr. Marsh thanked Nancy and learned more about the palms from the presentation.
- Ms. Curran inquired that if the roundabout could be later converted, it would create a problem. How the roundabout would be used if it is closed to car traffic.
- Mr. Blackson loves the idea, temporary, traffic calming, performs in the way that we need it to perform. Beginning step of change and update.

Public Comment:

- Vicki Estrada – Question to City Engineers, Florida Drive is proposed to be closed and East Mesa precise plan calls out for Florida Drive to be closed between Zoo Place and Morley Field. Understands why the area was this area was selected, however, wants to make sure that building this roundabout does not preclude the future closure of Florida Drive. Likes the idea of the roundabout.
- Mike Bullock – His bicycle is his primary motor transportation, is an engineer and has looked into roundabouts. Going from signalized to roundabouts reduce fatalities ninety-one percent. As a bicyclist to go straight would be hard, to make a left turn would be really hard. The design will work and supports more roundabouts, especially signalized intersections need to be changed because signalized intersections are delay.

202. Marston Canyon Eagle Bridge: Alexandre Cridlig, Eagle Scout candidate, Troop 271

A motion was made by Mr. Aaron Jr. and seconded by Mr. Blackson to approve the Marston Canyon Eagle Bridge. The motion carried unanimously (11-0-1)

Committee Comment: Mr. Marsh, Mr. Aaron Jr., Mr. Blackson & Ms. Curran

- Mr. Marsh has designed bridges, great to see cool solutions, loved the decorative wood sunburst pattern and the way the gabion is included. Questioned the anchoring of the bridge.
- Mr. Aaron user of the trails, Architect did a nice job and thanked Alexandre for doing this project.
- Mr. Blackson thanked Alexandre for meeting with mentors Robert and Renee and the involvement because they know the park well and know expectations.
- Ms. Curran expressed how wonderful the project is and to see young people getting involved. As a communication teacher this is a great opportunity you Alexandre to get exposed to public speaking and it was a wonderful job on the design, looks great.

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS (No action taken; subject discussed by the committee and staff.)

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Park Vandalism and Incident Reporting. Presenter: Araceli Dominguez, Senior Park Ranger, Balboa Park.

Public Comment:

- Question – When Rangers detain someone do they read rights to the detainee?
Answer: No.
- Question – What do Rangers do when vendors are encroaching into the public right-of-way? Progressive enforcement, first voluntary compliance/education, second field interview and if they do not comply a ticket will be issued.

Committee Comment: Ms. Johnston, Ms. Dawe, Mr. Marsh

- Ms. Johnston questioning if there was a new social welfare and if it was online and operational?
- Ms. Dawe responded that the Balboa Crisis Response Teams is accessed through the crisis line 888-724-7240, to be used for people who do not pose a physical danger to themselves or others.
- Mr. Marsh has contacted the San Diego Non-emergency line for a homeless individual who looked like he was having trouble and they responded with an ambulance.

502. Pershing Drive Bikeway Construction and Traffic Mitigation. Presenters: Chris Carterette, Senior Regional Planner, Active Transportation, SANDAG

Committee Comment: Ms. Curran, Mr. Marsh & Ms. Chase

- Ms. Curran questioned the route between Pershing Dr. and 26th Street connectivity.
- Mr. Marsh thanked the presenter and thinks the project will be great.
- Ms. Chase thanked the presenter, and everyone involved.

503. Botanical Building Capital Improvement Project Phase I: Presenter: Christina Chadwick, Assistant Deputy Director, Edgar Lozano, Senior Civil Engineer, City of San Diego, Simon Maletic, EC Constructors, Inc.

Committee Comment: Mr. Marsh & Ms. Chase

- Mr. Marsh questioned if there will be 24-hour security and ADA access.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting: February 3, 2021
6:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Nava
District Manager