

MINUTES

**City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
December 8, 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
Howard Blackson
Dang Nguyen
Allison Soares
Brer Marsh
William Aaron Jr
Makeda Cheatom
Chris Eddy
Victoria Curran

Members Absent

Katherine Johnston
Sarah Dawe
Micah Parzen

Staff Present

Codi Vierra
Christina Chadwick
Victor Nava
Johnny Chou
Victor Johnson II

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Molly Chase called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 July 21, 2022

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Aaron Jr. / Ms. Allison

A motion was made by Mr. Aaron Jr. and seconded by Ms. Allison to approve the October 6, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion carried (7-0-1) Abstention: Dang Nguyen

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Web Forms:

Steve Oechel, Good evening Balboa Park committee, The North Park planning committee recently discussed and voted on an action to assess the possibility of keeping Jacaranda Place closed even after construction is complete on Pershing drive to increase open space and usability of Morley Field. This item was discussed, voted on and passed by North Park community members and the North Park Planning Committee board with the desired outcome to contact the Balboa Park committee to see if it is possible to keep Jacaranda place closed. Thank you for the time and look forward to the discussion on whether or not this is a possibility.

Clifford Weiler, The December Nights parking likely raised thousands of dollars via the paid parking. Does your committee control that? And whether or not it does? Who got the revenue and if a private company was involved? What was the company? How was it selected? and what % and dollar amount did the city or one of the city's divisions get? Thank you.

Public Comment:

Danielle Laman, On the December Nights note I would like to first thank all of the city staff here who are present for a successful return to December Nights. Balboa Park marketing and public relations is going to have a debrief next Thursday in the afternoon and Mike Warburton who leads that group just announced that he will be leaving after five years of work in Balboa Park so if you do see Mike, please tell him thank you for all his service to our park. Secondly, I'd like to let everyone know that we have a new president-elect for the HPR House of Pacific Relations International Cottages her name is Inky Welsh and we have scheduled to meet and greet next Friday on the 16th of December. Lastly, my question for tonight is when is the Balboa Park committee going to go to hybrid meetings just like the Park and Rec. Board has been doing for the last several months? Thank you very much for your time.

Brandon Riggs, I am a resident of North Park, and I am the new San Diego Mountain Biking Association trail liaison for Balboa Park. Some of you might know Susie Murphy our Executive Director so I'm kind of volunteering under her to help facilitate getting trail improvements done and the entirety of the park from the East Mesa including Florida Canyon and the West Mesa and Bridal Trail. You might know that the mountain biking association has grant money available to do some of this work and has recently met with the city Chief Rangers some people in this meeting might have been in that meeting that was held last week but basically, I'm here for any questions that might come up regarding the mountain biking association's work and basically we're just trying to help improve the trails within the park. Thank You.

Steve Stopper, From Save Starlight. I'm not reporting from Starlight on this. I just wanted to say that I received a lot of positive feedback from December Nights patrons about the carnival rides being removed from the Palisades Plaza and how it made the event seem more "Home Spun". I thought the city did a great job and I hope future December Nights events stay along that same journey. It makes for the kind of experience Balboa Park is about. Great job everyone.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Chairperson Molly Chase – No Report

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District – Codi Vierra – Hello everyone. The Council Members want to thank all of the Park Organization and City Staff (Parks & Recreation, Special Events and Filming) for all their work bring back a full-fledge December Nights. Council members enjoyed the opening ceremony and they received a lot of good feedback. City Council budget priority memo updates are going to be due on January 13th so if you have any further input as I'm sure everyone does. Please make sure to reach out to our office before January 13th. Next week is the Inauguration Council meeting. We have a new council member Kent Lee and the Council will also be taking a vote on Council President. There may be some changes with committee and agency assignments, so we look forward to seeing how those end up for our council member Woodburn. Tentatively for next week the Council Members has brought forward a resolution declaring the City of San Diego a safe City for transgender non-binary and gender diverse youth. Depending on some circumstances there may or may not be a press event next week about that as well just working along with all the other stuff going on with Council. I'm sure most of you have seen already but the Burnham Center for Community Advancement (BCCA) has put out a paper preparing for Balboa Park the next 100 years and we've been in communication with them as well and the Council Member made a statement, "I applaud the Burnham Center for Community advancements work to address the long-term fiscal and governance needs off Balboa Park every San Diego feels a special connection to this Crown Jewel of our region whether we visit the muses our kids go on a school field trip or we simply relax and enjoy this beautiful city San Diego is not alone when it comes to funding and governance challenges for a large iconic Park like ours. That's why I'm glad BCCA is working on learning from other models around the country bringing together stakeholders from across the region and exploring real long overdue solutions". Thank you again to the Burnham Center and all of our work stakeholders that worked with them on that paper. That's very important to us and if you haven't had a chance to read it already you can check out the Burnham Center's website where you can find the full paper. If you go to our Council website, you can find a list of useful links there including our most recent newsletter and our most recent fiscal year 24 budget memo. Again, we're taking further input as we look to submit an update in January, and you can

always reach out to me for our office regarding anything Balboa Park related. Thanks again everyone and happy holidays

Sergeant SDDP Balboa Park-Tyler Hamby-No Report

Assistant Deputy Director, Christina Chadwick- The Ranger team is going through a restructure and now it is going to be led by Chief Ranger Michael Ruiz many of you know Michael and the Chief Ranger position is a brand new one for our department. As part of the reorganization, we have several other changes including a new senior Ranger for Balboa Park who has been selected as Mike Cassidy our current Senior Ranger Araceli Dominguez will be transferring to the Black Mountain Open Space division. We'll also be announcing in the coming days the appointment of a new Supervising Park Ranger which is also another new position for our Ranger staff. We look forward to introducing all of you to Senior Park Ranger Michael Cassidy very soon and all our new appointments will begin their assignments on December 10th.

The individuals that were experiencing homelessness and had temporarily housed at BPAC or otherwise known as the Balboa Park Activity Center have been moved back to Golden Hall Downtown and we just want to thank you all for your understanding and your patience as we worked through this and see the BPAC facility is now reopened to the public and will resume its normal programming. The water pipeline replacement that's been happening over some time now in Balboa Park is reaching its finality we have transferred and replaced all of the new lines successfully. Thank you again for your understanding and for all the stakeholders that may have been temporarily impacted by this. We're working through some very small outcomes and final adjustments for that but in large part the project is reaching its conclusion and again we appreciate your flexibility on that front. The Facilities division for the city is set to begin another exterior restoration for the Palisades area with the Recital Hall and Palisades building. That building will get new paint and plaster over the coming months, and we look forward to sharing up those upgrades with you as we move forward.

The City's Mobility and Sustainability departments also continue their work on redesign efforts for the Balboa Drive area as well as scooter and bike coral locations throughout the park. They've started to do some community outreach efforts. Earlier this week we met with the Bakers Hill Community Group, and we will be meeting with this body in the new year as well. We look forward to sharing those redesign efforts with you and seeking your input on that front. When it comes to lighting in the park, we also know that this is a long overdue upgrade need and we're happy to announce that we have secured a new contractor that specializes in electricity, electricians, and engineers that are necessary, so we are moving forward with that. That effort is led by District Manager Victor Nava, and we are focusing on parking lot lights, post lights, and the Marston Loop area which of course again we recognize that this is a long overdue need so we're very excited to be moving forward with this obviously for Public Safety needs etc. so we will continue to provide updates with you or to you on that front as well. When it comes to December Nights, we wanted to make sure that we thanked you on behalf of my entire team as well as a special events team for everything that you all did to be part of the event even if you just attended hoping that you enjoyed it. I'm going to share just a few words from our special events director Natasha Collura she would like to thank you all for your support and grace as we return to a traditional December Nights after three years with many new team members and a new event organizer on the City events in park and rec side as well as new staff for some of our institutions we didn't know what we didn't know so we definitely have lots of learning to do and we did the best that we could for this year and we will certainly be improving our processes in a go forward basis we're excited to secure sponsorships that enabled us to feature two institutions in the family zone that replaced the carnival and that we are hopeful we can expand on those opportunities for next year and beyond we're excited did to feature various groups from Balboa Park on in the media as well and we will be at a marketing and public relations meeting next week to hear ideas on what can be improved for future events and we will continuously be working with all of you and other stakeholders to make sure that this event improves year over year and we'd also like to make sure that we had a special shout out to Michael Warburton from the cultural partnership as well as Jordan white and Radka from Forever Balboa Park for their assistance and insight and support and invaluable participation so we very much appreciate all of you thank you so much and one final note as we mentioned Michael Warburton as many of you have mentioned and are aware Michael Warburton after many years is leaving

Balboa Park for other professional opportunities and on behalf of my entire team and me personally I just wanted to let you all know that we will very much miss Michael and his smile and his positive outlook and we thank you for everything that you've done for the park over the last few years so thank you Michael.

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 – Elizabeth Babcock - The San Diego Foundation actually has grant funding available for non-profit organizations that want to do Improvement projects in the park. These are projects that are either beautification enhancement of grounds or institutions enrichment of cultural or recreational programs or maintenance of grounds or institutions and if you aren't aware this is through the San Diego Foundation the Balboa Park endowment. I'm just doing this as a friendly service to the community our organization doesn't run that program the person you would want to contact is Heather Rossetti at the San Diego Foundation. Please contact Heather via email at HeatherR@sdfoundation.org. I want to thank everyone that at the City for a wonderful December Nights event. I want to acknowledge all of the work Parks & Rec have been working on in Balboa Park. I would also, like to thank Senior Park Ranger Araceli and welcome the new Park Ranger Staff coming to serve in Balboa Park.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Peter Kaminsky- I would like to echo Christina's comments regarding Mike Wilburton leaving. I'm excited about his future of course and saddened by his departure. He we'll leave a big gap in the cultural partnership. I am pleased that he's able to help us to recognize and identify a replacement. Mike thank you for all the work you've done and I'm sure everybody would support. I would also like to thank Natasha for all the work she did to accomplish this year's December Nights event. Thank you to the Parks and Rec. team as well. I hope that all of the Council Members supporting the Ice and Culture funding with the budget memos. I would ask all of you to continue to support arts and culture as well as the park in those budget memos as they are a really important for the budgeting process not just for the arts and culture that really is the funding there is what continues to program organizations within the park and their operations extremely important. Thank you to Councilman Woodburn but also to the other Council Members as well. Finally, just to inform you about the Future City's framework. We are looking forward to coming back to this Committee and sharing our progress, outcomes, and accomplishments that will be made available in the upcoming plan

Balboa Park Online Collaborative – No report.

Committee of 100 – No report.

Save Starlight – Angelique Gadish- Save Starlight most recently conducted two events December Nights of course and then one previously on November 12th. We've been gaining significant traction with our supporters and the community and we've had just the best conversations with our community members. Acknowledging support for the progress of Save Starlight and the Starlight Bowl operations. I want to briefly highlight what we did for December Nights. We had a silent disco which was featured on local morning media. This was a really big hit amongst the community members, so we hope to bring that back and then we also did performances on both nights. On Saturday had Santa there so that was really exciting. I want to thank our supporters of the Save Starlight helped reintegrate us into society again. If anyone has any questions comments concerns or any tips for us in the future that would be great. Please feel free to contact me. Thank You.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent (These items are adopted without discussion; they can be moved to adoption by any committee member)

101. None

Adoption (Each adoption item requires individual action; they can be moved to adoption by any committee member)

201. Design Review Subcommittee Proposed Implementation. Presenter: Christina Chadwick, Assistant Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation Department

Public Comment:

Mike Stepner commented and would like the committee to consider this favorably and move it forward.

Renee Smith commented favorably to support the item.

Danielle Laman asked if the email list that Mr. Chou puts out monthly for this committee will also be used for the subcommittee to let us know when the meetings are and how we can attend.

Assistant Deputy Director, Christina Chadwick replied: It would not actually be Johnny's responsibility. The public would be notified in the same way that you were all notified about these meetings that being said the staff work that would be responsible for facilitating the meetings of the subcommittee would be transferred over to our Department's Asset Management division who has more expertise in facilitating conversations about public projects of this kind so that they would be able to help of course with the with the same level of expertise that we're expecting of the subcommittee but to your point yes

Committee Comment:

Chris Eddy asked would this committee review board or review group be weighing in within these committee meetings or are they outside or is it some members and we have others from outside of this committee that are also going to be weighing in? I just was curious about that.

Christina Chadwick replied, the subcommittee can only be comprised of existing Balboa Park committee members which otherwise means that no members of the public can participate so the existing members of this committee only.

Chris Eddy asked if the subcommittee would be part of this committee and we're going to separate them from the distractions of this committee

Christina Chadwick replied, theoretically yes.

Chris Eddy asked if there would be an obligation to refer all items to these three people or is it sort of discretionary?

Christina Chadwick replied it would be discretionary and how many of course depending on the set of criteria that's included in the staff report some things would not go before this body and some may but of course it would be discretionary based on feedback and need from this specific committee and also from City staff.

Chris Eddy asked is there a limit on how many times it could go back to them?

Christina Chadwick replied one visit to the subcommittee would be sufficient unless the project applicant choses to go back and seek additional input from this subcommittee.

Howard Blackson asked how many projects will come from an applicant that's not the City?

Christina Chadwick responded it hard to predict.

Committee Member- Howard Blackson asked if bicycle racks would be a part of this committee review but they will be discussed in the larger or BPC, the whole committee

Christina Chadwick replied that's correct.

Chair Molly Chase commented she recollects the bicycle racks was an info item that Mobility was bringing forward, so it wasn't an action item which means they also did not need to bring it to the Balboa Park Committee. They were seeking input and very different than saying that it needs to go through a review process.

Christina Chadwick commented that Molly is correct. It would also depend on how we agendaize the item if it was informational only versus seeking input for the purposes of implementing those recommendations.

Howard Blackson agreed with Christina.

Chair Molly Chase stated Steve Hill can talk about to the attorney opinion and sort of why the recommendation was made this way.

Stephen Hill stated the City Attorney's firm opinion was that members of a subcommittee of the Balboa Park Committee had to be members of the Balboa Park committee and so you know following that opinion this is the this is the model that seemed most appropriate

Howard Blackson asked is there editing on that model.

Christina Chadwick replied nothing is impossible anything is possible. We can certainly go back and take this and bring back a new proposal to this body that would allow for that that would though require city council approval with the municipal code amendment and that was something we had explored previously for what for the city the municipal code Amendment. This was the City Attorney's recommendation

Howard Blackson asked if there was a time frame for what is being proposed and is there the ability to say this should be tested as incremental for two years and reassess it from there rather than making it at all at once or not at all

Christina Chadwick replied, with your approval tonight we would be able to move forward with a subcommittee of experts.

Chair Molly Chase suggested once the committee is appointed and has had six months of meetings or a certain amount of time they can check-in and have a workshop item and see what the feedback is and do a test there to see if is this meeting the intent of the public or is there some additional work that we need to prioritize

Allison Soares agreed having experts on the subcommittee and earlier access to the information for the review and input.

Christina Chadwick stated the subcommittee would be reviewing projects before they come to the Balboa Park committee for formal recommendation

Allison Soares stated she wanted to eliminate redundancy and allow Parks & Rec. Staff to continue to address park issues without the delay of having to have a committee go back and forth on projects.

Chair Molly Chase agreed with the concern about redundancy.

Brer Marsh commented one of the strengths of design review is its ability to bring insight from people who have unique and specialized skills.

Christina Chadwick clarified the Balboa Park Committee only official members may participate as members of the subcommittee however the subcommittee would be subject to the brown act in the same way that this

committee is and therefore members of the public would be able to participate observe conversations and play a role, they just would not have a formal seat

Howard Blackson suggested a motion to table this topic to bring this item back once there is a better format and continue the discussion.

Brer Marsh asked if the motion was to table to the next meeting?

Chair Molly Chase stated no, Howard is asking to table it until we determine a better format structure.

Chris Eddy asked if there are other options? What are the options?

Chair Molly Chase stated we've gone through the options.

Christina Chadwick stated the available options have been evaluated but is willing bring back again and have a discussion.

Howard Blackson stated he would amend my motion to reflect that

Chris Eddy second that motion.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Aaron Jr. / Ms. Allison

A motion was made by Mr. Blackson and seconded by Mr. Eddy to table the item and discuss again and check on other options. The motion carried (4-3-2) Abstention: Makeda / Dang.

Special Events

301. Art Alive-Bloom Bash 2023: Presenter: Sarah Grossman, Associate Director, Special Events and Corporate Relations, the San Diego Muse of Art Requesting a date change for the use of the Plaza de Panama, north of the fountain on March 31, 2023, from 7:30pm- midnight to accommodate the increasing attendance of the event and provide for additional seating, food, and beverage service, activities, and sponsor displays. Set-up would begin on March 27, 2023, and breakdown by 4:00am on April 1, 2023

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for the date change for their annual event which was traditionally held in mid-April to the end of March. SDMA will need to work with Race for Autism event coordinator to ensure their move out does not impede Race for Autism's move in on April 1, 2023

Public Comment: None

Committee Comment-None

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Chase / Mr. Eddy.

A motion was made by Ms. Chase and seconded by Mr. Eddy. to move the Art Alive-Bloom Bash 2023 event to Friday March 31st, 2023. The motion carried unanimously (8-0)

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

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Botanical Building: Phase 1 Project Update and Forever Balboa Park Phase II Scope of Work and Project Delivery. Presenter: Michael Spore, Estrada Land Planning, Edgar Lozano, Sr. Civil Engineer, AEP/E&CP, City of San Diego
Presenter: Jacki Higgins, Vice President of Planning, Forever Balboa Park

Public Comment:

Danielle Laman, inquired about the exterior plants that were by the doorways and if they were saved.

Jackie Higgins replied the two were saved they were protected. A salvage plan was put together prior to phase one and the plants are doing very well.

Committee Comment:

Chris Eddy commented it looks fantastic, and it's coming along wonderfully.

Makeda Cheatom inquired about water fountains and plants playing music and plant intelligence.

Michael Spore replied there are only the fountains and misting systems to give an excellent atmosphere.

Michael Spore stated Parks and Rec, R&T, and Spurlock are also reviewing our drawings during each point of the submittal phase.

Chris Eddy asked about indigenous plants and reptilian critters in pond.

Jackie Higgins replied the plants will be climate appropriate and amphibian creatures are not part of the phase 2 work.

Chair Molly Chase thanked Elizabeth and Jackie for brining the naming opportunity to the Park and Rec board last month and appreciate the work and look forward to seeing more.

Jackie Higgins thanked Christina Chadwick for making the naming opportunities and donor recognition.

Christina Chadwick thanked Forever Balboa Park for securing donors to allow for this project to happen. This project will make a wonderful impact for the park for generations to come.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting: January 5, 2023
6:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Johnson II
Area Manager