

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
April 1, 2021

Meeting Location:
Online Meeting

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

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

William Aaron
Sarah Dawe
Katherine Johnston - Chair
Luanne Kanzawa
Don Liddell
Dang Nguyen
Micah Parzen
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Members Absent

Victoria Curran

Staff Present

Codi Vierra
Christina Chadwick
Charles Daniels
Mario Llanos

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Mario Llanos 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 OF March 4, 2021

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

A motion was made by Mr. Liddell and seconded by Mr. Aaron to approve the March 4, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously (8-0-0).

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman – The April 1 Safety and Security meeting had to be rescheduled due to technical difficulties and HPR's nine new International Cottages will soon have electricity which will require a shut off to surrounding buildings.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Johnston reminded all to be respectful when addressing City staff members and Committee members. The expectation is to honor the work done by staff and volunteer members of the Committee representing the Mayor's Office and to have respectful interactions.

STAFF REPORT

Codi Vierra – Council District 3 representative reported the following:

- Their office is working the Mayor's office regarding Committee reappointments.
- On Sunday, they are sponsoring an Easter Basket giveaway at Golden Hill Park.
- She reminded all of the Housing Stability Program if anyone qualified needs rental relief assistance.

Assistant Deputy Director Christina Chadwick- reported the following:

- Botanical Building Construction RFP Update – Proposals to the Engineering and Capital Projects Department are due by April 14, 2021. Evaluation of the proposals will take place in May and interviews and selections will be completed in June. The bid award target is July with a notice proceed in August.
- Botanical Building Naming and Recognition Policy -The City's Environment Committee voted in favor and it will move towards a full City Council hearing.
- Palisades Sink Hole – The issue was found to be a settling trench from a utility tie. It was opened, checked, tested, compacted and sealed up. The colored sealant will be applied when the Automotive Museum project is complete.
- Budget- Mayor Gloria's budget is due no later than April 15

Balboa Park District Manager Susan Lowery-Mendoza- No report

Balboa Park District Manager Mario Llanos- No report

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy – Sarah Beckman reported that on March 23, The Friends of Balboa Park and the Conservancy boards voted in favor of becoming one entity effective July 1. Last month the Parks and Recreation Board provided unanimous approval of the Kate O. Session Cactus Garden naming and signage will be onsite soon. The project work in the Casa del Prado is moving forward along with signage and wayfinding. She thanked City staff for keeping the Botanical Building project on time. The Garden Steward initiative is launching in early May with online training provided by SDG&E's Environmental Champions Grant. The Visitor Center has seen a large uptick in visitors due to the reopening of restaurants and museums.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Peter Comiskey encouraged all to visit their website for reopening information and schedules to support all cultural organizations in the park. Support for recovery and operations of arts and cultural institutions is needed in the City. He invited members to the 2021 Trustees Connected virtual event on April 21 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Work by the One Voice Experience Plan taskforce is continuing to complete a scope should be presented to this Committee next month.

Committee of 100 – Roger Showley shared a photo of the four murals and ornamentation which will be done in time for an event with the Mayor on April 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the Automotive Museum. They are in partnership with the American Institute of Graphic Artists on a world class poster contest this summer which will benefit the re-opening event for the Automotive Museum in the fall. The exploratory committee to bring design review back the park will be meeting on April 14 at 1:30 p.m. with Mike Stepner as chair. Don Liddell asked to join the committee.

Friends of Balboa Park – John Bolthouse stated that they are excited about the future of the park with the merger to take the park to a new level of stewardship. They achieved their 3 million dollar capital campaign goal for the Balboa Park Carousel with the help of major donors. With the latest guidance for rides, they are preparing to open the carousel for the summer. The Morton Bay Fig Tree platform will open to the public on April 30 at 9:00 a.m. The annual awards celebration held this fall will honor Peter Comiskey and the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership for all of their efforts during the pandemic.

Save Starlight – Steve Stopper reported that City officials and toured the site saw the progress and work towards opening the concession stand. The Board of Education is excited about what their students can learn in television production.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101.

Adoption

201.

Special Events

301. Rock'n'Roll 5K Route Change, presenter: Meryl Leventon, Race Director

Ms. Leventon discussed a change of start line to Inspiration Point for the 5K to lessen the impact to the residents along 6th Avenue and to showcase the park. Over 25,000 visitors attend this race and the marathon which has a longstanding history in San Diego. The race will start at 6:50 a.m. and the last runner will be at 8:30 a.m. Parking lots should reopen at 7:45 a.m., the Cabrillo Bridge by 8:00 a.m. and access on north and southbound Park will be maintained. Southbound access will also be maintained on 6th Avenue.

Committee Comments:

Chair Johnston encouraged Ms. Leventon to work with the institutions and Peter Comiskey to resolve any access issues, particularly at this time when they are reopening.

Dr. Parzen stated that he is pleased to hear of the opportunity to partner together for more park exposure and willingness to address interference with museum operations. He encouraged Ms. Leventon to contact Peter Comiskey to work through issues.

Ms. Kanzawa asked about the direct contact for day of issues.

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED (MR. AARON/MR. PARZEN)

A motion was made by Mr. Aaron and seconded by Mr. Parzen to approve the route change for the Rock'n'Roll 5K. The motion carried unanimously (8-0-0).

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Palisades Placemaking and Activation Workshop. Presenters: Jackie Higgins, PLA, ASLA, Director of Planning, Design and Programs, Balboa Park Conservancy; Sarah E. Beckman, Director of External Relations, Balboa Park Conservancy; Christina Chadwick, Assistant Deputy Director, City of San Diego.

Ms. Chadwick introduced the item, noted the efforts to fund and physically transform the Palisades by staff, the Committee of 100's efforts to restore the exterior of the Automotive Museum in addition to the Conservancy's efforts to bring a placemaking program to the park. The goal is to strengthen the connection between people and the park.

Ms. Beckman described the concept of placemaking which is a collaborative, people centered approach to creating public spaces that enhance the community's quality of life and cultivate a deeper sense of belonging. It is a combination of many elements and building a network of places with layers of experiences within. A number of workshops and stakeholder meetings have been held over the past year. Goals and aspirations were developed and needs, and challenges identified. What can neighbor partners provide to add value to placemaking in the Palisades? The goal is creating a pilot placemaking program and considerations. She shared the Project for Public Spaces and the New School of Architecture ideas for the space. She asked for feedback on what would enhance your experience in the Palisades.

Public Comment:

Daniele Laman asked about the connection to the Cottages, the Puppet Theater, the dance groups who use the Balboa Park Club and the Recital Hall. (many large and small stakeholders participated in the workshops and will ensure all are included).

Committee Comments:

Looking forward to this project and all that it can bring.

How can this fit with the Framework and One Voice Experience Plan? (It ties in nicely with their plans)

It would be beneficial if the Conservancy/Friends were given a permit to activate the space and be a direct contact. There are so many opportunities to provide inexpensive entertainment for families in the space.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Balboa Park Pipeline Replacement Phase III. Presenters: Regan Owen, Associate Engineer, City of San Diego and Alexander Monta, Junior Engineer, City of San Diego

Mr. Alexander Monte presented information about Balboa Park Pipeline Phase III, an Engineering and Capital Projects project. A contract with Burtech Pipeline is in place to replace, realign

rehabilitate, and install new water mains to replace the aging pipelines and bring them to current standards. A location map was shared with most of the work taking place along Weber Ave., Inspiration Point Way and Park Blvd. which is moving into construction. The total estimated cost is \$5,200,000.00. The project will begin in April 2021 and continue through May 2023. Coordination with the Navy Hospital and ambulance entry is required. Traffic control will be on Park Blvd. Curb ramps and street repaving are part of the project.

Public Comment

Peter Comiskey thanked to Mario Llanos and the City for their coordination. There will be impact to institutions in the area.

502. Florida Canyon Pedestrian Bridge Design Concept. Presenter: Hunter Ruthrauff, Associate Senior Bridge Designer, TYLIN International

Mr. Ruthrauff is a resident of South Park and a bridge designer with TYLIN in Mission Valley. He would love to see a footbridge that crosses Florida Canyon to facilitate an east/west connection, add an icon to the park, and to act as a spur for development of the Arizona landfill. He presented a design and its features and is asking for public input to drive design creativity. Should it be contemporary or Spanish Colonial? Program on the bridge such as shops which could help fund the bridge over time. He presented a survey for all to take.

Public Comment:

Vicki Estrada noted that the Arizona Landfill plans are for open grassy areas.

Brer Marsh stated it is daring and human and can facilitate a needed connection to the park.

Rene Smith congratulated Mr. Ruthrauff on his award-winning design. Appreciate his innovation in thinking.

Committee Comment

- Would greatly appreciate better access to the park from South Park
- Amazing design and laud you for being so bold. It is wonderful to deviate from the Spanish Colonial design.
- Love the concept – it is beautiful and solve a lot of problems for runners
- Love the enhanced access, commend for your enthusiasm, would doing this require a revised master plan amendment?
- Discuss the next steps with the City

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – No report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS

None

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Balboa Park Committee
April 1, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, May 6, 2021
6:00 P.M.
Online Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager