

MINUTES

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

November 3, 2011

Meeting held at:

Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

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

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jeri Dilno
Jason Elrod
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Minnie Rzeslawski
Rob Steppke
David Strickland

Members Absent

Michael Hager
Andrew Kahng
Mike McDowell
Michael Singleton

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (STRICKLAND/DILNO) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2011 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED (8,0,1) ELROD ABSTAINING.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Jarvis Ross noted the nationwide problem that comes down to the local level called deferred maintenance of which it is reported that there is 240 million dollars of in the Park. Rather than add unneeded structures, we need to direct the City to maintain the currently existing structures in the Park.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

David Kinney noted that Verison was not ready to come back this month which was an agenda item tabled last month. The Family Activity Guide is an example of the frequent collaboration in the Park. Members of Balboa Park Central, the Educators Council and the Balboa Park Learning Institute produced this free activity book for families which is available at the Visitors Center and online at balboapark.org. The Committee will probably not be meeting in December due to access issues during set-up for December Nights.

STAFF REPORT

Steve Hill, representing City Council – District 3

Steve Hill provided the following report:

- On October 25, 2011, City Council passed two measures relating to the 2015 Celebration, a Memorandum of Understanding which will allow the Committee to move forward with their planning, and funding of \$450,000.00 to match another \$600,000.00 from the San Diego Tourism and Marketing District and the San Diego Philanthropic community for planning and implementing the event.
- Invited all to coffee with Councilmember Gloria at the Japanese Friendship Garden on Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. to come and discuss any City matters.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events District Manager

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided the following report:

- The Museum of Man roofing project is going well. The roof on the Administration Building has been replaced; the carport beams are being delivered tomorrow and the scaffolding will be erected starting next week. The Alcazar Parking Lot will not be used for staging during construction.
- She thanked the Thursday Club Foundation for funding the new portable public address system the Committee is using tonight, through proceeds from their annual rummage sale. Communication will be improved through use of the system. The Committee expressed their thanks as well.
- Susan presented the disclaimer for all permits issued within Balboa Park effective October 1, 2012 which states that the City of San Diego anticipates potential construction activities and special events in Balboa Park between October 2012 and February 2016. The City cannot guarantee that events will place in traditional

venues or on traditional dates and we reserve the right to modify or suspend special event permits after they have been issued based on the needs of the City.

- The Diwali Festival was well received; however there was extensive oil spillage from the lamps in the Spreckels Organ Pavilion. A cost recovery is being sent to the event organizer for the professional steam cleaning service needed.
- Several noise complaints were received following two large special events this month on the West side of the Park. The Office of Special Events has been notified as well as event representatives to lessen the impacts next year.

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager

Bruce Martinez reported the following:

- A significant spill of an oily substance occurred after 6:00 P.M. on October 31, 2011, on El Prado near the Museum of Man that trailed across the bridge on the West bound lane. Staff is looking into options to clean the pavers without loosening them. Any information regarding this matter would be appreciated as there are no witnesses to the incident.
- A vacancy was filled for Park Ranger which marks the first time in four years that all vacant positions have been filled in his work section.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Luanne Kanzawa reported the following:

- The Balboa Park Learning Institute is the recipient of an IMLS 21st Century Museum Professionals grant in the amount of \$165,000.00. This award and the matching funds will be put toward a year of programming that will reach approximately 1,000 participants.
- The three month pilot program Balboa Park Mix and Match, which connects staff in the Park through social mix-ups and strategic mentorship pairings, has wrapped-up in October with a groups meet-up at the Tower After Hours event sponsored by the San Diego Museum of Man.
- The Learning Institute partnered with the San Diego Zoo Global to provide a well received Harassment Prevention training in October. BPLI will continue to work with the Human Resources Affinity Group to identify institution mandated trainings such as First Aid, CPR and Harassment Prevention to be provided biannually.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project: Presenter: Robert Fitch, Rick Engineering

Mr. Fitch provided a project status update including design review comments, project scheduling update including the EIR and overview of plan amendments being processed and reviewed by the City.

On October 6, 2011, a design workshop was held at the Balboa Park Committee regarding the bridge design and the architecture design. The design team is reviewing the comments received and will provide a more comprehensive review in January. Regarding the bridge design, samplings of comments received were:

- Provide a smaller, thinner profile
- Consider bridge material, concrete coloring, or steel might be appropriate
- Landscaping
- Lane width concerns and need for bike lane
- Preferred to have a walkway
- Don't like the bridge at all

Regarding the architectural comments:

- Additional maintenance costs incurred
- In favor of trellis design
- More modern and contemporary components
- Maintenance facility to be located in the parking structure
- Valet stand and restroom needs
- Information structure – want more glass, family oriented and possibly a mobile structure
- Elevator core and trellis - too many columns
- Family restrooms needed

They are listening and making design adjustments as applicable.

He provided a project schedule update. The City is processing the Environmental Impact Report and associated technical reports. The draft EIR is scheduled for public review January 11, 2012. After several months of review, the public comments will be included in the final environmental document. A Site Development Plan has been processed in through City departments and the four recognized planning groups. The Plan Amendments are being processed concurrently through the City. Once the final EIR is completed, recommendations will then be sought from community groups, Park and Recreation, Planning Commission and the City Council.

Steve Silverman, Planner assisting with the plan amendments stated that everything begins with the Site Development Plan which contains all of the details of the project itself. The plan amendments reflect the site development permit. The Master Plan was created in 1989 and amended in 1997 for the Balboa Park Activity Center, 1998 for the Natural History Museum expansion, April, 2004 for the Park Blvd. Promenade Project, and in September, 2004 for the Veteran's Memorial Garden. The Central Mesa Precise Plan was adopted in 1992 is more detailed yet, describing land use, design and circulation. It was amended three times. There is no single consolidated Master Plan or Precise Plan. The Plan Amendment describes the types of changes to take place.

The project website is being updated and will be live in the next few days and all of the presentations will be available as well as the Plan Amendments in a few weeks. The third walking tour will take place on November 19, 2011.

Committee Comments:

- Mr. Kinney thanked team members for copies of the presentation and noted that he has a copy of the site plans and draft amendments in his office for Committee Members to review. The Committee is considering having a Saturday morning workshop in February to go over the EIR with the community.
- The Golden Hill Planning Group or the Uptown Planners has not seen the plans
- The time line for the project was requested
- The CCAC will be hearing the project next week

Public Comments:

- A comprehensive plan update is needed due to the massive plan amendments
- The MOU stated that all plans be considered, not just a bypass bridge and parking garage
- Most planning groups are dark in December and the Plan Amendments are coming out November 22, so there will be no meeting to review them. The Planning Committee has been asking for electronic versions to share with their members, but only received one plan copy of the 70 page document, making it difficult to review. DSD stated that they may not copy the plans or scan them. The plans should be available electronically to all.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. San Diego Convention Center Project

Steve Johnson, Vice President of Public Affairs at the Convention Center Corporation provided an update on the expansion project at the Convention Center. He noted that leadership is being shared between the Park and Convention Center as Nikki Clay is an incoming board chair for the Convention Center. He noted that all of the materials presented are available online at www.visitsandiego.com- expansion news.

The Convention Center has been open for 22 years with tax revenues of 400 million and is a generator of TOT Funds. It has an economic impact of 1.4 billion annually. The project would add about another one third of the existing building size which will increase revenues and jobs. It will have the largest contiguous exhibit space on the West coast. The project began in 2009 when the Mayor convened a Citizen's Task Force. Input was received from the community and experts and the land was secured immediately behind the Convention Center. He described the project features which include a five acre rooftop open space and a promenade. The current design cost is estimated at \$500 million. An EIR is in process, community outreach is taking place and they are working on financing.

Committee Comments:

- Wanted to know more about the geo-thermal exchange
- Liked the promenade feature, but don't like the cars- could lead to conflicts

Public Comment:

- Increased water consumption should be considered with increase in numbers of visitors and hotel rooms. What kind of low paying jobs are created? Concerned about the ten percent cost overrun which could actually be higher. We should keep the current size and niche market.

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, January 5, 2012
6:00 P.M.
Santa Fe Room/Balboa Park Club
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager

