

## MINUTES

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

May 5, 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 (arr. 6:12 p.m.)  
Jason Elrod  
Michael Hager  
Luanne Kanzawa  
David Kinney  
Don Liddell  
Michael Singleton  
Rob Steppke (arr. 6:14 p.m.)

##### Members Absent

Andrew Kahng  
Mike McDowell

##### Staff Present

Steve Hill, City Council Dist. 3  
Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park  
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (HAGER/LIDDELL) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2011 MEETING AS CORRECTED:**

#### **Workshop Item #401- Committee Comments**

- Evaluate the potential noise and circulation impacts to Alcazar Garden
- Evaluate 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and/or Balboa Drive for angled parking
- Traffic modeling and alternative analysis should be a goal of the environmental review

**MOTION CARRIED (6-0-1) KANZAWA ABSTAINING.**

#### REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

## **NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin Swanson inquired as to the plans for the 2015 Celebration. Dr. Hager noted that the host committee is not part of the Balboa Park Committee or the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership. The event is not under this Committee's purview.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

David Kinney reported that the Park and Recreation Board met several weeks ago and a draft budget was presented. He acknowledged Park Director, Stacey LoMedico's fairness while considering Department-wide reductions. The Park and Recreation Department will be coordinating with the Libraries so that whenever possible, at least either the recreation center or the library will be open in a community on any given day.

## **STAFF REPORT**

**Rachel Gregg – Assembly Member Atkins Representative** – Ms. Gregg introduced herself and noted that Balboa Park is very important to Toni Atkins and she offered assistance.

### **Steve Hill - City Council Third District**

- Councilmember Gloria has been working to identify a way to restore proposed cuts to Park and Recreation and the Libraries and he is releasing a plan with 15 million in savings to avoid some of these cuts. Savings would be realized through further reductions in benefits for City executives and Council members, expanding the City's marketing opportunity strategy, further reducing training and overtime expenditures, adjusting workers compensation and long term disability funding and recovering full costs for specialized services. The District 3 Dialog newsletter is on the back table which includes times of the department budget hearings.
- On Monday at City Council, the annual discussion to identify a location for the winter homeless shelter will occur.
- It is his understanding that the Mayor will soon be bringing forward a slate of nominees for the Balboa Park Committee appointments which require City Council approval. Councilmember Gloria nominated an at-large member, Minnie Rzeslawski, a local realtor with offices in North Park involved with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the 2015 Centennial Committee.
- Councilmember Gloria earned an "A" on his environmental report card and has been nominated for the San Diego River Park Conservancy.

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

- Summer programs are gearing up. Kidz Camp will be held at Morley Field from June 27 through August 26 for children ages 5 – 13. Dance Camp will be offered for boys and girls ages 6 – 17 from July 18 – 22 and August 1 – 5. Twilight in the Park concerts are beginning June 21 through August 25, all are invited to enjoy free concerts in the Organ Pavilion from 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.
- On April 7, 2011, a report was provided to the Natural Resources and Culture Committee

to request authorization for a ten year contract with Dr. Carol Williams, San Diego Civic Organist. The City initially funded this position in 1929 to provide free weekly concerts. Dr. Williams was selected in 2001 after a world- wide search was conducted. She has also held the position of Artistic Director for the Spreckels Organ Society since then. The Committee asked for additional information to be provided for their next meeting on May 18.

- Johnny Chou is now filling the position of Area Manager over special events and recreation facilities. His regular assignment is Center Director of Robb Field.
- Mrs. Lowery-Mendoza has been working with the event organizers of the Tour de Fat event conducted in November on the south lawn at 6<sup>th</sup> and Laurel for the past couple of years. This year, the event will be staged at Golden Hill Park which hopefully will work well for all parties involved.
- Upcoming Special Events in May:  
Saturday, May 14 - Liver Life Walk - Festival on the War Memorial Lawn, walk route includes entrance into the San Diego Zoo  
Saturday through Sunday, May 28 – 29, House of Pacific Relations 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ethnic Food Fair and Celebration on the lawn and the Organ Pavilion

### **Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager**

- We have started to install skate stops around the Park to prevent skateboarders from continuing to damage Park property and impact visitors experiences in the Park. The first location they were installed at was Bird Park. We received a lot of positive feedback from the adjacent neighbors. We also installed some in front of the Rueben H. Fleet Science Center.
- SR 163 Sewer Lining Work- to date 9940 feet of the total 10988 amount (approximately 91%) of the pipe has been completed. From the information currently available, complete installation of the liner in the three remaining segments should be completed within the month of May barring no complications. This should also include the point repair (pipe bursting) segment of the line.
- On Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup> the Friends of Balboa Park had a volunteer project to plant palm trees in Palm Canyon as part of their Releaf Grant. The project entailed planting 30 additional palms and cleaning up of the canyon. An interesting product brought to the project was a dry water system. By strategically placing this product near the root system, the gel product provides the newly planted trees with a source of water for up to 90 days. Were monitoring the success of this product for future use with native tree plantings.

## **CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES**

### **Michael Hager reported the following:**

- The Art Alive Gala was a success for the San Diego Museum of Art, exceeding their fundraising expectations.
- Next week, the San Diego Natural History Museum opens the End of Earth exhibition which should be very popular.

### **Luanne Kanzawa reported the following:**

- In April, the Balboa Learning Institute and the American Association of Museums were pleased to present the Balboa Park Sustainability Program as a national model case study for environmental sustainability. The case study was shared at an all-day, online Green Conference that reached hundreds of professionals from across the country. The presentation celebrated the achievements of the San Diego Natural History Museum and the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center for their LEED certification, and gave insight into the underlying collaboration that helps exchange knowledge, resources, and attracts new funding to advance the Partnership's green program.
- On May 16, the Learning Institute is offering a program on Crisis Communications, a critical skill for dealing with the unexpected natural and human caused disasters the periodically befall us.
- The Learning Institute and the Sustainability Program are now on Facebook. For those with Facebook accounts, please visit and like them, just search for Balboa Park Learning Institute and Balboa Park Sustainability Program. The sites are updated daily with relevant news items and materials from recent programs.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Consent**

101. None

### **Adoption**

201. None

### **Special Events**

301. Save A Life San Diego Community Walk – Bonnie Bear – Advisory Board Member, Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program, San Diego Chapter

Susan Lowery-Mendoza introduced Bonnie Bear who is requesting approval to conduct a resource fair with a 5K walk on Sunday, November 13, 2011. They have held a resource fair and walk for the past five years; however their attendance has grown to the point where control and special event oversight traffic is needed. Ms. Bear provided insight to their organization and stated that she is looking into alternative routes, but they desire is to cross the Cabrillo Bridge, proceed to the Bea Evenson fountain, return to the West Side and proceed

North on Balboa Drive and South on Park walkways to 6<sup>th</sup> and El Prado.

Committee Comments:

- Thanked the group for providing services but the Committee doesn't evaluate the worthiness of events as they all have good causes
- Events challenge the Park as a whole when access is limited, there is a need to minimize impacts as events occur almost weekly in the Park
- Offered assistance with creating a walk route that does not close the bridge

**MOTION MOVED/SECONDED (SINGLETON/DILNO) TO APPROVE THE PLAN THAT FOLLOWS STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE RESOURCE FAIR AND A WALK ROUTE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE EVENT PLANNER THAT DOES NOT TO CLOSE THE BRIDGE. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-0-0).**

**WORKSHOP ITEMS**

401. Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project

Bobbi Herdes of Recon Environmental Inc. stated that they are the environmental consultant hired to perform the environmental impact review for this project. She noted that the process was initiated in last March, with a notice of preparation of an EIR project which ended on April 22. A scoping meeting was held on April 14, 2011. At the conclusion of the notice of preparation, a transcript of comments was compiled and a list of all alternatives. The draft EIR is now being prepared for the City's review which will have a 45 day public review period. The final EIR will have a response to all comments, revisions, technical findings, and should be complete towards the end of November. Once the final EIR is prepared, public hearings will then take place.

City sponsored workshops and hearings will take place at the Balboa Park Committee; the Park and Recreation Design Review Committee; the Park and Recreation Board; Historical Resources Board; the Planning Commission and the City Council.

The City will determine which alternatives will be considered in the EIR. She listed draft alternatives.

Committee Comments:

- Don't the alternatives have to be considered feasible?
- Very long list of alternatives presented
- Does the purpose and need still need to be defined?

The purpose and needs were discussed in terms of alternatives.

Public Comments:

- Concerns about the future of the archery range, loss of the restrooms and parking near the range

- Supports the 1992 Park Master Plan
- Close the Cabrillo Bridge to cars during events, but support the passing of vehicles through the Plaza de Panama on other days
- Recommend the restoration of the Alcazar Garden
- The Archers Club will surely not survive a two year closure and is in opposition to the bypass bridge
- The Plaza de Panama fountain was given in perpetuity. If it is removed, there will be a breach of contract
- Reversibility is a factor from the historic perspective. Trees can be pruned or trimmed, but the by-pass bridge is permanent
- Alternative parking structure in Gold Gulch has access from Park Blvd.
- Removing the cars from the West El Prado is an illegal interpretation of the law
- Concerns about the impact of the 2015 Celebration, sizeable crowds coming to the Park, plan for the next 100 years

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

501. Scott Reese, Assistant Director of the Park and Recreation Department provided a power point presentation on the development of Department policies for Community Gardens in City Parks.

Committee Comments:

- Department should be commended for its work on this policy
- Would like to see the presentation posted on the City's website
- Terms need to be further defined (i.e. undeveloped – non-improved areas)
- Capturing of water and eco restoration areas needs exploration
- It is unlikely that a group will have the resources to navigate a CEQA review
- Will proposals be brought to the Committee?

### **SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT**

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – None

### **COMMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kinney adjourned the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, June 2, 2011  
6:00 P.M.  
**Santa Fe Room/Balboa Park Club**  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
District Manager