

MINUTES

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

February 5, 2009

Meeting held at:

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

Mailing address is:

Balboa Park Administration
2125 Park Boulevard MS39
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Laurie Burgett
Jerelyn Dilno
Vicki Granowitz
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Mike Singleton
Rob Steppke
Donald Steele

Members Absent

Jennifer Ayala
Mick Hager
Mike McDowell
Donald Steele

Staff Present

Kathleen Hasenauer
Susan Lowery Mendoza
Bruce Martinez

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Kinney requested that the wording be changed on page 3, item #301 to read, "This is a free event, open to the public which are factors that make it easier to support."

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2008 MEETING (KINNEY /SINGLETON 6-0-2) ABSTENTION-LIDDELL/STEPPEKE.

Vicki Granowitz introduced Don Liddell, representing Uptown Planners and Rob Steppke, representing the North Park Planning Committee and welcomed them to the Balboa Park Committee. Mike Singleton will now be a member at- large.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Betty Peabody stated that there has been an escalation in crime in Balboa Park. She noted that she is speaking on this matter as a concerned individual and is proposing a temporary alcohol ban in the Park to enable law enforcement to be able to perform their duties easier. She described an alcohol related incident that had occurred last week that the institutions were unaware of until they saw the evening news, therefore communication must also be improved. Vicki Granowitz noted the proposed change in alcohol policy that has been approved by the Balboa Park Committee and the Park and Recreation Board, but has not been docketed. Ms. Granowitz noted that this matter is of importance to the Committee and others in the Park.

Dalouge Smith, President and CEO of San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory, announced that they are a cultural institution located in the Park and have been for 60 years. Dalouge invited members to a special concert on February 15, 2009 honoring the partnership and support of the Park and Recreation Department as well as celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Commission for Arts and Culture.

Julie Osborne provided an update on the proposed Balboa Park edible landscape project. She first presented information to the Committee in 2006 for an agricultural farm near the landfill. They now have an organized group of 50 individuals and have a 501c-3 status through a fiscal sponsor. They have professionals wanting to volunteer services. They would like to start with a one year pilot project. Vicki Granowitz read the names of the others who came to the meeting to speak on behalf of the project.

Doug Flarety, who resides near the eastern edge of the park, expressed a desire through an edible landscape project to preserve agricultural knowledge and heritage which is disappearing. Vicki Granowitz suggested that they contact the San Diego River Park which has a farm in Mission Valley. Staff will refer organizers to Deborah Sharpe in the City Planning and Community Investment Department.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vicki Granowitz reported that the Park and Recreation Board met in December and discussed the FY 2009 mid year reductions for the Park and Recreation Department. There was also discussion of the Mission Bay Ordinance allocation of funds for projects in regional parks. She expressed a desire to have those types of projects brought forward to the Balboa Park Committee for review.

Members of the Balboa Park West Advisory Committee are severing ties to the Balboa Park Committee and reforming under a new name. An agenda item at the next meeting will address this issue. A new group will be forming with representation from Uptown Planners and members of Balboa Park Committee.

There is a sub-group of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership discussing ideas for the 2015 kickoff celebration. Ms. Granowitz requested that the survey for gathering public input be placed on a public website.

At a recent community cluster meeting of the North Park/Golden Hill/Uptown communities, Ms. Granowitz stated that she was approached by a lobbyist, lobbying in favor of the proposed Atlas Missile being placed in Balboa Park. The application has been received by the City and staff will ensure that it is delivered to the City Planning and Community Investment Department.

STAFF REPORT

Stephen Hill, Council District Third District representative stated that Todd Gloria is excited to work with Committee members on the Balboa Park Study and the 2015 Centennial. Mr. Gloria has a great desire to preserve, protect and enhance the Park. Mr. Hill noted that their first newsletter for Council District 3 is available which includes an introduction to staff and a welcome message. He also invited all to a Council District 3 public meeting on February 21 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Hoover High School Auditorium to begin civic discussion of the City budget. Councilmember Gloria kicked off public process for a community plan update which will be a two year process. Vicki Granowitz asked if Mr. Gloria can look into the status of the alcohol ban in Balboa Park.

Kathleen S. Hasenauer, Deputy Director reported that at the December 4, 2008 Balboa Park Committee Meeting, the Committee recommended denial of a Tuesday, June 16, 2009 private event at the Lily Pond proposed by the Prado restaurant. The Committee cited the requirements for a waiver during the summer moratorium as a basis for their recommendation. The applicant appealed the recommendation to Park and Recreation Director Stacey LoMedico. After serious consideration, Ms. LoMedico upheld the appeal and approved the event based on the day of the week, limited time for load-in and load-out as well as the guests arriving by motor coaches and not personal vehicles. Ms. LoMedico respects the work of the Balboa Park Committee and the commitment to the park as a whole.

A Request for Deviation from City Standard Detectable Warning Tile Color was granted for Balboa Park on truncated curb ramps by City Engineer Afshin Oskoui, P.E. Ramps in Balboa Park will be dark grey instead of yellow. Staff consulted with and received the support of Disability Services, the Office of the City Attorney and City Planning and Community Investment.

At the direction of Mayor Jerry Sanders, the City of San Diego Water Department has scheduled a series of workshops for the public regarding potential cuts of as much as 20% to water supplies in the coming months. On Thursday, February 12, 2009 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM a workshop will be held at the War Memorial Building in Room 3.

The new web site is www.sandiego.gov/wateragency

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Facilities and Special Events District Manger reported that Circus Vargas shows begin today and run through Feb. 9 in lower Inspiration parking lot.

On Saturday, February 21, the Park will host an E-Waste recycling event in the lower Inspiration lot from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. It is a chance to bring old electronics to be recycled with revenue generated to benefiting park institutions.

On Saturday February 28, the City of San Diego Environmental Services will hold an Auto Product Recycling Event in the lower Inspiration Lot from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. City residents can bring used motor oil, filters and antifreeze to be recycled.

Our Park and Recreation Department's Civic Dance program is performing their annual dance collage which showcases the students' achievements. Performances run through February 15 at the Casa Del Prado Theater.

The mid-year budget reductions resulted in reduced hours at the Balboa Park Activity Center and Municipal Gym. Balboa Park Activity Center was reduced from 65 hours of operation to 40, Municipal Gym from 44 hours to 40 and Morley Field from 40 to 30 hours of operation. In FY 2005 the Department created standard core operating hours for all recreation centers. The Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council requested an exemption at the Balboa Park Activity Center to the Monday through Thursday hours of 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Friday 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM and four hours during the weekend. The Director approved a modified version of the core hours which are; Monday and Wednesday 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m, Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 -5:00 p.m., Friday from 4:00 -8:00 p.m. and Saturday four hours.

Ms. Hasenauer provided further explanation of the core hours and standards that are universal in the Department. The standards define youth and senior citizen programming as a priority.

Bruce Martinez, Operations District Manager reported that Mike Tully has been promoted to Grounds Maintenance Manager for Balboa Park. Mike's area of responsibility will be the West & East Mesas, The Four Ten Crew, Presidio Park and Mission Hills Park. Mike has come up through the ranks and has fourteen years of experience in Balboa Park.

The 2009 Balboa Park Operations Project list has been distributed to some of our philanthropic friends. Last year five projects from the list completed those being; the Deionization Water System for the Kate Sessions Nursery, The Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden Fence replacement, the GPS unit for trail, (Friends of PB, Mission Hills Gardeners BP Trust) and tree mapping purposes, phase one of the Balboa Park Trail system, Juniper Canyon Trail Staircase.

We also just recently received funding from the Balboa Park Trust of The San Diego Foundation for phase two of the Balboa Park Trails System East Mesa, The Carillon Bells computer system for the California Tower and the East 163 Canyon Enhancement Project. The total amount for the three projects is \$29,000.00.

Staff has been renovating the Peach Tree area on the Westside near the Lawn Bowling Greens and Sefton Plaza. Balboa Park staff is working with City Wide Support crews to

remove eight (8) peach trees that have reached their full maturity and are infested with termites. Staff also removed brush and excess vegetation in the Peach Grove. Staff will be re-planting the area with twenty Helen Brochures' Peach trees which were purchased through a donation given to us by Mr. Phillip Green.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Balboa Park Lily Pond Landscape and ADA Project

Charles Daniel, Park Designer presented photographs and a plan of the site. There are two problems in the Lily Pond area; the excessive wear and tear on the turf surrounding the Lily Pond due to heavy pedestrian traffic and that there is no easily accessible path of travel to the Botanical building between El Pado and the Lily Pond. The goal of this project is to provide two alternative walkways near the bridge area to gain accessibility, to find an alternative to the turf around the Lily Pond while providing for safety and to provide botanical interest to the area. A possible solution is to install flagstone or some sort of stepper stones with gaps for turf. Currently there is flagstone installed in cement around the upper pool that would be removed for uniformity. He asked for input from the Committee.

Committee Comments:

- Discussion of ADA access to the pond may be dangerous since no curb exists around the pond.
- Use flagstone in the color close to buff concrete.
- Install shrubs with seasonal color on the south side of the pond
- Inquired as to the cost of the project which is approximately \$52,000.00
- Consider artificial turf due to water cut-backs and people with mobility issues who may trip on flagstone unless it is perfectly level.
- Consider use of pea gravel or decomposed granite.
- They liked the walkways to provide access to the Botanical Building.
- Remove the flagstone in concrete around the upper pool and install the flagstone and turf there as a trial.
- Prefer a permanent solution for the worn turf area so area doesn't have to be constantly roped off for renovation.

402. Update Balboa Park Study Report

Vicki Granowitz reported that she met with the Mayor and Phil Meyer who were very impressed with the report and support the recommendation for the next phase. She also is meeting with representatives from the labor unions and presented the report to the San Diego Foundation. The next steps are to establish a work plan, time line and budget. Ms. Granowitz is working with the Mayor's office and Council office as to when the report will be docketed.

403. Balboa Park Committee Goals for 2009

Vicki Granowitz noted that goals should be set for the Committee now that the study has been completed. She will send out a plan from last year to build upon. The alcohol ban should be a priority.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. 2009 San Diego Tour de Fat Festival

Michael Craft of New Belgium Brewing Company presented a proposal to hold a free festival on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at the 6th Avenue lawn between Juniper Street and El Prado. This event has been held for ten years in 11 cities across the country. The event includes a morning family fun ride that is police lead on City streets around Balboa Park with a festival to follow with food, beer, live entertainment, merchandise/sponsor vendors and information booths. The local community partner is the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition. They have found that the primary means of transportation to their event has been by bicycle so parking should not be an issue.

Committee Member Comments

- Members liked the event proposal package which was thorough.
- Have mixed feeling towards the park being used for beer promotion.
- The event is small and well thought out.
- The bike ride route should be changed to see more of the park without inconveniencing the institutions. A suggested route was to held south on 6th Avenue down the bottom, come back up 6th Avenue to Juniper and ride the loop past the Fire Alarm building and hen return to the festival area.
- Concern about the staging and decible levels. Michael Craft provided his phone number for any day of event problems.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE EVENT AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF AND WITH THE CAVEAT THAT THE BIKE RIDE ROUTE BE WORKED ON AND PART OF THE ROUTE TO BE IN THE PARK WITH LIMITED IMPACTS TO THE INSTITUTIONS. A POST EVENT REPORT IS TO BE PROVIDED. (SINGLETON/DILNO) 8-0-0

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Post Event Review of the San Diego Lunar New Year TET event.
Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Facilities and Special Events District reported that she encouraged the San Diego Lunar New Year TET Festival event organizer to work closely with the San Diego Police Department to ensure that traffic and parking were improved from last year's event. Additional parking obtained at City College was helpful. There were issues with trash removal and overnight vehicular parking in the lower Inspiration lot. Overall, coordination was improved from last year. No complaints were received at the Central Balboa Park Association meeting held last Monday. Larry Tran, event organizer reported that they had 7,000 attendees on Saturday and 6,000 on Sunday. The Police Department had no issues and the parking seemed to work well. They used the City College and San Diego High School lots primarily for volunteer parking; had a shuttle running from the lower Inspiration lot to the event and worked closely with the park institutions.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Land-Use and Policy – None

COMMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT

Andrew Kahng reported that the Recreation Council met last night, was very well attended and they heard about the change from their proposed core hours. These hours will result in the Recreation Council having to pay \$337.50 per week to purchase additional hours of operation. It was suggested that a survey be implemented to determine the numbers of non-residents who utilize the facility

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Granowitz adjourned the meeting at 8:14 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 5, 2009
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen S. Hasenauer