

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE

March 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

Jennifer Ayala
Laurie Burgett
Jerelyn Dilno
Vicki Granowitz
Mick Hager
David Kinney (Arr. 6:10 p.m.)
Don Liddell
Mike McDowell
Mike Singleton
Rob Steppke
Donald Steele

Members Absent

Andrew Kahng

Staff Present

Susan Lowery Mendoza
Bruce Martinez

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Don Steele noted that he should be listed as being absent from the last meeting.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2009 MEETING WITH THE CORRECTION OF DON STEELE LISTED AS ABSENT. (J. DILNO/R. STEPPKE) 7-0-3 ABSTENTION-McDOWELL/STEELE /AYALA.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Vicki Granowitz reported that she received clarification after the last meeting in regards to more than one person wanting to speak about the same topic. Time can be limited by subject and is identified as such on the new heading on the agenda.

Maurene Burke of the Golden Hill Community Garden noticed discussion of a community garden in Balboa Park and wanted to let the Committee know that she and other board members are present tonight and is willing to help and support a garden project.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vicki Granowitz reported that Adoption Item 202 will be heard after those agenda items that have interested parties present in the audience. It will follow the special event.

At last month's meeting, it was suggested that there has been an increase in crime in the park and a request was made to enact a temporary 24 hour alcohol ban. The crime statistics were pulled and do not indicate a significant change. The proposed alcohol ban that was approved by the Committee and the Park and Recreation Board is now moving forward and hopefully will be docketed in late March or early April.

The issue about changing the core hours for recreation center operation at the Balboa Park Activity Center that was discussed at our last meeting. The issue was brought up at the Park and Recreation Board and the core hours will not be changed as they are identified as hours that meet the needs of senior citizens and children which are core standards.

David Kinney reported that he had spoken to the Democratic Club regarding the recommendation for a conservancy. The cultural institutions are offering the first ever park-wide Family Day in Balboa Park on Saturday, March 21 as a way to offer extra value and a great experience for the entire family.

STAFF REPORT

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Facilities and Special Events District Manager reported the following:

- Circus Varga had a successful visit in the Park from February 5 – 9
- The Thursday Club Rummage Sale will be held at the Balboa Park Activity Center on Saturday, March 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- The Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair will be held at the Balboa Park Activity Center April 1 – 5.
- The San Diego Science Fair will be held in Balboa Park on April 4 and many of the institutions are involved.
- EarthFair will be held on Sunday, April 19.

Bruce Martinez, Operations District Manager reported the following:

- Environmental Services Department (ESD) is moving forward with a program that uses broad-spectrum lighting for parking lots, buildings and walkways. This lighting technology saves energy and enhances nighttime visibility. Initial energy savings estimates are between 40% and 60%. The identified location site in Balboa Park is the Morley Field multipurpose field parking lot. As more information becomes available the Committee will be updated.
- Arbor Day Celebration 2009 in conjunction with The Friends of Balboa Park and a donation by Mr. Philip Green is scheduled for April 23rd 2009. We will be planting fifteen 24 inch box Engelman Oaks and six 24 inch Western Redbuds on the West Mesa. The Citywide maintenance crew is installing bubbler lines for water conservation and to help assist in the establishment of the trees.
- On February 19 the Central Mesa lost water pressure. This was due to a broken potable water line which ruptured during excavation work for a seismic retrofit project for the California Tower. This incident revealed several issues, some have been resolved and some are in the process of being addressed. Reassurance was given that Park staff understands the impacts of this type of situations and they will be doing what they can to mitigate these impacts in the future.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. **The role of the Balboa Park Committee and the process for projects being considered by the Regional Park Improvement Fund and CIP projects.**

Vicki Granowitz requested that this discussion take place due to the pergola project which came before the Committee as workshop item with no funding or costs attached. Committee members made the following comments:

- The process should be open and transparent
- Projects within Balboa Park should be vetted through the Park and Recreation Board system
- There are priorities of importance for projects
- There is a point system in place to prioritize CIP projects
- There are infrastructure concerns in Balboa Park and the pergola is a discretionary project.

Ms. Granowitz asked if anyone would be interested in forming an ad-hoc committee to meet for a very short time to be prepared to make a proposal to Council District 3 on how the Balboa Park Committee would like to be involved in the process. The ad-hoc committee members are Don Steele, Jennifer Ayala, David Kinney and Mike Singleton.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. **General Development Plan for the House of Charm/Mingei International Museum - Charles Daniels, Park Designer.**

Mr. Daniels noted that the Committee is being asked for a recommendation on a proposed general development plan for the House of Charm by the Mingei International Museum. He provided the history of the building which was re-constructed in 1996. The Central Mesa Precise Plan provides direction for the renovation of the Plaza de Panama landscaping enhanced paving and pedestrian gathering areas. The grounds development plan has been reviewed by the Historical Resources Design Assistance Committee and is found to be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards.

Rob Sidner, Director of the Mingei International Museum noted that since 2007, details and clarifications have been added to the plans for the façade and exterior. The design team consists of David Reed, Landscape Architect, David Marshall, Historical Consultant and Ricardo Rabines, Architect who presented the general development plan for building and landscaping modifications. Mr. Sidner presented a letter of support for the plan from the Committee of 100 and the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership.

Committee Member Comments:

- The tables and chairs are outside of their leasehold. Will the area become part of their leasehold? The area will not be included in the leasehold.
- Concerns about chaining the tables and chairs and the stackability of the chairs. This issue will be further reviewed by staff.
- The plans are excellent and the area will be enhanced and more accessible.
- To operate the coffee concession consent to sublet may be needed.
- Would have liked to see letters of support from the Old Globe and San Diego Art Institute
- More trash will be generated by the concession. The Mingei will assist with trash removal above and beyond what is created now.
- Concerned about the loss of one handicapped parking stall.
- The signage and lettering is attractive.
- Additional lighting is only on the signage
- Discussion on the quantity and type of palms to be planted and the loss of mature trees
- Would like to see improvement in pedestrian crossing safety from the colonade as part of the project.
- Cement finish needs to match existing
- Does the landscaping plan meet with today's water conservation standards?

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE GROUNDS DEVELOPMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED. (KINNEY/HAGER) 11-0-0.

202. **Dissolution of the Balboa Park West Advisory Group and potential formation of a new west-side group.**

Vicki Granowitz reported that the Balboa Park West Advisory Group was going in a different direction than as a sub-committee of the Balboa Park Committee. The City Attorney's office recommended that a motion be made and record to dissolve the existing BPWAG group.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO DISOLVE THE BALBOA PARK WEST ADVISORY GROUP. (BURGETT/AYALA) 11-0-0.

Special Events

301. **Family Day in the Park**

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided an overview of the proposed event, location and a recommendation to approve the event on a one year trial basis. She introduced Harold Randolph of the San Diego County Commission on Children, Youth and Families/Child Abuse Foundation who reported that over 100 volunteers will direct traffic and people at the event. It is not expected that all 3,000 expected attendees will be present at one time; people will be coming and going throughout the course of the day. It is a free standing event with table, chairs and a stage that is lifted off of the ground. Mr. Randolph noted that in addition they are planning to hire a shuttle service to run from the County Administration lot and enhance the park shuttle system.

Committee Member Comments

- They liked the idea of having this wholesome activity in this location of the park
- Encourage volunteers to park their vehicles in other lots, not close to event
- Notation made that a County sponsored event is using Balboa Park, within the City of San Diego, in the spirit of cooperation

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE EVENT AS RECOMMENDED (McDOWELL/STEELE) 11-0-0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. **Community Gardens on City Property**

Vicki Granowitz noted two documents; a memo from Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Director and Bill Anderson of City Planning and Community Investment Department and a memo from Kelly Broughton of Development Services. Ms. Granowitz noted that park land in Balboa Park is environmentally sensitive. Some parks are waiting for funding to be fully developed and should not be considered underutilized because they

have been funded. Committee members commented there are many issues with community gardens; the idea of a garden is great if land is not designated for some other purpose or environmentally sensitive; and thought needs to be given as to what is in Balboa Park's best interest.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Land-Use and Policy – None

COMMMTTEE MEMBER REPORT

Mick Hager noted that the large institutions are suffering in the current financial climate. Their endowments are shrinking and there is wide-spread mis-information on how funding is obtained. There have been layoffs and reduction of work hours for employees. He noted that the Body Worlds exhibit opened today at the Natural History Museum which is very educational.

David Kinney noted that the concerns of the large institutions are the same as the small and middle sized institutions. Some institutions are reducing entrance fees on certain days and a discounted admission day pass is being offered through May 22. Vicki Granowitz noted that these types of outreach activities should be noted near the beginning of meeting when a larger audience is present. A change will be made to the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Granowitz adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 3, 2009
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza