

## MINUTES

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

October 1, 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  
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

#### ATTENDANCE:

##### Members Present

Laurie Burgett  
Jeri Dilno  
Vicki Granowitz  
Mick Hager  
Andrew Kahng  
David Kinney  
Don Liddell  
Mike McDowell  
Michael Singleton  
Donald Steele

##### Members Absent

Rob Steppke

##### Staff Present

Stephen Hill  
Kathleen S. Hasenauer  
Susan Lowery-Mendoza

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 6, 2009 MEETING. (HAGER/KINNEY 9-0)**

#### REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

#### NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Warren Simon provided a Balboa Park December Nights update. He highlighted a few changes from last year's event. A stakeholder's meeting will be held on October 22, time and location have yet to be announced.

#### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Vicki Granowitz reported on the following:

- A press conference has been scheduled on October 9 at 12:15 P.M. . . . Mayor Jerry Sanders and Councilmember Todd Gloria will announce the formation of the Balboa Park Task Force. The first meeting of the Committee will be held on October 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Santa Fe Room.

- The Park and Recreation Board received a report from CCDC which does not include part of Balboa Park near 20<sup>th</sup> and “B” as part of the first phase of the program. One of their goals is to provide accessibility to the Balboa Park from downtown.
- The homeless shelter was proposed for Balboa Park, however the City Attorney found that is not in keeping with the City Charter.
- Ms. Granowitz will be making suggestions to improve the language in the plaque policy.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Stephen Hill, City Council Third District representative reported the following:

- Followed-up on the Caltrans 163 median maintenance
- Caltrans awarded a \$2.6 million dollar contract to Sierra Maintenance to address the slopes according to the Corridor Maintenance Management Plan.
- Mr. Hill thanked those who came to the City Council meeting to speak on behalf of Balboa Park regarding the siting of homeless shelter.
- On Monday, EECBG grants will be considered. Two million dollars will be allocated towards energy efficiency projects in City facilities where non-profit organizations are operating.

Kathleen S. Hasenauer, Deputy Director reported the following:

- Ms. Hasenauer gave an update on the Boy Scouts that were attacked by wasps while hiking. The park rangers contained the area which was off of a trail.
- Assistant Park and Recreation Director Scott Reese is becoming familiar with the Department. He brings a wealth of experience to the City.
- On November 1, irrigation will be reduced to one day a week from the current three days per week. With few exceptions, irrigation will only occur between 6:00 PM and 10:00 AM on the designated day.
- On August 4, Park and Recreation Director Stacey LoMedico sent the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership and Special Use Permittees a memorandum regarding Temporary/Permanent Changes within Leaseholds and Daily Activities and Special Events.
- On September 22, Park and Recreation Director Stacey LoMedico retroactively approved the temporary installation of the Spinal Column Art Sculpture installed by the San Diego Museum of Art. Julianne Markow, Deputy Director of Operations and Finance for the museum submitted the request on August 26. The sculpture must be removed no later than June 14, 2010.
- This past summer, Park and Recreation staff drafted a Park and Recreation Department

Policy which addresses Temporary Exhibit of Special Features in Balboa Park. Input was solicited and received from the Commission for Arts and Culture. Charles Daniels, Park Designer is presenting the information this evening to the Committee.

- Mayor Jerry Sanders released the City of San Diego 2011 – 2015 Five Year Financial Outlook today. To address the challenges for Fiscal Year 2011, substantial budget cuts and service level decreases are expected.

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

- The Tour de Fat is scheduled on Saturday, October 3 from 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. on the Sixth Ave Lawn south of El Prado. This is a new event that was approved earlier this year.
- The Haunted Trail is in operation from 7:00 P.M. to midnight through October 31.
- The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event is scheduled for Sunday, October 18 on the Sixth Ave. lawn and through the Central Mesa.
- Light the Night Against Crime 5K is scheduled for Saturday, October 24 in the Lower Inspiration lot and Park Blvd.
- Complaints were received regarding the Heart Walk on September 19 and the Aids Walk on September 27. Park staff worked closely with San Diego Police Department to minimize the road closure impacts.
- The Walk on the Wild Side event scheduled for October 10 has requested to close a lane of southbound traffic on Park Blvd. from Zoo Drive to Zoo Place. Event organizers would like to have walkers enter the Zoo at the Zoofari Party Area Entrance due to construction at the Zoo. Staff approved this one time change for the event as the impacts to other intuitions will be minimal because of the early event start.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza reported the following for Bruce Martinez, Operations District Manager:

- The San Diego Museum of Man had their roof drain repaired this week. This was a major accomplishment, due to flooding issues in the museum's back parking area each time it rained. To complete the job, El Prado was closed to remove the interlocking road pavers and to locate the drain lines in the street (Park Road). It appears the contractor who installed the waterline along El Prado several years ago severed and completely removed the drain line. Park staff, especially the Citywide Park work unit, along with the City plumbers, were tremendous in this endeavor. The severed end of the roof drain line was located at approximately three feet below the road and the connecting inlet to the storm drain line was located at about six feet deep. It was estimated the job would be completed in three days, staff requested an additional half day to allow the concrete in the excavated area additional time to cure. With the road closed, staff took the opportunity and repaired most of the pot holes in the remaining pavers. Park staff went above and beyond on this project.
- A water variance was granted to renovate and establish turf in a heavily used area at Sixth Avenue and Laurel. This variance is valid for a three month period, starting September 28, 2009.

- Caltrans currently has a contractor working on replacing the fence that borders SR163 North to the east of SR163. They are replacing the old six foot chain link fence with an eight foot, black, 1” mesh fence. The project should be completed in early November.

## **CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES**

The Partnership’s Learning Institute continues its popular American Association of Museums webinar series on October 21, with “HR Basics: Evaluating and Coaching Employees” and November 4 with “Project Management Basics”. The Learning Institute is also planning a “Grantwriting 101” workshop series with Elizabeth Castillo, the Partnership’s Director of Development.

An update on the Partnership’s Environmental Sustainability program will be presented at the October 5 meeting of the Central Balboa Park Assembly. To date, this program has generated energy savings among the institutions of 3,500,000 kWhs of electricity and 87,000 therms of gas, equivalent to one full year of energy use for 300 San Diego homes. Additionally, collective Business Operations has generated substantial savings for the institutions and has increased operational efficiencies.

The 2009 Western Museums Association Annual Meeting will be in San Diego, October 25 – 29, 2009. Balboa Park Day is on Wednesday, October 28, from 1:00-5:00 P.M. Three hundred or more cultural institution leaders from the Western United States and beyond will visit Balboa Park and cultural institutions as part of the official program.

- The San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park are hosting delegates on Sunday, October 25, from 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M., as a pre-conference activity.
- The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership will present a session on collaboration on Monday, October 26 from 1:35-2:55 P.M.

Park-Wide Halloween Family Day, Saturday, October 31. Kids 17 and under will be admitted to the institutions free of charge with a paid adult admission. For more information, visit [balboapark.org](http://balboapark.org).

The month of October is “Kids Free Days” at the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park. Children ages 3-11 will receive free admission.

The Cultural Partnership, San Diego’s Market Creek Plaza program and others will be co-hosting a Multicultural Arts Leadership Initiative Conference in the Park, October 13 - 15. The goal of the conference is to provide emerging multicultural arts leaders from San Jose, California, with knowledge and skills to grow their organizations and serve as advocates for a multicultural arts community. Portions of the three-day conference will take place in Balboa Park, and primary support for the conference comes from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The Museum Trustees Association will be conducting a “Trustee to Trustee Forum: Creative Initiatives In Changing Times” at the Mingei International Museum on October 29. Museum Trustees from throughout the United States will experience Balboa Park during this one-day forum. The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership will be featured in the session, “Creative Partnerships: The Balboa Park Success Story.”

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Consent**

101. None.

### **Adoption**

201. Proposal to install Craig Noel Monument

Charles Daniels, Park Designer provided a report addressing the request to name and place a commemorative plaque to honor Craig Noel in the Plaza de Panama.

Deborah Szekely of the Balboa Park Trust of the San Diego Foundation who worked many years as a volunteer at the Old Globe provided testimony to Mr. Noel's years of service to the Old Globe and theater in San Diego.

Paul Meyer informed the Committee of Mr. Noel's contributions to cultural life in the community. He encouraged directors to come to San Diego. Mr. Meyer believes that Mr. Noel is to culture in San Diego as Kate Sessions is to horticulture in San Diego.

Lou Spisto of the Old Globe Theatre stated that there was no greater advocate for theater in Balboa Park than Mr. Noel.

Stephen Hill of Councilmember Gloria's office read a statement by Mr. Gloria noting that Mr. Noel played an important role in shaping Balboa Park and there is no other individual that had greater influence at the Old Globe Theatre.

David Lang, Executive Director of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership noted that the Partnership is in support of the proposal.

Committee Comments:

- The placement of the plaque in an auto oriented area. It was suggested that it be placed near the crosswalk
- It was noted that the location is temporary and is in a place that can be accommodated in a short period of time.
- While the idea was liked, the location should be adjusted.
- The circle around the fountain is being named Craig Noel Circle

**MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ASK PARK STAFF AND THE PROPOSERS TO CONSIDER OTHER LOCATIONS AS WELL. (HAGER/KINNEY 9-0)**

## **Special Events**

301. None

## **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

401. Continue Review of Special Events – Road and Parking Lot Closures

Ms. Granowitz received feedback about closure of the Zoo parking lot due to a special event which not only affects the Zoo, but also park visitors who use that lot. Mick Hager stated that the road closures for special events should come to an end because of not only the loss of visitors to the institutions, but also the loss of access to the Park for recreational purposes.

Other Comments:

- When Park Blvd is closed, there are no other roads to access the east side of the Park.
- The Stadium, Sports Arena, Arizona Landfill, and Fiesta Island should be considered for large event venues.
- The Central Area of the Park could be looked at as a business district, not only a park.
- Impacts should be mitigated, such as posting detours
- Other routes need to be investigated.
- The institutions are financially supporting the events

402. Temporary Exhibit of Special Features in Balboa Park

Charles Daniels reported that he is working on a Park policy to address temporary exhibits of special features, which are items that could be considered art as well as other displays and are to be displayed less than one year. He reviewed a draft policy which has two approaches, dependent upon certain factors. He then reviewed the draft policy (Attachment 1) which is in collaboration with the Commission for Arts and Culture.

Committee Comments:

- A further definition of what a special feature is needed. A definition of Process A and B is needed in the first part of the document.
- Include a site plan.
- Many exhibits like “Cool Globes” have multiple features – a group of objects
- Is the Proposer limited to have two features?

- Include a site plan of other features.
- Remove the words “unlikely to be authorized”.
- Time is needed to think about the policy.
- Appreciate staff taking the time to address the issue.
- Maintenance costs need to be included.
- Identify an area on the West side of the Park to display art.
- If something doesn’t fit the description, can it still come to the Committee?
- The committee would like to review again next month. If possible, send the document a couple of weeks before.
- Send comments to Mr. Daniels.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

501. None

**SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT**

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee of the Balboa Park Committee –

Don Liddell noted that stop signs will be installed at Fourth and Fifth Avenues.

**COMMMTTEE MEMBERS REPORT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Granowitz adjourned the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
 District Manager