

MINUTES

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

November 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
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Laurie Burgett
Jeri Dilno
Vicki Granowitz
Mick Hager
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Mike McDowell
Donald Steele (arr. 6:40 p.m.)
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

Andrew Kahng
Michael Singleton

Staff Present

Stephen Hill
Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Bruce Martinez

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2009 MEETING WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTION – ATTENDANCE- LIST MIKE McDOWELL AS BEING ABSENT. (HAGER/DILNO 6-0-2) ABSTENSION STEPPKE/McDOWELL.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Warren Simon provided a Balboa Park December Nights update. They are currently finalizing health permits, police services and transportation. 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.

Cole Newkirk, resident expressed his dismay of the Rock Church's outreach events in Happy Valley which are operating without permits. The clothing, food distribution and hair cutting is leaving debris all over the park, causing staff to pick-up truck loads of trash. Staff will contact the Church to resolve the issues.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Vicki Granowitz reported on the following:

- The Park and Recreation Board were presented a preliminary grounds development plan for Torrey Pines City Park which is rich with history.
- The City Council will declare next Tuesday as Mike Steppner Day.
- The first meeting of the Balboa Park Task Force focused on getting the members up to speed to have a clear understanding of the first phase.
- Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Director will present at the November meeting.
- Critical Mass, the bike group who meets by the Bea Evenson Fountain is creating issues that affect the institutions.
- The December meeting will be cancelled if there are no urgent action items.
- The Balboa Park Task Force will meet on December 21. Their January and February meetings will be held at the Ruben H. Fleet Science Center.

STAFF REPORT

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

- He distributed the District 3 Dialog which describes the formation of the Balboa Park Task Force.
- A public budget forum will be held on November 21 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Hoover High School.
- Councilmember Gloria will hold a Community Coffee on December 12 at the Hall of Champions.

Bruce Martinez reported the following for Kathleen S. Hasenauer, Deputy Director:

- On October 28, Natural Resources and Culture authorized exclusive negotiations with Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) for the lease of the Marston House and Grounds. Real Estate Assets Department and Park and Recreation Department staff are working together on this endeavor. SOHO has been provided with a Lessee's and Sub-Lessee's Questionnaire that must be completed prior to the start of negotiations.
- On November 1 irrigation was reduced to one day a week from the previous three days per week. With few exceptions, irrigation will only occur between 4:00 PM and 10:00 AM on the designated day, until May 31. Irrigation is limited to seven (7) minutes per station. This does not apply to drip, micro-irrigation, stream rotor, rotary heads, hose and sprinklers with timers or valves operated by a weather based irrigation controller.
- The Park and Department Management Team and Division Analysts are finalizing proposed reductions for the Department. Once completed, they will be submitted to the Financial Management Department. All City Department recommendations are evaluated and ultimately decided by the Mayor's Office.
- It is anticipated that the Mayor's Proposed Citywide Budget Reductions will be presented to the City Council on November 24. City Council/Budget Committee Hearings have been scheduled as follows:

December 2, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. – Budget and Finance Committee

December 7, 2009 at 2:00 P.M. – City Council

December 14, 2009 at 2:00 P.M. – City Council

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

- The Community Christmas event will be held on Saturday, November 28 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. which includes the tree lighting, music and other entertainment in the Spreckels Organ Pavilion.
- Toys for Tots registration is occurring at the Municipal Gym through November 6. Staff will be collecting toys to assist the Marines starting next week in the Balboa Park Administration Building lobby.
- Father Joe's 5K will take place on Thanksgiving Day starting in the Spreckels Organ Pavilion.

Bruce Martinez, Operations District Manager reported the following:

- **A follow up to a previous report** –Staff recently installed the irrigation weather station behind the Balboa Park Administration Building. This weather station will allow us to have our irrigation controllers run on real time weather conditions through our centrally operated computer irrigation program. We are in the process of transferring our 100+ irrigation controllers into the new program. We hope to have this completed within the next few weeks.
- Currently the Central Mesa does not have any smart controllers, however that will soon change. The Friends of Balboa Park have received a generous donation and will be assisting us in this endeavor. We will soon start to install new smart irrigation controllers in strategic areas of the Central Mesa along with replacing some manual valves with automated ones. Not only will this save water, it has the potential to save a significant amount of staff time which is extremely helpful.
- The drought level two water ordinance shifted into its winter/spring schedule. Beginning Sunday, November 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010 We are only allowed to water seven minutes maximum per watering station on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for non-stream rotor heads. With this level of restrictions you should see no negative impacts to the Park.
- A welcomed permanent change to the adopted Drought Ordinance is that irrigation is permitted any day/time for new turf establishment, repair or renovation of public fields for schools and parks. Such irrigation is permitted for a period of up to two months. After the two month period, a variance is required. This will allow us to be more effective in addressing the Park's needs.
- Friday, October 30 at approximately 6:00 P.M. it was reported by custodial staff that a fire hydrant behind the Palisades building was hit and dislodged. The incident resulted in the Central Mesa losing water pressure. The hydrant was isolated at approximately 7:00 P.M. and water pressure was restored.
- Saturday, October 31, at approximately 8:00 A.M. we had a drunk driver hit the Cabrillo Bridge retaining wall adjacent to Nate's Point. Apparently the driver then backed up and drove east towards the Plaza de Panama traffic circle where she continued to drive around the traffic circle at a slow rate of speed. According to staff reports the driver was arrested on site. The Department usually receives a cost recovery requests for damages of this nature. Charlie Daniels will be assisting with us on this incident to make sure the repairs to the wall are completed correctly.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

David Kinney reported the following:

- The Park-Wide Halloween Family Day was held on Saturday, October 31, 2009. Many children came in costume and there was good press coverage.
- The Cultural Partnership coordinates the Central Balboa Park Assembly meetings which are held on the first Monday of the month at 8:00 a.m. It is open to all and the Zoo generously hosts the meetings.
- He invited all to December Nights. Last year institutions gave away \$8,000.00 in free admissions.
- The website, balboapark.org will be enhanced and expanded as a content creator has been hired.

Mick Hager reported the following:

- The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership and all of Balboa Park were well represented at the 2009 Western Museums Association annual meeting in San Diego held October 25 – 29. Many delegates remarked how impressed they were with Balboa Park and intended to make return trips to San Diego to further explore the Park.
- The Partnership was well represented at the Museum Trustees Association at the Mingei International Museum on October 29.
- BPCP member volunteers, staff and trustees are urged to attend City Budget and Finance Committee hearings this month in the council districts to express support for Park and Recreation and the Commission for Arts and Culture.
- The 6th Annual Nonprofit Governance Symposium will be held at the University of San Diego on January 8 – 9, 2010.
- The Partnership will be featured at the American Association of Museums annual meeting in Los Angeles in May, 2010.
- There have been many complaints from cultural institutions regarding road closures. They are in the process of drafting a letter opposing to the closures of Park Blvd. and Laurel Street at any time with the exception of December Nights.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None.

Adoption

201. “Accept” the West Mesa Subcommittee Report on Special Events.

The following public comments were made:

- The population has grown and use of the West Mesa has grown. Additional policies are needed.
- These recommendations aren’t just for the Park’s neighbors, but for other Park users and the Park itself.
- Experienced event managers will welcome the information. With more detailed policies and enforcement, better events will be held and problems will decrease.

- The events are louder, later and longer. The sound level coming from the speakers is deafening.
- The purpose of the Park is to serve children and families.
- Events do not follow any rules and a phone number to call to report violations as they are occurring is needed.

Ms. Granowitz noted that the report was written by subcommittee members who live in all geographic areas. If the Committee accepts the report, it is not necessarily endorsing the report. The Balboa Park Committee will issue a report of its own.

Don Liddell presented the report and highlighted the following:

- The report has specific concepts and general concepts.
- Noise and sound are acute problems. The noise travels six blocks away.
- There are recommendations regarding landscaping
- The Park neighbors have a sense of helplessness and need communication – a hotline.
- Security deposits, penalties and full cost recovery is needed.
- There are lost opportunities when the public can't use the Park.
- He thanked the subcommittee members who started this process six months ago.

Committee Comments:

- Well done, pleased that it came from the community; resident owners are taking initiative.
- Fees do not take account for lost opportunity costs, experience loss when people can't access the Park.
- Events can be staged elsewhere
- Clarity is provided, very reasonable and will be easy to create recommendations
- Comprehensive and detailed
- The issues relate to all of Balboa Park, not just the West side of the Park.
- Alternatives are needed as to where these events can go.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE REPORT FROM THE WEST MESA SUBCOMMITTEE (McDOWELL/BURGETT 9-0)

Ms. Granowitz noted that the Land Use Committee will take the report and use the format. She thanked the subcommittee for their work.

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Continue Review of Special Events – 2009 Healing Arts Festival

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided information about the event which was held on May 3, 2009. Staff met with the event organizer following the event and a post production meeting was held with the City-Wide

Special events team. The following issues were documented:

- Traffic and parking was a major concern. The City College lot was not utilized due to lack of promotion and signage.
- Music and amplification concerns
- A failure to meet Risk Management requirements at the acupuncture booth

- A failure to adequately clean-up after the event. A cost recovery was charged.
- Smoking in the venue
- lack of the qualified traffic control, recycling/trash containers, portable restrooms/hand washing stations, bicycle parking, volunteer coordination due to a family emergency
- Three headliner bands were unknowingly booked for the event by the event organizer.

A special event request application for Balboa Park has been received for this event to return on May 2, 2010. The event organizer proposes a higher attendance, 25,000 – 30,000 and 20 additional exhibitors.

Ryan Altman, event organizer stated that it was a mistake to have bands that attract such large crowds, but that they were not headliners. They did have growing pains last year, but it has been a successful event for many years with no complaints. They had clean-up issues, but came the next morning at 8:00 a.m., but staff was already cleaning –up. He thought the Police Department would direct people into the parking lot to access the shuttle bus. Next year, more police presence will be requested, a professional clean-up vendor will be hired, the bike valet area expanded and back-up volunteers will be in place.

Committee Comments:

- The area is not large enough for 20,000 persons
- There is not enough parking to support the numbers of participants
- Traffic, parking and congestion will be an issue for the Park as a whole
- It is a free event which is good for the community
- What is the event organizer willing to do to keep the event a lower threshold?
- Our job is to keep the Park in balance
- Off -site parking for vendors
- Difficulty with circulation – one way into Park on East Side
- There is a cumulative impact
- The Race for Literacy is the same day
- Asked why the event was short staffed?
- Continue to work with staff and look at other sites
- Thanked staff for bringing the event back for review

402. Temporary Exhibit of Special Features in Balboa Park

Charles Daniels updated the draft policy with the feedback provided by the Committee at the last meeting. He included definitions of the terms, a summary of process A and B, and he added item #8 regarding attachment to building and historical structures.

The Committee commented that the policy is much improved and thanked him for his work. Mr. Daniels will now forward the draft policy to Stacy LoMedico for her review and it will come back to the Committee as an action item.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee of the Balboa Park Committee – Covered earlier in meeting.

COMMMTTEE MEMBERS REPORT

- North Park Planning Group – Rob Steppke noted that review of their community plan is starting this month.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Granowitz adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, January 7, 2010
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