

## **MINUTES**

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

November 4, 2010

#### **Meeting held at:**

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room  
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**

Jason Elrod  
Scott Glazebrook  
Mick Hager  
Andrew Kahng  
David Kinney  
Don Liddell  
Mike McDowell (arr. 6:15)  
Michael Singleton (arr. 6:05 p.m.)  
Donald Steele

##### **Members Absent**

Jeri Dilno  
Rob Steppke

##### **Staff Present**

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park  
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (HAGER/ELROD) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2010 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED (7-0-1) KAHNG ABSTAINING.**

#### **REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES**

None

#### **NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Kinney reported the following:

- Chairperson Kinney noted that the City's Homeless Shelter will not set-up in Balboa Park
- The defeat of Proposition D could result in deep cuts to the Park and Recreation Department

## **STAFF REPORT**

City Council Third District – Steve Hill

- Chairperson Kinney thanked everyone who came out to defend park land being used for park purposes during the City Council meetings to address the location of the Winter Homeless Shelter.

Committee members thanked Mr. Hill for all of his efforts.

Bruce Martinez reported the following regarding Balboa Park Operations:

- Each year the San Diego Architectural Foundation administers the annual Orchid and Onion Awards. This year there are two (2) City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department projects listed in the **Orchid** category. They are the SD Museum of Art Facade Restoration and the Balboa Park Trail System. These projects represent two of the nine nominees in the Orchid category.
- The Huffington Post (an on-line publication) has profiled Balboa Park as one of the 10 most beautiful gardens in Europe and/or North America. Balboa Park is the only garden profiled from the United States. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/10/26/flower-gardens\\_n\\_773769.html#s164964](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/10/26/flower-gardens_n_773769.html#s164964)

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

- November is a busy month for Park events  
Upcoming Larger Events to Note:
- Fiesta de la Cuadrilla, November 4-7, 2010 utilizing many Balboa Park facilities for square dancing
- Komen San Diego Race for the Cure this Sunday, November 7, 2010. The route is the same as the route being proposed for the Finish Chelsea's Run which will be presented later this evening. The route begins at 6<sup>th</sup> and Palm, crosses the Cabrillo Bridge, proceeds to the Plaza de Panama and Pan American Plaza, exits at Park and President's Way and proceeds northbound on SR 163, exiting Quince St. to return to their festival at 6<sup>th</sup> and Quince. Estimated attendance is 12,000
- Walk to Cure Diabetes on Saturday, November 1, 2010. The Festival is at 6<sup>th</sup> and El Prado and will use two routes, one of which follows the bridle trail. Estimated attendance is 4,500

- Save a Life Walk – November 14 at 6<sup>th</sup> and El Prado – South Lawn. Estimated attendance is 500
- CIFSDS Cross Country Championship November 19, 2010 on the trails at Morley Field
- Father Joe’s Thanksgiving Day 5K – on Thursday, November 25, 2010. Estimated attendance is 9,000 starting at the Cabrillo Bridge and using roads on the West side of the Park, returning across the bridge to the Plaza de Panama.
- Community Christmas Center Program – Friday, November 26, 2010, begins at 4:30 PM in the Spreckels Organ Pavilion with tree lighting at 6:30 PM

### **CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES**

Michael Hager reported the following:

- A two day charrette was held with members of the Cultural Partnership and BRC Burbank on what can be done for the 2015 Centennial. The report will be done in mid December
- The Silverman report is a good blueprint for doable projects
- Balboa Park Online Collaborative received a grant to digitize collections that will be available online

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Consent**

101. None

#### **Adoption**

201. None

#### **Special Events**

301. Finish Chelsea’s Run – Leisha Battles, In Motion Inc. on behalf of the Chelsea’s Light Foundation

Stephanie Dorian provided information as to why Balboa Park was chosen as the walk/run location. She requested that the permit be granted for March 5, 2011 without the stipulation that it is considered a one- time event.

Committee Comments:

- This request highlights the need for the Land Use Committee as the impacts to

those who live across from the Park are great

- Amplification is a concern
- A standard 5K route needs to be established to avoid road closures
- Need to make use of the Marston Point loop and the natural amphitheater for the noise issues
- The cumulative impact of all the events is great, events are occurring every weekend, all institutions have staff that need to park and get in to work.
- The road closures deprive general park users access to the Park
- Facing decreased staff in the Park and Recreation and Police Department to manage events
- It is possible that the event may have many more participants than expected
- If events are done right, they aren't effecting that many people early in the morning
- Many people enjoy these types of events, they expose people to the Park
- No Parking signs need to be better managed
- When events start early, they affect the residents more
- Redwood Circle should be looked at as a finish area

**MOTION MOVED/SECONDED (LIDDELL/STEELE) TO APPROVE THIS EVENT FOR ONE YEAR ONLY, RANGER STAFF BE ASSIGNED AT THE ORGANIZER'S COST, AND REDWOOD CIRCLE BE CONSIDERED FOR THE FINAL AREA . CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9,0,0).**

## **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

### **401. Balboa Park Plaza de Panama Circulation and Parking Structure Project – Mark Johnson**

Mr. Johnson reported that he and his colleagues have been outreaching to groups since the September 23, 2010 meeting. The Planning Commission granted approval of the project initiation for a plan amendment on October 21, 2010. They requested engineering studies of the bridge, road and garage, but not for the plaza.

Mr. Johnson then gave a power point presentation which included the following Planning Commission issues:

- Historic Resource Protection
- Universal Accessibility
- Availability and Accessibility of Parking
- Traffic Circulation and Pedestrian Safety
- Accessibility of Public and Park Transit
- Consider all Alternatives
- Consider Aesthetics
- Provide Parking Below Grade
- Consider Future Phasing

- Explore Opportunities for Future Transit Stations

Mr. Johnson also noted the additional issues brought forward through public comment:

- Bicycle Accessibility and Connectivity
- Way- Finding
- Paid Parking: Access for Everyone
- Plaza de Panama Program, Design, Management
- Construction Impacts
- Project Cost/ Future Operations Cost
- Sustainability

Average day vehicular trips across the Cabrillo Bridge, at Park and President's Way and at Pan American Road were provided. Counts were also provided for pedestrians and bicycle riders.

Mr. Johnson then provided a walk-through of the project and the proposed vehicular access to the parking garage. The parking garage would provide 800 parking spaces and have a garden rooftop. The footprint of the garage would allow for possible removal of cars from Pan American Plaza.

#### Committee Comments:

- Questioned why the number counts for vehicular access do not add up
- Concerned about loss of pedestrian walkway at edge of Palm Canyon, put vehicular traffic on subservient side.
- The proximity of the proposed parking structure would create noise and pollution close to the Organ Pavilion
- If replacing 800 parking spots, why not talk about removing vehicles from Pan American Plaza too?
- Access to garage from Park and Presidents Way
- Concerned about impacts to Palm Canyon
- New restrooms would be needed, perhaps underground with an information center attached
- What about alternate plans if entire project cannot be completed?
- Concerned about T – intersection and right turn off of bridge at Museum of Man, may be an issue for pedestrians on south side of bridge
- Importance of having pedestrian access on both sides of the bridge
- A bike lane on the bridge is needed with signage

#### Public Comments:

- Concern about the right turn at the T-intersection at the bridge – bikes don't stop at stop signs and the pedestrians will be run over
- Concern for those that can't walk far, effects businesses, theater, restaurants
- Preserve what you have, don't add things that don't belong

- Shut down the park to vehicles for a day and see how it works
- Suggest an ADA drop-off in the Plaza de Panama
- 35 million is too high of a price for 800 parking spots, which won't be free
- Possible parking behind the Old Globe?
- El Prado is part of a bike route
- Cut down on motor vehicle use, don't need to drive to the front door, preserve the Park for people
- The Park roads are designed for top-down touring, cross the bridge and enter into another world, why re-engineer the magic? Historic entry remains integral to Park design
- Plaza de Panama may feel too large for comfort, recommend plaza area only be in front of the Museum of Art
- Trolley link needed on Park Blvd., the plan brings even more cars into the Park
- Excited about pedestrian use in Park
- Consider the cost benefit of the project, consider Inspiration Point parking lot for the structure, remove the garage from the Central core of the Park
- It is never too early to consider the Secretary of the Interior Standards regarding the new features proposed
- Separate the Pan American Plaza from this project
- Keep the Uptown Planners apprised
- Access to Park by fire engines is a concern
- In Europe, all parking garages are underground and there is no free parking
- The Pan American Plaza is unsightly as it is now, full of signs and planters to keep cars going in the right direction
- Project going very fast, don't see any alternatives
- Project being thrust upon us, not a City project, who owns the project?
- Cars are taking precedence over people
- Close the Park on Sundays to vehicles, try it out

#### Presenter's Comments:

We'll come to the December meeting with a 3D model of what the project will feel like and have a more accurate technical drawing. Groups will be formed for discussion.

Mr. Kinney thanked all for coming to provide input.

#### 402. Special Event Road Closures – Committee

Dr. Hager requested that staff provide the Committee with the number of events that close roads. With the 2015 Centennial, roads closures will have to be considered and a determination made as to what size of event is too large for the Park. Film shoots are also an issue as they block access. An additional concern is that there may be fewer Park staff to deal with events due to the budget.

Mr. Kinney added that he shares Dr. Hager's concerns and the events seem to last longer and be more prominent. He asked for the Land-Use Committee to be re-formed and he committed to

serving on the committee along with Don Liddell, Andrew Kahng and Michael Singleton.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

501. None

### **SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT**

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – Don Liddell reported that some parameters on special event processes was discussed and include guidelines for set-up to occur no earlier than 24 hours in advance and set curfew times.

### **COMMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kinney adjourned the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, December 2, 2010  
6:00 P.M.  
**War Memorial Auditorium (Note Change)**  
**3325 Zoo Place**  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza