

MINUTES

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

September 6, 2012

Meeting held at:

Balboa Park Club
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

Ricardo Flores
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney
Mike McDowell (arr 6:06 pm)
Minnie Rzeslawski
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke
David Strickland

Members Absent

Jeri Dilno
Michael Hager
Don Liddell

Staff Present

Susan Lowery- Mendoza Balboa Park
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (STIEPPKE/ SINGLETON) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2012 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED (5,0,3) KAHNG, RZESLAWSKI, STRICKLAND ABSTAINING.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Jay Shumaker stated that in the 1987, the City Council initiated a Precise Plan for the East Mesa. He is concerned about the grading of eighty acres of open space on the East Mesa. He asked the Committee to have a discussion about the matter. Chairperson Kinney will speak to the staff and investigate it as a possible agenda item next month.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Kinney noted that the Park and Recreation Board did not meet in August but did meet in July. The Mission Bay Improvement Fund exceeded the threshold of 23 million dollars. Approximately 1.7 million is to be distributed to regional parks for projects. He thanked the Friends of Balboa Park for their assistance with the donations for the Lily Pond. Updates from the Balboa Park Conservancy and the 2015 Centennial Committee will be received at the October meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Stephen Hill, City Council Third District

Mr. Hill provided the following report:

- Since the Committee has not met since for the past couple of months, he noted that the Plaza de Panama project was approved by City Council with a 6-1 vote. Todd Gloria made the motion after considering the benefits against the real impacts. He is hopeful that the project can proceed in a timely manner.
- He thanked staff and the Friends of the Park for their response after the Lily Pond incident.
- A workshop is planned for September 24, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. in the Santa Fe Room regarding the impact of utility boxes in the community.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events District Manager

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided the following report:

- Summer programs were very well received by the public
- The Balboa Park Activity Center is hosting Art SD 12, a contemporary art fair which is opening to the public tomorrow at noon. The facility has been completely transformed into small art galleries and the building's artwork is a feature of the show.

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager:

Bruce Martinez provided the following report:

- The fountains in front of the Botanical Building are currently being worked on and we expect them to be operational again within the next three weeks. The Balboa Park Alliance which consists of the Committee of 100, The Balboa Park Trust and the Friends of Balboa Park funded the project.
- He thanked the Friends of Balboa Park for stepping up and assisting the Department with addressing the damages to the Lily Pond and the North Fountain. It was amazing how fast The Friends mobilized and took on the role of

being the fiscal agent in managing the donations that came in to repair the damages. The Friends were also able to secure a donation from Lowes Mission Valley for marine grade synthetic wood to construct seven new lily boxes to replace the ones that collapsed. These new materials will significantly expand the life expectancy of these new boxes. It is also my understanding the remaining twenty lily boxes will also be upgraded with Marine grade synthetic wood which will result in a significant benefit to the pond, leaving it in a condition of the lily boxes being better now than it was prior to the incident.

- Today, staff replanted several hundred annual plants in the Mall/Esplanade median. Several weeks ago someone went through the area and ripped out the plants and threw them all over the road. We realize this is not the optimum time to plant these plants as they are already in their half season cycle, but the other alternatives were to leave the plants there dead or remove them and have the area looking sparse. It was an easy decision to make just time and resource demanding.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Chairperson Kinney noted the Smith Leadership Symposium will explore Organizational Innovation and the Engagement Equation on September 7, 2012.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Cal Trans Cabrillo Bridge Seismic Retrofit Update – Lou Melendez

Mr. Melendez, Project Manager with Caltrans introduced Steven Alvarez, the design manager for the retrofit project who will speak about the enhancement project which includes lighting. The project is scheduled to be complete by the summer of 2014.

Chris Thomas, Design Manager provided a power point presentation on the rehabilitation and retrofit project. The project includes work on the piers, facade and soffit and superstructure. The window when the deck of the bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic was specified as January through April, 2013 in order to move utilities. It will be open to pedestrian access during this time.

Committee Comments:

- Requested repair to the sidewalks as they are damaged from being cut into and patched – suggested sandblasting/bead blasting and restoring score lines
- Safety issues with mixing of bikes and pedestrians on sidewalk
- At the next meeting, an agenda item should include a recommendation from the Committee regarding the sidewalk, concrete color and asphalt
- Commended Cal Trans' detail on the structure and have confidence that they will do the right thing.

Steve Alvarez provided an update on the Transportation Enhancement Project. They have trimmed the trees in the median and are looking to lay sod in the future. There is an opportunity to provide accent lighting and two options, arch lighting or facade lighting were described. A lighting mock-up will take place on Monday, September 10, 2012 at 8:00 P.M. The lighting will be white.

Committee Comments:

- Like Option 1 as it highlights the double arch
- Who is responsible for lighting maintenance (an agreement with the City)
- Would like lighting similar to that on the California Tower

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Zoo Parking Lot Solar Panels – Sally Muir

Ms. Muir, Project Manager with SDG&E's Sustainable Communities Program provided an update regarding the Solar to Electric Vehicle Charging Project taking place in the

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Zoo's parking lot. They received their permit last week and started construction last Tuesday. The goal of the program is to install a solar photovoltaic system to harness the energy from the sun to both charge electric vehicles and store power for future use, providing renewable energy to the community. Ten solar canopies with four PEV stations plus and ADA accessible charging station will be installed by late November. Each canopy can shade about five vehicles. The equipment enclosure will be housed behind the new Zoo sign.

Committee Comments:

- Thanks for coming back to the Committee
- Great project, like battery storage, trellis structure design
- Seems like a small amount of charging stations, but there is an ability to add more in the future.

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, October 4, 2012
6:00 P.M.
Santa Fe Room/Balboa Park Club
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager

