

MINUTES

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

November 1, 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
Michael Hager
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Mike McDowell
Minnie Rzeslawski
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke (Arr. 6:25 P.M.)
David Strickland

Members Absent

Jeri Dilno

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. He noted that Information Item #502 was pulled from the agenda at the request of the presenter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A suggestion was made to correct a spelling error; page 6, #501, change the word fun to fund.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (SINGLETON/KANZAWA) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2012 MEETING AS CORRECTED. MOTION CARRIED (8,0,2) STRICKLAND, FLORES ABSTAINING.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Hanson of the New School of Architecture and Design introduced himself and stated that they are trying to set-up a design/build program to enable students to take on real world projects. They are looking for opportunities for smaller scale projects within the Park and Recreation Department. Chairperson Kinney asked that he contact staff to discuss opportunities.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Kinney noted that at the Park and Recreation Board meeting, they said goodbye to Wilbur Smith who served for many years on the Board. Bill Diehl will now Chair the Board. The Balboa Park Committee will not meet in December. He encouraged all to attend the December Nights event.

STAFF REPORT

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

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided the following report:

- Last Thursday, the Department hosted a retirement party for Bill “Coach” Whittaker, who after 66 years of service retired as a Recreation Leader. He coached many youth in his long career with the Department as well as at St. Augustine High School. He will be missed at Morley Field and throughout the Department.
- HVAC equipment project at Casa de Balboa underway. The old equipment has been removed and the electrical work needed to support the new units is being performed. The project should be complete by the end of the year.
- 12 Elevator Modernization Projects will be starting in the coming months. The elevators at the Casa de Balboa and the Casa del Prado will be replaced first. The schedule for the remaining sites is yet to be finalized.
- Funding has been identified for the Municipal Gymnasium Roof Replacement and it is anticipated that the project will go out to bid this month.
- Upcoming Events:
 - November 2 – 4 Fiesta de la Cuadrilla – utilizing many public facilities
 - November 4 Race for the Cure
 - December 7 – 8 December Nights

Update on December Nights – Shuttles will be transporting all passengers to 6th Ave. at El Prado. Staff is working with the Event Organizer to ensure that it operates efficiently and safely, with as little impact as possible for the area residents.

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager:

Bruce Martinez provided the following report:

- Park and Recreation Department Administrative Service Division requested that I provide you with the two documents. One is the Memo from Stacey LoMedico, Director Park and Recreation Department. The Memo provides information about the Fiscal Year 2012 Regional Park Funds- Allocation Recommendations. The second document is the 2012 Unfunded Park Improvements List. The list you have now is expected to be updated for next meeting's presentation with newly received projects from the Balboa Park/Morley Field Rec. Council. Jim Winter, Project Manager II will be making presentations on both these topics and will answer any questions you may have or add projects to the list.
- **The Balboa Park Lily Pond Project** to restore the seven damaged lily boxes is planned for sometime in December, after December Nights. City Staff is working with the Friends of Balboa Park to plan and implement the project. The scope of the project is to replace all twenty-seven (27) lily boxes with upgraded materials, redesign the layout of the boxes in the pond, implement a new planting technique to incorporate a more diverse and interchangeable plant pallet, address the long term repair of the drainage pipe, patch cracks within the pond walls, color coat the existing green drain pipe running through the middle of the pond, and resurfacing the coping around the outer rim of the pond. Funding for the project is provided through the Balboa Park Trust and the Friends of Balboa Park and is estimated at \$30,000.00.
- The North Fountain in the Plaza de Panama has been repaired from the damage caused by the water gun fight in August. Today the condition of the fountain is better than it was previous to the August incident as additional preventative maintenance was completed during the repairs.
- This Sunday, November 4, we will experience another planned power outage pertaining to the Balboa Park Electrical Reliability Improvement Project. The outage will start at approximately 10:00 PM and last for up to 10 Hours. As with the last outage SDG&E is working closely with City Staff to mitigate impacts as much as possible to everyone.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

None

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Plaza de Panama Project Construction Parking Management and Transportation Plan

Gerry Braun, Director of Special Projects, Office of the Mayor provided an update on the Plaza de Panama Project and Parking Management Plan. His presentation provided information on the construction phasing plan and the draft construction parking management and transportation plan. Regarding the project litigation, the court date has been postponed until February 1, 2013. A review all four phases of construction was presented and how the work will be performed in quadrants to allow park access.

The draft Construction Parking Management and Transportation Plan goals were stated and build on previous parking studies performed in the Park. The plan will maintain two- way traffic in the Park and provide for an employee parking reservoir with reliable transportation which will increase close in parking for the visitors. The Plaza de Panama Committee has dedicated \$1 million to construction parking management and transportation improvements. The plan was developed with input from City staff and Balboa Park stakeholders. The plan will be in effect during the construction of the parking structure and will be enforced Monday through Friday. The City Council approved the lease/purchase for the new tram system.

There will be designated construction and valet area and thirty day notice will be provided before the plan is implemented. Visitor, employee and early access parking will be accommodated and the plan will be reviewed quarterly.

Committee Comments:

- Concern about the delay in construction which is compacting the schedule
- The Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council may be concerned about 720 employees parking in the Lower Inspiration Lot which may affect the recreational users. Mr. Braun noted that the working group will discuss this point and the expectation is that the parking will not change dramatically as the Navy and City College will not using the lot
- Use of the “O” Parking Lot which is remote
- Use of the tram during the 2015 Centennial
- Encourage Park and Recreation to continue parking for employees outside of the core of the Park after construction has ended
- Concerned about the impact on parking on the West side and the construction coordination during 2015
- Temporary relocation of special events
- Discussion of the number of parking spaces in the Inspiration Lot and their designated uses.

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – Don Liddell provided an update on the Subcommittee which was formed in 2009 as a product of a degree of tension between the residents, businesses and special events. The Subcommittee feels that it is time to raise up the issues around the relationship between the park and the residents. He provided the names of the members and noted their report identifying all of the issues. They also have developed a pilot program for the Park benches. They have seen improvement in the special events by providing feedback to staff. The Subcommittee will be proposing a curfew on events on the West side that will prohibit set-up earlier than 24 hours in advance of the event and also prohibit set-up between 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. Exceptions will have to be approved by the Balboa Park Committee.

Committee Comments:

- Would like to know the number of events on the West side
- Some events are setting up earlier to avoid conflicts with the institution operations
- Chairperson Kinney noted that the Subcommittee has made improvements and thanked them

COMMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

Vice Chair – Mike McDowell reported that a small contingent of interested parties went to Panama to meet with the Minister of Tourism to discuss with their possible involvement in the 2015 Celebration. Ideas and opportunities were discussed and which could increase their tourism of their assets and resources. The Committee is currently seeking major sponsors.

Chairperson Kinney noted that he sent the letter of concern regarding the Cabrillo Bridge project to Caltrans' Project Manager Lou Melendez.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 7, 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