

MINUTES

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

February 7, 2013

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

Michael Hager
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Mike McDowell
Minnie Rzeslawski
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke
David Strickland

Members Absent

Jeri Dilno
Andrew Kahng

Staff Present

Susan Lowery- Mendoza Balboa Park
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. He noted that Action Item #102 and Information Item #502 were pulled from the agenda at the request of the presenters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (HAGER/STRICKLAND) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2012 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9,0,0).

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Newell Booth, Chairman of the Centennial Committee, La Jolla Regional Group- Horseless Carriage Club of America. To be a member of the Club, you have to own a vehicle from 1915 or earlier, and he offered to volunteer by providing autos for fundraising events, shows, and other events. They probably have over 100 autos from that era and also have antique clothing that can

be worn by the drivers and passengers in the cars. He provided his contact information on the speaker slip.

Jarvis Ross wished to address an element of the Master Plan/ Precise Plan which removes parking from the Plaza de Panama. It can be accomplished for little money as the Mayor has suggested and merely shut down the Cabrillo Bridge as they do for events. It would not add to the 240 million in deferred maintenance the Park is reporting today. The thanked those that opposed the project. He asked Mr. Hager to match his \$1,000.00 contribution to go towards this objective.

Kevin Swanson of San Diego 2015 and Syntropic Systems noted that in 1911, they held a three day party as part of changing the name from City Park to Balboa Park. In 1915, there was a historic race. This is the Cabrillo National Park is celebrating their centennial and event culminating with events October 12 -14. The Horseless Carriage Club will plan a route to kick off Spruce Up and Shape up San Diego to get ready for 2015. He stated that he is not affiliated with Balboa Park or the City of San Diego.

Ian Epley stated that he heard tonight on KPBS that the Centennial Celebration has been postponed for lack of funding. He is concerned that a marvelous plan to restore and improve Balboa Park has been stalled due to a faulty pair of words in the City's Municipal Code. Because of SOHO's lawsuit, the Park is vulnerable. Under the judge's ruling, all other plans would have failed as well to remove the cars from the Plaza de Panama and those plans are unfunded. The only winners are the SOHO attorneys. The name calling of Dr. Irwin Jacobs is disgusting and embarrassing. Folks are quick to vilify a civic philanthropist, but will not pony-up any money for services that would make San Diego America's finest City. History is dynamic and our generation has every right to put our stamp on the Park. Fix the Municipal Code and get the project back on track.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Kinney noted that Balboa Park Committee Member Ricardo Flores, representative of the Center City Advisory Committee has resigned as he has taken a new position which has created a conflict with that committee. The Park and Recreation Board meeting was brief and had a consent agenda.

STAFF REPORT

Council District Third District – Steve Hill

Mr. Hill reported that Councilmember Gloria was disappointed with the judge's ruling on the Plaza de Panama and read his statement, " I remain committed towards clearing the cars out of the Plaza de Panama and returning it to the people. Today's decision leaves options to pursue this vision and will be evaluating the options with the City Attorney in the days ahead."

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

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided the following report:

- Staff has been working with the House of Pacific Relations regarding a kitchen upgrade at the Hall of Nations. The construction is complete and now all that is needed is a sign off by the County Department of Health. This kitchen will allow for continued and enhanced programming with foods from around the world.
- Our San Diego Civic Dance Arts program is performing their annual Collage in the Casa del Prado Theater through February 17, 2013. It is an exciting program featuring many forms of dance by the highest levels of dancers in the City's program. All are welcome and the information is on the back table.
- The Thursday Club's 86th Annual Rummage Sale will be held at the Balboa Park Activity Center March 9 - 10, 2013.

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager:

Bruce Martinez provided the following report:

- It is with great pleasure that I get to report the Lily Pond was filled up with water today and it is now in better condition than it was before that August night when the drain pipe was broken. The 27 new lily boxes look great, the work Worley Construction did in the pond to repair the cracks and redo the coping came out very nice, and City Staff moving of the green drain pipe from the middle of the pond was also a significant improvement. We have received many comments that the amount of boxes placed back into the pond seemed to be more than before but that is not true. There was a reconfiguration of how the boxes were placed back in that give this impression. I would like to thank those who made funding contribution to the project; the Balboa Park Trust, Friends of Balboa Park, Lowes Mission Valley, San Diego Gas and Electric and all the general public that donated. I especially want to acknowledge the Friend of Balboa Park as their contribution was significant in that they were not only donors, but they were the fiscal agent and also assisted in the administration of the project as the Right of Entry Permit holder.
- Today we also essentially completed the work on the irrigation system within the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden. This was another significant renovation project in that the 20 rose beds of the garden now have consistent low profile spray coverage, and all the irrigation valves are tied into one of our smart controllers on site. Not only will these renovations save water and maintenance time, it is expected that the plants will grow healthier. This project was funded by the Balboa Park Trust.

Chairperson Kinney watched the work going on at the Lily Pond and commended the work of the Park and Recreation Department employees.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Dr. Michael Hager introduced Peter Comiskey, the new Executive Director of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership. Mr. Comiskey most recently led the Downtown Anaheim Association, where he had great success as a leader and organizer of multi-stakeholder cultural projects.

Luanne Kanzawa reported that the Balboa Park Learning Institute just wrapped up an intensive two week seminar with 20 Johns Hopkins University Museum Studies graduate students, who spent their time meeting with various executive directors and staff at many of the Balboa Park institutions. The students explored the visitor experience and provided recommendations to the institutions to further enhance the Balboa Park experience.

The Learning Institute has partnered with the Online Collaborative to provide a two part series focused on E-Publishing.

The San Diego Art of Science Learning Incubator for Innovation will explore how integrating the arts influences innovation processes related to education and practice in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The civic challenge, water, chosen by public vote, will focus the efforts of the Incubator for Innovation from September 2013 through September 2014.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. Sprint Modification of Existing Site on Balboa Park Golf Course

Maegan Murphy Steudler reported that Sprint currently has a site at the Balboa Park Golf Course and they are performing a technology upgrade to the network to increase the data coverage for Balboa Park, Golden Hill and North Park communities. Currently the site has nine antennae that are 4' in height along the fence on Pershing Drive. They would like to increase the antennae height to 4'6". The radio heads will be contained in an equipment area which is screened by foliage. A radio frequency map was distributed showing the current design coverage and the proposed configuration coverage.

Committee Comments:

- Do not see a visual change to existing conditions
- Request that the color and texture is matching to the fence
- The Committee needs to keep watch over the number of cell tower requests due to the visual impact

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED (SINGLETON/HAGER) TO APPROVE THE PROJECT AS PRESENTED. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9,0,0).

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. City's Bicycle Initiatives

Ed Clancy, Bicycle Initiatives Program Manager is working on Ciclos Dias (Bicycle Days) where a continuous 4.6 mile bicycle route will be establish through Barrio Logan, South Park, North Park and City Heights in August. Leading up to the big day in August, he is planning mini bike days on Sunday afternoons in May, closing a smaller route to vehicles to encourage bike and pedestrian usage in Balboa Park's Marston Loop area, Golden Hill Park and Presidio Park. Bicycle events will be occurring in other areas of the City in 2014 and 2015. He is asking to get feedback to engage a park once a month on a Sunday in May, June and July at one of these locations; the Marston Point Loop, Golden Hill Park loop or the Presidio Park loop.

Committee Comments:

- Mike Singleton volunteered to help Mr. Clancy for use of Balboa Park before he comes back to the Committee as an action item
- The institutions are open on weekends and would appreciate consideration of the hours that they are open because of the need to get the visitors to the Park.

Mr. Clancy offered to provide an after action report to the Committee.

503. Edge 2015 Update – Mike McDowell

Nikki Clay, Co-Chair thanked the Committee for allowing time on the agenda tonight. She noted that the presentation the Committee will be hearing tonight is similar to that presented at the Natural Resources and Culture Committee. Mayor Filner and the City are in full support of the event. Mike McDowell distributed a presentation which is available on the Balboa Park website. They are attempting to engage the entire community, cultural institutions and cultural groups. Recent implementation milestones include commitments for a marketing video; meeting with representatives of the Smithsonian Institution; and meeting with the Tourism Minister and Canal Zone Administrator, Panama; and Edge 2015 roll out event with over 300 community

leaders in attendance. An unqualified audit was performed, venues identified and an initial master calendar framework set. Park institution and programming initiatives were presented. Autonomy has been secured as a consultant and brings a technological background, international and cultural celebration, and San Diego Alive: Lifestyles on the Edge. Many forms of communication are available by way of a newsletter, Twitter and Facebook and website.

Committee Comments:

- A tremendous amount of work goes into the foundation of the event
- Recognized Ben and Nikki Clay and Mike McDowell for their efforts
- In regard to how people get to the park, plans can be used in the future for sustainability of the Park
- Has potential for a significant legacy to integrate into the operation of the Park

Public Comments:

- The House of Pacific Relations would like to be included in the 2015 programming

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – Don Liddell noted the Subcommittee will be bringing forward a motion next month, 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 MEMBERS REPORT

Mike Singleton reported on a corridor study taking place to on both sides of the park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 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

