

MINUTES

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

March 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

Jeri Dilno
Michael Hager
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke
David Strickland

Members Absent

Luanne Kanzawa
Don Liddell
Mike McDowell
Minnie Rzeslawski

Staff Present

Susan Lowery- Mendoza Balboa Park
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M. He re-ordered the agenda to hear #501 first, followed by item #301.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (STEBPKE/STRICKLAND) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2013 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED (4,0,2) DILNO, KAHNG ABSTAINING.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Kinney reported that at the last Park and Recreation Board meeting, they approved the San Diego River Master Plan which is a great but complex document put together with a lot of community involvement.

STAFF REPORT

Council District Third District – Steve Hill

Mr. Hill reported that Councilmember Gloria was delighted to participate in the grand re-opening of the Lily Pond. He thanked staff, The Friends of Balboa Park and the hundreds who donated to the repair fund. Regarding the Plaza de Panama project, the judge invalidated the project and while it is possible to amend the Municipal Code, it is challenging and may lead to extended litigation. The Council is waiting for formal response. Mayor Filner added \$500,000.00 to the midyear budget to do something in the Plaza de Panama, but there are no plans yet. Input will be sought by Balboa Park stakeholders. He invited all to have coffee and conversation with Councilmember Gloria at Twiggs Bakery and Coffeehouse on Saturday, March 9, 2013 from 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

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

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided the following report:

The month of March is a busy event month in Balboa Park. Upcoming Events include:

- March 9, 10 The Thursday Club Rummage Sale at the Balboa Park Activity Center
- March 15,16 Citywide Youth Basketball Tournament at the Municipal Gymnasium
- March 16 St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival on the Park's Westside
- March 16 Science Family Day in the Institutions, El Prado and Zoro Garden
- March 23 Annual Spring Egg Hunt at Morley Field
- March 24 Hot Chocolate 15K and 5K on East Mesa and Golden Hill Park
- March 30 Race for Autism starting at 6th and El Prado, crossing Cabrillo Bridge into Pan American Plaza

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager:

Bruce Martinez provided the following report:

- The Friends of Balboa Park have partnered with the San Diego Floral Association to present "Butterflies in Zoro Garden." at the " **Science Family Day**" Saturday, March 16, 2013. Children will have the opportunity to release a live butterfly into the garden and live ladybugs will also be handed out between 12:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.
- Ansen Caires, Nursery Gardner in the Botanical Building was promoted to Nursery Supervisor, filling the vacancy left by the promotion of Mike Rasmusson to Grounds Maintenance Manager.
- Five other Grounds Maintenance Worker vacancies have also been filled.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

- Michael Hager introduced Peter Comiskey, Executive Director of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership. He can be reached for any questions regarding Partnership programs. It is with great sadness that Mr. Hager announced the passing of Rory Ruppert, BPCP staff member, Director of Environmental Sustainability. She made incredible contributions to the Park in the last seven years and they are charged with carrying forward her vision of the most sustainable park as we prepare for the Centennial Celebration.
- The Balboa Park Pass is expected to soft launch in October, 2013. Information regarding the passes can be found on their website.
- The Balboa Park Sustainability and Cultural Walk-About scheduled to March 8, 2013 is full. Highlights will include the sustainable efforts in Balboa Park as they relate to museum procedures, exhibits and collection preservation, visitor experience, and professional development at four Park institutions.
- They recently received the LEAD Feasibility Study from the Green Building Council which provides a wealth of information and a presentation has been scheduled for May 14, 2013 at the San Diego History Center.
- The 2013 Museums and Mobile Online Conference will be conducted on March 19, 2013 for staff members interested in mobile project and mobile data at their institution.
- The Learning Institute is hosting the Day-In-a-Chair with Head North, April 8 – 12, 2013. Park staff will spend part of day in a wheelchair in order to build awareness, understanding and appreciation for the day to day perspective of those living with spinal cord injury and apply this knowledge to day-to-day interactions with Park visitors.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. Rock'n'Roll Marathon – Kara Kong, The Competitor Group, Coordinator, Community Relations

Ms. Kong noted that the event started in 1998 and in 2012, had an economic benefit of 7.1 million and 54,000 in room nights. One of the biggest changes this year is that the event will end downtown in front of Tailgate Park. She reviewed the impact to Balboa Park. The start will be the same as last year, at 6:15 A.M. Park Blvd should re-open at 7:20 A.M. which is earlier than past years. There are new impacts to the north and east sides of Balboa Park later in the day as later part of both the half and full marathons will be using the roadways in those areas. Ms. Kong is reaching out to those user groups with phone calls and meetings to alert them and will be providing leaflets for the park users and staff so that they will be aware of the alternative access needed. The half marathon will conclude between 11:05 A.M and 11:15 A.M. and the full marathon at 1:20 P.M.

Committee Comments:

- Thanked Ms. Kong for attending and is delighted that Park Blvd. is opening so quickly
- Ensure that the no parking signs are removed promptly
- There is an impact to those living north or east of the Park to get to the Park
- Park West and Bankers Hill should have less impact with vehicles parked there for the start of the race
- Would like to see some financial benefit to Balboa Park
- Concerned about the impact to the neighborhoods of Golden Hill and North Park and that presentations have not been made to their planning groups
- The impacts to Balboa Park are all that can be reviewed, not the entire route

MOTION MOVED (STEEPKKE) TO ASK THE COMPETITOR GROUP TO RETURN NEXT MONTH AFTER MEETING WITH THE COMMUNITY GROUPS. THERE WAS NO SECOND TO THE MOTION. MOTION FAILED.

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED (SINGLETON/HAGER) TO APPROVE THE PLAN AS PRESENTED AS IT RELATES TO BALBOA PARK ROUTES DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITIES OF NORTH PARK AND GOLDEN HILL. MOTION CARRIED (7,0,2) (KINNEY/STRICKLAND) ABSTAINING.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Fiscal Year 2012 Regional Park Fund Recommended Allocations

Jim Winter, Project Officer II, Administrative Services Division, Park and Recreation Department presented information recommended allocations for the Fiscal Year 2012 Regional Park Improvement Fund which is derived from the Mission Bay Park lease revenues. The funds available for Regional Parks must be used for capital improvement type projects. An allocation of \$3 million is proposed for the following projects, many of which have other sources of funding but fell short of full funding:

- Los Penasquitos Ranger Station
- Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Hillside Improvements
- Palisades Park Comfort Station
- Coastal Beach Access Projects
- Trail for all People
- Chollas Lake Park Playground Renovations

Mr. Winter stated that input for projects is welcome and to work with staff to get projects on the Unfunded Needs List. Also, advisory group members can attend the Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee meeting on March 21, 2012 at 4:00 P.M. on the 12th floor of the City Administration Building.

Committee Comments:

- Thanked Mr. Winter for coming and sharing the information
- The fund is generating money and is being used for the parks which is great
- Concerned about what area of the City the park projects are benefitting

Mr. Winter replied that they try to spread projects throughout the City, however this year, most of the projects were chosen because they complete existing projects.

502. Balboa Park Golf Course Clubhouse General Development Plan

Todd Schmit, Project Manager with Public Works, Architectural, Engineering and Parks Division introduced himself, Kevin Oliver, Project Officer and consultant team with the Dahlin Group, Architecture and Planning. He provided an overview of the history of the Clubhouse, the Precise Plan for the East Mesa, and the Clubhouse Master Plan Report of 2000 which involved an extensive public process. The existing clubhouse has since been placed on the National California Register of Historic Places and the project was put on hold. In 2012, the project was re-initiated to refurbish and preserve the existing clubhouse in coordination with the

Golf Operations Plan approved recently by City Council. Jack Gallagher of the Dahlin Group provided a visual summary of the revised Clubhouse Master Plan and reviewed the project. goals and objectives. The project will provide for a new clubhouse, restaurant, banquet room, outdoor patios, cart storage area and other amenities.

Committee Comments:

- Exciting about project
- Request a presentation to the Golden Hill community as there is impact to South Park
- Inquired about funding of the project – response was that it will be funded by the Golf Enterprise Fund and is estimated at 11 million dollars
- Inquiring if the project is coming back as an action item- Response was affirmative

Public Comments:

- Concerned about how much planning has been done, design alternatives and schedule
- Concerns about changes to the nine hole course

Mr. Schmit responded that they are working off of older plans where lots of public input was gathered and have to adhere to the construction moratorium for the Balboa Park Centennial. He welcomed input as the project is in conceptual design phase. A golf course architect will be hired to address the course changes. Mr. Oliver noted Council Policy 600-33 which identifies the approval process which projects follow through the various committees.

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

Michael Singleton noted the Ed Clancy, Bicycle Initiatives Program Manager will be returning next month regarding use of Balboa Park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 4, 2013
6:00 P.M.
Santa Fe Room/Balboa Park Club
San Diego, CA 92101

Balboa Park Committee
March 7, 2013
Page 7

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager