

MINUTES

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

May 2, 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

Mick Hager
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke
David Strickland

Members Absent

Jeri Dilno
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 6:04 P.M. He thanked the committee members for coming to the meeting. There was no re-ordering of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2013

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. HAGER/MR. KAHNG

A motion was made by Mr. Hager and seconded by Mr. Kahng to approve the April 4, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (4-0-3), with Kanzawa, Strickland, and Steppke abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. David Grylls won the 1984 Olympic Silver Medal in Cycling. He is the President of the San Diego Velodrome Association. Mr. Grylls plans to launch a fundraising project to resurface the Velodrome. This project is in conjunction with the Association and Mr. Bill Walton. Mr. Grylls spoke to the Committee about the East Mesa Plan and the fact that the Velodrome isn't supposed to be at its current location. The San Diego Velodrome Association is considering their investment options for the current facility. The project consists of three levels of planning, approximately \$400,000 for resurfacing with no major structural changes in the area, a \$650,000 budget to redo everything within the fence line, and an overall grand project near the southwest corner of Morley Field. None of Velodrome's plans fit into the 20 year-old East Mesa Plan that was supposed to be inactive within 20 years.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Kinney stated there were no new details to report on the Plaza de Panama project.

STAFF REPORT

Council District Third District – Steve Hill

Mr. Hill presented Councilmember Todd Gloria's Newsletter to the Committee. May is National Bike Month. Councilmember Gloria has encouraged everyone to bike to work on Friday, May 17, 2013, which is a nationally recognized bike to work day. Coffee with your councilmember day will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Gathering Bar and Grill at 902 West Washington Street in Mission Hills. The schedule for the budget committee hearings will start in earnest next week. Budget season is underway and the Council will be meeting everyday next week. Council will be reviewing department level details on all the various city departments. Park and Recreation's budget will be discussed on Monday, May 20, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. Council will then take the new budget numbers along with all of the testimonies from the budget hearings, and comprise the final budget for vote on June 10, 2013. Councilmember Gloria has been asked about his position on the Mayor's proposal for Plaza de Panama. Councilmember Gloria released the following statement, "I've consistently favored the removal of cars from Balboa Park's Plaza de Panama. I believe I can support the requested \$300,000 appropriations during the budget process because Mayor Filner's proposal partially accomplishes that vision, and because the project would implement a temporary change. I would like to know more about how the likely impacts would be mitigated, and I encouraged the Mayor to consider any suggestions that would help smooth the transitions to the new plan." Mr. Hill reiterated that the appropriations suggested in the budget are really the Council's only opportunity to weigh in on this issue.

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

Upcoming Events for May include:

- Balboa Park along with the North Park Little League will be hosting three movies in the park this summer. The Rookie will be showing on Friday, May 17, 2013, Despicable Me on Saturday, June 22, 2013, and Madagascar Three on Saturday, July 27, 2013. All movies begin at dusk at Balboa Park/Morley Field at 2221 Morley Field Drive.
- Susan stated she had the pleasure of attending the Thursday Club tea. She received a check for \$20,000 payable to the Balboa Park Morley Field Recreation Council for a variety of items including sponsorship of the egg hunt, Park and Recreation's soccer/football programs, purchasing of hours of operation and floor refinishing. There were also other institutions in attendance that also received grants throughout Balboa Park. It was fabulous to hear all of the good work that came out of the rummage sale.

Committee Comments/Questions from Members:

- Chairperson Kinney stated the Thursday Club Tea donation was great news. Where will the screen be located for the summer movies in the park?
- Mr. Kahng expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of the Committee members for the monetary donation given by the Thursday Club.
- Chairperson Kinney added that it's a great example of an event in the park that raises money, and gives back a substantial amount to Balboa Park. This is a great model for advancing the park.

Susan added that the movies would be projected from a screen on the baseball field at Morley Field. The Recreation Council and Little League are currently working on the details.

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager:

Bruce Martinez provided the following report:

On Friday, April 30, 2013 Friends of Balboa Park hosted the annual Arbor Day event in Balboa Park. Eighteen trees were planted on the corner of Quince and Balboa Drive, and they expanded the Magnolia Grove. Most of the trees were dedicated to individuals.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Dr. Hager reported that the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership met with Mr. Alan Jones and Ms. Kathleen Hasenauer, at the Mayor's office, to discuss the Mayor's plan for Plaza de Panama. The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership has decided to support and celebrate the reopening of Plaza de Panama to pedestrians. The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is ready to support off-site staff parking with effective shuttle service and adequate security. The goal is to be partners in the planning process for the phased implementation. The project team that is working on the Plaza de Panama project should evaluate the impact it's having on Balboa Park's guest experience and the organizations. The shuttle should be fully operational and tested. Signs should be placed on the inside and outside of the park. Internal roads should allow the shuttle to move quickly. The project team should consider parking alternatives on the west side and a possible shuttle along the Cabrillo Bridge. The experiment for closing the bridge, should not take place during the summer moratorium. It should be moved to the Caltrans scheduled project closure because the three months during the summer generate at least 50% of the budget for the institutions in Balboa Park.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. ESRI User's Conference Party – Allison Rynne, Audacity Events

Susan Lowery-Mendoza distributed a report to the committee members, which included a permit request from Allison Rynne. The report notes the use of 20 parking spaces behind the Casa del Prado, and six parking spaces behind the Botanical Building. The ESRI User's Conference will utilize Casa del Prado Patio B, El Prado east and the Bea Evenson Fountain area on Thursday, July 11, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. At the request of our Department, Casa del Prado's Patio A will not be used due to the impact on the building user groups. This event has been successfully conducted in the Park for two years, with little impact to the public as the event is held on a weeknight, guests arrive by motor coach, and the majority of the event activities occur within the institutions.

Ms. Allison Rynne stated that there are six museums being fully rented. The Prado Restaurant will provide the catering and ESRI has received letters of support. Allison is requesting the same usage as last year, excluding the use of Patio A at Casa del Prado.

Committee Comments/Questions from Members:

- This event has little impact on parking and performances at the Old Globe
- A model event for the Park, brings in a lot of people, and provides revenue and tourists
- Balboa Park should have more events like this one

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. KANZAWA/MR. STRICKLAND

A motion was made to recommend a waiver to the summer moratorium.

Committee Comments/Questions from Members:

- Mr. Kahng asked if the event would consider donating to the Park or the Recreation Council. The revenues are based on the fee schedule.
- Chairperson Kinney suggested an amendment to the motion, to recommend approval in future years, so that the planner would not have to return to the Committee unless there were significant changes to the footprint, transportation, or by staff recommendation.

Public Comment:

Mr. Peter Cominsky with the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership expressed their full support for the event.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. KANZAWA/MR. STRICKLAND

The motion was amended as such, to recommend that this event not have to return to the committee next year unless significant changes were made. Motion carried (6-0-2) with Kinney and Hager abstaining.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Cabrillo Bridge Retrofit Update – Lou Melendez

Mr. Melendez, Project Manager for Caltrans Cabrillo Bridge Project, thanked the Committee for allowing him to speak about Caltrans Cabrillo Bridge Rehabilitation and Retrofit project. Mr. Melendez reported that the project is currently in Sacramento. Caltrans' is openly accepting bids through the end of May 2013. Construction will begin around July 30, 2013. In the past, the Committee had expressed interest in the procedures for closing the deck and what Cabrillo Bridge would look like at the end of the project. Caltrans received a letter from Chairperson Kinney regarding repair the sidewalk damage from the 2004 fire. As part of the retrofit, Caltrans will have to remove about 1/3 of the sidewalk leaving 2/3 of it unrepaired. They propose fixing the damaged sidewalk under a change order. Caltrans executive staff added that if the City agrees with their proposed plan, Caltrans will instruct their engineers in the field to proceed with the order. In addition, there will be an architectural historian on hand to help guide the team on how best to blend the concrete.

The following is Caltrans' preliminary deck closure timeline for the Rehabilitation and Retrofit project.

- January 2014 Caltrans will close the deck and there will not be access for vehicles to cross the Cabrillo Bridge.
- January 2, 2014 through February 2, 2014 both sidewalks will be accessible to pedestrians.
- February 7, 2014 through February 17, 2014 pedestrians will enter the Park via the center of the bridge.
- February 18, 2014 through March 3, 2014 pedestrians will enter the Park via the left sidewalk.
- March 4, 2014 through March 20, 2014 pedestrians will enter the Park via the right sidewalk of the bridge.
- March 21, 2014 through April 7, 2014 pedestrians will enter the Park via the center of the bridge.
- April 8, 2014 – April 30, 2014 pedestrians will enter the Park via both the outside and sidewalks of the bridge.

Comments/Questions from Members:

- Chairperson Kinney suggested Mr. Melendez place Caltrans' project plans on Balboa Park's website at www.balboapark.org, and in the Balboa Park monthly newsletter. This is also a good subject for the West-side Subcommittee.
- Chairperson Kinney inquired about the name of the architectural historian company and Mr. Melendez followed up with the name "Heritage".
- Mr. Singleton stated that although he is sympathetic to the situation. The cracks and the color difference on the surface of the sidewalk should be fixed.
- Mr. Singleton added that it might not be a good idea to have the bicyclers riding on the same sidewalk with the pedestrians. When the two sidewalks are open at the same time, Caltrans ought to consider using one of them for bicycles. A map should be placed at the entrance of Cabrillo Bridge should there be possible rerouting for bicyclists.
- There are a lot of segway tours going through the park. Caltrans will need to decide if they are going to allow the segways to cross with the pedestrians.

Chairperson Kinney thanked Mr. Melendez for taking the committee's request so seriously, and Caltrans willingness to find a creative solution to the surface of the sidewalk. He wished Caltrans great success with the project.

502. Water-Wise Program – Jim Hughes

Mr. Hughes, Chairman of the Board for Friends of Balboa Park, reported that they are interested in water use within Balboa Park. It's one of the top ten subjects the park faces. If the water shuts down or a sewer line breaks, the Park doesn't have much of a choice but to have a long expensive remedy. Friends of Balboa Park came up with the Water-Wise use in Parkland by 2020 project. Its main focus is on the space outside the buildings and physical infrastructure. The idea is to optimize the water use in the following ways:

- by conserving it
- by smartscaping and irrigating
- by tapping into grey water, and
- by harvesting water

Friends of Balboa Park are trying to develop this water-wise program where they plan to study, experiment, and implement these best practices. The establishment of an H₂O experience in Balboa Park will be a public demonstration of eco-education and eco-tourism. Friends of Balboa Park will use the smartscaping strategy to help them achieve their challenging goals. Smartscaping means melding the geography, heat, shade, soil, plant and irrigation types together. Bird Park, on the northeast corner of the park, will be their first smartscape project. There's an invitational event in late May to discuss the scope of this project with all the stakeholders involved.

Comments/Questions from Members:

- Is the first phase in the Northeast corner? How far west is the initial phase? When will this be initiated?
- What about North Park Community Association's concerts in Bird Park every other Saturday?
- Mr. Hager stated this is a wonderful project Friends of Balboa Park is taking on. Will there be any partnering with the Conservancy for fundraising?
- Have you considered incorporating an educational activity for the public?
- Mr. Kahng inquired if there was estimation for the types of efficiencies Friends of Balboa Park anticipated achieving through water-wise.

Mr. Hughes explained that this will be their first smartscape project, and there are plant and irrigation issues. Friends of Balboa Park would need to go in and figure out the best way to approach this issue and use it as a guide in developing a planting plan. Bird Park is a project that has been going on for 20 years, but it hasn't been completed. The initial phase has already begun and it's about a seven acre footprint near Pershing. Friends of Balboa Park are aware of North Park's events and have taken this into consideration. The water-wise project is at the top of the Conservancy's list. The H₂O experience will be envisioned as a showcase and a place to educate the public. The grand goal is too hopefully make it a model that can be replicated just about anywhere. There are no conclusions as of yet, as to the type of impact this will have on water-wise.

Chairperson Kinney thanked Friends of Balboa Park for taking on this very beneficial program that is going to have long-term positive impacts. He also thanked them for attending the meeting, and invited Friends of Balboa Park to periodically stop by to keep the committee apprised of their progress.

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – Don Liddell

Mr. Liddell echoed Dr. Hager's comments regarding Plaza de Panama. The Mayor went out of his way during his presentation to say that his plan for Plaza de Panama is a first step. Mr. Liddell added that there are lots of gaps to fill in, but he looks forward to seeing how it will be accomplished.

COMMMTTEE MEMBERBS REPORTS

- Mr. Singleton spoke on behalf of the West Side Group stating there should be angled parking on Balboa Drive and that this can be done in a relatively short amount of time.
- Mr. Strickland who represents Golden Hill reported that there's a big concern about the connection between Golden Hill Park, Grape Street and 25th Street Park. It's too narrow and isn't particularly accommodating or safe for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Chairperson Kinney stated that as the demand for parks and the accessibility to these parks continue to grow, the Committee will need to support this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager