

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
December 5, 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
Mick Hager
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Minnie Rzeslawski
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke
David Strickland

Members Absent

Andrew Kahng
Michael McDowell

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2013

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. STRICKLAND/MR. LIDDELL

A motion was made by Mr. Hager and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve the November 7, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (6-0-3), with Mr. Singleton, Mr. Strickland, Ms. Rzeslawski abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Golden Hill Park

Mr. Blair Warren represents the Golden Hill Community Development Corporation. They have been approached by the Centennial organizers regarding outreach events in Balboa Park. Golden Hill CDC is seeking the Committee's support in utilizing their section of the Balboa Park area for various Centennial outreach events.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Kinney stated Golden Hill Park has a representative on the Committee, and we want to make sure Golden Hill Park gets the proper attention it needs.

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District – Mr. Steve Hill

- Everyone is invited to the State of the City Address, Wednesday, January 15th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the Balboa Theater – 868 4th Avenue.
- At City Hall, Interim Mayor Gloria continues his efforts to make sure the City is on sound financial and structural footing. To that end he recently released the City's 5-year Financial Outlook which shows a strong baseline, indicating that current service levels will be maintained. The Financial Outlook does however show a projected \$19 million deficit for the upcoming fiscal year which will impact the City's ability to pay for some of the policy goals set by the Council, such as the Police Department 5-Year Plan and Penny for the Arts.
- The Council also recently approved the release of tourism marketing funds to get us back into marketing San Diego as a tourist destination. The action provides \$6 million immediately, and will build up a reserve of \$30 million over the next 4 years to guard against expenses from ongoing litigation.
- Presented outgoing Balboa Park Committee members Mick Hager and Minnie Rzeslawski with Special Commendations from Interim Mayor Gloria, thanking them for their service on the Committee and their dedication to Balboa Park.

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

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided the following report:

Upcoming Events for December include:

- The Committee is invited to the December Nights opening ceremony on Friday night, December 6, 2013 at 6:15 p.m. in the Spreckels Organ Pavilion.
- At the next meeting, the Committee will be presented information about a FEMA grant opportunity for funding of the California Tower Seismic Retrofit Project.

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager

Upcoming Events for December include:

- Irrigation renovation projects are underway next week in the South of the Timken Museum, and the landscaped area around the Spreckels Organ Pavillion.
- The Department is collaborating with Environmental Services Department staff to bring LED security lighting technology to some of the areas outside of the historic district.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Dr. Hager reported sales of the new Balboa Park Explorer park-wide pass have been off to a brisk start. The response from Park patrons has been extremely enthusiastic. Gift vouchers can be purchased on-line at www.balboapark.org, at the Visitor Center, or at other select venues in the Park.

Balboa Park Learning Institute

Ms. Kanzawa reported the Park-wide customer service collaborative continues through spring. The San Diego Incubator for Innovation has completed five workshops in Balboa Park and will hold the next two water-focused workshops on location.

Balboa Park Sustainability Program

Current LEED projects underway include San Diego Air and Space, Japanese Friendship Garden, the Old Globe, Casa de Balboa, Casa del Prado and the House of Charm. Projects at the Museum of Man and Hall of Champions will kick off early 2014.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. Old Globe Way and Zoo Parking Structure

Presenters: Charles Daniels, Park Designer and Vicki Estrada, Estrada Land Planning

Mr. Daniels is seeking recommendations for Old Globe Way improvements and access to the Zoo's proposed employee parking structure as outlined in the General Development Plan (GDP). The GDP was presented to the Historical Resources Board Design Assistance Subcommittee which unanimously recommended approval of the project. Ms. Estrada presented some of the key points of the project.

- The new parking structure would be six stories high and located ten feet below the level of the Old Globe Way.
- Parking structure could have an impact on view shed from the Park.
- Construct a solid wall that would extend from the upper level of the parking structure to a height of approximately eight feet would mitigate the parking structure from Old Globe Way.
- Parking structure is primarily for Zoo employees; however there is discussion for possible joint use of the facility for valet parking for Old Globe patrons.
- Old Globe Way improvements include enhanced paving for pedestrians, lighting, site furniture, accessible parking, meeting ADA standards, and landscaping.
- The existing Jerusalem Ficus Sycamorus Tree would enjoy a larger planting area and greater protection.
- There will not be any noise or impacts to the Old Globe Theatre.

Comments/Questions from Members:

- Mr. Strickland expressed his appreciation for the concern of the Jerusalem Sycamore Tree. He asked what the entire process entails. Mr. Daniels responded, the project was submitted to the Developmental Services Department about two weeks ago and is being distributed to various departments for review and comment. When the GDP presenters go before the Park and Recreation Board, they will need an environmental determination of exemption or a draft environmental document. The Committee will receive distribution of the environmental documents, and they can submit comments as an entity or individuals can submit comments as they see fit. If the Old Globe Way portion of the project is found consistent with the Central Mesa precise plan, the review process will start with the Committee. It will then go to the Park and Recreation Board's Design Review Committee and then to the Park and Recreation Board. Upon recommendation, it would go to the Mayor's office via the Park and Recreation Director.

- Concerned about plant selection and maintenance issues.
- Mr. Singleton would like more information about the design aspects of the noise wall. Ms. Estrada stated the parking structure has not been designed.
- Concerned about the traffic study at Zoo Drive and Zoo Place, impact of Zoo employees at the traffic signals.

Chairperson Kinney thanked the presenters and elicited comments from Dr. Michael Murphy, Managing Director of The Old Globe. Mr. Murphy reported they have an agreement with the Zoo, which includes parking for Globe's subscribers. It spells out what the Zoo will do to mitigate the sound and visual concerns during the summer night performances.

Public Comment: Ms. Carol Chang, Mr. Ron Buckley, Ms. Judy Swank, Mr. John Stump, Mr. Bruce Coons, and Mr. Don Liddell

- Ms. Chang stated the Balboa Park Conservancy gives their full support, and they look forward to working in concert with the project.
- Mr. Buckley is concerned about the garage parking structure.
- Ms. Swank also had concerns about the sound wall. She comments that the reduction in traffic in the core of the park doesn't make sense. Ms. Swank had concerns about controlling the bamboo.
- Mr. Stump submitted written comments for the Committees' records. He resubmitted a previous letter dated October 7, 2013, and continues to wait for the Committees' response. Mr. Stump suggested that the Committee's approval include some kind of conditional performance standards and use permits.
- Mr. Coons noted that SOHO's Board voted unanimously in favor of the project. They would like to see the garage structure design.
- Mr. Liddell suggested incorporating some recommendations in the Motion.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. SINGLETON/ MS. KANZAWA

A motion was made to approve the plan as presented, with strong encouragement that the wall should include design attention that does not rely solely on vegetative screening, but includes some of the following: variations in form (height, line and relief, transparency, or inclusion or art, color or texture to either enhance the interest in the wall or to lessen its dominance. The committee would like to see the design once concepts have been more fully developed and to look at the opportunity to jointly use the parking for other park uses. Motion was approved (7-1-1) with Mr. Liddell opposing and Mr. Kinney abstaining.

Chairperson Kinney stated although there are concerns about the parking structure. It is on the Zoo's lease hold, so it's beyond the scope of the Committee. He strongly encouraged the presenters to consider the Balboa Park users and to return to the Committee as an informational item.

Special Events

301. None.

302. None.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None.

502. None.

503. None.

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – Mr. David Kinney
No report.

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – Mr. Don Liddell
No report.

COMMMTTEE MEMBERBS REPORTS

No report.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Next Schedule Meeting: Thursday, February 6, 2014
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager