

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE August 7, 2014

Meeting Location:

Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address:

Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Kenneth Davenport-Vice Chair
Jeri Dilno
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa(arr.6:15p.m.)
David Kinney– Chair
Don Liddell
Micah Parzen
Johanna S. Schiavoni
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

David Strickland

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Mario Llanos, Balboa Park
Michael Ruiz, Balboa Park 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2014

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. DILNO/MR. STEPPKE

A motion was made by Ms. Jeri Dilno seconded by Mr. Rob Steppke, to approve the June 5, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (9-0-1), with Ms. Luanne Kanzawa abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Kinney stated organizations are still considering 2015 events and the summer moratorium is still in place.

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District – Steven Hill

Mr. Hill reported on the following:

- He welcomed Mr. Kenneth Davenport to the Committee. He works with non-profits, and he will be working with the non-profits in Balboa Park.
- The Public Utilities Department is offering residential outdoor water conservation rebates. For more information, go to the City's website under Water Department for a link to the program.
- Tree trimming will be returning to the City as a contract has been secured.

- City Council appointed San Diego's first Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- "Check It Out" is a partnership between the San Diego Library, San Diego Museum of Man and the San Diego Museum of Art. The partnership allows library patrons to check out a museum membership card and receive full membership benefits, for two full weeks, for two adults and from two-to-six children, depending on the institution.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Chairperson Kinney welcomed Mr. Davenport and asked him to share a few words with the Committee. Mr. Davenport stated he is the CEO of Mission Edge San Diego, a non-profit organization that helps other non-profits work more effectively. He is looking forward to being a part of the public process by serving on the Committee.

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

- The Hall of Nations, Museum of Man, Casa de Balboa, Timken and the Balboa Tennis Club are slated for ADA barrier removal projects.
- The Commission of Arts and Culture staff is continuing their efforts of conservation and management of the civic art collection in the Park, to include the Four Cornerstones of American Democracy Fountain in the Balboa Park Club foyer and the cleaning of El Cid.
- Samahan Philippine Cultural Arts Festival will take place August 9-10, 2014 on the Park and President's lawn area.
- America's Finest City Half Marathon and 5K will be held in Balboa Park on Sunday, August 17, 2014.

Mario Llanos, Acting District Manager for Balboa Park Operations

- There's been a recent spike in transient activity at night in Balboa Park, particularly on the West Mesa side. San Diego Police Department and Park Rangers have been issuing citations and patrolling the area one night a week.
- Balboa Park is currently on voluntary level one drought alert. Irrigation has decreased from five-to-three days a week. As part of the Adopt a Plot program for the 2015 Centennial Landscaping project, staff has been performing irrigation retrofits in the Park by swapping out high water-use spray nozzles for low water-use rotating streamline nozzles.
- Old Globe Way improvements as part of the Zoo's Parking Structure project have begun.

Mr. Michael Ruiz, District Manager for 2015 Centennial Celebration, highlighted a few projects that are slated for 2015.

- The pedestrian fixtures and parking lot lights have been ordered for lighting the Park.
- A total of 3,100 linear feet of string lights will be replaced along the Prado area.
- City facility crews have been working on the stands for the 62 LED color wash fixtures.
- In partnership with the Friends of Balboa Park, Park and Recreation is working with local historians to install six interpretive signs that will provide visitors a historic context for key buildings in Balboa Park.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Dr. Micah Parzen reported BPCP continues to work with Mering Carson on an out-of-market branding initiative. A marketing plan is expected in September. The BPCP is pleased to announce that Friends of Balboa Park joined the partnership as an Associate Member, and that the Balboa Park Online Collaborative was voted in as a full member.

Balboa Park Sustainability Program

Progress is still being made towards LEED certification goal with SDG&E, City of San Diego and San Diego Green Building Council.

The Hall of Champions and The Old Globe will be kicking off their LEED projects with the San Diego Green Building Council later this week. Museum of Man is continuing an extended feasibility study and is on track to start certification in January.

Balboa Park Learning Institute

The Learning Institute, in partnership with the Museum of Photographic Arts, will engage with the broader San Diego museum community in a series of accessibility workshops, to include Visitors with Autism: Communication and Engagement Strategies. For more information, go to their website at <http://bpcp.org/program/bpli>.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. None

302. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401a. Centennial Walkway Improvements

Presenter: Charlie Daniels, Park Designer, Park and Recreation Department and Jim Neri, Neri Landscape Architecture

Mr. Daniels gave a brief overview of the Centennial Walkway Project, which is a two-part project proposal. The first part is to replace pavement in association with water and sewer line replacement, between Village Place and the Zoo entrance and enhance the Landscape.

401b. Zoo Entrance Improvements

Presenter: Charlie Daniels, Park Designer, Park and Recreation Department, Jim Neri, Neri Landscape Architecture, and David Rice, Corporate Director of Architecture and Planning, San Diego Zoo Global

Mr. Neri presented the second part of the project proposal. It involves relocating the Zoo entrance gate, and realigning pedestrian and vehicular circulation along Zoo Place.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Singleton was concerned about lighting along the path, and the soda machines and taxis near the roadway obscuring the view near the path. Mr. Singleton would like to consider the idea of raising a pedestrian walkway that would go across the street. Mr. Neri responded lighting is not being introduced at this phase, but will be provided for at a later time. Also, there is room to talk about doing something with the pedestrian walkway in another project proposal.

- Mr. Davenport inquired about posting signage along the back path near the Zoo exit that would encourage the public to visit Balboa Park from the Zoo. Mr. Neri stated signage could be posted along the path pointing in the direction of Balboa Park.
- Mr. Rice stated one of the goals is to make a better connection between the Zoo exit and Balboa Park.
- Mr. Singleton suggested adding the history development of Balboa Park and the Zoo is it not known by many.
- Chairperson Kinney inquired about the timeline for both projects. Mr. Rice responded with October 4, 2014 for the Centennial Walkway project with a completion date of six months. The Zoo Entrance project has another four to five months of approval process to go through.

Public Comment: Mr. Kevin Swanson with the San Diego 2015/Syntropic Corporation believes there should be two centennial celebrations, one for the 1915 Exposition and the other for the Zoo 2016. There is no linkage for the two in the presentation. Furthermore, there's no plan for an internal shuttle system from the Zoo parking lot to the central cultural location of Balboa Park. He believes there should be an allowance in planning for the future.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Balboa Park HD Camera and Fiber Optic Network - Mr. Rick Bollinger, Station Manager, CityTV San Diego

Mr. Bollinger presented the HD Camera and Fiber Optic Network project, which includes installing internet cameras on top of some of the key buildings in Balboa Park that would cover the activities of the 2015 Celebration. The COHU Helios 3960SD cameras are powerful and produce beautiful images, and the institutions would be able to use these images on their website.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Dr. Parzan asked if the City would be controlling the camera's zoom feature and whether there would be an on-line option for the public. He further inquired about the conduits on the buildings. Mr. Bollinger responded the City has full control; there will not be an on-line public option. In addition, standard one inch conduits were used, and the conduits and cameras will be painted to match the buildings.
- Ms. Schiavoni inquired about posting signage for public notification about the installation of the cameras. Mr. Bollinger replied it's up to Park and Recreation, and that he doesn't believe it's required. Ms. Lowery-Mendoza added that further discussion will take place with the City's attorneys.
- Mr. Davenport asked if BPOC will be assisting the institutions with the video feeds. Mr. Bollinger responded yes.

Public Comment: Mr. Kevin Swanson inquired about the cameras having infrared capability and whether it's possible to interface them with the security system for threat recognition. Mr. Bollinger replied yes, the cameras can see at night. Infrared could be added, but it would be an additional service.

502. Balboa Park Conservancy Merger and December Nights – Ms. Connie Matsui, Vice President, Balboa Park Conservancy Board

Balboa Park Central and Conservancy have been discussing a merger for years. Both boards agreed to merge effective July 1, 2014. Their main project and active fundraising involves the Botanical Building Restoration project. Providing wireless connectivity throughout Balboa Park has also been a long time interest.

503. None.

504. None.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – Chairperson David Kinney stated there hasn't been a committee for quite some time. He is seeking volunteers to get it started. Ms. Dilno and Ms. Schiavoni volunteered for the committee.
602. West Mesa Subcommittee – Mr. Don Liddell will provide information on the lawn bowling lighting project at a future meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Next Schedule Meeting: Thursday, September 4, 2014
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager