

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE February 5, 2015

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
(arr. 6:17 p.m.)
David Kinney – Chair
Luanne Kanzawa
Don Liddell
Micah Parzen
Johanna S. Schiavoni
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke
David Strickland

Members Absent

Jeri Dilno
Andrew Kahng

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 6:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2015

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

A motion was made by Mr. Steppke and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa, to approve the December 4, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (7,0,3), with Mr. Kinney, Mr. Singleton and Mr. Strickland abstaining.

Ms. Schiavoni requested a correction to the minutes, page 1 under Approval Of Minutes Of December 4, 2014...replace *Ms. Kanzawa's name with Ms. Schiavoni's name.*

Ms. Schiavoni requested a correction to the minutes, page 5 under Item 304. Suja Rock 'n' Roll San Diego 5K, Committee Comments/Questions. Correct Mr. Walton's comment to reflect...*Mr. Walton replied the 5K is much smaller than the marathon,* and the roads re-open much earlier.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

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- Mr. Ben Stone, Board Member with the San Diego Mountain Biking Association, expressed interest in revisiting a bike park in Balboa Park.
- Mr. Kevin Swanson shared a video of the Horseless Carriage Club show on January 10, 2015.
- Ms. Daniele Lama, delegate liaison of the House of Pacific Relations (HPR), reported HPR's new president is Eugenie A. King. The plan amendment was approved to move forward to the next phase. In addition, Ms. Lama publically thanked Mr. Steven Hill, Ranger John Anderson and Ranger Roberto Bejar for their assistance with an enforcement sweep involving an aggressive homeless person.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District – Mr. Steven Hill

Mr. Hill provided the following updates:

- Council Member Gloria joined the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System and the BP Conservancy to unveil the Centennial Celebration Trolley Wrap, which is a special 1915/2015 wrap of BP images. The trolley will be traveling the region to highlight the park and 2015.
- Council Member Kersey plans to put a measure on the ballot in 2016 that will provide a solution to the \$3.87 Billion identified infrastructural needs.
- The San Diego Region was awarded more than \$16 Million in Federal Grants to support housing, service programs and projects for the homeless.

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

- On Tuesday, February 3, 2015, a planned electrical outage was staged to relocate the electrical room in the California Tower in preparation for the seismic retrofit project. Unrelated to this planned outage, SDG& E which had been upgrading most of the underground electrical wiring in the park, ran into an issue affected the Timken, Museum of Art, Panama 66, Museum of Man, San Diego Art Institute and the Mingei. Power was restored prior to opening on Wednesday, February 4, 2015.
- In addition the Public Utilities crews discovered a leak, late afternoon, on a 16-inch diameter cast iron water main near the Carousel. Unfortunately, the repair location necessitated closing the water main affecting many institutions and facilities. Water service was restored by 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2015.
- The Civic Dance Arts performing Collage 2015 entitled “Innovation” will run through February 15, 2015 at the Casa del Prado Theater. The Collage 2014 was the recipient of the Bravo Award for best dance show in San Diego. The Civic Dance Arts program is being awarded the California Park and Recreation Society’s “Creating Community Award of Excellence” in the category of Arts and Cultural Services on March 13 at the Sacramento Convention Center.
- The Finish Chelsea’s Run event will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2015; the Thursday Club Rummage Sale will be March 14 – 15, 2015.
- The Park and Recreation Department was able to fund the refurbishing project for 650 Organ Pavilion benches.
- The ADA barrier removal projects will continue at Casa de Balboa, San Diego Museum of Man and other areas.
- Ms. Lowery-Mendoza recognized Mr. Mario Llanos for his outstanding efforts in fulfilling the duties of Park Operations District Manager for about one year. Mr. Llanos was instrumental in working on all aspects of 2015, including planning and implementing the Adopt A Plot Program with the Friends of Balboa Park, working on the Park Tram contract, coordinating with the Zoo and all parties connected to the Old Globe Way Project and working with various stakeholders to furnish the Plaza. Mario will be resuming his position as Park Horticulturist on February 14, 2015. Casey Smith, from Open Space, will transfer into the District Manager position. Mr. Smith was formerly Balboa Park’s Senior Ranger. Ms. Lowery-Mendoza thanked Mario for all his work in the park.

Andy Field, Assistant Park and Recreation Director for Capital Project Updates

- California Tower Seismic Retrofit – Request City Council’s permission to move \$1 Million grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Administration Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program and the City’s Brush Management Program to the California Tower project.
- Replace comfort stations off Sixth Avenue at Nutmeg and Thorn – Allocate about \$1 Million in Regional Park Improvement Funds for ADA compliance.
- Hall of Nations’ foundation repair – The loan has been secured to rebuild the foundation.

Mr. Michael Ruiz, District Manager for 2015 Centennial Celebration

- The ADA improvements are close to completion.
- Restorations of the balustrades next to the El Cid Statue are underway.
- Restoration to the Cabrillo Bridge guard towers will begin in approximately one week.
- Beginning January 23, 2015, the San Diego Floral Association will host free monthly Botanical Building tours every second and fourth Friday at 11:00 a.m.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Will the string of lights be returning to the Cabrillo Bridge? Mr. Ruiz replied they have been working closely with the General Service Department, and the LED lights should be installed in the upcoming weeks.

Mario Llanos, Acting District Manager for Balboa Park Operations

- The Florida Drive Median Barrier Project commenced the beginning of January 2015. It is being funded by Caltrans and the City. The project is expected to last through the beginning of June 2015.
- The City Streets Department will be paving Pan American Plaza Road and portions of the road around the Veteran's Museum.
- Balboa Park supervisors have collaborated with the Environmental Services Department to come up with a plan to pair all regular trash receptacles in Balboa Park with a recycling receptacle.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Ms. Kanzawa reported the following:

- December was a record-breaking month for the Explorer pass.
- The BPCP will launch "My Balboa Park Wedding – 100 Years of Memories" photo contest on February 12, 2015.

Balboa Park Sustainability Program and Learning Institute

Mr. Parzen reported the following:

- The Casa de Balboa, Casa del Prado and House of Charm received LEED Silver certifications.
- Johns Hopkins University On-Site Seminar 2015 – From January 5 – 16, 2015, twenty-one Museum Studies graduate students studied "trails" in Balboa Park. Go to www.bpcp.org/JHU to view six presentations.
- Informath – Informath participants from the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and Mingei International Museum are in the planning stages of their cumulating projects.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. Balboa Park 1915 Expo Centennial Festival

Presenter: Mike Spangler, Spangler Event Productions, and Blair Ward, President of Golden Hill Community Development Corp (CDC)

Mr. Spangler and Mr. Ward requested the Committee's approval for a one-time waiver to the Summer Moratorium for the Golden Hill Park Festival on Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Chairperson Kinney inquired about the events parking plans. Mr. Ward responded they will emphasize use of bicycles and walking to the event. There's additional parking at the BP Golf Course and Recreation Center.
- Mr. Strickland and Mr. Steppke encouraged the organizers to meet with the Golden Hill Planning Committee (GHPC). Mr. Spangler replied that they are on a strict timeline and in jeopardy of losing the grant.

Public Comment: Speaker: Mr. Kevin Swanson

- Mr. Swanson stated he would like to see a valet bike parking location. He also encouraged the Committee to approve the event.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. STRICKLAND/MR. DAVENPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Strickland and seconded by Mr. Davenport to approve a one-time waiver of the Summer Moratorium, based on staff's recommendations. Motion was approved (7-1-1) with Mr. Steppke opposing and Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

Public Comment: 1- In favor

Ms. Betty Peabody expressed that Golden Park has been a wonderful partner with Friends of Balboa Park.

302. Reader Tacotopia

Presenter: Andy Boyd, San Diego Reader

Mr. Boyd requested the Committee's approval for the use of Golden Hill Park on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A portion of the door proceeds and 100% of the sales from the charity bar will go to the Golden Hill CDC for the fountain restoration project.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Strickland recommended they meet with the GHPC.
- Mr. Steppke was disappointed that some event organizers weren't communicating with the GHPC prior to requesting a waiver from the Committee.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Strickland and seconded by Mr. Singleton to approve the one-time waiver for the Summer Moratorium, based on staff's recommendations. Motion was approved (7-1-1), with Mr. Steppke opposing and Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Copley Family YMCA Facility

Presenters: Andy Field, Assistant Park and Recreation Director and David Monroe, District Manager, CPII

Mr. Field highlighted the proposed plan for the future use of the Copley-Price Family YMCA Facility. The YMCA plans to opt out of their lease and has opened a new facility at Fairmount Avenue and El Cajon Boulevard. The plan is to present a formalized decision to the City Council as part of the mid-year budget adjustment.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Chairperson Kinney asked about project funding. Mr. Field responded that the ongoing cost of the building would be an increase of approximately \$90,000 - \$100,000 per year. Chairperson Kinney asked about use of the existing facilities in the building. Mr. Field replied that the main floor has rooms and facilities for immediate use. However, some rooms in the basement would have to be abandoned because there is no elevator.
- Would the War Memorial Building be used for storage? Mr. Field replied that all the storage would be connected to the programs that are operating in the building.
- Mr. Steppke asked if they would be closing the pool facility. Mr. Field replied yes, due to the cost of repairs. Mr. Steppke added that he understands the financial issue, but would support keeping it as an operational senior center. Mr. Field responded that City Heights Swimming Pool available just east of Fairmount Ave. and there are plans to keep the gymnasium open for public use.

502. December Nights Report

Presenters: Stephen Lew, December Nights Chair

Mr. Lew shared that the 2014 December Nights was successful. About 325,000 people attended the two-day event. This year's event will be held December 4-5, 2015. It will coincide with the opening of the Zoo's Centennial.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Davenport stated traffic was a challenge. He added that some families decided not to attend the event due to this issue. Mr. Lew replied the hours were extended last year, from 3:00 pm – 11:00 pm. They will continue to find other ways to mitigate traffic.

Balboa Park WiFi Update – Balboa Park Conservancy

Presenter: Ray Ellis, Board Member of BP Conservancy

Mr. Ellis reported the following:

- Renovations to the Visitor Center and the House of Hospitality have been completed. They will continue to raise funds for the Botanical Building Project.
- The Conservancy was awarded \$400,000 by the Irvine Foundation for the WiFi Project throughout the park.
- STEAM Family Day is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 2015.
- Beginning early March 2015, the downtown library will display highlights of the Centennial Exposition.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Parzen inquired about the search status for a CEO to head the Conservancy. Mr. Ellis replied they are continuing to move the process along.

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – None

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next Schedule Meeting: Thursday, March 5, 2015
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager