

MINUTES

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

Jeri Dilno
David Kinney – Chair
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
Don Liddell
Johanna S. Schiavoni
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke
David Strickland

Members Absent

Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair
Micah Parzen

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Michael Ruiz, Balboa Park 2015
Casey Smith, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 5, 2015

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

A motion was made by Mr. Strickland and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa, to approve the March 5, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (8-0-1), with Mr. Steppke abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. David Seid, representing the House of China, shared the following:
 - Taste of Asia will take place September 26-27, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on the International Lawn.
- Ms. Daniele Laman, liaison for House of Pacific Relations (HPR), reported the following:
 - On Easter morning, a homeless person was sleeping on the front porch of the House of Spain
 - Rangers were called regarding another case involving a female homeless person. She requested the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and was taken to a shelter
 - A rock was thrown through the House of Scotland's window
 - On May 16, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., international students from Platt College will tour the cottages and museums

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Chairperson Kinney reported that the Park and Recreation fee schedule was discussed at the last few Park and Recreation Board meetings. In addition, the Mayor's proposed budget outlined significant increases for park improvements and personnel. A revised budget will be forthcoming in May.

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District, Councilmember Todd Gloria

- Council conducted budget review committee hearings all week
- Mayor Faulconer geared \$9.5 M specifically for Balboa Park
- Council plans to present the adopted budget probably by June 8, 2015
- Interested in the decision regarding General Cardenas
- American Planning Association –Accepted an inaugural award to Balboa Park for being one of the three great places in California

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

- Balboa Park Recreation Council – hosting 2015 summer movies at Morley Field
- Balboa Park Activity Center’s new Center Director Berenice Mora implemented the new Book Nook, in collaboration with the library, inside the lobby to encourage kids and adults to read
- ActiveNet Software fully implemented for facility and activity reservations
- Bench powder coating project in the Organ Pavilion nearing completion
- Hall of Nations foundation repair should be completed in mid-July
- Rock and Roll Marathon and 5K will be held May 30-31, 2015

Casey Smith, District Manager, Balboa Park Operations

- The Pedestrian Bridge Landscaping - West of Park Boulevard was renovated on behalf of a very generous donation from Councilmember Todd Gloria
- Balustrade Project adjacent to El Cid is underway
- Atlas Tree Service trimmed large trees throughout the Park
- Zoo Parking Lot Project should be completed by the end of July
- Installed new water wise irrigation valves and drought tolerant plants
- Water reductions – irrigation was turned off on the turf medians on Park Boulevard and City staff plans to install Netafim drip rings to ensure the trees are watered
- Trees, along with historically designated and high tourism turf areas will likely not be impacted and will continue to be irrigated on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- Park Rangers have been working with SDPD with coordinating morning sweeps on a regular basis; assisting the SDPD’s Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and the Psychological Evaluation Response Team (PERT)

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Steppke, North Park representative, would like to be kept in the loop with any drought tolerant changes at Bird Park.
- Mr. Liddell asked about the criteria that Park and Recreation used in selecting areas to remove turf. Mr. Smith stated that they are looking more at ornamental areas and will update the Committee at the next meeting. Mr. Liddell added that he would like more clarification on ornamental versus passive turf. Mr. Smith replied that Park and Recreation has plans in place to roll out that information.

Mr. Michael Ruiz, District Manager, 2015 Centennial Celebration - Balboa Park Centennial Update

- Installation and restoration of the information and way finding signs throughout the Park is still underway
- On behalf of the Friends of Balboa Park, a new interpretive sign has been placed outside the Museum of Man which provides an overall history of the building
- Garden Party of the Century and Floral Wagon Parade will be Saturday, May 9, 2015 in Balboa Park
- Twilight in the Park starts June 16, 2015 from Tuesday – Thursday at the Organ Pavilion; in addition, there will be music in Plaza de Panama from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. from June-August
- Central Library Centennial Exhibit, including artifacts from Balboa Park, runs through the end of May
- Mayor Faulconer to hold a press conference to help kick-off the theme, A Fair to Remember - A Celebration of World's Fairs and Balboa Park on May 20, 2015 at the San Diego County Fair

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Ms. Kanzawa reported the following:

- BPCP hosting second annual BBQ for Balboa Park employees and volunteers on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at the Old Globe's Copley Plaza. Please RSVP at www.bprsvp.org.

Balboa Park Sustainability Program and Learning Institute

Ms. Kanzawa reported the following:

- Bike to work week begins May 11, 2015
- Learning Institute's next Smith Leadership Symposium will be Fall 2016

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. Veterans Memorial Garden Commemorative Bust of General Robert Cardenas

Presenters: Charles Daniels, Park Designer, Balboa Park and Captain Sheldon Margolis, USN (Ret), Executive Director, Veterans Museum and Memorial Center.

Mr. Daniels requested a recommendation for the proposed memorial bust of Brigadier General Cardenas to be located in the Veteran's Memorial Garden. The planned location would be at the entrance to the Air Garden.

Captain Margolis spoke highly of Brigadier General Cardenas' dedicated service to the military, his work with the Veteran's community of San Diego, and his driving force behind the establishment of the Miramar National Cemetery.

MOTION:

MOVED

MR. STEPPKE

A motion was made by Mr. Steppke to deny the 5K event based on staff's recommendation but maybe if there were some modifications to the proposal then they could work with staff and perhaps bring it back to the Committee.

MODIFIED MOTION:

MOVED

MR. STEPPKE

A modified motion was made by Mr. Steppke to deny the 5K event based on the proposal that is presented and follow staff's recommendations.

MODIFIED MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED

MR. SINGLETON/MR. STRICKLAND

A motion was made by Mr. Singleton and seconded by Mr. Strickland to deny the 5K event based on its current route and location placing the vendor village on the turf. However, it would approve a route that kept the 5K on the West Side without closing the bridge and would approve the event if it was in a non-damaging area and relied on staff to make that decision without the need to return to the Committee. Motion was approved (8-0-1) with Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. House of Pacific Relations, International Cottages Expansion

Presenter: Vicki Estrada, President, Estrada Land Planning, Charlie Daniels, Park Designer, Park and Recreation Department, and Mr. Stuart Sawasaki, Architect, Heritage Architecture and Planning

Mr. Daniels opened with a brief introduction, noting that the House of Pacific Relations (HPR) hired architect Mr. Sawasaki for the architectural design of the new cottages. Ms. Estrada covered the site design aspects and added that there will be some slight revisions to the floor plan. Mr. Sawasaki discussed the architectural phase of the project. He noted that the designs will be compatible with the 1935 architecture designs by Richard Requa.

Public Comments: Two Speakers: Ms. Daniele Laman and Mr. Bruce Coons

- Ms. Laman inquired about the loss of lawn square footage on the south side. Ms. Estrada responded that about one-third of an acre would be lost.
- Mr. Coons commented that the two windows should be separated with a piece of stucco in between.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Strickland and Mr. Singleton had concerns about disabled access on the south side.
- Mr. Kahng inquired about the strategic plan. Ms. Estrada replied that they presented a draft of the plan at a previous meeting.
- Mr. Singleton stated it's a challenge to make the design fit into the historic fabric of the area and at the same time differentiate the design. Mr. Sawasaki responded the single pane windows do not exist today and Heritage has chosen to differentiate by not using the arches.
- Ms. Schiovani inquired about public flow issues with using french doors versus single doors. Mr. Sawasaki replied that it will be an impact but it's up to each individual tenant. Ms. Estrada replied that the existing cottages have a mixture of double and single doors.

- Mr. Singleton asked if there's a way of putting up a sign that differentiates the new buildings from the old buildings. Mr. Sawasaki replied that they would prefer doing subtle colored changes in the stucco and tile. Ms. Estrada added that the new buildings would have basements with a shared stairway.
- The New Cottage Committee was pleased the plans and looks forward to the construction phase.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 501.** Plaza de Panama "Living Room" Activation
Presenter: David Kinney, Chair, Balboa Park Committee

In the near future, the Plaza will come before the Committee as a workshop item to get input from the public on the amenities that are already in the Plaza and any other future amenities.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 601.** Land-Use and Policy – Chairperson Kinney talked about reactivating the land use subcommittee, sometime in May, to address the Plaza and the new lighting in the Park.
- 602.** West Mesa Subcommittee – Mr. Don Liddell reported that recently folks south of Laurel have been concerned about the sheer quantity of special events on the west side. The concerns were brought up to the Uptown Planners and then to the Metro CDC Group.

Public Comments: Speaker: Ms. Betty Peabody

- Ms. Peabody expressed that Mr. Cardenas was her husband's class mate and is a great guy. Ms. Peabody asked Ms. Lowery-Mendoza to talk about her invite to the Thursday Club's Annual Tea. Ms. Lowery-Mendoza shared that she received a check on behalf of the Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council, as staff applied for project and program funding as a beneficiary of the Thursday Club Rummage Sale.

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS –

Mr. Kahng asked if the equivalencies would be coming back before the Committee. Chairperson Kinney asked staff to check on it and have the equivalencies give an update.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Schedule Meeting: Thursday, June 4, 2015
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager