

## MINUTES

### City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE July 2, 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  
Jeri Dilno  
David Kinney – Chair  
Andrew Kahng  
Luanne Kanzawa  
Don Liddell  
Micah Parzen  
David Strickland

##### Members Absent

Johanna S. Schiavoni  
Michael Singleton  
Rob Steppke

##### 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 6:06 p.m. and thanked the Committee members for attending the meeting the night before the holiday.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2015

#### **MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. KANZAWA/MR. DAVENPORT**

A motion was made by Ms. Kanzawa and seconded by Mr. Davenport, to approve the June 4, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (5-0-3) with Ms. Dilno, Mr. Kinney and Mr. Strickland abstaining.

#### REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

#### NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Daniele Laman, liaison for House of Pacific Relations (HPR), reported the following:
  - A tree limb fell near the House of Hungary during the Philippine American Celebration.
  - There have been homeless encampments on the House of Israel and House of Ireland patios and volunteers have to clean up after them.
  - On July 18, 2015, Mayor Faulconer along with the Mayor of the City of Panama, Mr. Jose Blandon, will be present at a Sister City Signing Ceremony in the Balboa Park Club from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Mr. Andy Horwitz thanked Michael Ruiz, District Manager, the Friends of Balboa Park and the eleven cultural partners for the success of the Make Music Day held on June 21, 2015.
- Mr. Jim Hughes, Friends of Balboa Park provided an update on the following projects:
  - The Balustrade project
  - The Guardhouse Project
  - The Botanical Building garden fountain heads

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

- Chairperson Kinney reported the following:
  - At the last Park and Recreation Board meeting, Park and Recreation Department staff provided an impressive presentation on their plans to reduce water use. He requested that the presentation also be made to the Balboa Park Committee.
  - Also at the Park and Recreation Board meeting, the community plan recreation elements for Golden Hill, Uptown and North Park's park equivalencies was presented. Mr. Kinney also requested that the presentation be made to the Balboa Park Committee.
  - On July 21, 2015, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Old Globe Way project.

## **STAFF REPORT**

- **City Council Third District, Councilmember Todd Gloria**  
No report
- **Susan Lowery-Mendoza, District Manager, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events**
  - City Facility Maintenance staff and I met with the BPCP Sustainability group to facilitate a grant opportunity to install low water use toilets and urinals at three Balboa Park facilities; SD Museum of Man, SD Hall of Champions (Federal Building) and Centro Cultural de la Raza. This includes replacing urinal fixtures, toilet fixtures and rebuilding the faucets aerators. Their efforts along with the City's will ensure that Balboa Park is making the best effort to save water during this time of drought.
  - Foundation and Ceiling repair continue at the Hall of Nations. It is expected that the facility will re-open in late August.
  - Elevator modernization will begin at the Casa Del Prado in August.
  - Summer programming is continuing. The rain showers over the last two evenings fortunately did not cancel the Twilight Concerts in the Park.
- **Casey Smith, District Manager, Balboa Park Operations**
  - Adopt-A-Plot Projects this month
    1. San Diego Horticulture Society, Holmquist Design and City staff landscaped and mulched the planter bed in front of the Casa Del Prado Theatre.
    2. The San Diego Rotary re-planted the four square beds in Alcazar Garden.
  - City staff has updated the irrigation adjacent to the balustrade and has installed drought tolerant plant material.
  - City staff coordinated a clean-up of Palm Canyon.
  - City staff, along with staff and volunteers from the Veterans Museum, is in the process of renovating the landscaping around the building. Overgrown plant material has been removed, turf will be removed and the irrigation will be updated. New plant material will be drought tolerant and low maintenance.
  - The landscaping around the miniature railroad was renovated. New drought tolerant plants were installed and irrigation was upgraded.

- Irrigation on the Park Blvd Medians was turned off in mid-April due to the Governors Mandate. City staff has retrofitted the irrigation and installed Netafim drip rings to ensure that the trees are watered. Staff is finalizing landscape plans.
- Staff finished installing Netafim drip lines to the pines trees on the west mesa near the playground and the Nutmeg restroom.
- Staff is working with the Balboa Park Conservancy on changes to the Cycad bed as part of the Botanical Building renovation project.
- Zoo Parking Lot Project – City staff continues to work closely with the contractor and staff from the Zoo on a regular basis. Portions of asphalt on Village Place were resurfaced in June. The ribbon cutting event is scheduled for July 21.
- Over the past month we have had two eucalyptus tree failures. One on Balboa Drive near Redwood Circle and one at Morley Field near Bud Kearns Pool. Both tree failures resulted in private property damage to vehicles. The failure on Balboa Drive was the result of a fungus, the tree did not present any outward visible signs of infection and had a healthy canopy. The failure at Morley Field was the result of the June 30 storm.

Water Reductions

- City staff continues to work diligently to identify ways to reduce water usage in the park to realize at least a 16% water savings compared to our 2013 usage beginning on June 1. In May, the Department and our Division reduced usage by approximately 21%. Our June usage stats will be available by the end of next week and staff will continue to provide updates to committee via the monthly staff report.

Park Rangers

- Rangers continue to work with SDPD, the Homeless Outreach Team and Psychological Evaluation Response Team (PERT) on a regular basis.

• **Michael Ruiz, District Manager, 2015 Centennial Celebration - Balboa Park Centennial Update**

- It's been a very busy year for the 2015 Centennial Celebration. The summer Centennial Music Series started in June and continues through the end of August and includes:
  1. Twilight in the Park Program, which is celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> year in the Park.
  2. Centennial International Summer Organ Festival.
  3. Make Music Day on June 21<sup>st</sup> occurred for the first time in the Park and San Diego for the Centennial. It brought 50 local music performers to the Park in collaboration with the Friends of Balboa Park, the Balboa Park Trust and several museums.
  4. Music in the Park series was created just for the Centennial. It provides free music throughout the summer in the Plaza de Panama.
  5. Thursday nights in July will be the first ever Outdoor International Film Series free at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion. In collaboration with three local film festivals in San Diego and funding by SDGE, we are making this unique series available for the Centennial.
- The San Diego Maker Faire comes to Balboa Park for the first time on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> as a City Signature Fall event for the Centennial.
- Ending the year with December Nights the first weekend in December for the Centennial finale.

## **CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES**

- Mr. Micah Parzen reported the following:
  - The first-ever San Diego Maker Faire, scheduled for October 3- 4, 2015 has officially been endorsed by the City as the fall signature Centennial Event. Mayor Faulconer and Councilmember Gloria made it official at a press conference on June 15, 2015 where both greeted the crowd in a giant walking pod robot.
  - BPCP's 2015 All Park Luau took place on June 17. More than 800 park employees and volunteers enjoyed an afternoon of Hawaiian barbeque, ukulele music, hula dancing and a tiki hut photo booth. Mrs. Betty Peabody was awarded with the Heart of the Park Award. The One Park - One Team Awards were presented to David Kinney, Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Tony Cucuzzella with Junior Theatre and Sheldon Margolis and Rod Melendez from the Veterans Museum.
  
- Ms. Luanne Kanzawa reported the following:
  - BPCP and the City of San Diego were awarded the Grand Energy Champion Award at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual SDG&E awards luncheon on June 18, 2015.
  - The U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Mayor Kevin Faulconer recognized the Timken Museum of Art and Tim Kuhn with the 2014 EPA Battle of the Buildings Energy Star Award for reducing their energy use by more than fifty percent.
  - The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center received the Director's Recycling Award from the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department for their exceptional waste diversion efforts and e-waste recycling program.
  - The Balboa Park Learning Institute is finalizing the Park-Wide Orientation and Way Finding Course that will be delivered via the Learning Management System.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Consent**

101. None

### **Adoption**

**201. House of Pacific Relations International Cottages General Development Plan and Plan Amendments. Presenters: Charles Daniels, Park Designer; Vicki Estrada, Estrada Land Planning; David Marshall, Heritage Architecture and Planning.**

Mr. Daniels noted that the Department is requesting two actions in regards to the House of Pacific Relations proposed expansion: *a recommendation on the proposed General Development Plan and a recommendation on the proposed amendments to the Balboa Park Master Plan and Central Mesa Precise Plan*. He explained the differences of the plans and the process involved which started with plan amendment initiation, workshops with Balboa Park Committee and Historical Resources Board Design Assistance Subcommittee (DAS). The Park and Recreation Board will hear the item once a draft environmental document is prepared. Final approval is made by City Council. He then presented an overview of the project, comments by DAS and Park and Recreation and the staff recommendation. He introduced Vicki Estrada to present the site design. The cottage expansion locations were identified and shown on the General Development Plan along with the sidewalks, and shared courtyard.

David Marshall, Heritage Architecture and Planning discussed the architecture and general character of the cottages and the recommendation of the DAS. There are five new buildings, about 600 sq. ft. per cottage, with basements for storage, a kitchen and a shared restroom.

Committee Comments:

- A question was raised regarding the timeline for construction. Construction will take approximately 10 to 14 months.
- Questions were raised regarding what will happen when other groups want cottages, the legal identity of the cottages and requirements to prove they have funding. Ms. Eugenie King, President of HPR responded, commenting about the amount of work needed to form a house, immigrant populations in San Diego and the evolution of ethnic cultures with houses. She also replied that HPR is the umbrella organization with a 501(c)(3), each house has non-profit status, and that the nine (9) new cottage committees also have their own non-profit status.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Strickland and seconded by Mr. Davenport, to recommend approval of the proposed Grounds Development Plan (GDP) and recommend approval of the proposed amendments to the Balboa Park Master Plan and Central Mesa Precise Plan, including the recommendations made by HRB and staff for the nine new cottages. The motion was approved (7-0-1) with Mr. Kinney abstaining.

**Special Events**

**301. Heart and Stroke Walk, American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. Presenter: Lindsay Darnell, Heart Walk Coordinator.**

Ms. Darnell explained that September 19, 2015 will be their twenty-fourth walk in Balboa Park. She reviewed the timeline of the event and the proposed route. They have historically had their event by the Zoo, but now they are being asked to relocate due to the interference with the Zoo employee parking and the Zoo's entrance area.

Committee Comments:

- The committee discussed the event at length and expressed concerns about the drought and the impact on turf areas along with impacts to the museums and park visitors.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. DAVENPORT/MR. KAHNG**

A motion was made by Mr. Davenport and seconded by Mr. Kahng, to approve this proposal as presented moving the event to the new location. The motion was approved (5-2-1) with Mr. Strickland and Mr. Liddell opposed and Mr. Kinney abstaining.

**302. Hospitality Events Seated Dinner: Meredith Bell, "H" Events.**

Ms. Bell stated that the dinner would take place on Thursday, October 1, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on a day when the Botanical Building is closed. The event attendance is estimated at 1600 to 1800 people. Participants would arrive and depart on charter buses and the area would be fenced beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Committee Comments:

- The committee discussed the event at length and expressed concerns about the drought and the impact on turf areas along with impacts to user groups and park visitors.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. LIDDELL /MR. KAHNG**

A motion was made by Mr. Liddell and seconded by Mr. Kahng, to deny the event proposal as presented. The motion was approved (4-3-1) with Mr. Davenport, Ms. Dilno and Mr. Parzen opposed and Mr. Kinney abstaining.

**WORKSHOP ITEMS** – None

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**501. Balboa Park Conservancy Update. Presenter: Thomas Herrera-Mishler, Executive Director and CEO.**

Mr. Herrera-Mishler stated that he is delighted to join the Balboa Park team and has been learning from Mr. Kinney during his two weeks on the job. He has had the opportunity to meet with various stakeholders and is excited about the combination and nexus of arts, culture and landscapes in the park. There is an opportunity to make the park better and he plans on bringing private sector in to maximize the value of the park.

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**601.** Land-Use and Policy – None

**602.** West Mesa Subcommittee – None

**COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS**

Golden Hill Planning Group – Mr. Strickland noted that the Golden Hill fountain was cleaned up for an event at the park.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
District Manager