

**BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE'S
WEST MESA SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, May 21, 2009, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Don Liddell, Vicki Granowitz (co-chairs); Francine Finn, Dale Hess, David Kinney(Balboa Park Committee), Jerry Kleinsmith, Richard Ledford, Carol Venables, Leo Wilson (Uptown Planners).

1. Introductions:

Attendees introduced themselves.

- +Vicki Granowitz is chair of the Balboa Park Committee;
- +Don Liddell, is a member of and representative of Uptown Planners on the Balboa Park Committee; he is a resident of Bankers Hill/Park West;
- +Francine Finn, is a resident of Bankers Hill/Park West;
- +Dale Hess, is a resident of Bankers Hill/ Park West;
- +David Kinney, is member of the Balboa Park Committee, representing the cultural institutions within Balboa Park;
- +Jerry Kleinsmith, is a resident of Bankers Hill/ Park West
- +Richard Ledford, is a representative of two major property owners in Bankers Hill/Park West
- +Carol Venables, is a resident of Bankers Hill/ Park West
- +Leo Wilson, is the chair of Uptown Planners, and participants on the subcommittee as an ex-officio member; he is a resident of Bankers Hill/Park West

2. Non-agenda public comment: None

3. Subcommittee Procedure/ Brown Act Application:

Liddell indicated the West Mesa Subcommittee of the Balboa Park Committee ("Subcommittee") would meet on the third Thursday of each month. The meetings will run from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. In addition to those in attendance, the subcommittee may have two additional members.

Granowitz stated the Subcommittee is an officially recognized subcommittee of the Balboa Park Committee. Its formation was subject to review and approved by both the Mayor's and City Attorney's offices. As an official subcommittee it is subject to the public meeting requirements of the Brown Act. All meetings must be duly noticed and open to the public; and a majority of the subcommittee members should only discuss agenda items at a publicly noticed meeting. This includes a prohibition of "serial communications" between subcommittee members which results in the development of a collective concurrence about an agenda item outside of a duly noticed meeting.

At Granowitz suggestion, Wilson gave an update of the status of the application of the Brown Act to city recognized advisory groups. The present City Attorney, Jan Goldsmith, was revisiting the issue of Brown Act application to city recognized advisory groups. The initial indication by Goldsmith was that he felt the Brown Act does apply; Goldsmith intends to issue a memo on this issue in the coming months.

4. Special Events:

The subcommittee spent the majority of the meeting discussing issues associated with special events on the west side of Balboa Park.

Granowitz distributed a document entitled "Balboa Park Committee Review Process for Special Events," which was favorably received by subcommittee members. (The document is attached to these minutes.)

The following issues were raised during the subcommittee discussion about special events:

- + What type of events should be permitted in Balboa Park – should special events be limited to non-profit rather than profit-making events? If so, what criteria should be developed indicated the type of events permitted;
- + How can noise and amplification volume issues be effectively addressed? – should decibel and volume limitations be established, and if so how would they be enforced? Hess and Wilson suggested that the subcommittee obtain a volume meter and begin monitoring sound levels at special events. The idea of establishing a "buffer zone" back from Sixth Avenue was also discussed, as well relocated the location of sound stages and amplification equipment. A more long-term issue was whether larger and louder special events should be moved from the west side to the interior of Balboa Park;
- + How can parking and traffic circulation issues be addressed to minimize the disruptive effects on adjacent neighborhoods? Past special events had resulted in serious adverse impacts in Uptown because of parking restrictions and street closures. Often the parking restrictions and street closures appear unrelated to the actual needs of the special events – and have restrict access of local residents to their domiciles;
- + A proposal to require deposits for special events, and institute a fine system for violations of permit conditions, was discussed. It was felt that there was inadequate monitoring by city staff to ensure special events were in compliance with their permit requirements and conditions;

In discussing these issues, the subcommittee members indicated they realized the issues involving special events were complex, and that it would require a significant amount of time and effort to remedy them. An important first step in this process was to effective document adverse impacts, and propose effective solutions to mitigate them.

The subcommittee agreed to continue the discussion of special events at subsequent meetings.

5. Subcommittee Member Comment:

Granowitz informed the subcommittee that a proposed special event application by the March of Dimes for later in 2009 had been withdrawn. It would have involved a sound stage along Sixth Avenue near Laurel Street.

Respectfully Submitted

Leo Wilson
Pro Tem Secretary