

MINUTES

**City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
October 3, 2024**

Meeting Location:

Balboa Park Club Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road West\
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address:

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

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Allison Soares
Chris Eddy
Howard Blackson
Makeda Cheatom
Michael Robinson
Tim Shields

Members Absent

Dang Nguyen
Kathy Vandenneuvel
Molly Chase
Mary Mckenzie

Staff Present

Jon Richards
Victor Johnson
Anthony Harrington

CALL TO ORDER

Allison Soares called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES July 11, 2024

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Shields / Mr. Eddy

A motion was made by Mr. Shields and seconded by Mr. Eddy to approve the September 5, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion carried (6-0-0).

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Web Form:

None

In-Person:

Daniele Laman – Provided updates regarding the Balboa Park Safety and Security Meeting. Informed on upcoming lawn programs for HPR.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Allison Soares – Sending out meeting dates for 2025.

STAFF REPORT

Emily Bonner, Council District 3 – Expanded program for “O” Lot and 20th & “B.” Released priority budget memo.

Michael Bravo, 78th District – August was the end of the legislative session. Highlighted bills AB1858 and AB1979. Noted upcoming community events hosted.

Jon Richards, Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation – Renaming of Grape Street Park on September 14th to Officer Tonahill & Officer Ruopp Memorial Park. Botanical Building to be turned over to City staff in October. A tentative open date scheduled in early December. The Request for Proposal for the Starlight Bowl closes on November 14th. Morley Field Sports lighting scheduled for replacement. 6th Ave. playground reopened on October 3rd. December Night scheduled for December 6th & 7th. Haunted Trails opened on September 27th.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Forever Balboa Park – Updated on phase 2 collaboration for the Botanical Building. Includes interpretive signage. Launched a youth initiative program. Betty Peabody to be recognized by the Committee of 100.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Shared support of expansion of “O” lot. Shared support for Measure E. Acknowledged infrastructure needs in Balbo Park.

Committee of 100 – Ross Porter – Shared support for Measure E. Annual meeting for Committee of 100 on October 7th at the Automotive Museum. Recognizing John Nolan and Betty Peabody for civic work. Municipal Gym work scheduled to begin after December Nights.

Save Starlight – Steve Stopper – Working on RFP for Starlight Bowl. Thanks Parks and Recreation Team for clearing brush surrounding Starlight Bowl.

Village Arts & Education Foundation – Frank Casciani – None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

None

CONSENT ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 1. 150 Year Anniversary Big Birthday Block Party Event: Jennifer Sahagun Jacobo, Director of Hospitality at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Public Comment:

Peter Comiskey – Supported the event.

Committee Comment:

Howard Blackson – Asked when the last time the tree in front of the museum was accessible.

Jennifer Sahagun Jacobo (responded) – Didn’t recall the exact date.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Blackson/ Mr. Shields

A motion was made by Mr. Blackson and seconded by Mr. Shields to approve the event. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 2. San Diego Museum of Art: Our Next Century: Kari Kovach, San Diego Museum of Art, Chief Operating Officer

Public Comment:

None

Committee Comment:

None

Item 3. 6th Avenue Playground: Alan Spector

Public Comment:

None

Committee Comment:

Howard Blackson – Thanked presenter for his initiative on upgrading the 6th Ave. Playground.

Item 4: Spanish Village Updates: Karen Dennison, Parks and Recreation, Assistant Director

Public Comment:

None

Committee Comment:

None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

Item 5. Envision Balboa Park into the Mid-21st Century: Howard Blackson

Public Comment:

Peter Comiskey – Stated Balboa Park is an international destination for a cultural experience. Emphasized the importance of collecting feedback from everyone.

Committee Comment:

Michael Robinson – Important to have user involvement in design. All voices should be heard. Interested in participating in the exercise.

Chris Eddy – Need to expand the dialogue with local community groups, the more voices the better. Need to figure out how to reach out to communities throughout San Diego.

Makeda Cheaton – Agreed with previous comments, communities need to be involved with Balboa Park Master Plan.

Tim Shields – In favor of including various communities in the Balboa Park Master Plan. Should also include cultural groups input.

Howard Blackson – Feels it is the right time to create a framework for the Balboa Park Committee to engage the community.

Allison Soares – In favor of the efficiency of the model. Wants to see the best ideas brought to the committee.

Howard Blackson (responded) – Wants to see the Balboa Park Committee to create a structure to hear community input on Master Plan.

Jon Richards – Goal is to hear all of the best ideas and create the best path forward. Need to consider how everyone utilizes Balboa Park.

Howard Blackson (responded) – Need to find receive feedback from all users to find the values and create the right changes and updates.

Jon Richards (responded) – Need to identify who are we missing when we are seeking feedback.

Howard Blackson (responded) – Thinks the Balboa Park Committee is the right forum to hear the different voices.

Item 6. AEA Prioritization Framework update: Laura Zucker and Catalina Casas

Public Comment:

Daniele Laman – Commented on the age of the plumbing in Balboa Park. Commented on the need for electrical upgrades for the International Cottages.

Committee Comment:

Howard Blackson – Acknowledged the low score for innovation. Questioned the difference in scoring for accessibility.

Catalina Casas (responded) – Accessibility in the scoring is based on communities that are historically underserved.

Howard Blackson – Questioned how to make the scoring objective.

Laura Zucker (responded) – Stated difficulty in creating objective scoring. Stated health and safety concerns are prioritized.

Allison Soares – Asked about the most surprising part about the scoring.

Laura Zucker (responded) – Stated the number and types of projects were overwhelming. Scoring should be viewed as a guideline.

Tim Shields – Asked to create an operating guideline document for reference.

Laura Zucker (responded) – Stated AEA can provide an operator guide.

Allision Soares – Asked how public can learn of the project list.

Laura Zucker (responded) – Suggested sharing draft publicly.

Catalina Casas – AEA is recommending studies on health and safety for priority projects.

ADJOURNMENT – 5:32 pm

Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting:

November 7, 2024
4:00 P.M.
In-Person

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Harrington
District Manager