

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
October 5, 2017

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

Amy Bernal (arr. 6:10pm)
Victoria Curran
Kenneth Davenport – Vice
Chair
Katherine Johnston – Chair
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
James Lawson
Don Liddell
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Members Absent

Dang Nguyen
Micah Parzen
Rob Steppke

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Mario Llanos
Jeff Van Deerlin

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2017

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. SCHIAVONI/MS. KANZAWA

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve the July 6, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved (9-0-0).

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations thanked staff for opening the restrooms 24 hours per day and also for the new light fixtures installed on the cottages. She mentioned a park curfew that has been requested; an incident that occurred in the House of Finland last Sunday; concern for volunteers' safety and the need for flexible scheduling.

Bruce Dammann recommended that the Committee and the Park and Recreation Department undergo a study to determine if the Haunted Trail is an appropriate use of the park as the area has changed in use by the community.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Katherine Johnston requested an update on the Hepatitis A outbreak and changes made to restroom hours in the park. At the Park and Recreation Board there was an item discussing upcoming changes to the way recreation councils are organized and funding.

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District, Molly Chase – Chief of Staff, reported the following:

- To help with the public health emergency, a safe campground is being established in the 20th and B maintenance yard, until three shelters are opened later this year. Increased security will be provided in Golden Hill and Balboa Park.
- Sinks have been placed throughout the community, additional restrooms placed downtown and restrooms open 24 hours per day.
- Looking at multiple sites including the stadium parking lot for additional camping areas.
- 40,000 vaccines have been administered
- Power washing of sidewalks is provided by a contractor and areas that need to be cleaned in the Park are being identified.

Jeff Van Deerlin, Program Manager, Balboa Park/Mission Bay Park reported the following:

- Thanked Councilmember Cate for addressing the need of those living in their recreation vehicles to have a place to park without violating the oversized vehicle ordinance.
- The Park and Recreation Department is spending a lot of time addressing sanitation of park comfort stations which are now open 24 hours/7 days per week on a 30 day trial period. Staff is documenting all conditions found with this change in operation.
- For the City's effort to revive the Starlight Bowl, Phase I will offer a draft Special Use Permit to Save Starlight Inc. for use of the box office and concession booth to help with fundraising and development.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, District Manager, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events, reported the following:

- The nearly year-long, world-wide search for the new Civic Organist and Artistic Director for the Spreckels Organ Society is coming to end. There were many extremely talented organists that applied and the decision was difficult. I am confident that by our next meeting, an announcement of a selection will be made.
- We are currently interviewing to fill vacancies in the custodian work unit – we have eight positions to fill.
- On September 12, we started a 30-day pilot program to open our outdoor restrooms (or comfort stations as we call them) and increased the frequency of cleaning to help thwart the spread of the Hepatitis A virus.
- Our Civic Dance Arts program is offering a free night of dance performances this weekend in the Casa del Prado Theater. Tickets are available at fnot2017@evenbrite.com
- Acknowledged that the Department received several noise complaints generated from the Heart and Stroke Walk held on September 16. The amplification testing the day before the event was very loud, and the day of started at 6 a.m. which was disruptive to many neighbors. A portable light system was left on site overnight on Saturday, was turned on by someone and directed west, shining in resident's windows. A post event meeting will be held with the Office of Special Events and a follow-up meeting will also occur with this committee.

- October is a busy event month with Maker Faire on October 7- 8, Diwali Festival of Lights October 14, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on October 15, Alzheimer's Walk on October 21 and last but not least – Halloween Family Day on Saturday, October 28. Park and Recreation staff members from the Municipal Gym and the Balboa Park Activity Center will provide games and a costume contest in the Plaza de Panama.

Mario Llanos, District Manager, Balboa Park Operations, reported the following:

- Saturday September 16th, Balboa Park staff worked with approximately 200 volunteers in partnership with I Love a Clean San Diego to clean up, weed, mulch and plant 12 flowering trees throughout Golden Hill Park.
- Since spring we have been working with Environmental Services Department to identify a new style trash and recycle combo can to use in the East Mesa. ESD identified some funding to assist BP in purchasing 30 units to place in the East Mesa. They came in last month and we have placed around 11 of them in Bird Park and the Morley Sports Complex. We are looking to place the rest once we establish exact locations and when we can pour pads to place them.
- The Morley Field sign has placed at the median in front of Bud Kearns pool. Staff has landscaped about ¾ of the median and will work this next month to finish the landscaping now that the sign is in. Additionally the sign for Golden Hill Rec Center/ Balboa Park Golf Course was recently installed and landscaped at the Corner of 26th and Golf Course Drive Both signs came out great.
- BP Maintenance Staff has been working all month to paint all of the columns, and four abutments of the Cabrillo Bridge...this should be completed by tomorrow or early next week.
- Rangers Report: SDPD and Park Rangers continued selective enforcement detail of the canyons. Ranger staff has worked with other departments to secure the Cabrillo Bridge and manhole covers...they will continue to monitor the inside of the bridge routinely. Last month Rangers cleaned up three truck load of debris from Florida canyon and had 3 camp abatement details with ESD at: 3000 Balboa Drive, 1900 8th Ave drive, Vermont and Upas Street. Rangers are now shifting focus to the Bridle Trail.
- Finally I would like to introduce our new Balboa Park Horticulturist, Magen Shaw. She is an experienced arborist who is working to educate our maintenance staff in tree care and assessment. Additionally she is working with the Conservancy on the Tree Inventory and the planting of the 500 trees in the next two years.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Mr. Tomas Herrera-Mishler reported the following:

- Thanked all working to address the Hep A issue especially Councilmember Ward and his staff
- Asked the City of consider additional security for the Park restrooms that are open 24 hours.
- The Conservancy has aggressively been gathering more data. The Balboa Park Benefits Study revealed what a economic powerhouse the park is, which will be presented later in the meeting.
- House of Hospitality historic courtyard gardens are being restored to the 1935 appearance.
- Visitors' Center incredibly busy with over 5 million visitors and 10,000 volunteer hours donated
- Donor recognition program for the Botanical Building has been approved by Park and Recreation. They are now in the quiet phase of the capital campaign
- Expanding park docent program outside in the park with Park and Recreation's help
- Cultural Landscape report, tree inventory and Signage master plan underway.

- Park Activation with Food Trucks was successful and collaboration with Park After Dark was great
- December Nights will be expanded towards Park and Presidents Blvd in anticipation of construction
- Cultivate Wonder Breakfast to be held on October 18.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Mr. Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- Significant new marketing efforts have been made possible for Balboa Park by the Legler Benbough Foundation
- Pleased to finally announce that Michael Warburton has joined the BPCP team in the position of Director, Parkwide Communications. In his previous role at the San Diego Zoo, Michael managed the brands of the SD Zoo, advertising and public relations.
- The Community Access Pass program currently has 65 nonprofit partners, not including the various military organizations with whom we engage through the Military Appreciation Pass program. Our newest partner is the City Heights Community Development Corporation. We recently provided annual family passes for 94 families residing in low income housing in the 92105 ZIP code.
- The Balboa Park Sustainability Program invites you to the 4th Annual Sustainability Partners' Breakfast on October 26. We will honor Balboa Park organizations for their exceptional work in the field of sustainability and energy efficiency.
- This weekend we will hold the third annual Maker Faire. Over 100 makers in multiple museums and cultural organizations will create a truly outside-in event experience.

Committee of 100

Mr. Mike Kelley shared the following:

- Expressed concern about the delay requested by the Museum of Man for the seismic retrofit of the California Tower as there is much more work to be done
- Not excited about the House of Charm new railings
- The temporary replica murals to be installed on the San Diego Automotive Museum is the first step in restoration of the Palisades area

Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. Jim Hughes shared the following:

- Their 17th annual salute to volunteers and visionaries luncheon will be held on October 17
- Two additional landmark signs were recently installed at the Ford Building and Zoro Garden
- The Carousel was acquired by the Friends three months ago. On ribbon cutting day, 4,000 free rides were enjoyed. The National Carousel Association visited the carousel and stated it is one of the finest in the nation.
- Carillon Speaker replacement in the California Tower is a project being evaluated and engineered
- The initiation of entitlement for the viewing platform around the Morton Bay Fig tree is underway

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

None

Adoption

201. House of Charm Courtyard Fencing. Presenter: Charles Daniels, Park Designer
Mr. Daniels provided a brief overview of the project and provided a report asking the Committee to make a determination if the design of the fencing at the sculpture courtyard is consistent with the Central Mesa Precise Plan design guidelines. The fencing design has changed since the General Development Plan was first presented. The architect is present to answer questions and noted that the design is ornate metalwork, hand forged metal pickets.

Committee Comments:

- Inquired why is there no staff recommendation?
It is a matter of opinion if it is consistent with the plan
- What is the purpose of the fencing?
Primarily to secure the area
- Has the Historic Resources Board staff approved the fencing?
Yes, evaluated with the Secretary of the Interior Standards
- Don't have the design expertise to make the determination

MOTION: MOVED AND SECONDED (MS. BERNAL/MS. SCHIAVONI)

A motion was moved by Ms. Bernal and seconded by Ms. Schiavoni that the design is consistent with the Central Mesa Precise Plan design guidelines.

Discussion: A difference of opinion among staff. How permanent is the fencing and can it be changed? Have heard from the architects as to how the fencing fits in. Have to rely on the experts, expect staff to take a position. The motion carried (6,3,0).

Special Events

301. Rock'n'Roll San Diego 5K. Presenters: Natalie Mendez, Community Relations and Katie Holmes, Event Manager

Ms. Mendez requested a recommendation to waive the summer moratorium for the Rock'n'Roll 5k event to be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018 on the west side of the park. Approximately 4,500 runners participate and there are minimal road closures. She described the 20 volunteer projects done in the community, two of which were done in the park, were over 100 of their staff came out to clean a canyon as well as donating to the Friends of Balboa Park.

MOTION: MOVED AND SECONDED (MR. KAHNG/MS. CURRAN)

A motion was moved by Mr. Kahng and seconded by Ms. Curran to recommend that the Park and Recreation Director extend to waive to the summer moratorium for the 2018 Rock'n'Roll 5K. The motion was unanimously approved (9,0,0).

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Inspiration Point Solar Panel Project Update, City of San Diego Environmental Services Department

Jack Clark, Deputy Director of Energy and Sustainability with Bryan Olsen and James Chen, Senior Engineers with Environmental Services Department stated the City's goals for 100% renewable energy by 2035. Mr. Clark stated that the size of the solar array needed to be expanded from what was presented in 2015 to get the get the results desired of 982 KW which will offset 32 % of the park's energy use.

Committee Comments:

- How funded? (20 year Power Purchase Agreement)
- When to be constructed? (January - April 2018)
- Asked to contrast with Sun Energy
- Questioned compatibility of net metering with a PPA
- Work with institutions on scheduling as the project could be disruptive
- Design not esthetically pleasing
- Not a lot of financial benefit

Community Comments:

- Offended by the look of this project which turns a parking lot into an industrial lot
- Need to spend some time designing, protect the esthetics

502. Benefits Study Information and Feedback, Balboa Park Conservancy Tomas Herrera-Mischler, President and CEO

Mr. Herrera-Mischler presented an overview of the Balboa Park benefits study to detail the economic impact of the park. After gathering the data, Balboa Park is found to be an economic engine, not only for tourism, but adding to property values, employment, and health savings. Tourism is generated as people come to San Diego specifically to visit the park. There is a need for a deeper study regarding the use of the park and youth programming. The Conservancy is advocating for the continued completion of the park's master plan and to address the deferred maintenance.

Committee Comments:

- How is the data being shared (through the media and to stakeholders, but have more to do)
- Is it being shared with the elected officials? (Yes)

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy –No report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council – Mr. Kahng noted that the Recreation Council approved their 2018 operating budget and also approved expenditures of over \$100,000.00 for expenses such as floor resurfacing and electric curtain installation. The City Attorney's office has recently issued an opinion regarding recreation council finance that could affect volunteerism in Rec Councils. Therefore it might be worth understanding implications of this recreation council being tried to a regional park, not a

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community park. Mr. Kahng introduced Mr. Bill Aaron who President of the San Diego Track Club and Vice Chair of the Recreation Council, and who has been nominated by the Recreation Council to be the next representative to the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, November 3, 2017
 6:00 P.M.
 Balboa Park Club
 2150 Pan American Road West
 San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager