

## MINUTES

### City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board **BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE**

October 2, 2008

#### Meeting held at:

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

#### Mailing address is:

Balboa Park Administration  
2125 Park Boulevard MS39  
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

#### ATTENDANCE:

##### Members Present

Laurie Burgett (Arr 5:41)  
Jerelyn Dilno  
Vicki Granowitz  
Andrew Kahng  
David Kinney  
Michael Singleton  
Donald Steele

##### Members Absent

Jennifer Ayala  
Mick Hager  
Mike McDowell

##### Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
Bruce Martinez

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M. Vicki rearranged the order of the agenda. Workshop Item 401, The Balboa Park Study, would be first and it would be limited to thirty minutes for discussion and updates of the questions followed by Action Items.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2008 MEETING (STEELE /SINGLETON 7-0)**

#### REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

#### NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Ben Li from the House of China reported that the September 27 Taste of Asia Event hosted at the House of Pacific Relation Lawn was a success. Mr. Li thanked the Committee for their support and provided a Taste of Asia brochure to members of the Committee.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Vicki Granowitz reported that the Legler Benbough Foundation, the Parker Foundation and the San Diego Foundation have approved the funding request to hire a writer to assist in creating the report for the Balboa Park Study questions. The writer will assist in creating the unified report, but will not be involved with making recommendations on content.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Jeffery Tom did not have a report.

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager, presented Deputy Director Kathleen Hasenauer's report in her absence. On Thursday, September 25 staff attended the Friends of Balboa Park Kiosks Dedication at the Cascades. The event was a celebration of the installation of the first three kiosks and acknowledgement of the generosity of the donors for the \$350,000 project. It was also stated that an additional \$175,000 is needed for installation of the final two kiosks. The event included an interactive demonstration and e-mail postcards. Mayor Sanders and Councilmember Atkins attended the event and were recipients of commemorative framed posters. Of note is the wireless, WiFi connectivity. The kiosks are a welcome addition to the Park.

Mayor Sanders is hosting Town Hall Meetings to discuss Critical Water Supply Issues in the City. He will be joined by Water Department staff to present the issues and answer questions. A notice of the meetings was distributed to the Committee.

Three Developed Regional Parks Division staff have been recognized by Mayor Sanders for their Outstanding Customer Service. Rosa Abrego, Associate Analyst, Debbie Marcotte, Permit Center Supervisor and Michael Rasmusson, Nursery Supervisor will be recognized, with other City staff at an Employee Event.

On Tuesday, September 23 the Cooperative Agreement with CalTrans for inspection of the Cabrillo Bridge was authorized by City Council.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Facilities and Special Events District Manager, reported that in September two City owned Ivan Messenger paintings were installed in the Balboa Park Administration Building. Ivan Messenger was a modernist artist known for his work in the 1930's.

The Balboa Tennis Clubhouse and Morley Field comfort station are scheduled for ADA improvements and construction should begin in four to six weeks

Special Events noted were The Haunted Trail which is currently opened through November 1, 2008; The Cool Globes, which loads in on October 15 around the Bea Evenson fountain, the Cascades, and the sidewalk leading to the San Diego Natural History Museum; Walk on the Wild Side on October 11; Making Strides

Against Breast Cancer, October 19; Light the Night 5K on October 25; the Memory Walk on October 25 and the San Diego Museum of Art Façade Revealing on October 10, at 10:30 A.M.

Bruce Martinez, Operations District Manager reported that asphalt work continues on streets and parking lots within the Park. Last week Balboa Drive, Pan American Road, and the Spreckles Organ Pavilion Parking Lot were repaired. The project entails slurry sealing of all the repaired areas. The slurry sealing is scheduled for October 20 and 22. Staff is working to mitigate impacts of road and parking lot closures.

The Balboa Park Trail System Sixth Avenue and Upas Street Gateway is tentatively scheduled to have its opening ceremony on Monday, October 27 at 10:30 A.M. This is the first of five gateways that comprise the Balboa Park Trail System. The Committee and other dignitaries will all be receiving invitations for the event.

The California Conservation Corp (CCC) has secured almost \$28,000.00 in Park Bond money for the Juniper Canyon Staircase project. The Balboa Park Trust of the San Diego Foundation has also donated \$6,000.00 for the project materials. Work on the project is scheduled for the first week of November.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Consent**

101. None

### **Adoption**

201. The Old Globe Theatre – Signage and Donor Recognition Program.

Charlie Daniels provided a brief update of the Signage and Donor Recognition Program. Charlie noted that the Old Globe's leasehold expansion was approved by City Council and that all the proposed signage was within the Old Globe's footprint. Charlie stated that signage is part of a General Development Plan which the Consultants Guide to Park Design and Development recommends being presented to an advisory group. Charlie clarified that the amount of proposed donor recognition on the building is the same as existed on the Cassius Carter Theater and there is no change from previous conditions.

Simon Andrews of Graphic Solutions presented details of the Program. The Committee Members received a General Development Plan for the graphics and signage. Examples of materials to be used for many of the signs were available for the Committee to see.

### Committee Member Comments

- Land-Use and Policy issues are very important.
- This is in an open outdoor area which gives the impression of it being outside of the leasehold.
- The materials and color tones of the project are impressive.
- This should set the standard for future signage in the leasehold.
- There is a large amount of recognition but much of it is low profile. The program is not overwhelming.
- Concerns were expressed about the amount of horizontal donor recognition on the building.
- This is setting precedence, while the Old Globe has done a wonderful job there are concerns with both the quantity and quality of building signage for future projects in the Park.

### **MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED SIGNAGE AND DONOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR THE OLD GLOBE THEATRE CAMPUS. (STEELE/MCDOWELL 6-0-1) ABSTENTION KHANG**

#### 202. The San Diego Museum of Art, Bernar Venet Sculpture.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Facilities and Special Events District Manager provided the staff recommendation. It was reported that the most suitable location proposed was the walkway area in front of the Museum of Art Library. It was also stated that approval should be based on a thirteen month period of time and that accessibility of the area must be compliant and maintained.

Julianne Markow, Deputy Director of Operations and Finance and Chief Administration Officer of the San Diego Museum of Art provided a brief summary of the project. Julianne introduced Scott White of Scott White Contemporary Art. Scott presented the proposal. It was stated that the originally proposed sculpture has been delayed in Hungary. An alternative smaller piece is now being proposed. Scott presented a brochure for the exhibition.

### Committee Member Comments

- Focus needs to be on Land-Use and ADA accessibility.
- It was confirmed that accessibility is being defined at four feet for the path of travel and that Protruding Objects and Overhead Hazards are part of accessibility compliance.
- Concerns about the site location were expressed. The location has posters and signage that will detract from the sculpture.
- It is a good public art project.
- The sculptures look good in turf. Any proposal made for turf should include complete restoration of the turf area after the exhibit has concluded.
- Turf in the central corridor is very limited and we don't want to deprive

the general public of usable turf.

- Ideally the perfect location for showcasing public art is the Plaza De Panama.
- Staff was requested to provide an annual report for public art in the Park. Also that staff provide information on what other public art exhibits are congruently scheduled in the Park with future public art proposals.

**MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE WALKWAY AREA IN FRONT OF THE MUSEUM OF ART LIBRARY FOR THE BERNAR VENET SCULPTURE. (STEELE/MCDOWELL 7-0)**

### Special Events

301. None

### WORKSHOP ITEMS

#### 401. Balboa Park Study

The Committee received a draft document answering Question One of the Study: Can the City of San Diego provide the necessary financial support for Balboa Park in the future? The document summarized Methodology Framework, Observations/ Discovery, Conclusion, Recommendations for Next Steps, and Supporting Documentation.

#### Committee Members Comments

- Rewriting some statements in the draft will help to clarify the document.
- The Committee members were asked to provide any recommended changes to statements in writing.
- A concern was expressed to the comprehensiveness at which the Committee can answer the question without all financial information.
- The amount of information the Committee has is sufficient to address the questions. The City of St. Louis had the same dilemma with Forest Park.
- The City has never had sufficient recourses to maintain the Park consistent with its missions, goals and objectives.
- The format of the draft document is excellent and should be used for all three questions.

The Committee briefly discussed Question Two: Even if it can, should it do so? It was stated that the sub-committee was simplifying the document and re-wording statements. However, after reviewing the draft framework used for Question One, it was determined that Question Two will be answered using the same format.

### Committee Member Comments

- Each sub-committee is saying many of the same things.
- There is overlap when answering each question.

Question Three was reviewed: If it (City of San Diego) wishes to expand management and governance of the Park, what are the alternatives for it to do so? It was stated the sub-committee had observations pertaining to the Park's organization, decision making process, operations, and finances. The different types of governance options were also being documented and they are starting to relate documents to conclusions.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

#### 501. San Diego Lunar New Year Tet Festival 1/23/09-1/25/09 Review of Parking and Shuttle Plan

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Facilities and Special Events District Manager provided a brief overview of issues and concerns from the 2008 Event. At the request of the Committee the Event Organizer has returned to provide information on how they will mitigate these issues for their 2009 Event.

Larry Tran, Chairperson for the 2009 Festival provided a brochure for the Event. Larry stated that they have contacted many of the museums and the valet service to discuss the Event. The parking plan, use of volunteers, and shuttles for the upcoming event were discussed. It was stated that they have reserved two City College parking lots for the event which will add additional parking and they are working with San Diego High School to add more.

### Committee Member Comments

- Much of what you are doing is helpful but traffic control and congestion are not addressed.
- The traffic light system is not sufficient enough to control traffic flow and congestion. There needs to be certified traffic control staff to address this issue.
- Volunteers can assist with pedestrian flow and monitoring parking lots but they should not be an option for traffic control.
- Use of the Arizona Landfill can work but it is complicated.
- This is a great event but it is too large for the Park's venue.
- Last year's event had significant impacts to all the institutions that had something scheduled.
- The proposed duration of impacts on the Park for the 2009 Event is eight days. This is inappropriate.
- Crossing from the Westside of the Park on El Prado will cause a complete shutdown of the Park.
- A traffic engineer should be consulted on the capacity of the Park to handle this event.
- This is a great event and we want it succeed. But if this year's Event continues to have these issues, we cannot support the Event being in the Park.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

## **COMMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT**

David Kinney reported that on Wednesday, October 15 the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership will be hosting a reception honoring City Councilmember Toni Atkins for her support of Balboa Park over the last eight years. The event is scheduled from 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. at the San Diego Museum of Art.

Balboa Park Central is currently working with Park staff to have the Balboa Park trails system information added to the Balboapark.org website.

Vicki Granowitz reported that she met with Rob Steppke, Chairperson for the North Park Planning Group and Leo Wilson, Chairperson for the Uptown Planners to discuss equivalencies.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Granowitz adjourned the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

### **Next Balboa Park Study Meeting:**

Thursday, October 16, 2008  
5:30 P.M.  
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room  
2150 Pan American Road  
San Diego, CA 92101

### **Next Regular Meeting:**

Thursday, November 6, 2008  
5:30 P.M.  
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room  
2150 Pan American Road  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen S. Hasenauer  
Deputy Director  
Developed Regional Parks