

MINUTES

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

December 4, 2008

Meeting held at:

War Memorial Building
3325 Zoo Drive
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

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

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Laurie Burgett
Jerelyn Dilno
Vicki Granowitz
Andrew Kahng (Arr. 5:43)
David Kinney
Mike McDowell
Mike Singleton
Donald Steele (Arr. 5:43)

Members Absent

Jennifer Ayala
Mick Hager

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Bruce Martinez

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 5:40 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2008 MEETING (MCDOWELL /SINGLETON 6-0)

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Vicki Granowitz reported that the Park and Recreation Board met and discussed the FY 2009 proposed mid year reductions for the Park and Recreation Department. Recommendations were made with emphasis on minimizing impacts to certain aspects of the Park and Recreation Department. Steve Fiorina of KGTV Channel 10 interviewed Vicki about the Balboa Park Study. On December 18 the Balboa Park Committee Report will be presented to

the Park and Recreation Board. Ms. Granowitz met with Council District 3 City Councilmember-Elect Todd Gloria. Councilmember Gloria expressed that Balboa Park is a priority for him. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Balboa Park Committee for January 2009 has been canceled due to the first Thursday being New Year's Day.

STAFF REPORT

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Facilities and Special Events District Manager provided an update on public art in the Park: The Cool Globes were removed from the Bea Evenson Fountain area last Monday and they were well received by the public. The Cow Parade that was scheduled for placement January 3, 2009 to March 31, 2009 in Balboa Park and other locations throughout the City has been derailed by the economy. The event was re-branded as Cow Parade La Jolla.

Staff met as part of the City Wide Special Event process with the event organizers of the San Diego Lunar New Year TET Festival scheduled for January 23 – 25, 2009. The importance of resolving the parking and traffic issues were the main focus of the meeting.

The Balboa Park December Nights event begins tomorrow. The hours are Friday 5:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. and Saturday from 12:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. The City's Civic Dance Program will be performing in the patio of the Casa del Prado beginning at 5:15 P.M. on Friday and Saturday

Bruce Martinez, Operations District Manager reported that the Balboa Park Horticulture Fund has received its annual donation from Mr. Phillip Green. Mr. Green is an active supporter of the botanical collection in Balboa Park. This year's donation was \$ 2,500.00 and Mr. Green has requested that the funds go towards plant material for the Park.

The proposed plans for the Balboa Park Lily Pond landscape renovation and ADA upgrades have been submitted to Historic Review Board staff. Upon the Historic Review Board approval, the project will be placed on the Balboa Park Committee's Agenda as a Workshop Item and presented to the Committee.

The Nate's Point Dog Off-leash Group is in the process of conducting community outreach to determine the level of support for a small dog pen in the Nate's Point Dog Off-leash Area. Park and Recreation staff has met with the Group to provide design information pertaining to ADA accessibility and the existing irrigation system.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. 5th Annual San Diego Healing Arts Festival- Ryan Altman, Executive Director, Alternative Healing Network, Inc. presented a proposal to expand the annual Healing Arts Festival on Sunday, May 3, 2009 into the Federal Building Parking Lot and add components to the event. This is the fifth anniversary of this Festival in Balboa Park which has traditionally used the Park Boulevard and President's Way Lawn area and the adjacent first row of parking in the Federal Building Lot. The 2009 event requests to expand the venue to the entire Federal Building Lot North with the exception of the ADA parking spaces behind the Hall of Champions. Additional components include: Fencing, main stage, DJ tent, art gallery, additional restrooms, bike check area, and additional vendor/activity booths. Access into the Federal Building Lot will be monitored with parking controllers. Museum staff and park visitors will be granted access to the Federal Building Lot South (behind Starlight and Air and Space) as space allows. The expanded venue will attract additional event participants; the event has grown from 2,500 attendees in 2004 to an estimated 18,000 in 2008. Estimated attendance for 2009 is 25,000.

Committee Member Comments

- Clarification was requested on the amount of people attending the event. Concerns were expressed with the amount of participants between the Race for Literacy and the Healing Arts Festival.
- This is a free event open to the public which makes it easy to support.
- A bicycle check in is a great idea. It encourages people to ride to the park.
- A parking plan has been identified and both event organizers are working with each other and the institutions which makes this a comprehensive proposal and easy to support.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE SAN DIEGO HEALING ARTS FESTIVAL. (MCDOWELL/BURGETT 8-0)

302. Black and Veatch – Doreen Victa, Director of Catering, The Prado at Balboa Park proposed a special event of a formal dinner with entertainment for 600 guests using the area around the Balboa Park Lily Pond on Tuesday, June 16, 2009. Set-up will begin at 4:00 P.M. with the dinner from 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. Break down will be from 9:30 P.M. to 11:30 P.M. All guests will be transported by motor coach. The proposal includes a temporary enclosure around the Lily Pond area using white picket fence. Access along El Prado and the foot bridge over the Lily Pond will not be closed.

Committee Member Comments

- This is a corporate event proposed during the summer moratorium which makes it difficult to support.
- This is setting a precedence which also makes it difficult to support. It is strongly urged to find another venue for the event.
- This does not meet the requirement for a waiver of the summer moratorium.
- Guests of this proposed event are from out of town and contribute to Transit Occupancy Tax. Consideration of this is prudent in these economically challenging times.
- The Lily Pond area is a great attraction to tourists. People want to be close to the pond and take pictures. The proposed event would preclude them from doing so.
- We have denied support for several other events during the summer moratorium and we need to be consistent.
- We should not be considering moratorium waivers on every event.
- The summer moratorium was a long well thought out policy. Consideration should only be given to events that meet the waiver criteria.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF THE EVENT AS PROPOSED. (BURGETT/STEELE 5-1-2, NAY – KAHNG, ABSTENSION – KINNEY, MCDOWELL.)

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Balboa Park Study

The Committee reviewed the edited draft copies for each of the Study's questions. Content, wording, grammar, format, graphics and the title page were discussed with changes made by consensus of the Committee.

Committee Members Comments

- The Report needs to be consistent in its format.
- Graphics add to the report and should be used.
- The Title page needs work.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

COMMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT

Mike McDowell reported that T.O.T. revenues are down about 15% to 25% for fiscal year 2009.

Andrew Kahng reported The Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council had a well-attended meeting yesterday.

There was an intense discussion of how the Balboa Park Activity Center, a

regional resource for table tennis, volleyball and badminton, should adjust its hours to best serve the needs of the 800+ members of these user groups. The Recreation Council's consensus last night was:

a. Park and Recreation staff's proposed core hours do not match actual usage (BPAC is a regional resource, with many adult users).

b. There is strong input, supported by a great deal of usage data, from the user groups regarding hours of operation that will better serve BPAC constituencies.

c. Several large user clubs are potentially interested and willing to fund extra hours.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Granowitz adjourned the meeting at 8:16 P.M.

Next Balboa Park Study Meeting:

Thursday, December 18, 2008
5:30 P.M.
War Memorial Building
3325 Zoo Drive
San Diego, CA 92101

Next Regular Meeting:

Thursday, February 5, 2009
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen S. Hasenauer