

## MINUTES

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

May 7, 2009

#### 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

Jennifer Ayala (arr. 6:05 pm)  
Laurie Burgett (arr. 6:10 pm)  
Jeri Dilno  
Vicki Granowitz  
Mick Hager  
Andrew Kahng  
David Kinney  
Mike McDowell  
Michael Singleton  
Don Steppke (arr. 6:17pm)  
Donald Steele

##### Members Absent

Don Liddell

##### Staff Present

Tony Bonacorsi  
Kathleen S. Hasenauer  
Stephen Hill  
Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
Bruce Martinez

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Ms. Granowitz noted that Special Event Item #310 was pulled from the agenda. Information Items #501 and #503 will be heard out of agenda order.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2009 MEETING.  
(McDOWELL/KINNEY) 9-0-1 ABSTENTION -KAHNG.**

#### REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

#### NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

David Smollar raised three questions:

- Is it City policy to allow valet parking of automobiles in the plaza fronting the Museum of Man entrance for persons attending the Old Globe? If so, when was it approved and who is responsible for cleaning the oil stains and other damages to the distinctive red paving in the plaza?

- How consistent is the no-smoking policy in the Park? Taxi drivers parked on Zoo Place smoke all day without hinderance as do the workers on breaks behind the Prado restaurant, the Museum of Man, and the Rueben H. Fleet to name a few.
- Is it approved City policy to allow the Urban Discovery School of San Diego on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to use wide swaths of Park grounds for daily physical exercise classes for students? Who is responsible for the wear and tear done to the grass? Mayor Sanders is only one of many San Diegans during the past year to lament the state of the turf in Balboa Park, particularly on the West side.

Hannu Mikkonen, President of the House of Pacific Relations stated that it is his duty to relay the Park access problems that occur every Sunday. Last Sunday it took twenty minutes to get into the Park and members cannot park their vehicles and are very frustrated.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Vicki Granowitz reported on the following:

- Mari Lyn Salvador, Chief Executive Officer has invited Committee members to come and see the chapel within the Museum of Man. She will set-up the outing one hour prior to a Committee meeting.
- Jo Dee Jacob, Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts, San Diego Imperial Council is open to having the Committee tour their facility and possibly having the next Committee meeting there.
- The new Park and Recreation Department fee schedule was heard by the City Council and there were few people in opposition there. Two members of the Park and Recreation Board were present speaking in support of the fees. The fees were approved as presented.
- The Park and Recreation Department FY 2010 budget was heard by the Park and Recreation Board and approved. The mid year reductions were memorialized in 2010.
- The Park and Recreation Board requested a report on injuries and incidents at skate parks.
- She has been in contact with Kimberly Davies, City Attorney regarding the proposed changes to the Municipal Code regarding the consumption of alcohol in the Park. The ordinance has been written and staff is preparing the geographic locations where alcohol will be permitted.
- The Trust for Public Lands has recently published a report on the value of city parks.
- There have been numerous noise complaints recently regarding special events.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Stephen Hill, City Council Third District representative reported that Councilmember Todd Gloria was proud to join Mayor Sanders in announcing the dedication of five million dollars of federal economic stimulus funds for green energy in Balboa Park which will be leveraged with an additional 25 million dollars with the City's solar contractor to provide 3 megawatts of energy. It is a major step in sustainability for the Park. He noted that he is available to assist community members and provided his contact information. Councilmember Gloria is wants to be accessible to his constituents and is having a series of coffee hours where contact can be made with him.

Kathleen S. Hasenauer, Developed Regional Parks Deputy Director, reported on the following:

- The FY 2010 fees were approved by the City Council. There were a few event organizers present speaking in opposition of the fees, but it was clear that they had not

read the fee packet in entirety nor had they contacted staff. Clarifications were made at the hearing.

- The full Council heard the Park and Recreation budget on April 29. The mid year reductions were reflected in the FY 2010 budget.
- She reviewed the proposed drought ordinance which will be heard by the Council in May. The Park and Recreation Department is the biggest water user in the City and she reviewed some of the mandatory water restriction which will go into effect June 1, 2009 such as irrigation will occur only in the hours between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. and the fountains will only be operated for maintenance purposes. There was discussion about changing the fountains to other uses such a planters or places for artwork. Ms. Granowitz asked to agendize discussion of this matter at a later date because it is a large issue with so many fountains in the Park.
- The Save our Heritage Organization recognized the City's work on the ornamentation on the Museum of Man and the Museum of Art and is presenting a People and Preservation Award to the City on May 29.

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

- One custodian staff member, Ernie Jones and one grounds maintenance worker, Norman Speth recently retired from service in Balboa Park. Norman Speth served the Department for 31 years and Ernie Jones had 18 years of service.
- Bill Whittaker, a Recreation Leader at Morely Field celebrated 63 years of service to the Department last month.
- The Family Day event scheduled for this upcoming weekend, sponsored by the San Diego County Commission on Children, Youth and Families cancelled their event this weekend due to unforeseen circumstances and has asked to re-schedule the event in the fall.
- Upcoming events are the American Indian Days Powow this Saturday and Sunday; Girl Scout bridging on May 16, House of Pacific Relations Ethnic Food Faire on May 24 and the Rock and Roll Marathon on May 31. Many graduation ceremonies will also be taking place in the coming weeks in the Spreckles Organ Pavilion.
- Staff applied for and received a donation today of \$7,000.00 from the Thursday Club as proceeds from the rummage sale to benefit the Balboa Park Activity Center's floor refinishing.
- Staff is busy preparing for activities which begin in June; annual dance recitals, Twilight Concerts, summer camps, etc.
- During the past two weeks, staff received noise complaints from two separate events which took place on the west side of the Park: March for Babies held on April 25 and the Kids Magic Mile held on May 2. Event organizers were notified of the complaints and are aware of a further review by the Committee.
- The House of Hungary proposal to install a memorial monument will be brought forward for Committee review. An application for donation to the City has been filed with the Commission for Arts and Culture.
- Plans for the Museum of Man roofing project are 90% complete. The scope of the work is to replace the roofing on the north wing and repair the ornamentation of the north wing. Repair and paint the windows. Clean the tile domes, repair of the tile roof in the quadrangle, reconstruction of the carport, and re-roof the Administration Building.

Bruce Martinez, Operations District Manager reported the following:

- Balboa Park celebrated Arbor Day on April 23, the event was hosted by the Friends of Balboa Park. Balboa Park Horticultural staff and Citywide Maintenance planted and mulched 20 trees just north of Sefton Plaza. This planting was made possible through the generosity of City Beautiful and Mr. Phillip Green.

- We have received notice that the Balboa Park Trust of the San Diego Foundation has recommended for approval several projects from the Balboa Park Operations Project list. The Lily Pond Landscape and Hardscape upgrade for \$ 54,000.00. The Project will be completed in several phase to mitigate impacts and allow us time to research alternatives for the turf portion of the project. It is expected that the ADA ramps and adjacent shrub bed leading from the lower Lily Pond to the Botanical Building will be the first phase. It is estimated that this phase will take no more than a week to complete. Canyon & Trail System Enhancement received \$ 25,000.00 which will include work on the East Mesa along Golf Course Drive and Grape Street. Phase two of the BP Trails system which has its gateway located near the Bud Kearns pool @ Morley Field should be completed in July. We also received \$ 2,500.00 for the Marston House fountain which is now operational, however we have a few fine tuning issues to address with the operating timer.
- Last month employees from Google surveyed the sidewalks and walkways of Balboa Park that are not accessible to vehicles for their Google Maps application. A tricycle outfitted with 8 digital cameras captured 360 degree views of the park and was paired up with the corresponding GPS coordinates. In three to four months people from around the globe will have access to 360 degree views of Balboa Park's sidewalks and walkways, which among other things, will assist them with navigation. At a later date Google plans to come back to survey the streets, parking lots and hiking trails.
- It is with great pleasure that I announce we have selected Greg Armstead as our new East Mesa Supervisor. Greg was a GMW II here in Balboa Park and was responsible for the Desert Garden. Greg's personality and work ethic made him the top candidate of the interview process and we were lucky to keep him here.

### **CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES**

David Kinney noted that the last Family Day held in the Park was a success and the next one will be held on October 31, 2009. The Museum of Man, Museum of Photographic Arts and the Mingei International Museum are still offering half price admission on Saturdays and Sundays until 12:00 p.m.

Mick Hager thanked Steve Hill for his assistance in reinstating free Tuesdays for County residents and active military only.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Consent**

101. **The Friends of the Marston House supports SOHO in the management and operation of the Marston House and requests a letter of support from the Balboa Park Committee.**

Ms. Granowitz introduced Bruce Coons, Executive Director of Save our Heritage Organization who is persuing operation of the Marston House with the City. He stated that his organization operates the Whaley House in Old Town successfully with free program for school children. He wants to be a partner in the Park and make the operation self sustaining, but needs to manage the permitting and collection of funds from ground rentals. He reported that all major house museums have grounds in their operations. SOHO would like to eventually restore the two acres of gardens and walkways and it is essential to interpret the grounds also. Ms. Hasenauer noted that the grounds are currently maintained by Park and Recreation staff and the public reserves the site for ceremonies. The Department supports the

operation of the Marston House, but does not support SOHO operating the grounds without taking maintenance responsibilities. The fees charged for the grounds would have to be consistent with the Department's Fee Schedule.

**MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED TO HAVE THE CITY WORK WITH SOHO TOWARDS AN AGREEMENT FOR SOHO TO MANAGE AND OPERATE THE MARSTON HOUSE AND GROUNDS FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCES (AYALA/STEELE) 10-0-1 ABSTENTION – McDOWELL.**

102. **Balboa Park West Mesa Sub-Committee Formation**

Ms. Granowitz noted that in March, the Committee voted to suspend the West Side Sub-Committee to reform it to be more representative of the area and to ensure that the Brown Act is followed. She read the names of the individuals that will form the sub-committee and asked for a motion to reform the sub-committee which Don Liddell and Ms. Granowitz will co-chair.

**MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO FORM THE BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE, WEST MESA SUB-COMMITTEE. (BURGETT/KINNEY) 11-0-0.**

**Adoption**

201. None

**Special Events**

301. None

**WORKSHOP ITEMS**

401. **BPC Ad Hoc Committee on developing a process for identification and prioritization of Capital Improvement Projects and the Regional Park**

Vicki Granowitz noted a presentation has been requested by the Park and Recreation Board in regards to the Capital Improvements Program. She stated the CIP projects are listed online as part of the FY2010 budget. There are a number of documents online that address CIP project details, are listed by departments and include funding sources. A technical group would need to be formed.

402. **Park and Recreation Department /Balboa Park Fee Schedule and FY 2010 Budget-Staff**

Ms. Hasenauer provided an outline and reviewed the changes to the fee schedule. The fees were studied as a business model with a Department analyst heading the committee. Ms. Granowitz noted that after the fee schedule presentation to the Park and Recreation Board, some re-adjustments were done to the satisfaction of most.

Committee Member Comments:

- Some fees seem right and others too low
- What will the market bear?
- Groups are willing to pay fees, but now the extra hours are external to the

facility operation. Control is being lost.

403. **Review Special Event Process – Vicki Granowitz**

Chairperson Granowitz would like to get the Land Use and Policy Sub-Committee active again to look at events. The West Side Sub-Committee will also be looking at events. The Science Festival anticipated attendance was 15,000 but it drew 55,000 people. Patrons of the Old Globe couldn't get into the Park to park. David Kinney added that the Healing Arts Festival added two popular rock bands which shut-down the Park and caused grid lock. Earth Fair problems include shutting down the 163 freeway; marijuana smoking and families complaining about it. Mick Hager reported a loss of \$8,000.00 in ticket sales that day as well as the Air and Space Museum.

Other Committee comments:

- The Park has no balance when large events are held
- Residents neighboring the West Side of the Park complain of noise and set-ups
- When events are so large that they close the Park, they do not belong
- A compliance officer should be hired
- Many events need to come back to the Committee for review, including Earth Fair
- A fine schedule needs to be in place for those that don't comply
- Many events are poorly run such as Earth Day and its size is part of the problem
- Many events organizers do not have the skill or resources to manage large events.
- Guidelines/recommendations need to be in place for 2015.
- When events are for the Park, it is good. For many events, the Park is just a backdrop.
- Appaled by gridlock around the Park
- The Police and Fire Departments need to get involved to look at health and safety impact in the Park access in case of emergency.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

501. **Pershing /Redwood Intersection Improvements – Rebecca Cole, PBSK and Mike Arnold, Project Manager – City of San Diego.**

Mr. Arnold provided an update on the Committee on the status of the intersection at Pershing Dr. and Redwood and also to discuss the intersection of Jacaranda and Pershing Dr. He noted the study performed in 2001 recommended a "T" intersection for Pershing and Redwood, but the planning groups did not like the idea. It was suggested to have a roundabout, but the funds were not available for it. The intersection was re-stripped in 2002. A planning grant was received for \$150,000.00 and community outreach about the intersection was encouraged by PBSK. The results were summarized and now the majority of people like the way the intersection is configured now, but there are still issues there and at Pershing and Jacaranda.

Committee comments:

- The intersections are a real problem in the middle of the Park and it is like a speedway. The street is dangerous.
- It is a chance to do traffic calming and make it walkable.
- Need to look at bicycle and pedestrian use.
- Does not support crossing unless a light is installed.
- The striping has worked, but traffic is too fast – like a freeway.
- A traffic circle slows down traffic, but sidewalks and crosswalks are needed.
- Not enough information was presented, not familiar with intersections.
- A Park trail is there and people exit to the south. The more “T” shape the intersection, the better.

502. **Balboa Park Governance Phase Two – Vicki Granowitz**

Ms. Granowitz noted that she will continue to meet with the Mayor and Councilmember Gloria as they are committed to finding funding for phase two.

503. **Feasibility Study for Arizona Landfill Test Plots – Ruth Stafford**

Tony Bonacorsi, Park Designer introduced Ruth Stafford of Wallace, Roberts and Todd, a landscaping firm downtown who provided a power point presentation regarding the test plots which will identify the material and means to restore the surface of the landfill for different type uses on the East Mesa of Balboa Park bordered by Pershing Dr. and Morely Field. The project consists of three phases. The East Mesa Precise Plan outlines long term concepts of having an open and contemplative space, providing a visual connection to the Central Mesa and open vegetative areas for picnic areas. Other uses may be a two acre field for informal use, special events area and environmental art. She requested input as to public access to the test plots, interpretive opportunities and other program uses.

Committee Comments were:

- Consider the water shortage we have when looking at irrigating a field.
- Public access – area may have adverse impacts to the public
- Excellent project
- Some local schools may be interested in monitoring
- Expand activities to include a BMX or other bicycle friendly areas
- A possible location for a skate park, paint ball and other active uses for area youth
- A possible community garden site
- Perhaps provide video monitoring of test plots
- Good solar/wind exposure there
- Use of grey water for irrigation
- A family event to engage people about the process

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

## **COMMMTTEE MEMBER REPORT**

Mick Hager noted that strategic planning is being done. Laurie Burgett requested a formal presentation on the trail in the golf course area.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Granowitz adjourned the meeting at 8:55 P.M.

#### **Next Regular Meeting:**

Thursday, June 4, 2009  
6:00 P.M.  
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room  
2150 Pan American Road  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
District Manager