

MINUTES

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

June 6, 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

Don Liddell
Laurie Burgett (6:03 pm)
Jeri Dilno (6:05 p.m.)
Vicki Granowitz
Mick Hager
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney
Mike McDowell
Michael Singleton(6:05pm)
Donald Steele

Members Absent

Jennifer Ayala
Rob Steppke

Staff Present

Stephen Hill
Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Bruce Martinez

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (STEELE/HAGER) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2009 MEETING WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS:

**Action Item 101 – change “protention” to “protection” in the motion
Workshop Item 403 – change “mariguana” to “marijuana” and add under
Committee Comments, “A compliance officer to be present at events and paid for by
the event organizer” CARRIED 7-0-1, ABSTENTION -LIDDELL.**

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Armstrong of the San Diego Mountain Bike Association, a local non-profit 501c3 stated that the goal of their organization is to enhance the sport of mountain biking, keep trails open and to promote the sport. The organization performed 1,500 hours of trail work last year and has 450 members. He requested consideration for part of the Morley Field – Arizona Landfill to be

developed for a bike skills park to include ladders, rails and jumps and distributed some photos of other parks. He stated that they are willing to help in any way they can.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Vicki Granowitz reported on the following:

- She questioned the need to meet on July 2. If staff doesn't have anything urgently needing to be heard, the meeting could be cancelled or rescheduled for July 7.
- Flyers were made available for a San Diego Historical Society event to be held Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church which will celebrate women in San Diego History.
- On Saturday, June 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at 6th and Upas Street Gateway, a walk will be lead by Jerry Shad which is co-sponsored by the Friends of Balboa Park.
- A People and Preservation Award was presented last Friday for the restoration work on the façade of the San Diego Museum of Art and the Museum of Man. The award was received by Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Director and Kathleen S. Hasenauer.
- Ms. Granowitz attended a meeting held with the staff and members of the Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council to lend assistance with recreation council issues as she has experience as Chair of the North Park Recreation Council.

STAFF REPORT

Stephen Hill, City Council Third District representative: Mr. Hill reported that he was assured by the City Attorney's Office that the alcohol policy for the Park would be presented to the Council by the end of the month. On Monday, the Council will be hearing the first reading of the final proposed budget for FY2010 which includes 83 million in reductions. There could potentially be further reductions to the budget if the State withholds funds. The District 3 Dialog Newsletter has information on the mandatory water conservation efforts, listing of the community coffee hours with Councilmember Gloria and the solar initiative for the Park.

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

- The Twilight Concert Schedule is available at the back table. Concerts take place at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion and begin on Tuesday, June 16 and are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through August 27. All are welcome.
- The Spreckels Organ Society concerts are held on Monday evenings and begin on June 22. Schedules are available on their web site.
- Staff has been working with the Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council on establishing an annual working budget. While researching anticipated income generated by special events, staff discovered an error had been made in regard to the Recreation Council jurisdiction and which conflicted with the Balboa Park Committee. The Recreation Council's jurisdiction is being corrected and will

include: the Municipal Gym, Balboa Park Activity Center, Morley Field with the exception of the lease- holds, Nate's Point off leash dog area and Grape Street Park.

- A meeting was held last Monday with representatives of the Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council to address concerns that have arisen since the hours of operation were reduced last January. Some of the concerns are the core hours of operation, special events, the need for fund-raising activities and tournaments, and the desire to collect revenue from park events. Staff will continue to work with the council on these issues.
- A few upcoming events next month are the Pride Festival on July 18 – 19 and the Patrons of the Prado event on July 18.

Bruce Martinez, Operations District Manager reported the following:

- Last month the topic of water fountains was raised. He provided a handout which summarized the restrictions of a Drought Condition Level 2 with some additional information and definitions of water fountain and water features. All the information can be found on the City's web page.
- As of June 1st the City will be in a Drought Condition Level 2 status which means that we will only be allowed to water three days a week. To be able to effectively manage the watering of the parks, the Department has established three watering days: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Variances to mitigate watering issues are possible, but they will only be granted for certain types of issues.
- The Lily Pond ADA Project, Phase I has begun. The ADA ramps have been installed. We are currently modifying the irrigation system to water the new landscape configuration, and the planting should begin next week. Phase II of the project will begin in early spring of 2010 and will be addressing the impacts to the turf around the pond.
- Work on clean up the Myrtle Way Pergola has started. As we move forward with the cleanup, the scope of the project will increase. We intend on saving the historic flame vines but the rest of the plant material will be removed and replaced with some drought tolerant and colorful low maintenance plants. The existing chain link fence will be removed and replaced with a wrought iron fence consistent with what is in the area. After the fence is installed the project should be completed within a few weeks.
- At the last meeting there was a request for an update on Golf Course Drive as it pertains to the trail system. He provided a trail map. The west side of the street in front of the Golden Hill Rec. Center is not shown, however we will be grading that area and adding a class two road base to fill in any holes in the unpaved areas. The weeds along the entire street where the trail runs will be removed and wood chips will line the trail. At the staircase, we are assessing the possibility of diagonally crossing the curve through existing ice plant thus removing pedestrians away from traffic. We have also cut into the embankment along the fence which will add an additional two feet of path width.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

David Kinney noted that the Day Pass for the museums was created and tested. It was very successful and will continue through June or possibly later. The balboapark.org website now has 20 of the most visited pages available in Spanish. Many of the institutions are reporting that visitation is pretty stable, but they aren't spending as much in the gift shops. The Museum of Photographic Arts has an Ansel Adams exhibit. Additionally, the Museum of Photographic Arts and the San Diego Natural History

Museum have collaborated on a Joe Waide studio works exhibit which creates a unique environment for viewing the photos.

Mick Hager reported that Derrick Cartwright of the San Diego Museum of Art has accepted a job in Seattle and will be leaving in September. Mr. Cartwright has contributed a lot to the Park and will be missed. Marilyn Salvador is currently not at the Museum of Man.

Laurie Burgett congratulated the San Diego Zoo on the Elephant Odyssey.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None.

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Special Events

Ms. Granowitz provided the history of the approval process for special events and why it was necessary to establish a formal process. There were inconsistencies in the presentations made to the Committee with an emphasis placed on the worthiness of the organization, not the specifics of the event. The presentation of special events was improved by including a staff recommendation, maps and standardized information. The moratorium for new events that fall between Memorial Day and Labor Day was created along with the waiver policy. Complaints have been received from West side residents have been forthcoming and special events needs to be revisited.

Ms. Granowitz asked Committee members for issues pertaining to special events. Committee Comments were:

- Some events are too large for the Park and stop access to the rest of the Park
- Safety concerns – lack of access for emergency vehicles
- Transportation issues
- Event parking taking place in neighborhoods
- Noise can be heard many blocks away from the event
- Poor traffic management
- Event planners are not adhering to their permit application (set up in the wrong area and including rock bands)
- Attendance higher than estimated
- Some events don't have any connection to the Park – Park just used as a backdrop

- No fee structure in place to capture the lost recreation opportunities due to not being able to access the Park.
- The Park is being used for purposes it was not intended for – events should celebrate the Park
- Grid Lock caused by Earth Day on Hwy 163
- Events so large that drug use is openly taking place.
- Insufficient amenities at large events – restrooms, trash receptacles
- Access to the Balboa Park Activity Center and the Municipal Gym is lost
- Special events held in the Balboa Park Activity Center limit use by user groups and bring in little revenue to the Recreation Council
- The City expects revenue from special events
- The City fees are not high enough – the entire Park can be rented for a fraction of the price of a museum rental
- The impacts to the institutions are significant in revenue lost
- Large events are often mismanaged
- The event set-ups on the West side of the Park have moved closer to 6th Avenue when they used to be closer to Balboa Drive
- Amplification has been improved and is louder now- having more impact
- Sound systems are set-up in the street
- Lack of coordination within City departments
- Confusion on posting of No- Parking signs, bridge closure signs
- Posting traffic signs have unintended consequences
- Park Tram service is slow or delayed
- Security at events is inadequate
- Disbursement of crowds in an emergency – how is it accomplished?
- Noise interference with Old Globe productions

Susan Lowery –Mendoza provided background information on the permitting process in the Park, described the role of the Office of Special Events as well as the team that reviews the permits. There are representatives from City Departments such as police, fire, environmental services, risk management as well as County Health present at the pre-production and post-production meetings. She also described the differences between a Park Use Permit and a City-Wide Special Event Permit.

She brought together Park and Recreation Department staff members (park rangers, maintenance and special events) to discuss what we could do to alleviate some of the special events issues. We propose to have an additional park ranger with a four hour minimum charge assigned to all new events or those having issues complying with their use permit. We will also look at events on the West Side to see if they can be moved to the east towards Balboa Drive and start runs on Balboa Drive when possible. A review of all entertainment scheduled will be done to estimate the event attendance. Staff will work more closely with the Office of Special Events regarding issues. We will also try to reduce the amount of load-in/load out days to lessen the event impact.

The Committee then offered solutions to resolved issues caused by special events:

- Full cost recovery fees – damage to turf, traffic issues
- Larger events should pay higher fees
- Study the best practice methods used in other large parks

- Use shuttle buses
- Private security needed
- Police presence
- Use of fencing to contain events
- Control over vendor access
- Percent of gross collected
- Higher fees paid for premium park locations
- For parking lot fees, the cost should be based on the average turn-over per space for the day
- Large events need to function as December Nights does
- Create a parking area for ticketed events. Those with an event ticket can park there.
- Questioned if institutions can close during large events?
- Placards or parking permits for West side residents
- Decibel readers and sound restrictions during events
- Events of a certain size should be required to have and use off site shuttles
- Events need to be public oriented and take care of the public's needs
- Different time lines of large events
- Special Events line item in budget is needed to reimburse staff costs associated with events.
- Events should celebrate the Park, be a civic celebration and place to gather
- Balance is needed, a person should have access to all the Park's amenities

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Establishment of the Mission Bay Improvement Fund Oversight Committee and the San Diego Regional Parks Improvement Fund Oversight Committee.

Bruce Martinez reported that this item was heard at the May 27 Natural Resources and Cultural Committee Meeting. It has been submitted for the June 9 City Council Docket for the first reading of the Ordinance.

The Ordinance provides for the establishment of the Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee and the San Diego Regional Parks Improvement Fund Oversight Committee. Additionally, it designates the Mission Bay Park Committee and the Park and Recreation Board in those roles. The ability to prescribe the qualifications of Future Appointees to the Mission Bay Park Committee and the Park and Recreation Board is another component of the Ordinance.

To accomplish this end, Section 55.2 was added to the San Diego City Charter and two amendments, section 26.30 (b) and 26.30 (g) have been proposed for Chapter 2, Article 6 of the San Diego Municipal Code to fulfill the requirement to “prescribe specific qualifications for future appointees to ensure that members possess the expertise necessary to perform effective oversight.”

Discussion at the May 27 NR&C Committee Meeting on the word “expertise” lead to an expanded definition for both the Park and Recreation Board and the Mission Bay Park Committee. Instead of “...shall possess expertise in one or more of the following areas:” it was proposed and has been agreed upon to read “...shall

possess expertise or demonstrated knowledge or experience in one or more of the following areas: auditing, finance, or municipal finance, general business, planning, biology or environmental science, resource management, construction management or recreation management.”

The Mayor’s Office, Council Members Donna Frye and Kevin Faulconer, their offices, and the Park and Recreation Department worked collaboratively to determine the appropriate means to establish the Committees and fulfill the oversight roles and responsibilities intended with Proposition C.

The current Mission Bay Park Committee will term out on June 30, 2009. The new Committee will mirror the Park and Recreation Board, with eleven members instead of fifteen. The Mayor shall appoint three members At Large, three members each from nominees submitted by the Council Member representing Council District 2 and Council District 6, one Mission Bay lessee who shall represent a hotel in the Park and one Mission Bay lessee who shall represent a Lessee in the Park other than a hotel.

In summary the City Council must pass an Ordinance prior to July 1, 2009 to designate the Mission Bay Park Committee to fulfill the role of the Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee and the Park and Recreation Board to fulfill the role of the San Diego Regional Parks Improvement Fund Committee; and prescribe qualifications for future appointees to ensure that member possess the requisite ability to perform effective oversight.

Vicki Granowitz noted that concerns of the Park and Recreation Board were that some of the designations lent themselves towards the need for candidates to have a license or certification. Council office staff is working with Park staff to allow for those individuals with community experience to qualify. At this time, there are no proposed changes to the Park and Recreation Board. When Proposition C passed, there was a need identified to provide financial review and oversight of park projects. This item will be heard City Council next Tuesday and encouraged those who have concerns to attend the meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – Laurie Burgett noted that the Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 24 and will forward the information.
602. West Mesa Subcommittee of the Balboa Park Committee – Don Liddell noted that they met on May 21 and will continue to meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

COMMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT

- Mike McDowell reported on the first annual meeting of the San Diego Tourist and Promotion Corp.
- Don Steele asked the San Diego Mountain Bike Association to keep-up their good work.
- Andrew Kahng reported that the Recreation Council must fund \$20,000.00 per year in non-hours of operation; the budget committee met and were notified that the boundary map is incorrect and the Department issued a new map which in inconsistent with the 2005 fee schedule. The Recreation Council now will not collect \$1,300.00 for Circus Vargas or \$150.00 for the Rock and Roll Marathon. Recreation activity takes place across the park and the Recreation Council should collect a percentage.

- Mick Hager reported on the fall schedule of the Cultural Partnership.
- Laurie Burgett noted discussion of the fountain in Golden Hill Park at a SOHO meeting.
- Don Liddell reported that the Uptown Planners have not received many applications in recent times, largely due to the general downturn in the economy. The positive aspect of this phenomenon is that the local community planning groups have more time to focus on their primary mission – updating the community plans.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Granowitz adjourned the meeting at 8:35 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting:

Thursday, August 6, 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