

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE

May 6, 2010

Meeting held at:

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

Mailing address is:

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

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Laurie Burgett
Jeri Dilno
Jason Elrod
Mick Hager
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Mike McDowell
Michael Singleton
Donald Steele

Members Absent

Rob Steppke

Staff Present

Stephen Hill, Council District 3
Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:08 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED (STEELE/DILNO) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2010 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED (8-0-2) ELROD, HAGER ABSTAINING.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Kinney reported the following:

- On-line registration was discussed at the Park and Recreation Board Meeting which will be a time-saver for staff and will provide enhanced customer service.
- Erosion and run-off in Maple Canyon is an issue and it is in close proximity to Balboa Park. It was appropriate to express concern about the proposed run using the canyon and

to deny the request for a run due to potential damage to the area.

- There was discussion of the Regional Parks Improvement Fund
- Nancy Carol Carter of the Journal of San Diego History is dispelling a myth about how Balboa Park was named in an article she recently wrote.

STAFF REPORT

Stephen Hill, Council District 3 Representative reported the following:

- He welcomed Jason Elrod to the Committee
- He is looking forward to working with David Kinney
- He provided an update on the 2011 budget which must be adopted by June 15. There is a 30 million dollar gap. The Park and Recreation budget was heard and there are no service level reductions, however there is a 2.7 million reduction. For the next month and a half, they will be looking at department budgets.
- On May 22 at 10:30 a.m., the Councilmember Coffee will take place in the Senior Lounge in Room 105 of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. He encouraged all to drop by as Mr. Gloria is open to any dialog regarding District 3.
- Mr. Hill acknowledged Laurie Burgett's dedicated service to the Committee over the past eight years. The Mayor's Office is close to nominating a candidate to replace Ms. Burgett as she has completed her terms.

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Grounds Maintenance and Operations District Manager reported the following on behalf of Kathleen S. Hasenauer:

- It is anticipated that the Park and Recreation Department Fee Schedule, which is reviewed on an annual basis, will be presented to the Park and Recreation Board on May 20, 2010. As is our current practice, input from stakeholders will be solicited. A new fee for adult outdoor fitness classes, personal trainers on park land is being proposed. The Fee Schedule will be docketed for the City Council in June.

Bruce Martinez reported the following regarding Balboa Park Operations:

- Update for Lily Pond Project- The area next to the Lotus pond at the Bot. Building is being renovated. We'll be installing a turf call an Aloha Paspalum. This turf is suppose to be 50% more efficient in water use than Hybrid Bermuda and use 75% less nitrogen in fertilization. It is our hope that the use of this hardy turf will allow us to forego any use of flagstone around the ponds. Should the use of this turf prove viable to mitigate the impacts of foot traffic and the need to close and restore turf in the area, we will expand its use and install it around the large pond this summer.
- April 10, we had a volunteer project take place in Balboa Park with the Rock Church. The project was set up for approximately 2000 people. We took great measures to identify projects, mitigate parking issues, and select a day the park had few special events going on. While approximately 1200 people showed up, the event was extremely successful on many

levels. This is the third project that my staff has worked with the Rock Church and they are a very dedicated group. In the past year they have hosted two projects in Balboa Park and provided approximately 8000 hrs of volunteer work.

- Balboa Park Golf Course will be making some structural modification to the Driving Range fence that separates the Range from Grape Street Park. Changes are being made to remedy the issue of golf balls landing in the Park. Aesthetics and vista concerns are being taken into consideration with this modification.
- The Golden Hill Gateway of the Balboa Park Trails system is completed. The next gateway is Park Boulevard. We have already selected the routes and will begin installing trail markers this summer.
- I have not heard anything from Public Utilities about the SR 163 sewer lining project. Should I get information I will ensure the institutions are kept in the loop.

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

- Staff are gearing-up for the following summertime youth programs:
 - KidzCamp at Morley Field – all summer long for ages 5 -13
 - Baseball and Softball – ages 5-12
 - Summer Fun Café (lunch program)
 - Summer Dance Camp – beginning July 26 for ages 6 – 17
- Staff has been working with the Twilight in the Park Committee throughout the year. The concert series schedule is currently posted on balboapark.org. They are celebrating 30 years of concerts this summer.
- Ms. Lowery-Mendoza noted that she received feedback at the last Central Balboa Park Association meeting regarding Earth Day. Most institutions reported a sharp decline in revenue and difficulty parking staff and volunteers. One positive comment was received by the House of Pacific Relations noting the influx of young people to the cottages was refreshing.
- Mike Rodrigues, Area Manager who oversees the special events and recreation facilities in Balboa Park is currently working in Community Park's I Division. Michele Garcia, Center Director at Municipal Gym/Morley Field is currently filling in for him.
- Ms. Mendoza reported on some of the upcoming events:
 - May 15: Girl Scouts Bridging, Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Cabrillo Bridge and 6th Ave. South Lawn
 - May 21-30: Fern Street Circus – Park and President's Lawn – (eighteen performances)
 - May 23 Liver Life Walk – War Memorial Lawn
 - June 6: Rock'n'Roll MarathonSpecial Event Notification has been distributed outlining the route and resulting road closures.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Michael Hager reported the following:

- A presentation will be made by the Cultural Partnership at the American Association of Museums' annual convention in Los Angeles about the collaboration taking place in Balboa Park. Mr. Dick Meyers will be the new President of the Association.
- Many institutions are having budget issues and service cuts will be forthcoming as the amount of TOT funds has been reduced to about half of what has been historically received. There will be cuts in programs and events such as Earth Day that decrease revenue are causing more difficulties. It was recommended that consideration should be given to move Earth Day to NTC which has a large lawn area and restaurants that would benefit from the crowds.
- Beginning May 15, the Natural History Museum will open an exhibit "All That Glitters" which features gems and minerals from San Diego County and other locations. Security will be at an all time high.
- A search is underway for new directors at the Museum of Art and the Museum of Man.
- The Cultural Partnership is offering webinar classes which are great training opportunities.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None.

Adoption

201. Operations of Current Dog Off-Leash Areas – Bruce Martinez
Requesting Balboa Park Committee's endorsement of Proposed Amendments to SDMC 63.0101 Use of Public Parks and Beaches Regulated.

Bruce Martinez reported that the Department is looking closely at the operation of all dog off-leash parks and formed a committee. The committee drafted amendments to the San Diego Municipal Code to include:

- Change terminology at "designated dog exercise area" to be referenced as "dog off-leash area."
- Dog Off-leash Area - Amend section (2)(C) to provide specific municipal codes to support current rules/regulations within dog off-leash areas.

Mr. Martinez provided background information on the current rules which were posted in 2001 which rely on peer pressure for compliance. A common complaint to the Department is the inability for people to control multiple dogs. After benchmarking this issue, it was found that the greatest general industry standard is a maximum limit of three dogs per person. It was also recommended to add a section (3) to establish rules and regulations for dogs in all City owned parks and plazas requiring a dog license for dogs over four months of age and that in the event of

a dog bite resulting in injury requiring medical care, the owner(s) must exchange dog license information, telephone numbers, mailing address and drivers license information.

The Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council's motion was to approve of the amendments excluding the three dog limit. The motion only applied to Balboa Park's three dog off-leash areas.

- Twenty advisory groups recommended the amendments as proposed
- Two groups advocated for a four dog limit
- One group advocated for a two dog limit
- One group had no support at all.

The amendments are being publically vetted and will be heard by the Park and Recreation Board, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, and finally the City Council

Committee Comments:

- Asked if Park Rangers can give citations
- It will require Park and Recreation staff members and other City staff to spend time on enforcement.
- Dogs are often handled by professional dog walkers who are operating businesses on the park.
- Balboa Park is densely populated by dogs
- The Canine Council didn't believe the three dog limit was necessary, it is a problem with certain breeds.
- There is a pack mentality when a large group of dogs enter the off-leash area.
- Professional dog walkers need to operate with a permit. It is difficult to determine who the dogs belong to.
- Do the regulations address problem dogs?

Public Comment:

- Diana Langley introduced herself as a 13 year owner of a dog walking business and she fully supports the proposed amendments, including the three dog limit. She has seen other dog walkers on their cell phones while in the park with dogs that are harassing other dogs. These large groups of dogs also have the biggest impact on wear and tear of the turf.

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED (STEELE/BURGETT) THAT THE BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION. THE MOTION CARRIED (9-0-1) KAHNG ABSTAINING.

202. Balboa Park Task Force – Vicki Granowitz

Requesting Balboa Park Committee's endorsement of the Balboa Park Task Force's Report on Funding, Management and Governance.

Ms. Granowitz was welcomed back by Mr. Kinney and noted that the original work on the report started here with the Committee. Ms. Granowitz asked for the support of the Committee. She is scheduling meetings with Council and staff in preparation of

the Report presentation at the Rules Committee on May 19 at 9:00 a.m. where she will request that they accept the report and forward to the full City Council.

Committee Comments:

- Pleased to see the section regarding special events
- Read every page, great job and could see Ms. Burgett's and Ms. Granowitz' work in the report.
- Fantastic Report - started with a blank sheet of paper
- Had public input and supportive of the public process

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED (McDOWELL/HAGER) TO ACCEPT THE REPORT; TO ENDORSE THE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT; AND TO RECOMMEND THAT THE RULES COMMITTEE AND CITY COUNCIL ACCEPT THE REPORT. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Need numbers

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – No meeting and there is an opening for a chairperson for this committee.
602. West Mesa Subcommittee – Don Liddell reported that they are pressing ahead for a small number of benches on the 6th Avenue side of the Park.

COMMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

- Mike McDowell apologized for the decrease in TOT Funds, stating that he believes we have hit the bottom and commenting on projections for 2013-2014.
- Jason Elrod reported an emphasis on bikes and pedestrians and connectivity to the Park. The CCAC is looking at bike lanes, street reconfigurations and installation of bike racks.
- David Kinney echoed Stephen Hill's comments about the contributions of Laurie Burgett.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kinney adjourned the meeting at 7:22 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, June 3, 2010
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