

MINUTES

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

July 1, 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

Jason Elrod
Mick Hager
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Mike McDowell
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

Jeri Dilno
Donald Steele

Staff Present

Stephen Hill, Council District 3
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park
Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Michael Tully, Balboa Park
Julio Fuentes, Traffic Engineering
Fernando Lasaga, Traffic Engineering

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED (MCDOWELL/SINGLETON) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2010 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED (7-0-1) STEPPKE ABSTAINING.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Kinney reported the following:

- The Park and Recreation Board did not meet in June.
- The Balboa Park Task Force Report regarding the funding, management and governance for the Park has not been docketed yet by City Council. It is expected to be docketed in July.

STAFF REPORT

Stephen Hill, Council District 3 Representative reported the following:

- With the help of the Tourism and Marketing District, a consultant has been hired to articulate a vision and guiding documents for the 2015 Centennial Celebration. Steve Silverman of J and S Silverman Associates will be meeting with all of the stakeholders in the Park.
- Last Monday, the Council gave the go ahead to start construction of the new Central Library downtown.
- The Council began the process necessary to lift the spending cap on redevelopment funds that can be used to provide parks and other infrastructure needs for the downtown residents. As part of the motion to study lifting the spending cap, Councilmember Gloria added the “20th and B” project to the list for redevelopment projects as the majority of that area is within Balboa Park. Redevelopment funds could be used to provide an active recreation facility as called out in the East Mesa Precise Plan because there is no space downtown for this purpose to serve the growing number of downtown residents. There is no timeline, but it is the works.
- At an upcoming Land Use and Housing meeting scheduled for July 14 at 2:00 P.M., there will be a second hearing of the one stop homeless service center proposed for the World Trade Center at 6th Avenue and “A” Street.

Bruce Martinez reported the following regarding Balboa Park Operations:

- He updated the Committee on the turf renovation project, funded by the Balboa Park Trust of the San Diego Foundation taking place near the upper Lily Pond in front of the Botanical Building. The new turf, Paspalum is hardy, fast growing and uses significantly less water than other types of turf. Should the turf continue to thrive, the remaining portions of turf around the Lily Pond will be renovated in September when the upgrade to that irrigation system is scheduled.
- Resolution (R-2010-65) was signed by Mayor Jerry Sanders on June 21, 2010. The revision to the Municipal Code regarding alcoholic consumption in the Central Mesa portion of the Park will be effective on July 21, 2010. Staff is preparing for installation of signs to designate the nine lawn areas where alcohol is permitted between the hours of 12:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.
- The proposed changes to the San Diego Municipal Code 63.0101, Use of Public Parks and Beaches Regulated, regarding use of the dog off leash areas is slated to be presented at the July 15, 2010 meeting of the Park and Recreation Board

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

- Staff are planning and implementing 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
- The Twilight Concert Committee is celebrating 30 years of concerts this summer.

Concerts are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6:15 P.M. – 7:15 P.M. at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion and feature different musical genres every night.

- The 4th of July holiday will be observed on July 5 and the public buildings will be closed.
- The Park and Recreation Department Fee Schedule is tentatively planned for docketing on July 20. The Park and Recreation Department website will be updated when the date is confirmed. She mentioned some of the proposed changes for Balboa Park.
- The Rock 'n' Roll Marathon and Half Marathon was held on June 6 and it sold out. The Competitor Group, the event organizer outreached to stakeholders to mitigate the impacts however the no parking signs were not removed from the parking lots until the late afternoon which caused confusion and impacted the institutions. Park Rangers picked up the signs when they discovered the problem. This issue will be brought to attention of the Office of Special Events and the event organizer at the post-production meeting.
- Large upcoming events to note:
 - Patrons of the Prado, July 10 at the Bea Evenson fountain and Cascades area
 - San Diego Pride Festival, July 17 – 18 at Marston Point

Committee Comments:

- Mick Hager noted that there were three different times listed on the no parking signs in the Park, some stating no parking until 10:00 P.M.
- Because the signs are posted three days in advance, people see a no parking sign and don't park there for three days.
- He feels that neither 6th Avenue or Park Blvd should be closed and suggested that the race should begin at Qualcomm.
- It affected attendance on a busy weekend which greatly impacted attendance at the Natural History Museum.
- Having Park Blvd and 6th and Laurel closed impacts all Park users, better logistics are needed.
- Mike McDowell noted that he read several accounts of the event and the time spent in Balboa Park was a highlight for the runners. Iconic photos were taken and he hopes the coordination of street use can resolve issues.
- The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership should meet with the organizer to perhaps donate back to the Park. Special admissions could be promoted to the institutions.
- David Kinney was impressed with the concessions made by the organizer, but would like to see what more can be done.
- Mick Hager noted that the Zoo Parking Lot re-sealing project during the moratorium had a major affect on parking and impacted the Natural History Museum.

Public Comments:

- Hannu Mikkonen of the House of Pacific Relations expressed frustration with the extended closure of Hwy. 163 during the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon. It was difficult to get to the Park and they lost 30 percent of their delegate due for a meeting that day.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Michael Hager reported the following:

- The Museum of Man is in the final stage of their search for a director.
- The new director of the Museum of Art will start in September.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Florida Canyon K-Rails, Julio Fuentes and Fernando Lasaga, Traffic Engineers

Mr. Fuentes and Mr. Lasaga provided background information on the need to install a median barrier on Florida Drive between Bob Wilson Drive and Pershing Drive due to the number of vehicular accidents. A grant has been received for this project which will be matched with Trans-Net Funds. The previous Committee comments were considered in the new plan which included a concept of an entryway to the Park; a guardrail with landscaping; seven street lights and wildlife crossings. Drainage has not been addressed yet. They expect the project to be presented to City Council in the next four to six weeks to accept the grant. Once accepted, the project should be completed within 18 months due to further design work needed and bidding/awarding of the contract and construction.

Mr. Kinney thanked Mr. Fuentes and Mr. Lasaga for coming back to the Committee. The Committee offered the following comments:

- The two turn lanes to Bob Wilson Drive are problematic and suggested one lane be used at 7:30 A.M. The signal may need to be adjusted.
- The congestion may be caused by the operation of the gate at the Navy Hospital.
- There is a high contrast between brightness and darkness on the road.
- Could a guard rail with wood rails and steel backing work as well with a landscaped treatment?
- The canyon is a statement when entering the Park. Native plants should be used.
- Animal crossings may not be large enough.
- Stamped concrete is dated looking.
- Lighting should be high pressure sodium.

- Suggest no right on the red light at Bob Wilson Drive.

There was further discussion about the higher maintenance requirements of an open barrier system and the need for landscaping maintenance to be performed.

402. West Mesa Bench Project

Bruce Martinez introduced Mike Tully, Grounds Maintenance Manager who oversees maintenance of both the East and West Mesas of the Park. Mr. Tully provided a power point presentation regarding a pilot program to place six concrete, ADA compliant benches with trash receptacles on the West Mesa between Quince Street and Juniper Street. A \$10,000.00 grant has been received to purchase the benches and trash receptacles from the Balboa Park Trust of the San Diego Foundation.

The Master Plan calls for concrete and stone or precast concrete benches. Mr. Tully presented two different styles of benches and trash receptacles. Staff has a preference for the Victoria style bench but is seeking input from the Committee as they have from members of the West Mesa Subcommittee. Mr. Tully also reviewed the criteria used when considering bench locations such as accessibility, visibility, proximity to water fountains and comfort stations, security, shade and proximity to security lighting.

Committee Comments:

- Recommend placement on cement pads next to sidewalks
- Support the Victoria style bench, like the rib backing style
- Inquired about the bench length
- Prefer the urn shaped trash receptacle
- Suggest a 2 – 4” curb in middle of the bench to discourage laying on bench
- Opportunity to increase number of dog pick-up bag dispensers
- Questioned orientation of benches

Mr. Tully replied that the benches will be set on cement pads on the east side of the sidewalk and the benches will be oriented for views to the West. Staff will continue to look for bench features which will address Committee concerns.

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 noted the bench project.

COMMMTTEE MEMBERS REPORT

- Mike McDowell noted that Steve Silverman, the 2015 Event Consultant is working under a 90 day contract that starts today, July 1. They are looking for Mr. Silverman to provide significant movement, positive feedback and a framework as the impetus of the event.
- Jason Elrod reported that the Centre City Advisory Committee voted unanimously to support the raising of the cap on redevelopment funds and the Library project.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kinney adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, August 5, 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