

## **MINUTES**

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

October 7, 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  
Scott Glazebrook  
Mick Hager  
David Kinney  
Don Liddell  
Mike McDowell  
Michael Singleton (arr. 6:06 p.m.)  
Donald Steele

##### **Members Absent**

Jeri Dilno  
Andrew Kahng  
Rob Steppke

##### **Staff Present**

Stacey LoMedico, Director  
Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park  
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (HAGER/LIDDELL) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2010 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED (7-0-1) LIDDELL ABSTAINING.**

#### **REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES**

None

#### **NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carol Venable, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue resident voiced her concern regarding safety, security, loitering and advertising regarding the Haunted Trail.

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Kinney reported the following:

- He complimented staff for the Lily Pond landscaping improvements
- He distributed copies of a letter addressed to Mayor Sanders, per the request of the Council at the last meeting, requesting that the revenue from the telecommunications project stay within Balboa Park

- Several meetings and communications have been held with the Balboa Park Online Collaborative and NextG Communications to determine how they can work together
- The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation who came back to the Committee to ask for a route extension did alter their route, however there will a lane closure along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue north of Laurel Street to Upas Street and along El Prado from Balboa Drive to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in addition to the closure of Balboa Drive north of El Prado. The Police Department has made staff aware of the requirement to close the nearest lane of traffic when 50 or more walkers are present on a sidewalk adjoining a street. He thanked Michael Singleton for his assistance with the route planning.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Director provided an update on the Plaza de Panama project since September 23, 2010.

- The Plaza de Panama Committee has changed the name of the project to the Balboa Park Plaza de Panama Circulation and Parking Structure Project to better suit the project.
- The design team will be coming back to the next regularly scheduled Balboa Park Committee meeting on November 4 to provide an update on the project.
- An interest list has been formed from those who signed in at the September 23, 2010 meeting which will be added to the existing Park stakeholder list regarding meeting notices.
- A plan amendment is necessary for the various components of the project to go forward. A plan amendment initiative will be discussed at the Planning Commission meeting of October 21, 2010. A staff report is being prepared which will be included in the report to the Planning Commission.
- Project updates will be provided to the Committee during staff reports.

City Council Third District – Steve Hill – No report

Bruce Martinez reported the following regarding Balboa Park Operations:

- Follow-up of the NextG Nodes Project- NextG has been submitting plans for various nodes of the network. Staff has been reviewing plans with comments from the Committee in mind. Staff facilitated a meeting between NextG and the BP Online Collaborative. Rich Cherry is continuing communications with NextG regarding mutually beneficial components of the network, and piggybacking efforts of the Online Collaborative where possible.
- The second phase of the Lily Pond Project funded by the Balboa Park Trust is being implemented. The irrigation system around the entire pond including the adjacent planter beds have been upgraded to automated valves and will soon be connected to smart controllers and the weather station in the Park. There will also be additional plantings in the adjacent beds where the irrigation system was upgraded.

- Recently, Palm Canyon received a major cleanup and reforestation. City staff planted approximately 60 new palms on the southern slope and has plans to plant another 100 to 150 more. Eventually we plan on getting to the northern slope of the canyon too. We are also upgrading the irrigation system of the canyon to become automated. The cleanup portion of the project was completed by the California Conservation Corp through a grant by the Balboa Park Trust, and the upgrade to automate the irrigation system using drip irrigation to water the newly planted palms was made possible by a donation from the Friends of Balboa Park.
- In the last year we have made a significant upgrade to the Central Mesa's irrigation system by the placement of nineteen smart controllers. Many of these smart controllers replaced old existing controllers but in several instances, these new controllers replaced manual systems. This movement to smart controllers in the Central Mesa is saving water and staff time. This project has been made possible by a grant from the Friends of Balboa Park.

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

- The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Walk for the Cure was able to establish two routes for their walkers, one utilizing the bridle trail between Upas Street and Quince. A Park Ranger will be assigned to the event at the organization's cost to assess the use of the routes and the impact to the Park. Balboa Drive north of El Prado will be closed as well as a north bound lane of 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- The Haunted Trail is in operation until October 31. Police officers will be patrolling the area on all Friday and Saturday evenings, paid for by the event operator. A resident of the area commented to event's management stating that he was pleased to report that the sound and lights could not be seen or heard from his home.
- Michael Ruiz is filling in as Area Manager over special events. He held the position previous to Mike Rodrigues and has worked as Senior Park Ranger of Balboa Park in the past.
- Staff observed that the no parking signs placed along Park Blvd. and at locations throughout the Park were not removed after the Aids Walk, which was held on September 26, 2010. The event organizer was notified as well as the officer assigned to the event. Future events may require Park Ranger oversight to ensure that it does not reoccur again.

Upcoming Larger Events to Note:

- October 9, Hope in the Park - Festival at 6<sup>th</sup> and Laurel North and the Organ Pavilion
- October 9, Walk on the Wildside – War Memorial Lawn
- October 9 -10, Native American Pow Wow – Park and Presidents Lawn
- October 23, Memory Walk – Alzheimer’s Association
- October 23, SD Crime Stoppers – Light the Night 5 K – Lower Inspiration Parking Lot
- October 24, Mingei International Museum – Diwalli Festival

**CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES**

Michael Hager reported the following:

- November 8, 2010, a Robert Smith Leadership Symposium will be held 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. It starts off at the San Diego Natural History Museum and will explore motivations, interactions, impacts and understanding the audience experience.
- October 20, 2010, a session will be conducted, Understanding Board Dimensions
- October 27, 2010, a seminar on Universal Design, Beyond the Americans with Disability Act

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Consent**

101. None

**Adoption**

201. None

**Special Events**

301.

**WORKSHOP ITEMS**

401. Cabrillo Bridge Rehabilitation and Retrofit Project, Lou Melendez

Mr. Melendez, Project Manager presented a power-point print out of this presentation. He is looking for input and comments regarding the project and he was joined by Marty Rosen, Senior Environmental Planner and Lou Cerna, an Environmental Generalist. He is also working with Brad Johnson, Senior Engineer, City of San Diego as it is a joint

project of the California Department of Transportation (DOT) Caltrans and the City of San Diego. The project will rehab areas of the bridge that were not addressed in 2004 and retrofit the bridge to withstand a 7.0 seismic event. The City of San Diego is seeking funds for the project and (DOT) will match the funds. The exterior concrete will be rehabilitated while preserving the appearance. The scope of the project includes work on the piers, facade, soffit, entire superstructure, footings, abutments and deck. The work on the deck will have an impact on bridge access for approximately five days. Park staff provided input that the best time of year for the closure would be during January or early February. They have an aggressive schedule as they want to wrap-up the project by December, 2014.

Committee Comments:

- Inquiring when the bridge deck would be closed and if there would be any disruption of traffic on SR 163
- Asking for clarification of who owns the bridge
- Inquiring about deck striping and configuration
- Repair/fill holes on bridge sidewalks
- The need for further environmental review due to the Plaza de Panama project
- Asked to consider rehabilitating the light standards on the bridge
- What will become of the redwood inside the structure
- Will the concrete be poured in modules, form work
- Questioning the project completion time because of the impact on the Centennial Celebration.
- Who will be coordinating all of the projects in the Park
- Where will the staging area be and will the area be restored
- Accent lighting, an opportunity for a lighting program

Presenter's Comments:

- The deck will closed to vehicles for approximately five days. There may be a possibility of allowing pedestrian traffic, they are working on a plan
- The City owns the bridge and there is an agreement that Cal Trans is responsible for the portion that spans over SR 163
- The deck will be fresh, it will in its original concrete form and can be aligned any way the City desires is to be striped
- The project does not include work on the sidewalks except where joints are
- Caltrans is not involved in other Park projects, is not planning on changing the way the bridge looks and is ready to move forward
- They will consider working on the light standards and returning the globes to the original design
- The redwood may or may not be salvageable due to water damage
- They are testing procedures for the concrete applications
- Although the project schedule shows a completion date of June 11, 2015, the construction work is planned to be completed by December 31, 2014.
- The other Park projects do not have plans as of yet.
- Project staging will take place near the foot of the bridge and will be completely restored

upon completion.

- Input was received at the Historic Resources Board's Design Assistance Subcommittee meeting that any additional lighting of the bridge was not acceptable.

### **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 expressed appreciation for the outcome of the World Trade Center Homeless Shelter.

### **COMMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT**

- Mr. Steele noted that he brought a group of physically challenged individuals to the Mingei International Museum and the Botanical Building. They expressed many compliments on the care of the Botanical Building and the collection by Park staff.
- Mr. Glazebrook commented that the 25th Street Renaissance project has commenced. There are two envisioning workshops for the community of Golden Hill. Both are listed on the City's Planning Department website.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kinney adjourned the meeting at 7:25 P.M.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, November 4, 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