

**MINUTES**

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

January 5, 2012

**Meeting held at:**

Balboa Park Club  
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**

Jeri Dilno  
Michael Hager  
Andrew Kahng  
Luanne Kanzawa  
David Kinney  
Mike McDowell  
Minnie Rzeslawski  
Michael Singleton  
Rob Steppke  
David Strickland

**Members Absent**

Jason Elrod  
Don Liddell

**Staff Present**

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (STEBPKE/STRICKLAND) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2011 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED (6,0,4) HAGER, KAHNG, MCDOWELL, SINGLETON ABSTAINING.**

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES**

None

**NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

None

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **Steve Hill, representing City Council – District 3**

Steve Hill noted that Councilmember Gloria is looking forward to upcoming projects in the Park.

### **Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events District Manager**

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided the following report:

- The Museum of Man roofing project is going well. The contractor is working on the West window on the large dome and matching roofing tiles on the carport to the original tiles. A survey is being conducted of the dome conditions now that the scaffolding is in place and a close-up view can be had. Unfortunately, the conditions have worsened since the initial survey. She passed around photos that she took this morning.
- The Casa del Prado re-roofing project has begun which includes the building, North arcade and Theater. Staging is taking place through next week and demolition begins the week of January 16, 2012. The user groups have been notified of the impacts and are supportive of the investment being made to the building.
- December Nights was a success and it is estimated that the attendance increased on Friday night and was as normal on Saturday. Feedback is being received from institutions regarding the event and ways it can be improved next year.
- The new Area Manager overseeing the Cultural Arts Programs, Special Use Permittees and facility maintenance is starting Monday, January 9, 2012. Her name is Marie Wiggins and she is currently the Center Director at Hourglass Park and Field House in Mira Mesa. She has a wealth of experience working collaboratively with groups and is a welcome addition to the team.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza reported the following on behalf of Bruce Martinez, District Manager:

- Caltrans is performing potholing functions to locate utilities on the Cabrillo Bridge this week between 8:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M. Traffic is being controlled as two directions of traffic are reduced to one lane.
- The turf around the Lily Pond will be closed for rest and renovation beginning mid month for six weeks to recover from the heavy use around the holidays.

- This Saturday, January 7, the San Diego Rose Society will be demonstrating proper rose pruning techniques between 9:30 A.M. to Noon at the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.
- The Poinsettia Display was very well received, but is nearing its end. Alcazar Garden and the Plaza de Panama were re-planted in December.

### **CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES**

#### **Michael Hager reported the following:**

- Park institutions are working together at a deeper level than ever before as we build bridges to other Park stakeholders in preparation for 2015, the Plaza de Panama renovation proposal, and the beginnings of the Conservancy. We are also undertaking an unprecedented effort to establish a park-wide membership program for 17 cultural institutions in the Park. We are on track to complete our research and make a decision on whether to move forward with this initiative by the end of February, 2012.

#### **Luanne Kanzawa reported the following:**

- The Balboa Park Learning Institute hosted its first Balboa Park Community Leadership Forum on Monday, December 12, 2011 at the Museum of Photographic Arts. One hundred trustees, staff and community leaders from 41 San Diego organizations came together to explore how Park institutions are connecting with the community in and outside of Balboa Park. Plus, we had special guests from the San Diego Foundation to share the latest from the "Our Greater San Diego Vision" Project.
- Back by popular demand: In January, the Learning Institute will host another SPARKS program – a special, one-day creative planning workshop. The January session will focus on Park wide projects for the 2015 Centennial.
- Balboa Park Mix and Match will resume in February. This well-received program builds the Balboa Park network through social mix-ups and strategic mentorship matches. Registration opens in January.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Consent**

101. None

**Adoption**

201. None

**Special Events**

301. National Baseball Expo – Lauren Smeenge, San Diego Hall of Champions

Susan Lowery- Mendoza informed the Committee of their request to use the lawn area at the Hall of Champions entrance to allow for children’s activities at the National Baseball Expo to be held primarily inside the Hall of Champions on January 21 – 22, 2012. The event will take place consecutively with the San Diego Lunar Tet Festival at Park and Presidents Blvd and may require additional traffic control measures.

Lauren Smeenge noted that they hope to make the Expo and annual event and to host it on a weekend not to compete with Tet Festival.

**MOTION MOVED/SECONDED (MCDOWELL/HAGER) TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXPO TO BE HELD INSIDE THE SAN DIEGO HALL OF CHAMPIONS. CARRIED (9,0,1) KAHNG ABSTAINING.**

**WORKSHOP ITEMS**

401. Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project: Presenters: Mark Johnson

Mr. Johnson presented materials that can be found on their website. He noted that the City’s release of the public review draft of the Environmental Impact Report is expected the third week of January and twelve alternatives have been fully analyzed for technical review. . Community outreach is ongoing and the Committee will be asked for a recommendation in May, 2012 along with other boards, Planning Commissions and finally the City Council in July, 2012.

He provided a final overview of the project and the objective, to remove vehicles from the Plaza de Panama and other areas. There has been a lot of community input on the design of the bridge and the designs have evolved to reflect the comments. He also provided a comparison for traffic flow to the 1992 Precise Plan. A review of the features in the Alcazar Parking Lot was described which include table top crosswalks, enclosed dumpster areas, and a bio-filtration system for rain water coming off of the parking lot.

Regarding the plazas, they have been asked to find a balance between restoration historic designs and the new change of use. The designs include replacement of the historic curbs and lights and dimensions, pattern less paving, retaining fountain, reflecting pools, double row of trees, eliminate sculptures and provide moveable furniture.

Mr. Johnson described the designs of the Promenade, parking structure and roof top designs. The tram route has been expanded and can potentially be upgraded in the future. Garden spaces increased and the play area moved away from the Pavilion and the tie in to the International Cottages was mentioned. David Marshall described the buildings refinements and relationships were described as well as the trellises and pergolas. The elevator structure has been made very special and unique. Glass elevators and shafts are proposed with a perforated steel screen. The restrooms will reflect the designs of the International Cottages. The Visitor Center will be a Pueblo style. The valet shelter and waiting area were described along with the single use restroom.

Committee Comments:

- The fourteen foot width on the Centennial Bridge seems excessive  
The City is requesting this width to accommodate larger vehicles and bicycles
- Inquired what the original surface of West Prado was and what is proposed?  
An asphalt with sand rolled in was original. They are exploring small ranges of paving units with a sand finish
- Inquired about the use of railings  
The railings are historic
- Inquired about removal of trees near the Spreckels Organ Pavilion  
There are six large Torrey Pines near the Organ Pavilion. One is leaning which may be removed if needed.
- Is there a slip issue with the reflecting pools and are they sustainable?  
Haven't heard from the City that they are problematic
- Would like to hear from Recon when Draft Environmental Impact Review is out for review  
Mr. Kinney noted that it may or may not be presented at a Balboa Park Committee meeting and a date in February, preferably it would be held on a Saturday for the public to attend
- Concerned about the cost of the parking structure

Public Comment:

- In the National Register of Historic Places, seventy feet of wall on the bridge to be torn out is part of the historic inventory. Regarding health and safety, it is claimed that the present set-up is unsafe, but there is no history of anyone being killed or injured.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### 501. Smart City San Diego – Solar Canopies Project

Sally Muir presented project goals – to install six solar panels and to allow visitors to the San Diego Zoo to charge their electric vehicles. She described the benefits of the project and that four parking spaces will be dedicated for the project in the Zoo's parking lot. The project will be implemented by DSG&E's Sustainable Communities Program. It will be a show case for the sustainable efforts of the Zoo and Balboa Park at the 2015 Centennial Celebration.

#### Committee Comments:

- Inquired if any parking will be lost due to the project  
Ms. Muir responded that there will not be a loss of parking spaces
- Inquired how the project relates to Cars 2 Go who needs charging stations?
- The design concept allows for a lot of sunlight to come through.
- Bike lockers at the front end of the Zoo would work well with Cars 2 Go.
- Will there be a time constraint for the parking spaces?  
The City regulates parking
- Will there be fees?  
A third party will operate the system
- Where will the equipment be housed?  
They are looking at the Train area or perhaps underground

502 – 504. Caltrans Slope Paving, Transportation Enhancement and status report on the new developments on construction impacts on the Cabrillo Bridge Retrofit.

Stephen Alvarez, District Landscape Architect stated that they are proposing paving slopes under the Robinson Avenue Bridge and the Washington Street Bridge to curtail homeless encampments under the bridges due to safety hazards for drivers, the homeless and worker safety. He noted the Cabrillo Freeway Historic District and restrictions on design changes.

The Balboa Park Transportation Enhancement Project will provide rehabilitation for 2.7 miles of SR-163 through Balboa Park. The project will rehabilitate existing vegetation and plant more trees, replace the irrigation, install a soil treatment inside the grassy median edge of the shoulder along with concrete staining, fencing, slope pavement and maintenance vehicle pullouts. There has been interest in up lighting the Cabrillo Bridge. All construction is due to be completed prior to 2015.

Chris Thomas, Design Manager, Laurel Street Seismic Retrofit and Rehabilitation reported that the project design is seventy percent complete, is scheduled to start in the summer of 2013 and be completed fall of 2014. During most of the work period, pedestrians use of the bridge will be allowed however during a four month period, the bridge will be closed to vehicles. Construction is being coordinated with the Plaza de Panama team. Potholing of utilities is currently taking place on the bridge surface.

**Committee Comments:**

- Will the surface be standard asphalt? There are opportunities to improve conditions. It was the original surface so it will be replace over the light weight concrete
- Will there be striping for bicycles/shared road? The striping will be done per the City's specifications
- Will there be concrete repair where the patching was done – perhaps a sandblasting? A natural- historic look will is the goal on areas that are patched
- Can cobble be used under the bridges instead of concrete? Cobble cannot be used in the historic district

**SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT**

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – None

**COMMMTTEE MEMBERS REPORT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, February 2, 2012  
6:00 P.M.  
Santa Fe Room/Balboa Park Club  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
District Manager