

MINUTES

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

October 4, 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
Don Liddell
Mike McDowell
Minnie Rzeslawski
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

Ricardo Flores
David Strickland

Staff Present

Susan Lowery- Mendoza Balboa Park
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (SINGLETON/KANZAWA) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2012 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED (7,0,3) DILNO, HAGER, LIDDELL ABSTAINING.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Gerry Braun, Director of Special Projects, Office of the Mayor provided a brief update on the Plaza de Panama project. Today there was a scheduling conference regarding the project litigation. The hearing date is now scheduled for February 1, 2013. The City Council had second hearing of the finance ordinance which completes the funding and the Plaza de Panama Committee and the City are locked in for funding. The Plaza de Panama Committee and the Park and Recreation Department's parking management plan during the 14 months of construction is

progressing and will be presented to the Balboa Park Committee in the coming months.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Kinney noted that the Park and Recreation Board did not meet in September.

STAFF REPORT

Stephen Hill, City Council Third District

Mr. Hill provided the following report:

- On Tuesday, Council had its final hearing on the issuance of the bonds that will enable the City to make its contribution to the Plaza de Panama project. It is a 17 million dollar bond based on projected revenue that is expected to be collected through parking fees.
- The Council approved an abandoned property ordinance the Councilmember Gloria has been championing for three years
- Council approved a guaranteed amount of Community Block Grant Funds to be used to enable the Housing Commission to operate homeless services programs on behalf of the City
- Councilmember Gloria chairs the City's Budget Committee and although the budget has been in a surplus, they received discouraging news that the City Employees Retirement System payment could be 37 million higher than expected due to lower investment returns and Proposition B which passed last June. The hope is to use City reserves and not reduce City services.

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

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided the following report:

- SDG&E communicated to staff earlier in the week that they have discovered five broken conduits on the primary feed to the Park. There is a coordinated effort underway to find the best day and time for a ten hour park-wide outage. The date will be identified when all the logistics for the institutional needs are resolved. She thanked Jessica Rinaman with Balboa Park Cultural Partnership Environmental Sustainability Program for her assistance coordinating this effort on behalf of the institutions.
- October is a busy special event month.
Sunday, October 2, 2012 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and the Diwali Festival
Saturday, October 27, 2012 Walk to End Alzheimer's and Light the Night Against Crime

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager:

Bruce Martinez provided the following report:

- The fountains in front of the Botanical Building have been completed and are working beautifully now thanks to The Balboa Park Alliance which consists of the.

Committee of 100, The Balboa Park Trust and the Friends of Balboa Park who funded the project

- SDG&E in conjunction with City Staff are working together to mitigate impacts on the Park Institutions. These are significant projects that will inevitably along the way have some unexpected challenges so please understand that we are doing everything possible together to mitigate any impacts.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Michael Hager reported the following:

- The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership (BPCP) has launched a nationwide search for a new executive director.
- We recently added our 27th member institution, the San Diego Civic Youth Ballet. They are the first dance-oriented member of the Partnership, and we're excited to welcome their Executive Director – Molly Terbovich –Ridenhour to our Board.
- The National Science Foundation has awarded the Partnership \$2.6 million for phase 2 of the Art of Science Learning Initiative, a project entitled “Integrating Informal STEM and Arts-Based incubators for innovation in STEM learning in San Diego, Chicago and Worcester, Massachusetts as well as the development of a new arts-based STEM curriculum. The Partnership is the hub for the San Diego region’s incubator and sponsor of the national project.

Luanne Kanzawa reported the following:

- The City of San Diego CDBG office has executed the BPCP agreement to implement accessibility improvements. We are currently soliciting proposals with projects scheduled to begin early November and conclude no later than December 31, 2012
- The Learning Institute presented eight programs in August and September to 575 participants, plus another 37,246 Twitter followers were reached for the Robert F. Smith Leadership Symposium.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. San Diego Zoo Entrance Sign – Charles Daniels, Park Designer, Park and Recreation Department

Charles Daniels, Park Designer requested a recommendation on the San Diego Zoo entrance sign which was recently replaced to reflect their new branding image at the northwest corner of Park Boulevard and Zoo Place. The sign does not meet the design guidelines of the Sign Manual in the Central Mesa Precise Plan, however the manual is silent as to entrance signs and the Zoo buildings are significantly set back from the road. The sign could be considered a temporary installation should the Central Mesa Precise Plan be implemented.

Committee Comments:

- It is an esthetic issue since the design guidelines do not apply
- The original sign could be considered historic
- Would have preferred to consider it before it was installed

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (LIDDELL/DILNO) TO ACCEPT THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND THAT THIS ACTION NOT SET PRECEDENCE FOR FUTURE PROJECTS.

Discussion:

- The item has not been brought before the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership so Michael Hager will be abstaining
- It is not acceptable to ask for forgiveness after the fact
- It is a gray area

VOTE: (5,2,3) KINNEY/HAGER/KAHNG ABSTAINING) MOTION CARRIED

202. T-Mobile Permit Recommendation San Diego Zoo Food Service Building – Rocki Lam

Ms. Lam of Mitchell J. Architecture noted that they recently submitted a substantial conformance review to the City on behalf of T-Mobile to seek approval for an

antennae change out for a different model at the Skyfari and the Food Service Building. The new antennae will improve the wireless communication system. There will be no changes to the cabinets or the radio frequency.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (HAGER/KANZAWA) TO APPROVE THE ANTENNAE CHANGE OUT ON THE FOOD SERVICE BUILDING AS PRESENTED. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (10,0,0)

203. T-Mobile Permit Recommendation San Diego Zoo Skyfari – Rocki Lam

Committee Comments:

- The new antennae locations seem to be highly visible and the simulation is poorly presented due to shading
 - Move two the east antennae to a location in the center of the arch – they will look better balanced
- Ms. Lam will inquire if the frequency will be impacted as the location was already approved.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (SINGLETON/MCDOWELL) TO APPROVE THE PROJECT AS PRESENTED BUT ENCOURAGE A MORE ESTHETICALLY BALANCED EAST LOCATION FOR TWO OF THE ANTENNAES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (10,0,0).

204. Caltrans Cabrillo Bridge Seismic Retrofit Sidewalks and Decking Recommendation from the Balboa Park Committee

Chairperson Kinney noted that a number of members felt strongly about repairing the sidewalks during the retrofit project. Michael Singleton prepared a draft letter to be sent to Caltrans (attachment 1).

Committee Comments:

- Address the letter to Lou Melendez
- Add the word meeting to the first sentence
- Change “to be looked at for repair” in the fourth paragraph to “to be considered for repair”

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (MC DOWELL/RZESLAWSKI) TO ACCEPT THE LETTER WITH THE SUGGESTED CHANGES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (10,0,0).

Chairperson Kinney will sign and send the letter.

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Balboa Park Conservancy – Carol Chang

Carol Chang, current Chair of the Conservancy Board introduced herself and Phil Rath, Project Management Committee Chair. Ms. Chang provided a power point presentation stating that they are a 501c3 organization and their mission includes a collaborative effort to improve the Park. The Conservancy was formed after the governance study and recommendation of the Balboa Park Committee. The Conservancy is working with the Plaza de Panama and the 2015 Committees to support projects for the good of the Park.

Phil Rath, a North Park resident is honing in on project components and common areas that lack attention starting with deferred maintenance, capital projects, public accessibility, beautification and others. There is a history of private investment in the Park and they have near term and long term focuses. The Municipal Gymnasium needs are being evaluated as it may be used for the 2015 Centennial.

Ms. Chang also stated that it is also evident that an emergency fund is needed. She invited all to join in this collaborative effort to help the Park reach its potential always and forever.

The Committee thanked them for their work and asked how they can help.

502. Balboa Park 2015 Centennial Celebration – Mike McDowell

Ben Clay, Co-Chair of the Centennial Celebration Committee, who is also a member of the Conservancy, noted that the celebration in 1915 was cutting edge for its time. This is a mammoth job and he is looking forward to Mayor Sanders and his wife joining their Committee when his term in office concludes.

Mike McDowell welcomed all to the first day of Edge 2015 which will focus on vision, innovation and leadership. He provided a power-point presentation for the Committee on the progress they have made; a guiding framework; critical partners; theme pillars; branding; strategic goal; vision; and the campaign. The presentation can be found at www.Edge2015.com

Committee Comments:

- Great job of talking about innovation without use of the word expo
- Extraordinary creation of a theme and interest, unlike anything else
- Wow
- Support the effort and asked what role the Balboa Park Committee can play

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – Don Liddell stated that they have been making progress as a Westside collaboration on the special event process. A report and recommendation will be forthcoming and he requested placement on the next agenda.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

Mike McDowell reported that the Convention Center Expansion is moving forward. There is also a vote to be taken to form a tourism marketing district.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, November 1, 2012
6:00 P.M.
Santa Fe Room/Balboa Park Club
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager

(Draft)
Stephen Alvarez
Senior Landscape Architect
Caltrans, District 11

Dear Mr. Alvarez,

The Balboa Park Committee thanks you for presenting information on the Cabrillo Bridge at the September regarding the Cabrillo Bridge renovation project. We applaud Caltrans in their efforts to restore the bridge in an authentic manner while at the same time improving the safety and longevity of the bridge. The proposed lighting was also appreciated by the committee along with the various improvements that have been made to the median, slopes and bridges along SR163 over the past few years. We were also pleased with the commitment to complete the Cabrillo Bridge renovation project in time for the start of the celebration in December 2014.

The Balboa Park Committee was unable to make a motion to suggest a greater deal of attention be paid to the damaged walkways on the Cabrillo Bridge, since the topic was only on the agenda as an information item instead of an action item. Subsequent to that meeting, the Balboa Park Committee on October 4th , by vote of ____ for and _____ against, would like the following item to be considered:

The fire associated with the emergency bridge repair several years ago, resulted in the requirement to cut out large pieces of the bridge deck in order to flood the false-work with water to put out the fire inside the bridge. The emergency action resulted in a quick patch of this concrete work. Even with several years of aging, these squares still contrast with the adjacent historic walk. Since the fire was related to the repair operations, we feel that it is the responsibility of Caltrans to repair this portion of the damaged sidewalk.

The committee respectfully requests that the entire sidewalk on each side of the bridge be looked at for repair opportunities and that Caltrans commits to returning the damaged portions of the bridge to the same level they have indicated would be applied to new walkway repairs resulting from direct removal of parts of the walkway in order to accommodate the bridge retrofit.

The methods for this repair are up to Caltrans and its contractors, but we would expect that upon a first view of the final work product, a layperson would not notice the difference between the color, texture or pattern of the walkway. This may require removal of the lower quality concrete, staining, saw cutting, sand blasting, bead blasting or other methods, at the discretion of Caltrans and the historic architect to be employed for final review and approval.

This is an important historic resource, one that is looked upon and walked upon by a very large portion of our citizens and visitors. When all is completed with your project, we would hope to see a consistent and repaired walkway, not just seismic repairs to the bridge.

